

**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
(Draft)
Cherry Channel Drainage Project
BEAUMONT, CALIFORNIA**

Prepared for:

CITY OF BEAUMONT
Public Works Department
550 East Sixth Street
Beaumont, CA 92223



Prepared by:



CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
3151 Airway Avenue Suite F208
Costa Mesa, California 92626
(949) 261-5414

April 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
SECTION 1.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING	1
1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE.....	1
1.2 PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS	1
1.2.1 Project Location, Setting, and Surrounding Uses.....	1
1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION	1
1.4 CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION.....	2
1.4.1 Staging Areas.....	2
1.4.2 Best Management Practices (BMPs).....	2
1.5 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS.....	4
1.5.1 Responsible Agencies.....	4
1.5.2 Reviewing Agencies.....	4
SECTION 2.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION	9
2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:	9
2.2 DETERMINATION	9
SECTION 3.0 – EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.....	10
SECTION 4.0 – CHECKLIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	11
4.1 AESTHETICS.....	11
4.1.1 Environmental Setting	11
4.1.2 Impact Analysis	11
4.2 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES	13
4.2.1 Environmental Setting	13
4.2.2 Impact Analysis	14
4.3 AIR QUALITY.....	15
4.3.1 Environmental Setting	16
4.3.2 Impact Analysis	16
4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	18
4.4.1 Environmental Setting	18
4.4.2 Impact Analysis	19
4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES	24
4.5.1 Environmental Setting	24
4.5.2 Impact Analysis	25
4.6 ENERGY.....	26
4.6.1 Impact Analysis	27
4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS	28
4.7.1 Environmental Setting	29
4.7.2 Impact Analysis	29

4.8	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	32
4.8.1	Environmental Setting	32
4.8.2	Impact Analysis	32
4.9	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.....	33
4.9.1	Environmental Setting	33
4.9.2	Impact Analysis	34
4.10	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.....	36
4.10.1	Impact Analysis	37
4.11	LAND USE AND PLANNING	39
4.11.1	Impact Analysis	40
4.12	MINERAL RESOURCES	40
4.12.1	Environmental Setting	40
4.12.2	Impact Analysis	41
4.13	NOISE	41
4.13.1	Environmental Setting	41
4.13.2	Impact Analysis	42
4.14	POPULATION AND HOUSING	43
4.14.1	Environmental Setting	44
	Impact Analysis.....	44
4.15	PUBLIC SERVICES.....	44
4.15.1	Environmental Setting	45
4.15.2	Impact Analysis	45
4.16	RECREATION	46
4.16.1	Environmental Setting	46
4.16.2	Impact Analysis	47
4.17	TRANSPORTATION	47
4.17.1	Impact Analysis	47
4.18	TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.....	49
4.18.1	Impact Analysis	49
4.19	UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS	52
4.19.1	Impact Analysis	53
4.20	WILDFIRE.....	54
4.20.1	Impact Analysis	54
4.21	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.....	55
4.21.1	Impact Analysis	56
	SECTION 5.0 – REFERENCES	60

LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
Table 1: Screening Threshold for Criteria Pollutant.....	16
Table 2: Expected Construction Emissions Summary (lb/day)	17
Table 3: Jurisdictional Findings	21

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1 - Project Location and Vicinity Map	5
Figure 2a – Site Plan.....	6
Figure 3 – General Plan Land Use and Zoning	8

- Appendix A – Air Quality Screening Letter
- Appendix B – Biological Technical Report
- Appendix C—MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey
- Appendix D – Jurisdictional Delineation Report
- Appendix E – Cultural Resources Report
- Appendix F – Preliminary Geotechnical Report
- Appendix G – Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
- Appendix H – Greenhouse Gas Screening Evaluation
- Appendix I – Construction Noise Evaluation

SECTION 1.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE

This Initial Study (IS) analyzes the proposed drainage improvements to convert the existing trapezoidal channel along Cherry Ave from geo-mat lining to a concrete lined structure (Proposed Project) in the City of Beaumont (City). The IS has been prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code [PRC] §21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations [CCR], §15000 et seq.) and has determined that preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) would be appropriate under CEQA.

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.2.1 Project Location, Setting, and Surrounding Uses

The City is located within the western area of Riverside County, bounded by Calimesa to the north/northwest, Banning to the east, and San Jacinto to the south. The Project site is located along Cherry Avenue, between Cougar Way and Oak Valley Pkwy. Residential communities are located along Cherry Avenue to the northeast, southeast, and southwest. Beaumont Adult School and San Gorgonio Middle School are located to the west of Cherry Avenue.

An operational and City-owned paved parking lot is located to the east of Cherry Avenue, north of Rover Lane. The parking lot is owned by the City and primarily used as overflow parking for the Community Recreation Center to the south, as well as access to the drainage and conducting maintenance to the area. In addition to City use, the parking lot is available for recreational use by the public, such as walking/hiking on the maintenance access roads and unmarked trails within the open space area of an existing Southern California Edison (SCE) easement following the powerlines. Land uses surrounding the Cherry Avenue channel consist of Single Family Residential, High-Density Residential, Public Facilities, and Open Space.

There are two concrete culvert crossings within the Project site, one at Rover Lane leading into the Community Recreation Center, and one providing access to the parking lot. In addition, there are four smaller culverts on the eastern bank of the channel, which collect water from the residential communities to the east.

1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Project would line the existing channel with concrete to improve the channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City staff. The existing channel is lined with a turf reinforced geo-mat lining along the side slope and channel bottom. The channel is maintained under an agreement with Cal Fire for weed abatement/vegetation control twice a year after the rainy season (March/April) and July/August, prior to the school schedule.

The channel geo-mats have been affected by urban runoff flows, with sections torn or missing over the years. The Proposed Project would remove the existing geo-mat lining, wingwall, and riprap within the channel and be replaced with concrete along the slopes and channel bottom. The existing headwalls and culverts will remain and be protected in place. The Proposed Project would result in reduced maintenance costs and improved flow of runoff to the channel.

1.4 CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

The Proposed Project construction is expected to begin in Winter 2025 and be completed in 2026. Construction equipment to be used during construction of the Proposed Project upgrades may include the following items:

- Excavator (Rip Rap)
- Dump Truck (Rip Rap)
- Backhoe(s)
- Laser-Grader Precise Finish Grading Machine
- Cement Truck
- Utility Pick-Up Trucks
- Concrete Finishing Equipment and Tools
- Traffic Control Equipment (Cherry Ave)

The Proposed Project estimates export of approximately 5,000 Cubic Yards (CY) of materials and 5,000 CY of fill on-site. This would result in an estimated 600 to 1,000 truck trips during construction. Once completed, the Proposed Project will function as an unmanned channel that will be maintained as currently done by the City staff in coordination with Cal Fire twice a year after the rainy season and prior to school schedule.

1.4.1 Staging Areas

Construction equipment and staging areas will be located within the existing parking lot east of Cherry Avenue. A portion of the parking lot will be available to the public. Temporary fence enclosures with lockable gates will be added to the staging areas.

1.4.2 Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The following construction best management practices (BMPs) of the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) shall be implemented to minimize impacts on biological resources and address water pollution, erosion control, sediment and hazardous materials, and fueling and equipment practices.

- Avoid work in riparian areas during most active bird breeding season; typically designated as March 1 to June 30 by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)/MSHCP Guidelines. Disturbance is restricted to a minimum of 300 feet away from any active nest.
- Sediment and erosion control measures will be implemented until such time soils are determined to be successfully stabilized.
- Short-term stream diversions, if needed, will be accomplished by use of sandbags or other methods, for example temporary installation of a polyvinyl chloride (pvc) pipe, that will result in minimal instream impacts such as minimal habitat loss or no change to flow. Short-term diversions will consider effects on wildlife.
- Silt fencing or other sediment trapping materials will be installed at the downstream end of construction activities to minimize the transport of sediments off-site.
- Settling ponds where sediment is collected will be cleaned in a manner that prevents sediment from re-entering the stream or damaging/disturbing adjacent areas. Sediment from settling ponds will be removed to a location where sediment cannot re-enter the stream or surrounding

drainage area. Care will be exercised during removal of silt fencing to minimize release of debris or sediment into streams.

- No erodible materials will be deposited into water courses. Brush, loose soils, or other debris material will not be stockpiled within stream channels or on adjacent banks.
- Exotic plant species removed during construction will be properly handled to prevent sprouting in new areas or regrowth.
- Training of construction personnel will be provided based on site need such as an Environmental Awareness Training (WEAP).
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting will occur for the duration of the construction activity to ensure implementation of best management practices.
- When work is conducted during the fire season (as identified by the Riverside County Fire Department) adjacent to vegetation, appropriate firefighting equipment (e.g., extinguishers, shovels, water tankers) shall be available on the site during all phases of Project construction to help minimize the chance of human-caused wildfires. Shields, protective mats, and/or other fire preventative methods shall be used during grinding, welding, and other spark-inducing activities.
- Personnel trained in fire hazards, preventative actions, and responses to fires shall advise contractors regarding fire risk from all construction-related activities.
- Active construction areas shall be watered daily and as needed during the dry season to control dust and minimize impacts to adjacent vegetation.
- No waste, dirt, rubble, or trash shall be deposited in the Conservation Area or on native habitat.
- A qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for Proposed Project personnel prior to construction activities. The training shall include a description of the species of concern and its habitats, the general provisions of the Endangered Species Act (Act) and the MSHCP the need to adhere to the provisions of the Act and the MSHCP, the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Act, the general measures that are being implemented to conserve the species of concern as they relate to the Proposed Project, and the access routes to and Project site boundaries within which the Proposed Project activities must be accomplished.
- Water pollution and erosion control plans shall be developed and implemented in accordance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requirements.
- Projects should be designed to avoid the placement of equipment and personnel within the stream channel or on sand and gravel bars, banks, and adjacent upland habitats used by target species of concern.
- Projects that cannot be conducted without placing equipment or personnel in sensitive habitats should be timed to avoid the breeding season of riparian bird species identified in MSHCP Global Species Objective No. 7.
- Equipment storage, fueling, and staging areas shall be located on upland sites 100 feet away from the channel for minimal risks of direct drainage into riparian areas or other sensitive habitats. These designated areas shall be located in such a manner as to prevent any runoff from entering sensitive habitat. Necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent the release of cement or other toxic substances into surface waters. Project related spills of hazardous materials shall be reported to appropriate entities including but not limited to applicable jurisdictional city, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Regional Water Quality Control Board shall be cleaned up immediately and contaminated soils removed to approved disposal areas.
- The qualified Proposed Project biologist shall monitor construction activities when working in identified burrowing owl (BUOW) habitat and any other sensitive areas to ensure that practicable

measures are being employed to avoid incidental disturbance of habitat and species of concern outside the project footprint.

- Exotic species that prey upon or displace target species of concern should be permanently removed from the site to the extent feasible. To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the project site shall be kept as clean of debris as possible. All food-related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s) to avoid overflow.
- Construction employees shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the proposed project footprint and designated staging areas and routes of travel. The construction area(s) shall be the minimal area necessary to complete the project and shall be specified in the construction plans. Construction limits will be fenced with orange snow screen. Monitoring personnel will review the limits of disturbance prior to initiation of construction activities.
- Exclusion fencing should be maintained until the completion of all construction activities.

1.5 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Reviewing Agencies include those agencies that do not have discretionary powers but may review the MND for adequacy and accuracy. Responsible Agencies have discretionary approval authority for a project. Potential Reviewing Agencies and Responsible Agencies include the following:

1.5.1 Responsible Agencies

State of California Agencies

- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- Southern California Edison (SCE)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Office of Historic Preservation

Regional Agencies

- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

1.5.2 Reviewing Agencies

- Native American Heritage Commission, and tribes requesting consultation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Permits and Approvals

The following permits may be required prior to construction of the Project.

- SCAQMD - Rule 403 dust control
- RWQCB 401 Certification
- CDFW 1602 Permit
- USACE Section 404

Figure 1 - Project Location and Vicinity Map

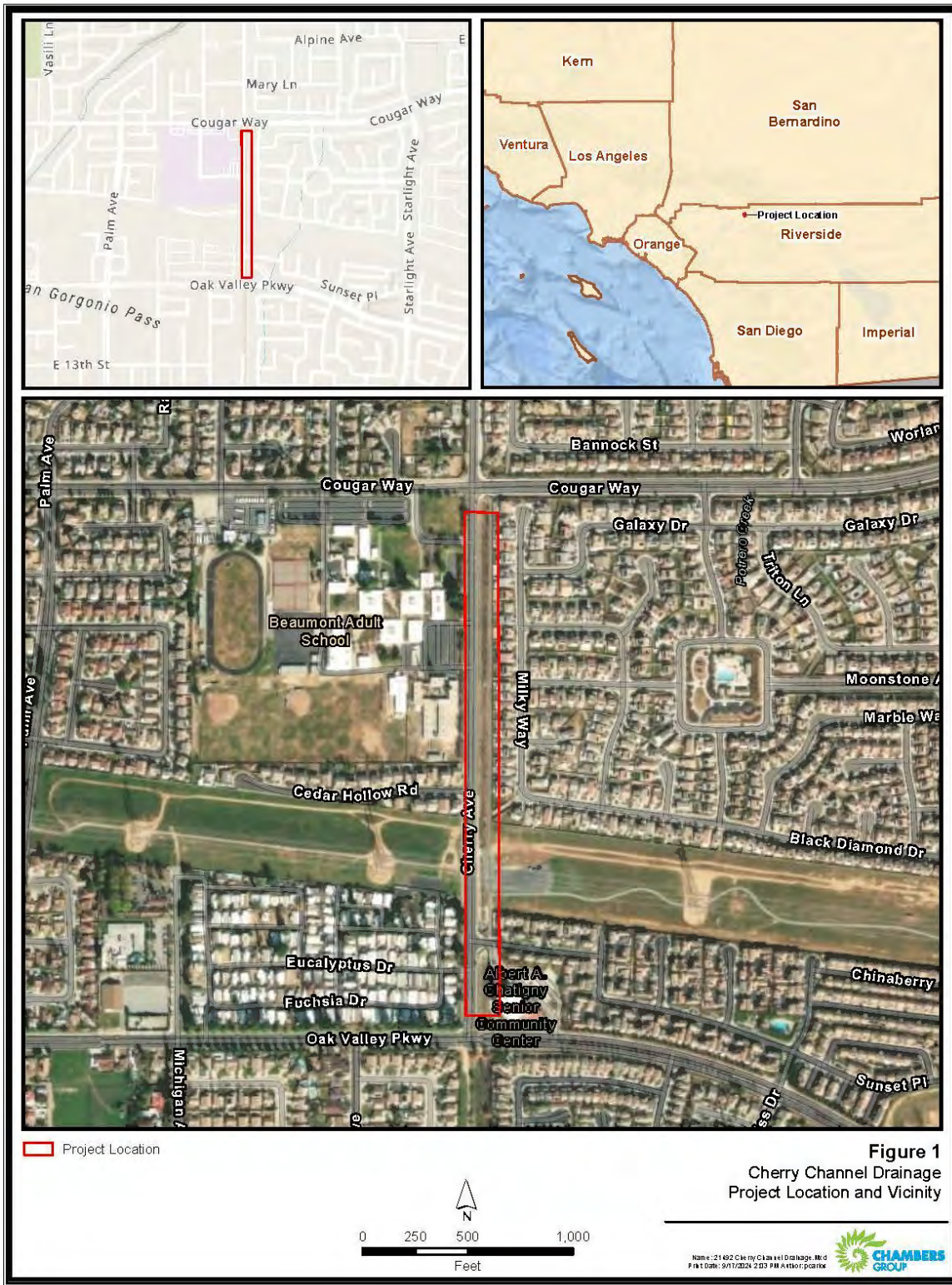


Figure 2a – Site Plan

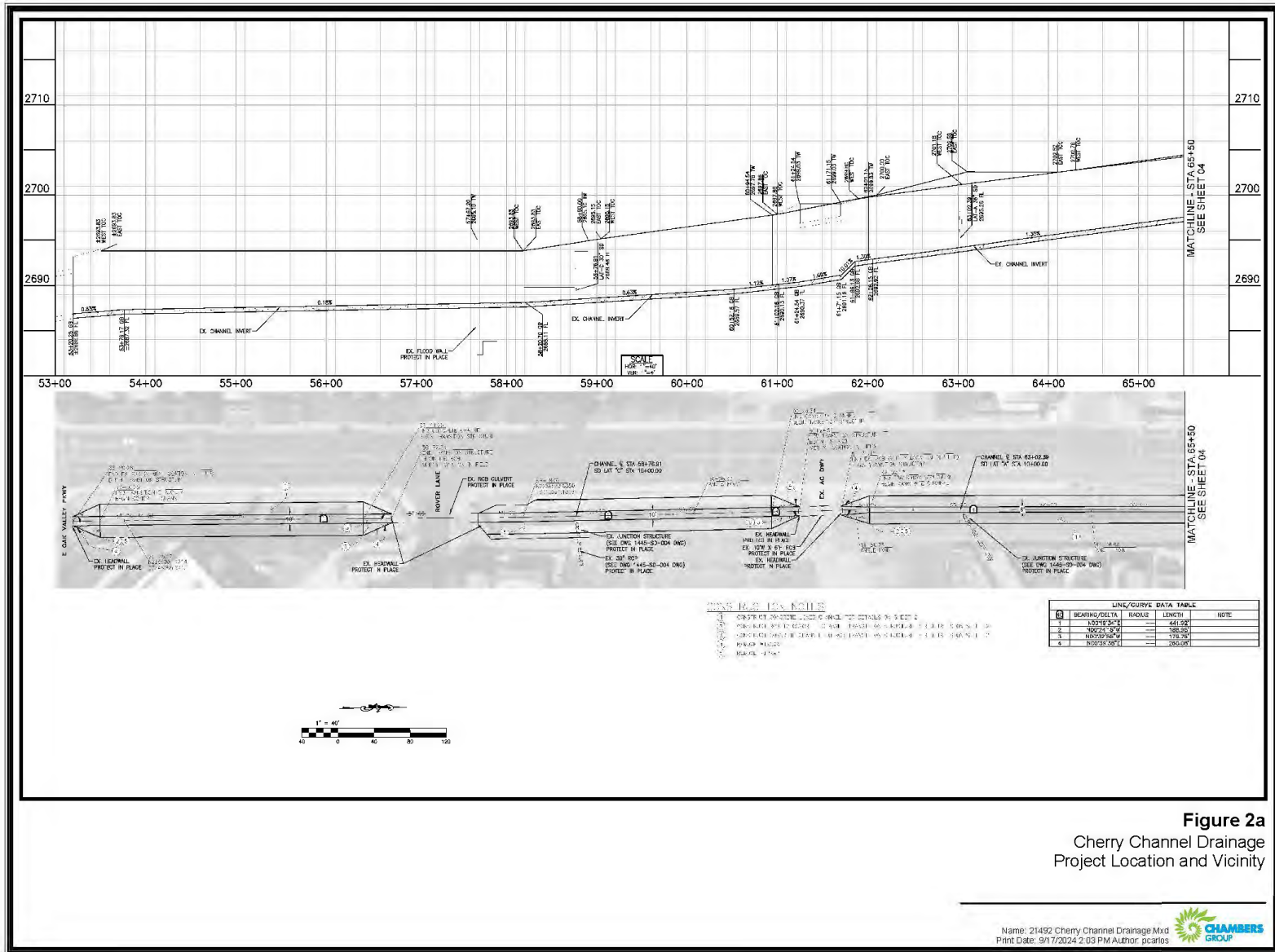


Figure 2a
 Cherry Channel Drainage
 Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 2b – Site Plan cont.

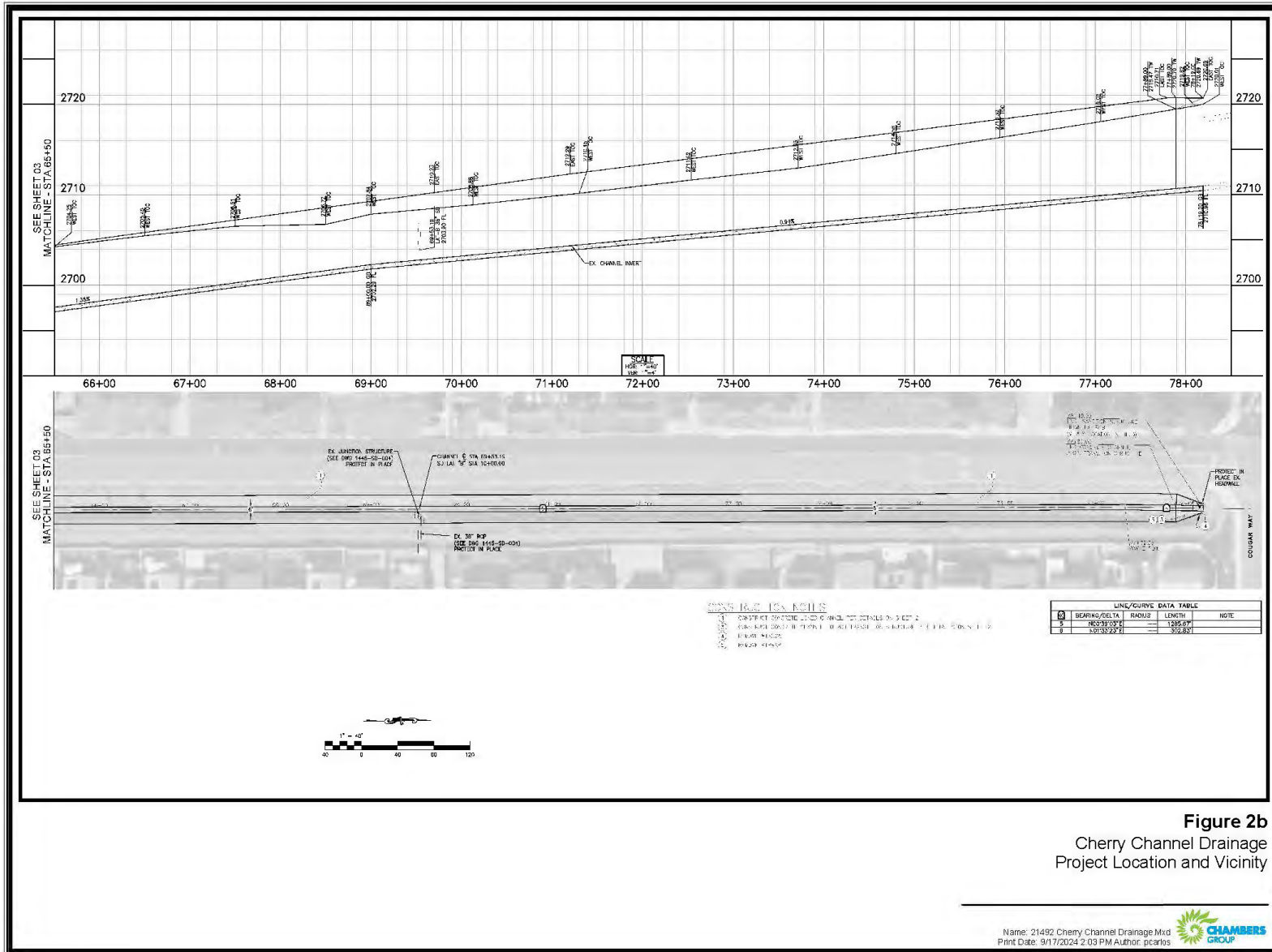
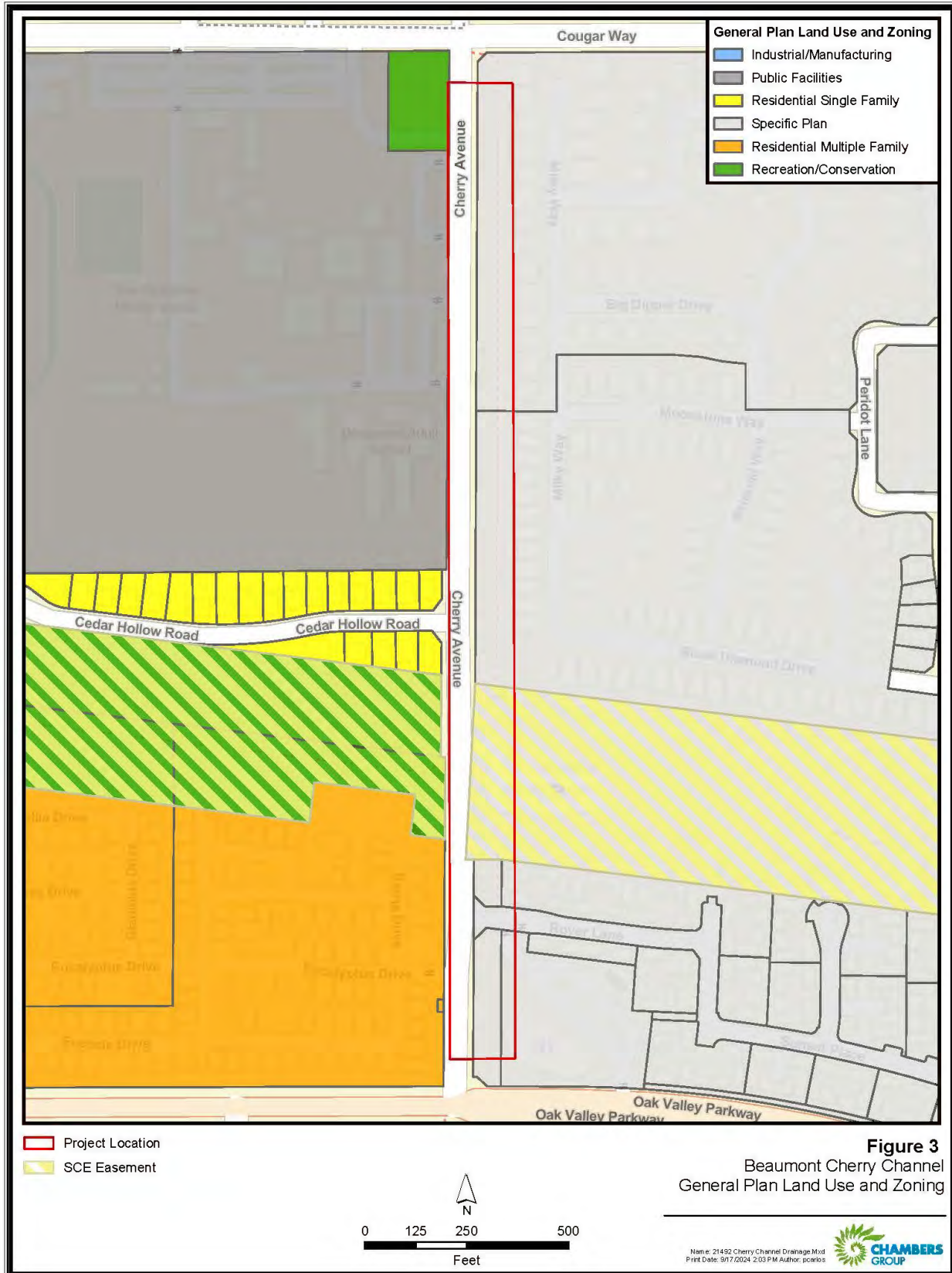


Figure 2b
 Cherry Channel Drainage
 Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 3 – General Plan Land Use and Zoning



SECTION 2.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact,” as indicated by the checklists on the following pages. For each of the potentially affected factors, mitigation measures are recommended that would reduce the impacts to less than significant levels.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities /Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

2.2 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

1. I find that the project **could not** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND)** will be prepared.
2. 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.
3. I find the proposed project **may have a significant effect** on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
4. 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.
5. 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 that earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Carole Kendrick
Signature
Carole Kendrick
Name

April 9, 2025
Date
Planning Manager
Title

SECTION 3.0 – 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. 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 project falls 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 substantial evidence exists that an effect may be significant. If one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries are marked when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (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 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 based 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 document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

**Note: Instructions may be omitted from final document.*

SECTION 4.0 – CHECKLIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

4.1 AESTHETICS

1.	AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.1.1 Environmental Setting

The aesthetic value of an area is a measure of its visual character and quality, combined with the viewer response to the area. Scenic quality can best be described as the overall impression that an individual viewer retains after driving through, walking through, or flying over an area. Aesthetic resources include scenic resources, which include water forms, trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, and scenic highways. Impacts to aesthetic resources include obstruction and destruction of views to or from scenic resources, and/or the degradation of the visual character of the area.

The City is located in the western portion of Riverside County, California and is bounded on the west by Calimesa and unincorporated areas, on the north by the unincorporated County areas (Cherry Valley), on the south by unincorporated County areas and the City of San Jacinto, and on the east by the City of Banning.

The Proposed Project would be constructed by lining the existing channel with concrete. The existing channel is lined with a turf reinforced geo-mat lining along the side slope and channel bottom. The Proposed Project is located along Cherry Avenue, between Cougar Way and Oak Valley Parkway with residential communities surrounding the site to the northeast, southeast, and southwest. Beaumont Adult School and San Gorgonio Middle School are located to the west of Cherry Ave. Power lines are noticeable in the open space along with some marked and unmarked trails.

4.1.2 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

Less than Significant Impact. The Project site is relatively flat and is within an area containing primarily residential uses. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing drainage channel with concrete to reduce the maintenance, costs, and improve flow of runoff to the channel. The Proposed Project

would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista or substantially damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway. Views from the Project site and surrounding area do not include any potential scenic vistas. Although the Proposed Project would change the look of the drainage channel from turf to concrete, and would change views in the area, no impact would occur to any designated scenic vistas. The implementation of the Proposed Project, including the new concrete lining, would result in a less than significant impact.

- b) *Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not within or adjacent to a designated state scenic highway, and the closest eligible listed scenic highway is approximately 5 miles east (Caltrans 2024). The Proposed Project would line the existing channel with concrete to improve the channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City staff. No impact to scenic resources, including trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway, would occur.

- c) *Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from 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?*

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site is in a mostly residential neighborhood with Beaumont Adult School and San Gorgonio Middle School located to the west of Cherry Ave. The Project Site is located in an area that is suited for Residential land use (City 2020). The Project Site cuts through an open space area (Figure 1). The Proposed Project includes lining the existing channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. The existing channel is lined with a turf geo-mat lining along the side slope and channel bottom which have been impacted by urban runoff flows, with sections torn or missing over the years. Therefore, replacing the geo-mats with concrete will improve the overall aesthetics of the channel by removing the deteriorated mats and removal of the overgrown vegetation. Impacts would be less than significant.

- d) *Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

No Impact. The Project site currently contains lighting sources from the adjacent residential neighborhoods, Beaumont Adult School, San Gorgonio Middle School, and street lighting. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. The Proposed Project would not change light or glare in the existing area and does not propose installation of new light sources. No impact would occur.

4.2 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES

2.	AGRICULTURE & FOREST RESOURCES. (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; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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 nonagricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.2.1 Environmental Setting

Agricultural resources include prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland, farmland of local importance, and commercial grazing land as defined in the Guidelines for the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, pursuant to Section 65570 of the Government Code, as well as land in a Williamson Act contract.

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor and without intolerable soil erosion (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)(A)).

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruits, and vegetables (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)(B)).

Additional farmland of statewide or local importance is land identified by state or local agencies for agricultural use but not of national significance (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)(C)).

The California Legislature passed the Williamson Act in 1965 to preserve agricultural and open-space lands by discouraging premature and unnecessary conversion to urban uses. The Williamson Act creates an arrangement whereby private landowners' contract with counties and cities to voluntarily restrict their land to agricultural and compatible open space uses.

The Williamson Act is a means to restrict the use of agricultural and open-space lands to farming and ranching uses during the length of the contract period. The Williamson Act Program was also envisioned as a way for local governments to integrate the protection of open space and agricultural resources into their overall strategies for planning urban growth patterns.

The Project site appeared to be historically utilized as agricultural land from 1938 until its development to a drainage channel in 2006. The historic agricultural usage presents potential for agricultural chemicals which will be further analyzed in section 4.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

4.2.2 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?*

No Impact. The Project site is not identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance; however, the Project site is located in an area designated as Farmland of Local Importance (DOC 2024). The Project site is surrounded by Urban and Built-up land to the north and south. The open space areas to the east and west are for SCE use and currently not proposed for agricultural use. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. The Proposed Project would not convert local farmland into nonagricultural use and therefore, no impact would occur.

b) *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*

No Impact. The Project site is surrounded by areas zoned institutional, open space, and high density residential. There are no areas adjacent to the Proposed Project site that are zoned for agricultural use, and it is not located on land under a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract, and no impact would occur.

c) *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?*

No Impact. Please refer to discussion on Section 4.2.2 b. The City does not have any designated forest lands or timberland. Although open space is present throughout the City, these portions of the City would not be significantly impacted by the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not take place within the forest lands. The Project is zoned as single family residential. The Proposed Project would be compatible with the existing uses in the surrounding area. The Project would not result in an impact associated with forest land or timberland.

d) *Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

No Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any change to land use on the Project Site. The Proposed Project does not contain forest lands or lands for forest uses. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with forest land or the conversion of forest land into non-forest use. Therefore, there would not be a loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use and no impact would occur.

e) *Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

No Impact. There are no agricultural uses surrounding the site. The Project Site is not within an area identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (DOC 2024). The Proposed Project involves channel improvements and will continue to be maintained as a channel. The Proposed Project does not include activities involving conversion of agricultural or forest lands; therefore, no impact would occur.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

3.	AIR QUALITY. Where available, 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:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.3.1 Environmental Setting

Given that the Proposed Project would operate as a passive, unmanned channel, there are no anticipated significant impacts that would be associated with the Project operations. Therefore, a Construction Air Quality Screening Evaluation for the Proposed Project was prepared by Ldn Consulting in September 2024 and is located in Appendix A.

The Project site is located in the City in the western portion of Riverside County, which is part of the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) that includes all of Orange County as well as the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. The SCAB is located on a coastal plain with connecting broad valleys and low hills to the east. Regionally, the SCAB is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the southwest and high mountains to the east forming the inland perimeter. The Project site is located toward the northeast portion of the SCAB near the foot of the San Bernardino Mountains, which define the eastern boundary of the SCAB.

4.3.2 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The City uses SCAQMD Air Quality Thresholds to determine whether a project would create potential air quality impacts, which are provided in Table 1 below. The Proposed Project is a repair project that includes lining the drainage channel with concrete to improve channel conditions and alleviate maintenance for City staff. The Proposed Project would not modify the existing uses and would be consistent with the general plan.

Table 1: Screening Threshold for Criteria Pollutant

Pollutant	Total Emissions – Pounds per Day (lb/day)
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5})	150 and 55
Nitrogen Oxide (NO _x)	100
Sulfur Oxide (SO _x)	150
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	550
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) - Construction	75

The Construction Air Quality Screening Evaluation found that the Proposed Project would generate emissions that would be less than significant when compared to the SCAQMD's air quality significance thresholds, as shown in Table 2 below. Therefore, since the Proposed Project would not create new land use nor increase air quality emissions during construction in excess of the City's approved significance thresholds, the Proposed project would not conflict with the implementation of the City's or SCAQMD air quality management plans and impacts would be less than significant.

Table 2: Expected Construction Emissions Summary (lb/day)

Season and Year of Construction	Pollutant Emissions (pounds/day)					
	ROG (reactive organic gases)	NO _x	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Construction Emissions	0.47	9.62	9.73	0.03	1.07	0.43
City Screening Threshold	75	100	500	150	150	55
LTS at 25 meters from Project		149	1,541		10	6
Exceeds Screening Threshold	No	No	No	No	No	No

b) *Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Construction Air Quality Screening found that the expected construction and emissions generated by the Proposed Project would be less than significant when compared to SCAQMD air quality thresholds. The cumulative impacts or impacts which would be additive between the Proposed Project and any nearby Project, would not likely increase emissions to a point where SCAQMD thresholds would be exceeded in the general vicinity of the Proposed Project. Additionally, the Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned drainage channel and would not create significant operational emissions. Operational activities would be limited to maintenance of the channel. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

c) *Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

Less Than Significant Impact. Residential homes are located along the Project Site and the Proposed Project has the potential to release pollutants into the air. As stated above in impact a, the Proposed Project does not exceed SCAQMD thresholds and is not expected to generate a significant level of air quality emissions. Additionally, the Proposed Project would use Tier 3 construction equipment or better and diesel particulates would be filtered during the four-month construction period. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors to significant air quality emissions, and impacts would be less than significant.

d) *Would the project result in other emissions, such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to generate on-site odors during construction during short term activities such as paving. Impacts associated would be short term in nature, therefore, the impacts would be less than significant. The Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned drainage channel and is not expected to generate odors. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not generate a significant odor impact that affects a substantial number of people and impacts would be less than significant.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

4.4.1 Environmental Setting

Biological resources include habitats and vegetative communities, migratory corridors, plants, wildlife, fisheries, special status species (regulated by a law, regulation, or policy, such as threatened and endangered species), and waters of the United States. A Biological Technical Report (BTR) was prepared for the Proposed Project in August 2024 (Appendix B), a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Focused Burrowing Owl Survey was prepared in August 2024 (Appendix C), and a Jurisdictional Delineation Report was prepared for the Proposed Project in October 2024 (Appendix D).

The BTR includes a literature review and habitat assessment survey for the Proposed Project. The survey identified vegetation communities, potential for the occurrence of special status species or habitats that could support special status wildlife species, and recorded all plants and animals observed or detected within the Project boundary. The BTR has been prepared for the City to document that the Proposed Project is consistent with the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) MSHCP. Information contained in this document is in accordance with accepted scientific and technical standards that are consistent with the requirements of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the CDFW.

A pre-construction burrowing owl (BUOW) survey was conducted on August 7, 2024. Overall bird activity was low. No BUOWs or BUOW signs were observed within the survey area. Wildlife species observed are included in Appendix C.

No native vegetation is present on the Project site; as such, candidate and special status species are not expected to occur. Additionally, no riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community or wetlands exist on the Project site. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or native wildlife nursery sites.

4.4.2 **Impact Analysis**

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

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City staff. Given that the Project site is within a mostly developed area, no native vegetation is present. The existing turf geo-mats will be replaced with concrete. As summarized in the BTR, the Project site does not support vernal pool or other seasonal wetland habitats and lacks suitable habitat required by Riverside fairy shrimp, Santa Rosa Plateau fairy shrimp, or vernal pool fairy shrimp. The Project site does not contain suitable habitat for special status plant species. Based on literature review and survey, 39 of the 40 species with potential to occur were identified as absent, with one having low potential to be present due to the low quality and disturbed nature of the area; as a result, protocol-level surveys were not required.

Of the 40 special status wildlife species identified in the literature review, it was determined that 38 special status wildlife species were considered absent from the Project site, one had a low potential to occur, and one was present within the Project site (BUOW and Cooper's Hawk respectively). Least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and western yellow-billed cuckoo are not anticipated to nest within the Project site. The Cooper's Hawk, which is a watchlist species, was present at the Project site, and is not anticipated to nest within the Project site due to lack of trees. Therefore, due to marginally suitable foraging habitats, impacts would be less than significant.

BUOWs have a low potential to occur within the Project site; therefore, a BUOW focused survey was required in accordance with the MSHCP. While no BUOW were observed on-site, they may be present during construction. If BUOWs are identified within the Project site or 500-foot buffer during construction, avoidance measures shall be implemented in compliance with the MSHCP and in coordination with the CDFW and/or Western Riverside County RCA.

To minimize potential impacts to BUOWs and nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), mitigation measure BIO-1 shall be implemented for the Proposed Project to address potential impacts to nesting birds and BUOWs who may be present during the Proposed Project. Implementation of MM BIO-1 would result in less than significant impacts.

MM BIO-1: Pre-Construction Survey for Nesting Birds

Nesting birds are protected under the MBTA. During construction, the Proposed Project would comply with the MBTA, which requires that nesting bird surveys be conducted prior to the start of vegetation clearance activities should they occur during nesting season: February 15 through September 15. In compliance with the MBTA requirements, should vegetation clearance occur during the nesting bird season, a qualified biologist would conduct a nest survey within one week of the start of these activities to ensure no active nests were lost. If an active nest is located, then the nest should be flagged and construction within an appropriate distance of the nest should be postponed until the biologist has confirmed that the nest is no longer active. If this is not possible, prior to ground-disturbing activities, a qualified biologist should conduct and submit a migratory nesting bird and raptor survey report. The survey should occur no more than three days prior to initiation of Project activities, and any occupied passerine and/or raptor nests occurring within or adjacent to the Project site should be delineated. Additional follow-up surveys may be required by the resource agencies. To the maximum extent practicable, a minimum buffer zone around occupied nests should be maintained during physical ground-disturbing activities. The buffer zone should be sufficient in size to prevent impacts on the nest. Once nesting has ceased, the buffer may be removed.

MM BIO-2: Pre-Construction Survey for Burrowing Owl

A pre-construction focused survey for BUOW shall be conducted within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to reevaluate the locations of active BUOW burrows located adjacent to or within the Project limits and to avoid direct take of BUOW (MSHCP Species Specific Objective 6). If BUOWs are identified on-site, avoidance measures will be developed in compliance with the MSHCP and in coordination with the CDFW and/or Western Riverside County RCA. These measures would include the following as well as any others developed in coordination with CDFW and/or RCA:

- A biologist with knowledge of BUOW and its habitat will be retained to function as a biological monitor.
- The biological monitor will develop and implement a contractor education program regarding the BUOW to be provided to all personnel (including temporary contractors and subcontractors) before beginning work on the Project.
- The biological monitor will be present during vegetation clearing, grading, and construction, to monitor occupied BUOW burrows and any construction-related impacts.
- Prior to any ground disturbance, all limits of Project construction will be delineated and marked to be clearly visible to personnel on foot and in heavy equipment. All construction-related activities (e.g., vegetation removal, grading, equipment lay-down and storage, and contractor parking) will occur inside the limits of construction and designated staging areas. Construction staging and equipment storage will be located outside any occupied BUOW burrow locations.
 - All movement of contractors, subcontractors, or their agents and equipment will be restricted to the limits of construction and staging areas.
 - A qualified biologist will conduct any necessary BUOW passive relocation that may be required to avoid Project effects to BUOW.

- If BUOWs must be moved away from the proposed work area, passive relocation techniques would be used rather than actual avian trapping. At least one or more weeks would be necessary to accomplish this to allow the birds to acclimate to alternate burrows.
- The Project would provide funding for long-term management and monitoring of the protected lands acquired for BUOW impacts. This monitoring would include an annual report submittal to the CDFW.

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

Less Than Significant. The Project site is located in a developed residential area. According to the BTR, the Proposed Project will potentially impact approximately 0.65 acres of the on-site ephemeral drainage feature and riparian area. While these areas, which are located at the northern end of the channel, meet the definition of a riparian/riverine area according to the MSHCP, the channel does not support the densely vegetated riparian habitat required for nesting by Least Bell’s vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, or western yellow-billed cuckoo. Additional analyses on the riparian/riverine areas and jurisdictional waters are provided in detail in Appendix D.

The Project site consists of a man-made drainage that contains both riparian and upland vegetation. According to the Jurisdictional Delineation Report, no National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetlands were identified within the Project Site. However, a cattail marsh and Goodding’s Willow - Red Willow Riparian Woodland occur within the northern portion of the channel. An existing irrigational system is present along the top banks and within the channel that provides an artificial water source to the area and receives nuisance flows from the surrounding residential area. Based on the condition of the channel, this riparian area is considered to be a wetland area. Additionally, given that this area is fed by artificial nuisance water sources, and is maintained by the City, it is not considered a natural wetland.

The Proposed Project site is subject to USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW jurisdiction. A summary of acreages of potential jurisdictional waters that occur within the Project site is provided in the table below, accompanied by a summary of the jurisdictional findings.

Table 3: Jurisdictional Findings

Potential Jurisdictional Waters	Temporary Impact (Acres)	Temporary Impact (Square Feet)	Permanent Impact (Acres)	Permanent Impact (Square Feet)
USACE Jurisdiction Total	N/A	N/A	0.69	30,011
<i>Total Non-Wetland Waters of the US</i>	N/A	N/A	0.69	30,011
<i>Total Wetland Waters of the US</i>	N/A	N/A	0	0

RWQCB Jurisdictional Total	N/A	N/A	0.69	30,011
<i>Total Non-Wetland Waters of the State</i>	N/A	N/A	<i>0.04</i>	<i>1,697</i>
<i>Total Wetland Waters of the State</i>	N/A	N/A	<i>0.65</i>	<i>28,314</i>
CDFW Jurisdictional Total	N/A	N/A	1.80	78,316
<i>Total Non-Wetland Waters</i>	N/A	N/A	<i>1.15</i>	<i>50,002</i>
<i>Total Wetland Waters</i>	N/A	N/A	<i>0.65</i>	<i>28,314</i>
MSHCP Riparian	N/A	N/A	0.65	28,314

USACE Jurisdiction

The USACE asserts jurisdiction over the San Jacinto River as a Traditionally Navigable Water (TNW). Therefore, USACE will likely take jurisdiction over the Cherry Channel. The Project site contains two of the three wetland parameters; however, the lack of hydric soil indicates that no jurisdictional wetlands under the jurisdiction of the USACE are present within the Project limits. Total USACE jurisdictional acreage for the Project, as defined by the ordinary high-water marks (OHWMs), amounts to 0.69 acres of permanent impacts. A Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 Permit will be required for this Project.

RWQCB Jurisdiction

RWQCB jurisdiction includes all USACE jurisdictional areas, OHWMs, and any other features that influence surface or subsurface water quality within California. The RWQCB would have jurisdiction over surface waters, which may be identified as ephemeral waters, including those indicated by a change in the average sediment texture, a change in vegetation cover, and/or a break in bank slope. A total of 0.04 acres of non-wetland waters of the State, and 0.65 acres of wetland waters of the State under the potential jurisdiction of the RWQCB, occur in the Project site. The limits of RWQCB jurisdiction were defined by the OHWM and surface waterbody features within the Project site. Therefore, a 401 Water Quality Certification will be required from the RWQCB for this Project.

CDFW Jurisdiction

There are 0.65 acres that have wetland vegetation and 0.04 acres within the Project site that have upland vegetated bank to bank within the Project site that are potentially regulated by CDFW's Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement program. CDFW's jurisdiction extends from the top of bank to top of bank and any adjacent wetlands or riparian canopies. Cherry Channel provides surface waters when water is present and would be considered State waters.

Due to the presence of the irrigational system, both hydrophytic vegetation and evidence of hydrology are present within this area; therefore, this area is considered a wetland. While direct impacts to

wetland vegetation will occur as a result of Project activities, this area is routinely maintained throughout the year and all of the wetland vegetation is removed. Project activities involve the placement of cement throughout the entire channel and banks, which will result in the removal of the irrigational system and the channel will no longer support hydrophytic vegetation. Therefore, a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) is likely to be required from CDFW for this Project.

MSHCP Riparian

A total of 0.69 acres of vegetated streambed was mapped within the Project impact area. The Project channel does support native riparian vegetation throughout the northern portion of the channel. However, as stated previously, the riparian vegetation is regularly maintained by the City and is considered early successional, lacking the mature forest and canopy required by the riparian species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. Therefore, the vegetated streambed does not meet the MSHCP definition of Riverine as it cannot support the covered species within the site. While a portion of the site does contain habitat dominated by emergent trees, shrubs, and forbs, which occur close to or which depend upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source, this area is supported solely by the presence of the sprinkler system and would not exist without it. Additionally, the drainage has no direct connectivity to downstream MSHCP Conservation areas, thus does not contribute to the biological functions and values of downstream habitat for covered species within the MSHCP Conservation Area. Additionally, species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP are not present and are not expected to occur within the Project area. For these reasons, the City, as a Permittee to the MSHCP, has determined that a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) is not warranted for this Project.

Based on the conditions summarized in the BTR and Jurisdictional Delineation Report, and the impact areas discussed, compliance with the necessary CDFW, USACE, and RWQCB permits would result in a less significant impacts on riverine/riparian areas.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in section b) above, based on the impact areas of the jurisdictional waters within the channel, the Proposed Project would result in permanent impacts to USACE, RWQCB and CDFW waters. To maintain compliance with the agencies, the Proposed Project will submit a CWA Section 404 Permit, 401 Water Quality Certification, and SAA. Compliance with the regulatory agencies would result in a less than significant impact.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or native wildlife nurseries. The Project site is currently urbanized and developed. The Project site does not contain any watercourse, greenbelt, or open space for wildlife movement. The Proposed Project would not require the removal of landscape trees from the Project site. While there may be wildlife that occupy the open space areas within the SCE corridor, the Proposed Project would not require encroachment into SCE property

where it could impact those species. In compliance with the MBTA during construction, and with the Project occurring within the channel property, impacts would be less than significant.

e) *Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. The Project Site has been previously disturbed, and the existing channel is lined with turf geo-mats. As such, no impacts to local policies protecting biological resources would occur.

f) *Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservancy Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

No Impact. The Project site is not within the area of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, MSHCP Criteria Area, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with any approved plans and no impact would occur.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

5.	CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.5.1 Environmental Setting

A Cultural Resources Study Results letter report was prepared for the Proposed Project by Chambers Group in October 2024 and is located in Appendix E. The report includes a review of available cultural resources records data and literature review for the Project site and study area. The purpose of the review is to gather and analyze information needed to assess the potential for impacts on cultural resources within the Project site.

Due to the recent closure of the Eastern Information Center (EIC) at University of California, Riverside (UCR), the Office of Historic Preservation has not yet completed the transition of the EIC records to another information center. Therefore, new record searches for Riverside County are not available and may not be available for many months. In the effort to supplement this study with relevant records search data, Chambers Group utilized records search data, and cultural resources sensitivity mapping developed therein, from the supporting cultural resources assessment conducted in support of the City General Plan Update (Appendix E).

4.5.2 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?*

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project involves lining the existing drainage channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City staff. The term, historical resource, includes a resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR); a resource included in a local register of historical resources; and any object, building structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant (Appendix E). The Project site is not identified to be a historic resource, and there are no buildings in the area. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not create an adverse effect to a historic resource.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation. Chambers Group conducted a cultural resources records search and literature review for the Project site and surrounding study area in September and October 2024. Eight previous cultural resources studies have been conducted within one-half mile of the Project site (Appendix E). The 1989 Cultural Resources Literature Review for the 1,162 Acre *Deutsch Specific Plan Project* (RI-03421) partially intersects with the Project site. That study confirms that the Project site has been included in a previous assessment for the presence of cultural resources and indicates that no cultural resources have been reported as present at the Project site (Appendix E). Based on the results of the records search data available for review and background research, Chambers Group archaeologists observed that the Proposed Project site is previously disturbed, fully developed, and is currently occupied by the extant segment of Cherry Ave and the to-be replaced geo-mat lined channel (Appendix E). However, background research supported the General Plan Update cultural resources sensitivity mapping that indicated a high level of sensitivity for buried resources in the Project site and surrounding vicinity. Although the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search results were negative, the San Geronio Pass area is documented as sensitive for Tribal Cultural Resources. Because of the EIC closure and the reliance on previous records search data for this study, the Proposed Project could result in impacts during the initial ground disturbance on intact native soils, which may not have been previously disturbed. The soils shall be monitored for potential resources. Therefore, MM CUL-1 will be implemented to ensure a less than significant impact.

MM CUL-1: The Applicant shall retain the services of a Qualified Archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior Standards, for the duration of ground-disturbing construction activity. All construction-related ground disturbing activity that includes cutting into native intact soils shall be monitored by a cultural resources specialist proficient in construction monitoring setting. The Qualified Archaeologist or cultural resources specialist working under the direction of the Qualified Archaeologist shall provide training to inform all construction personnel prior to construction activities about the proper procedures in the event of an archaeological discovery. The training shall be held in conjunction with the Project's initial on-site safety meeting and shall explain the importance and legal basis for the protection of significant archaeological resources.

In the event of an inadvertent discovery of potential archaeological resources (artifacts or features) during ground-disturbing activities, construction activities

within a 50-foot radius of the discovery shall be halted while the Qualified Archaeologist assesses the find. If the resource is determined to be significant or unique through significance evaluation, and site avoidance is not possible, appropriate site-specific mitigation measures shall be established and undertaken. These might include an archaeological mitigation and monitoring plan, treatment, or data recovery programs. All monitoring or associated plans would be prepared and implemented under the direction of a qualified archaeologist. All required close-out reporting would be completed in accordance with the Office of Historic Preservation’s Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR).

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

Less than Significant. The Proposed Project includes ground disturbing activities and therefore has the potential to discover human remains. In the event that human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, then the Proposed Project would be subject to California Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA Section 15064.5, and California PRC Section 5097.98. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact to human remains.

HUMAN REMAINS – LEGAL REQUIREMENTS In the event that human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, then the Project would be subject to California Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA Section 15064.5, and California PRC Section 5097.98. If human remains are found during ground-disturbing activities, State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner shall be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the County Coroner shall notify the NAHC, which shall notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

4.6 ENERGY

6.	ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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"/>

4.6.1 Impact Analysis

- 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?*

Less Than Significant Impact.

Construction

The Proposed Project would temporarily impact energy resources during construction. Energy resources that would be potentially impacted include electricity, natural gas, and petroleum-based fuel supplies and distribution systems. This analysis includes a discussion of the potential energy impacts of the Proposed project, with particular emphasis on avoiding or reducing inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. A general definition of each of these energy resources are provided below.

Electricity, a consumptive utility, is a man-made resource. The production of electricity requires the consumption or conversion of energy resources, including water, wind, oil, gas, coal, solar, geothermal, and nuclear resources, into energy. The delivery of electricity involves a number of system components, including substations and transformers that lower transmission line power (voltage) to a level appropriate for on-site distribution and use. The electricity generated is distributed through a network of transmission and distribution lines commonly called a power grid. Conveyance of electricity through transmission lines is typically responsive to market demands.

Natural gas is a combustible mixture of simple hydrocarbon compounds (primarily methane) that is used as a fuel source. Natural gas consumed in California is obtained from naturally occurring reservoirs, mainly located outside the State, and delivered through high-pressure transmission pipelines. The natural gas transportation system is a nationwide network and, therefore, resource availability is typically not an issue. Natural gas satisfies almost one-third of the State's total energy requirements and is used in electricity generation, space heating, cooking, water heating, industrial processes, and as a transportation fuel.

Petroleum-based fuels currently account for a majority of California's transportation energy sources and primarily consist of diesel and gasoline types of fuels. However, the state has been working on developing strategies to reduce petroleum use. Over the last decade, California has implemented several policies, rules, and regulations to improve vehicle efficiency, increase the development and use of alternative fuels, reduce air pollutants and GHG emissions from the transportation sector, and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

The following section calculates the potential energy consumption associated with the construction and operations of the Proposed Project and provides a determination if any energy utilized by the Proposed Project is wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.

Construction Energy

Construction schedule is anticipated to begin in April 2025 and be completed in August 2025. Staging of construction vehicles would occur within the City's parking lot. Energy use associated with construction would include the use of equipment during each phase. Additionally, worker, vendor, and hauling vehicles

accessing the site would also consume energy. The energy use resulting from Project construction would not be significant.

Operational Energy

The Proposed Project is not expected to cause significant impacts to energy during operational use. The Proposed Project operations include an unmanned drainage channel. The channel would be maintained twice a year, as it is typically scheduled, which would consist of debris removal and trimming of vegetation. Therefore, impacts to operational energy use would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. The City has adopted the Beaumont Climate Action Plan (CAP), and Chapter 15.19 of the Beaumont Code of Ordinances that addresses energy efficiency and conservation. The Proposed Project would comply with the Beaumont CAP and code of ordinances and a less than significant impact would occur.

4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

7.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i) 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c)	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"/>
(d)	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.7.1 Environmental Setting

The California Geological Survey (CGS) provides technical information and advice about landslides, erosion, sedimentation, and other geologic hazards to the agencies that administer land-use decisions in California. Surface rupture is the breakage of ground along the surface trace of a fault caused by the intersection of the fault surface area ruptured in an earthquake. Liquefaction is a process by which water-saturated granular soils transform from a solid to a liquid state during strong ground-shaking. A seismically induced landslide is a general term for falling, sliding, or flowing mass of soil, rocks, water, and debris caused by an earthquake. Erosion is displacement of soil from moving water and wind.

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting on structures for human occupancy. This state law was a direct result of the 1971 San Fernando Earthquake, which was associated with extensive surface fault ruptures that damaged numerous homes, commercial buildings, and other structures. The main purpose is to prevent the construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults.

A Preliminary Geotechnical Report was prepared for the Proposed Project on September 23, 2024, by Ninyo & Moore, and is located in Appendix F. The report contains a review of readily available background materials, including published geologic maps and literature, geologic and seismic data, groundwater data, in-house information and aerial photographs. An assessment of the general geologic conditions and seismic hazards affecting the site, and evaluation of their potential impacts on the Proposed Project, is included. The assessment evaluates geologic impacts including groundwater, flood hazards, compressible and collapsible soils, and an evaluation of seismic impacts, including potential surface fault rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, lateral spreading, and tsunamis and seiches.

4.7.2 Impact Analysis

a) i) *Would the project 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. The Project Site is located in the seismically active region of Southern California and has the potential to be subjected to ground shaking hazards associated with earthquake events on active faults throughout the region. However, the Project Site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (DOC 2024). The Proposed Project would not result in risk of loss, injury, or death involving the rupture of a known earthquake fault. The Proposed

Project includes lining the existing drainage channel with concrete to improve drainage conditions and alleviate maintenance for City staff. The Proposed Project does not involve the construction of structures that could be affected by the rupture of a fault; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- ii) *Would the project 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. As discussed in Section VI(a)(i) above, the Proposed Project is located in the seismically active region of Southern California and has the potential to be subjected to ground shaking hazards associated with earthquake events on active faults throughout the region. The Proposed Project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (DOC 2024). The Proposed Project included lining the existing channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. The Proposed Project does not include construction of new buildings or structures; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- iii) *Would the project 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 can occur when soils lose cohesion and their ability to support structures when subjected to strong ground motion. The Project site is not located in an area identified as a generalized liquefaction susceptibility zone on the State of California Seismic Hazard Zones Map (DOC 2024). Additionally, the Preliminary Geotechnical Report identifies that the potential for liquefaction at the Project site is considered very low (Appendix E). The Proposed Project does not include construction of new buildings or structures. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects to people in structures that could be affected by liquefaction. Impacts would be less than significant.

- iv) *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not located within an area identified as a Landslide Hazard Zone on the State of California Seismic Hazard Zones Map containing the Project site (DOC 2024). The Proposed Project does not include construction of new buildings or structures that could result in a risk of loss, injury, or death to its inhabitants. The Proposed Project would not result in the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides, and no impact would occur.

- b) *Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

Less than Significant impact. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. The existing drainage channel is lined with turf geo-mats that are in poor condition, with exposed, missing, or torn sections. The Proposed Project is expected to stabilize the channel slopes and reduce the potential for soil erosion and loss of topsoil. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact, and there would not be long-term impacts to erosion and loss of topsoil.

- c) *Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*

Less than Significant Impact. The Project site and surrounding areas are relatively flat with no dramatic sloping. The Proposed Project would remove compressible soils and replace with engineered fill. As mentioned above, the Proposed Project is not in an area prone to liquefaction and is therefore not prone to lateral spreading, subsidence, or collapse (Appendix E). Therefore, impacts to on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse are expected to be less than significant.

- d) *Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?*

Less than Significant Impact. According to the Preliminary Geotechnical Report prepared for the Project, the test results from the Geotechnical Report indicate that the site soils are generally non-expansive (Appendix E). The Proposed Project would be designed and constructed in accordance with the recommendations in the geotechnical investigation, the latest version of the California Building Code, the Uniform Building Code, and all other applicable federal, state, and local codes (Appendix E). The Proposed Project would therefore not create a substantial risk to life or property and compliance with the recommendations in the reports and with existing regulations would ensure that impacts would be less than significant.

- e) *Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?*

No Impact. The Project site includes lining the existing channel with concrete to improve the channel flow conditions to alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. The Proposed Project does not require installation of a septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- f) *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

Less than Significant with Mitigation. The Proposed Project includes soil disturbance, therefore undocumented resources have the potential to be discovered in or near the Project site. Due to the demonstrated overall sensitivity of the area (Appendix E), mitigation measures MM PAL-1 are included to reduce potential impacts. These mitigation measures are intended to reduce impacts associated with the soil disturbance. Impacts would be less than significant.

MM PAL-1: The Applicant shall be required to obtain the services of a Qualified Paleontologist to remain on-call for the duration of the ground-disturbing construction activity. If requested by the City, a paleontological mitigation plan (PMP) outlining procedures for paleontological monitoring and/or data recovery shall be prepared for the Project and submitted to the City for review and approval. The development and implementation of the PMP shall include, but not be limited to, additional research and further assessment of paleontological sensitivity in the Project site, consultations with the Applicant's engineering geologist, as well as a requirement that the curation of all specimens recovered under any scenario shall be through an appropriate repository agreed upon by the City. The PMP shall also include developing a multilevel

ranking system, or Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC), as a tool to demonstrate the potential yield of fossils within a given stratigraphic unit. The PMP shall outline the monitoring and salvage protocols to address paleontological resources encountered during Project-related ground-disturbing activities. As well as the appropriate recording, collection, processing, curation, and reporting protocols to appropriately address any monitoring conducted or resources discovered.

4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

8.	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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"/>

4.8.1 Environmental Setting

A Construction Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Screening Evaluation was prepared for the Proposed Project by Ldn Consulting in September 2024 and is located in Appendix G.

The City has not adopted GHG screening significance thresholds as it relates to CEQA, therefore, the County of Riverside screening thresholds were used to analyze the impacts to GHG emissions. GHG impacts related to construction were calculated using CalEEMod 2022.1 air quality and GHG model which was adopted by the SCAQMD.

4.8.2 Impact Analysis

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is located within Riverside County and is subject to its GHG screening thresholds. The GHG emissions were calculated using CalEEMOD version 2022.1 and the inputs are located in Attachment A in Appendix G. The Proposed Project would line the existing drainage channel with concrete and is expected to export approximately 5,000 Cubic Yards (CY) of materials and import approximately 5,000 CY of fill on-site. The Proposed Project would not construct a facility or building, and operational trips are not expected. The GHG emissions were calculated and do not exceed the County’s threshold. The Proposed Project is expected to generate approximately 95.5 metric ton (MT) of CO_e (carbon monoxide equivalent) during construction and would not exceed the County’s screening threshold of 3,000 MT of (carbon dioxide equivalent) CO_{2e}. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not generate GHG emissions that would significantly impact the environment and impacts would be less than significant.

b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is expected to generate approximately 95.5 MT of CO_e (carbon monoxide equivalent) during construction and would not exceed the County’s screening threshold of 3,000 MT of (carbon dioxide equivalent) CO_{2e}. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned drainage channel with maintenance occurring twice a year as scheduled. The operations would not result in significant emissions. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable air quality plan, and impacts would be less than significant.

4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

9.	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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 handle 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan had not been adopted, within 2 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.9.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project and Project site were analyzed to determine the potential for hazards or hazardous materials to occur on-site. Background research included an evaluation of the Geotracker and Envirostor websites, operated by the SWRCB and the DTSC, respectively. Additionally, a Phase I Site Assessment was prepared for the Proposed Project by Ninyo & Moore in September 2023 and is located in Appendix H. The report analyzed the presence of hazardous substances or petroleum produces, in, on, or at the subject

property due to a release to the environment, the likely presence of hazardous substances in, on, or at the subject property due to a release or likely release to the environment, and, the presence of hazardous substances or petroleum products in, on, or at the subject property under conditions that pose a material threat of a future release to the environment.

As mentioned above in section 4.2 Agricultural Resources, the Project site appeared to be historically utilized as agricultural land from 1938 until it was developed to its current use as a drainage channel in 2006. The historic agricultural usage presents potential for agricultural chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to have impacted the subject properties. The Phase I ESA identified the former agricultural usage of the subject property to be considered as Recognized Environmental Condition (RECs).

4.9.2 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The potential impacts from the route transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials are outlined below for both the construction and operation phases.

Construction

Short-term construction activities for the Proposed Project would involve the use of hazardous materials typical for construction, including fuel for construction equipment such as gasoline, diesel fuels, and solvents. No other hazardous materials would be transported to or from the Project site or be utilized in the construction process. The transport, use, and disposal of construction-related hazardous materials would occur in conformance with all applicable regulations governing such activities. By following proper handling, health and safety practices, hazards communication, and emergency response procedures, any impact that would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport or use of hazardous materials at the Project site would be less than significant.

Operation

The Proposed Project will function as an unmanned channel that will be maintained by City staff. There will be no routine storage or use of hazardous materials. Impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The Project site is used as a drainage channel and does not currently involve the use or storage of hazardous materials. Construction and operational activities would comply with all applicable regulations governing such activities. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact in regards to creating a significant hazard to the public.

- c) *Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*

Less Than Significant Impact. Beaumont Adult School and San Geronio Middle School are located to the west of Cherry Ave and within one-quarter mile of the Proposed Project site. Construction and operational activities that would involve the use of hazardous materials (such as fuel, gasoline) would be handled and disposed in accordance with applicable local and state regulations. The channel would be unmanned and operations would involve typical maintenance/clean-up of the channel, such as debris and vegetation removal. These activities would not result in potentially emitting hazardous emissions or hazardous material to the nearby schools because all work would remain within the channel. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact in regard to emitting hazardous emissions or handling hazardous materials within one-quarter mile of an existing school.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The following databases compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 were checked for known hazardous materials contamination at the Project site:

- GeoTracker (SWRCB): list of leaking underground storage tank sites
- EnviroStor (California DTSC): list of hazardous waste and substances sites

The Proposed Project is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65862.5 (DTSC 2023; SWRCB 2024). The prepared Phase I ESA indicates that the Project site was historically used as agricultural land from 1938 to 2006 and contained a natural drainage that may have been impacted by water from surrounding agricultural operations. Residual concentrations and/or their breakdown derivatives may be present in the property soils. Based on the aerials, the historical agricultural at the Project site and adjacent properties were no longer present by 2006. While the former agriculture usage of the site is considered an REC, the Proposed Project would line the deteriorated channel to reduce erosion. This would result in minimizing soil disturbances by capping the soil. In addition, the Proposed Project would remain as a channel and not be used as a site for residential or commercial use that could expose persons to RECs. Use of potentially hazardous materials would be limited during construction. Once operational, no hazardous materials will be transported to and from the site or used for the Proposed Project. No significant hazard would be created as a result of the Proposed Project, and impacts would be less than significant.

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan had not been adopted, within 2 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 Proposed Project is located more than 6 miles from the Banning Municipal Airport. The Project site is more than 2 miles from a public airport, airport land use plan, or a private airstrip, therefore there would be no impact associated with an airport.

f) *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project would be designed to provide unobstructed access and would comply with the County of Riverside Emergency Operations Plan (County 2024). In addition, no roads would be permanently closed because of the construction or operation of the Proposed Project, and no structures would be developed that could impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

g) *Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?*

No Impact. The Project site is located in a residential area of the City and does not include wildlands or high fire hazard terrain or vegetation. An open space exists adjacent to the Project site, however, the open space is not in a wildland or fire hazard area. The Proposed Project would not expose persons or structures to the risk of wildland fires during construction or operation. The Proposed Project is not located within a Very High Fire Severity Zone. Operations include an unmanned drainage channel. CalFire currently maintains the channel including clearing brush and vegetation and will continue to do so once the Proposed Project is operational. In addition, no roads would be permanently closed because of the construction or operation of the Proposed Project, and no structures would be developed that could impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

10.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flood on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

10.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.10.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project Site is located within the Potrero Creek sub watershed, within the Santa Ana River watershed, outside of the flood hazard area within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-year flood zone (Appendix D). The Project site is located within the Santa Ana RWQCB. The RWQCB’s most recent update to the Santa Ana Basin Plan was adopted in June 2019.

The Proposed Project would line the existing channel with concrete to improve the channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. The existing channel is lined with a turf reinforced geo-mat lining along the side slope and channel bottom. The Proposed Project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements because the proposed activity is to upgrade the existing channel to manage urban runoff flows.

Potential short-term surface water quality impacts related to Project construction activities include runoff of loose soils and/or construction wastes and fuels that could potentially percolate into the ground or runoff onto the street. Erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented as part of the construction procedures to manage construction runoff, including but not limited to, silt fences and straw wattles, conducting general housekeeping and material management, and spill prevention procedures. Therefore, with implementation of construction and maintenance BMPs, the Proposed Project would prevent the degradation of water quality, and impacts would be less than significant.

- b) *Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would line the existing channel with concrete to improve the channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City staff. The existing channel is lined with a turf-reinforced geo-mat lining along the side slope and channel bottom. According to the Preliminary Geotechnical Report, the groundwater measured within an observation well approximately 0.98 miles east of the Project site was reported to be 563 below the ground surface. Even with fluctuations of groundwater level, groundwater was not expected to limit or affect the proposed construction activities. In addition, the Proposed Project would not impact designated recharge areas within the City, such as the Noble Creek Recharge Facility.

Although a nominal amount of water may be used during construction, these activities would be minimal and temporary in nature and would not substantially impact groundwater supplies.

Additionally, the Project site is not currently utilized as a groundwater recharge area. The Project would not result in any water demand at Project completion and therefore would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. A less than significant impact would occur.

- c) i) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not result in large areas of exposed soil that would be subject to runoff. Rather, it would include improvements to the existing drainage system that has been impacted by stormwater runoff. Potential erosion or siltation may occur related to construction activities that include runoff of loose soils. As discussed above, construction practices such as erosion and sediment control, material management, and spill prevention procedures would be implemented during construction. As discussed in Section 4.4 Biological Resources, the Proposed Project would require submittal of a Section 401, 404, and SAA permits to comply with the regulatory requirements for jurisdictional waters. Therefore, compliance with the regulatory permitting requirements with respect to impacts to waters would result in a less than significant impact.

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

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing drainage channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate maintenance for City staff. As discussed in the previous section, the Proposed Project would improve management of the urban runoff in the channel since the existing channel has deteriorated through the years. The Proposed Project would not substantially increase the amount of surface runoff to the area because the proposed improvements would occur within an existing channel. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- iii) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources or polluted runoff; or*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing drainage channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate maintenance for City staff. The Proposed Project does not include new construction that would require an increase in capacity of existing drainage systems. The Proposed Project would introduce impervious surfaces to the existing channel. However, these improvements would not result in changing the capacity of the channel or impact existing or planned drainage systems. During construction, the Proposed Project may result in polluted runoff; however, as part of general construction practices, spill control and material management procedures would be implemented to control any potential runoff during construction. Because the Proposed Project would not result in a significant contribution to

polluted runoff, and would not affect the capacities of existing drainage systems, impacts would be less than significant.

- iv) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would impede or redirect flood flows?*

No Impact. The Project site is located outside of the flood hazard area within the FEMA flood zone. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing drainage channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate maintenance for City staff. The Proposed Project does not include new construction that would affect flood flows. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant impact.

- d) *Would the project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

No Impact. The Project is located within the Potrero Creek sub watershed, within the Santa Ana River watershed, outside of the flood hazard area within the FEMA 100-year flood zone. Additionally, the Proposed Project is located inland and away from any open water source or flood control dam that could result in a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. The Proposed Project would not cause or expose people and structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No impact would occur.

- e) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project is located within the Potrero Creek sub watershed, within the Santa Ana River watershed, outside of the flood hazard area within the FEMA 100-year flood zone. The Proposed Project would not obstruct the implementation of a water quality control plan or groundwater management plan. The Proposed Project intends to improve the existing channel flow conditions by lining the channel with concrete to replace the deteriorated geo-mat liners. The proposed work would occur within an existing channel and would continue to function as such. Additionally, the Project site is not a designated groundwater recharge area and the proposed activities would not affect any groundwater management plan. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

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

4.11.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project physically divide an established community?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. The Project Site is located within an existing portion of the drainage channel and the proposed work would be confined to the existing channel area. The Proposed Project would not physically divide an established community. No impacts would occur.

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

No Impact. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing channel with concrete to improve channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. The Proposed Project is in an area zoned for single-family residential purposes. The upgrades to the existing channel would not conflict with the zoning because the Proposed Project involves updates to public and utility infrastructure. The Proposed Project would not alter the general function of the existing site and would be compliant with the land use plan, policies, and regulations. The proposed uses would be consistent with the current land use and zoning designations for the Project site and no impact would occur.

4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

12.	MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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"/>

4.12.1 Environmental Setting

Mineral resources are commercially viable mineral or aggregate deposits, such as sand, gravel, and other construction aggregate. The CGS provides objective geologic expertise and information about California’s diverse nonfuel mineral resources. Maps, reports, and other data products developed by the staff assist governmental agencies, mining companies, consultants, and the public in recognizing, developing, and protecting important mineral resources. The DOC protects mineral resources to ensure adequate supplies for future production. The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) was developed to encourage production and conservation of mineral resources, prevent, or minimize adverse effects to the environment, and protect public health and safety.

4.12.2 Impact Analysis

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

No Impact. The General Plan states that there have been no significant amounts of mineral deposits in the City and there are no delineated sites or locations of mineral resources within the City or sphere boundaries (City 2020). Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resource that would be of value to the region. Thus, no impacts would occur.

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

No Impact. As noted above, The General Plan states that there have been no significant amounts of mineral deposits in the City and there are no delineated sites or locations of mineral resources within the City or sphere boundaries (City 2020). Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource and no impact would occur.

4.13 NOISE

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

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

A Construction Noise Evaluation was prepared for the Proposed Project by Ldn Consulting in September 2024 and is located in Appendix I. The noise evaluation examined the construction noise conditions for the Proposed Project. Construction noise levels were based on typical noise levels generated by construction equipment published by the Federal Transit Association (FTA) and Federal Highway Association (FHWA). Construction noise is assessed in dBA Leq; this unit is appropriate because Leq can be used to describe noise level from operation of each piece of equipment separately, and levels can be combined to represent the noise level from all equipment operating during a given period. Construction noise modeling was conducted using the FHWA Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM).

4.13.2 Impact Analysis

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The unit of measurement used to describe a noise level is the decibel (dB). The human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies within the sound spectrum. Therefore, the “A-weighted” noise scale, which weights the frequencies to which humans are sensitive, is used for measurements. Noise levels using A-weighted measurements are written dB(A) or dBA. Noise standards for land use compatibility are stated in terms of the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and the Day-Night Average Noise Level (DNL). CNEL is a 24-hour average weighted average measure of community noise. CNEL is obtained by adding five decibels to sound levels in the evening (7:00 PM to 10:00 PM) and by adding ten decibels to sound levels at night (10:00 PM to 7:00 AM). This weighting accounts for the increased human sensitivity to noise during the evening and nighttime hours. DNL is very similar to 24-hour average measure that weights only the nighttime hours. The equivalent continuous noise level, Leq, is a level of steady state sound that in a stated time period, and a stated location, has the same A-weighted sound energy as the time-varying sound.

Construction Noise

Construction noise is regulated within Section 9.02.110(F) of the City Municipal Code. Accordingly, the Proposed Project would result in a significant impact if:

- Project construction occurs outside the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM during the months of June through September; or,
- Project construction occurs outside the hours of 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM during the months of October through May; or,
- Project construction noise exceeds 55 dBA at the interior of an occupied residence or school for any 15-minute period.

The FTA threshold for 80 dBA (8-hour Leq) for residential uses is used as a conservative standard for evaluating construction noise impacts. Noise levels at the Proposed Project are expected to be 78.7 dBA for placement and grading of engineered fill, and 79.5 dBA for precise grading and compactions. During the concrete pouring phase, noise levels are expected to be 79.9 dBA at the nearest residential property line. The noise analysis Construction hours would occur within the City’s specified hours and the Proposed Project would comply with the City’s noise standards at the FTA’s 80 dbA Leq 8-hour standard. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in ambient noise levels and impacts would be less than significant.

- b) *Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

Less Than Significant Impact. Vibration amplitudes are usually expressed as either peak particle velocity (PPV) or the root mean square (RMS) velocity. The PPV is defined as the maximum instantaneous peak of the vibration signal in inches per second. The RMS of a signal is the average of the squared amplitude of the signal in vibration decibels (VdB), ref one micro-inch per second. The Federal Railroad Administration

uses the abbreviation “VdB” for vibration decibels to reduce the potential for confusion with sound decibel.

The City has not established thresholds of significance concerning groundborne vibration. In the absence of City-established thresholds, groundborne vibration impacts are based on guidance from the Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual (Caltrans 2020). Accordingly, the Proposed Project would result in a significant impact if:

- Groundborne vibration levels generated by the Proposed Project have the potential to cause architectural damage at nearby buildings by exceeding the following PPV:
 - 0.08 in/sec at extremely fragile historic buildings, ruins, ancient monuments
 - 0.10 in/sec at fragile buildings
 - 0.25 in/sec at historic and some old buildings
 - 0.30 in/sec at older residential structures
 - 0.50 in/sec at new residential structures and modern industrial/commercial buildings.
- Groundborne vibration levels generated by the Proposed Project have the potential to cause severe annoyance to people living or working in nearby buildings by exceeding a PPV of 0.4 in/sec.

The Proposed Project involves the use of typical construction equipment such as excavators, dump trucks, backhoes, laser-graders, compactors, and concrete trucks. These types of equipment are common in construction projects and are not typically associated with excessive groundborne vibration. All construction equipment would be properly fitted with mufflers and staging and maintenance would be conducted away from residences (Appendix I). Furthermore, the Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned drainage channel and the generation of groundborne vibration or noise is not expected. Therefore, the Proposed Project would comply with noise standards and is not expected to generate vibration or noise levels. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public us 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 or within two miles of a public airport. Therefore, it would not expose people residing or working at the Project Site to excessive noise levels and no impact would occur.

4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

14.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

4.14.1 Environmental Setting

A project would have a significant adverse impact if it would induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly by proposing new homes and businesses or indirectly through the extension of roads or other infrastructure; displace housing units, causing the construction of replacement housing somewhere else; or displace people, causing the construction of replacement housing somewhere else.

Impact Analysis

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

No Impact. The Proposed Project does not involve construction that would induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing channel with concrete to minimize maintenance needed by City Staff and improve drainage conditions. The Proposed Project would be maintained by existing staff and would not result in population growth. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not induce population growth directly or indirectly and no impact would occur.

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

No Impact. As mentioned above, the Proposed Project does not involve construction that would induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area. Residential uses exist in the Proposed Project site; however, the Proposed Project would not result in the displacement of existing housing, and no persons would be displaced. The Proposed Project focuses on upgrades to the existing drainage channel. Therefore, no impacts to population and housing would occur.

4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

15.	PUBLIC SERVICES.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
	i) Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	ii) Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.15.1 Environmental Setting

Public services include fire, police, schools, parks, and libraries. A project would impact a public service if it would result in an increased demand for that service or if the project would result in a hindrance to that service.

4.15.2 Impact Analysis

- a) i) *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 ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection?*

No Impact. Fire protection services for the Project site would be provided by CalFire and Riverside County Fire Department. The fire station nearest to the Project Site is City of Beaumont Fire Station 1, located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the Project site. The Proposed Project would remain a drainage channel and would not result in an increase in the demand for fire services resulting from the implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in an impact regarding fire protection services.

- ii) *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 ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection?*

No Impact. The closest police station to the Project Site is the City of Beaumont Police Station located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the Project Site. The Proposed Project includes lining the existing drainage channel with concrete and would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of physically altered governmental facilities, nor would it require the need for new facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- iii) *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 ratios, response times or other performance objectives for schools?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project involves lining the existing drainage channel with concrete to improve drainage conditions and alleviate maintenance for City staff. The Proposed Project will not result in the need for altered or new governmental facilities. Construction and operation of the channel would not affect the performance and operation of nearby schools. No Impact would occur.

- iv) *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 ratios, response times or other performance objectives for parks?*

No Impact. The Project would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities to maintain acceptable opportunities for parks. The closest parks include Noble Creek Regional Park, located one mile west of the Project site, Fallen Heroes Park, located 1.3 miles west of the Project site, and Beaumont Sports Park, located one mile northwest of the Project Site. The Proposed Project would not induce population growth and would not create new residents that would result in the need for new or expanded parks. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in a significant impact associated with park.

- vi) *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 ratios, response times or other performance objectives for other public facilities?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not expected to impact any other public facilities such as hospitals or libraries. The Proposed Project would not increase the capacity of the existing residential community or generate any new permanent residents that would require upgrades to existing public service infrastructure. Construction of the Proposed Project would be temporary and maintenance of the Project site would be done by existing staff. No impact would occur.

4.16 RECREATION

16.	RECREATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.16.1 Environmental Setting

Recreational facilities include active and passive facilities. Active recreational facilities include parks, tennis and basketball courts, pools, golf courses, and various other facilities. Passive recreational facilities include plazas and other public places.

A project would result in a significant impact on recreational facilities if: it would increase the use of existing parks and facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be

accelerated, or if the project included recreational facilities or required construction that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

4.16.2 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*

No Impact. The Project site includes lining the existing channel with concrete to improve the channel flow conditions to alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City Staff. The Proposed Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur. No impact would occur.

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?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect. There are undesignated trails along the open space areas that are open to the public and owned by SCE. The trails located near the Project site are used by the existing residents and visitors, however, the Proposed Project would not prevent access to the trails. The parking lot, which is also used by the trail users, would only be partially used for staging purposes. The staging areas would be locked and gated. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant to recreational facilities.

4.17 TRANSPORTATION

17.	TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b)	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"/>
©	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.17.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would generate minor increases in traffic associated with the short-term construction activities with an estimate between 600 to 1,000 truck trips. The temporary and limited increase in construction traffic would not conflict with any applicable plans, ordinances, or policies establishing measures of effectiveness for circulation systems. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned drainage channel and would not

result in an increase in transportation to and from the Project site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The metric used to evaluate the transportation impact of land use and transportation projects under CEQA guidelines is known as VMT. In general terms, VMT quantifies the amount of distance of automobile travel attributable to a project or region. California Senate Bill (SB) 743 directs the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to amend the CEQA Guidelines for evaluating transportation impacts to provide alternatives to LOS that “promote the reduction of GHG emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses.” In general terms, VMT quantifies the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project or region.

The Proposed Project would line the existing drainage channel with concrete to improve drainage conditions and alleviate maintenance issues for City staff. The Proposed Project would require vehicle trips during construction and minimal transit during operations. The Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned drainage channel and would only require maintenance by City staff. The Proposed Project would improve the existing channel and thereby reduce the maintenance required. Therefore, the Proposed Project will not conflict with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b). Therefore, impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

- c) *Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project will not substantially increase hazards due to design features. The Proposed Project would limit the proposed construction within the channel limits and not include new design features that would be incompatible to the area. The proposed channel would be sloped and concrete would be lined along the sides and below ground. The channel would not interfere with the design of the area and would not include major adjustments to roadways. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- d) *Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not impede emergency access during temporary construction activities because work and equipment staging would not be adjacent to a roadway. During operations, the operation of the Proposed Project would not interfere with emergency access to and from the site, nor the surrounding neighborhoods. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

18.	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:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.18.1 Impact Analysis

- 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)?*
- 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?*

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. Assembly Bill 52 requires public agencies to consult with tribes that may have a traditional affiliation to a project area to gather information on a site’s sensitivity and identify if any mitigation measures would be required to preserve discovered or undiscovered tribal cultural resources. The City sent letters to their list of tribes to conduct consultation in October 2024. The City received responses from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and requested consultation on the Proposed Project. Based on the provided information of the Proposed Project, the following mitigation measures have been requested to be included.

MM TCR-1: Native American Treatment: Agreement Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the applicant shall enter into a Tribal Monitoring Agreement with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians for the project. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall be on-site during all ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind). The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbing activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources and/or tribal cultural resources.

MM TCR-2: Retention of Archaeologist Prior to any ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post replacement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), and prior to the issuance of grading permits, the Applicant shall retain a qualified archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Standards (SOI). The archaeologist shall be present during all ground-disturbing activities to identify any known or suspected archaeological and/or cultural resources. The archaeologist will conduct a Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training, in conjunction with the Tribe[s] Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and/or designated Tribal Representative. The training session will focus on the archaeological and tribal cultural resources that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities as well as the procedures to be followed in such an event.

MM TCR-3: Cultural Resource Management Plan Prior to any ground-disturbing activities the project archaeologist shall develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and/or Archaeological Monitoring and Treatment Plan (AMTP) to address the details, timing, and responsibilities of all archaeological and cultural resource activities that occur on the project site. This Plan shall be written in consultation with the consulting Tribe[s] and shall include the following: approved Mitigation Measures (MM)/Conditions of Approval (COA), contact information for all pertinent parties, parties' responsibilities, procedures for each MM or COA, and an overview of the project schedule.

MM TCR-4: Pre-Grade Meeting The retained qualified archeologist and Consulting Tribe[s] representative shall attend the pre-grade meeting with the grading contractors to explain and coordinate the requirements of the monitoring plan.

MM TCR-5: On-site Monitoring During all ground-disturbing activities the qualified archaeologist and the Tribal Monitor(s) shall be on-site full-time. The frequency of inspections shall depend on the rate of excavation, the materials excavated, and any discoveries of Tribal Cultural Resources as defined in California Public Resources Code Section 21074. Archaeological and Native American monitoring will be discontinued when the depth of grading and the soil conditions no longer retain the potential to contain cultural deposits. The qualified archaeologist, in consultation with the Tribal Monitor(s), shall be responsible for determining the duration and frequency of monitoring.

MM TCR-6: Inadvertent Discovery of Cultural Resources In the event that previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction, the qualified archaeologist and the Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert and/or temporarily halt ground-disturbance operations in the area of discovery to allow for the evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. Isolates and clearly non-significant deposits shall be minimally documented in the field and collected so the monitored grading can proceed.

If a potentially significant cultural resource(s) is discovered, work shall stop within a 60-foot perimeter of the discovery and an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) physical demarcation/barrier constructed. All work shall be diverted away from the vicinity of the find, so that the find can be evaluated by the qualified archaeologist and Tribal Monitor[s]. The archaeologist shall notify the Lead Agency and consulting Tribe[s] of said discovery. The qualified archaeologist, in consultation with the Lead Agency, the consulting Tribe[s], and the Native American monitor, shall determine the significance of the discovered resource. A recommendation for the treatment and disposition of the Tribal Cultural Resource shall be made by the qualified archaeologist in consultation with the Tribe[s] and the Native American monitor[s] and be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. Below are the possible treatments and dispositions of significant cultural resources in order of CEQA preference:

- A. Full avoidance.
- B. If avoidance is not feasible, Preservation in place.

If Preservation in place is not feasible, all items shall be reburied in an area away from any future impacts and reside in a permanent conservation easement or Deed Restriction.

- C. If all other options are proven to be infeasible, data recovery through excavation and then curation in a Curation Facility that meets the Federal Curation Standards (36 CFR 79)

MM TCR-7: Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains The following specific conditions shall be imposed in order to protect Native American human remains and/or cremations. No photographs are to be taken except by the coroner, with written approval by the consulting Tribe[s].

- a. Should human remains and/or cremations be encountered on the surface or during any and all ground-disturbing activities (i.e., clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all water supply, electrical, and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall immediately stop within a 100-foot perimeter of the discovery. The area shall be protected by the establishment of an ESA with a marked boundary. Project personnel/observers will be restricted from entry into the ESA. The County Coroner is to be contacted within 24 hours of discovery. The County Coroner has 48 hours to make his/her determination pursuant to State and Safety Code §7050.5. and Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5097.98.
- b. In the event that the human remains and/or cremations are identified as Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of determination pursuant to subdivision (c) of HSC §7050.5.
- c. The Native American Heritage Commission shall immediately notify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours, upon being granted access to the Project site, to inspect the site of discovery and make his/her recommendation for final treatment and disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the remains and all associated grave goods pursuant to PRC §5097.98

- d. If the Morongo Band of Mission Indians has been named the Most Likely Descendant (MLD), the Tribe may wish to rebury the human remains and/or cremation and sacred items in their place of discovery with no further disturbance where they will reside in perpetuity. The place(s) of reburial will not be disclosed by any party and is exempt from the California Public Records Act (California Government Code § 6254[r]). Reburial location of human remains and/or cremations will be determined by the Tribe’s Most Likely Descendant (MLD), the landowner, and the City Planning Department.

MM TCR-8: FINAL REPORT: The final report[s] created as a part of the project (AMTP, isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be submitted to the Lead Agency and Consulting Tribe[s] for review and comment. After approval of all parties, the final reports are to be submitted to the appropriate Information Center (IC), and the Consulting Tribe[s].

4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

19.	UTILITIES/SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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 telecommunications 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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)	Negatively impact the provision of solid waste services or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid wastes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.19.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or expansion of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would line the existing channel with concrete to improve the channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City staff. The existing channel is lined with a turf reinforced geo-mat lining along the side slope and channel bottom. The Proposed Project does not propose any new land uses that would result in the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, electric, telecom, or natural gas facilities. The Proposed Project involves upgrades to existing utility infrastructure and therefore would not require new construction or relocation of utilities on-site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant and the Proposed Project would not cause significant environmental effects.

- b) *Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal dry and multiple dry years?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would temporarily require the use of water for dust control; however, this water use would be temporary and cease at the end of construction. The Proposed Project involves removing the existing turf geo-mat lining from the drainage channel and replacing it with concrete to improve the channel flow conditions and alleviate the increasing level of maintenance by City staff. The Proposed Project would not introduce a new land uses or new construction that would significantly increase water demand to the area. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

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

No Impact. Utilities and service systems include potable water and wastewater treatment. The quantity of water consumed, and wastewater generated by, a project is determined by several factors including the size, type, and characteristics of the project. The need for construction of new or replacement water and wastewater treatment facilities (e.g., reservoirs, storage tanks, water mains, filtration plants, pumps, wells, and other connections or distribution facilities) would depend on the existing capacity and anticipated demand for the Project area. The Proposed Project would not construct any uses capable of producing wastewater. The operation of the site would be a passive, unmanned concrete channel used to collect and divert runoff. No impacts would occur in this regard.

- 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?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project may require the disposal of construction debris during the grading/excavation process including soil, asphalt, concrete, and other construction related materials including the existing turf geo-mats that line the drainage channel. The generation of these materials would be short-term in nature and would not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. The Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned drainage channel and would not generate solid waste. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact in regard to generation of significant solid waste.

e) *Would the project negatively impact the provision of solid waste services or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The generation of waste materials such as soil, asphalt, concrete, and other construction related materials including the existing turf geo-mats that line the drainage channel would be short-term in nature and would not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. The Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned drainage channel and would not generate solid waste. Therefore, solid waste services would not impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals, and impacts would be less than significant.

f) *Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including the California Integrated Waste Management Act, Mandatory Commercial Recycling Law, and County of Riverside requirements for solid waste generated during the construction process. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

4.20 WILDFIRE

20.	WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.20.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is located outside of any Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CalFire 2007). The Proposed Project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan. The Proposed Project does not include any modifications of main roads that could be designated as emergency evacuation routes, nor does the Project include construction of facilities that would interfere with an emergency response or evacuation plan. While there are pockets of open

spaces along Cherry Ave, it is not a wildland area, nor does it contain significant amounts of vegetation that could create an adverse impact regarding wildlands. Impacts would be less than significant.

- b) *Would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is not located within a very high fire hazard severity zone (CalFire 2007). The Project site is located on a relatively flat, urbanized location with little vegetation and, therefore, will not exacerbate wildfire risks. Due to the absence of significant sloping features or notable prevailing winds, and the fact that the area is highly developed, the Proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks and expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentration; impacts would be less than significant.

- c) *Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project does not include installation or maintenance of associated infrastructures that would exacerbate a fire risk. In addition, the Proposed Project is not located within a very high fire hazard severity zone. No impact would occur.

- d) *Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would remove the existing geo-mat lining, wingwall, and riprap within the channel and be replaced with concrete along the slopes and channel bottom. The existing headwalls and culverts will remain and be protected in place. The Proposed Project would result in reduced maintenance costs and improved flow of runoff to the channel.

The Proposed Project does include structures that would be exposed to downstream flooding or landslides; however, the Proposed Project involves improvements to the lining that shelters the channel. The Project site is absent of significant sloping features. The Project site is relatively flat and does not include activities that would change the drainage or slope of the Project site. Impacts would be less than significant.

4.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

21.	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.	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"/>

21.	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.21.1 Impact Analysis

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?*

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed in Section 4.4 Biological Resources, there are no significant impacts anticipated for special status wildlife and plant species due to the condition (lack of suitable habitats) of the Project site. BUOW have a low potential to occur within the Project site and may be present during construction. Therefore, the Proposed Project would require the completion of a pre-construction survey for BUOW. Additionally, to minimize potential impacts to nesting birds under the MBTA, a pre-construction survey for nesting birds shall be completed.

The Proposed Project site is subject to USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW jurisdiction. As discussed in Section 4.4, and outlined in the Jurisdictional Delineation Report, the Proposed Project will require compliance with USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW permitting requirements through the submittal of a Section 404, 401, and SAA applications. Compliance with the MBTA and regulatory agencies would result in a less than significant impact.

As discussed in Section 4.5 Cultural Resources, the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to historic resources. Additionally, the surrounding area and the Project site is previously disturbed, fully developed, and is currently the occupied by the extant segment of Cherry Ave and the to-be-replaced geomal lined channel (Appendix C). Because of the EIC closure and the reliance on previous records search data for this study, the Proposed Project could result in impacts during the initial ground disturbance on intact native soils, which may not have been previously disturbed. Therefore, MM CUL-1 will be implemented to ensure a less than significant impact. Additionally, given that the proposed activities include soil disturbances, undocumented resources could be discovered (PAL-1). Due to the overall sensitivity of the area, mitigation measures for paleontological resources will be incorporated to address potential impacts to undiscovered resources. Implementation of these mitigation measures would result in a less than significant impact.

MM BIO-1: Pre-Construction Survey for Nesting Birds

Nesting birds are protected under the MBTA. During construction, the Proposed Project would comply with the MBTA, which requires that nesting bird surveys be conducted prior to the start of vegetation clearance activities should they occur during nesting season: February 15 through September 15. In compliance with the MBTA requirements, should vegetation clearance occur during the nesting bird season, a qualified biologist would conduct a nest survey within one week of the start of these activities to ensure no active nests were lost. If an active nest is located, then the nest should be flagged and construction within an appropriate distance of the nest should be postponed until the biologist has confirmed that the nest is no longer active. If this is not possible, prior to ground-disturbing activities, a qualified biologist should conduct and submit a migratory nesting bird and raptor survey report. The survey should occur no more than three days prior to initiation of Project activities, and any occupied passerine and/or raptor nests occurring within or adjacent to the Project site should be delineated. Additional follow-up surveys may be required by the resource agencies. To the maximum extent practicable, a minimum buffer zone around occupied nests should be maintained during physical ground-disturbing activities. The buffer zone should be sufficient in size to prevent impacts to the nest. Once nesting has ceased, the buffer may be removed.

MM BIO-2: Pre-Construction Survey for Burrowing Owl

A pre-construction focused survey for BUOW shall be conducted within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to reevaluate the locations of active BUOW burrows located adjacent to or within the Project limits and to avoid direct take of BUOW (MSHCP Species Specific Objective 6). If BUOWs are identified on-site, avoidance measures will be developed in compliance with the MSHCP and in coordination with the CDFW and/or Western Riverside County RCA. These measures would include the following as well as any others developed in coordination with CDFW and/or RCA:

- A biologist with knowledge of BUOW and its habitat will be retained to function as a biological monitor.
- The biological monitor will develop and implement a contractor education program with regard to the BUOW to be provided to all personnel (including temporary contractors and subcontractors) before beginning work on the Project.
- The biological monitor will be present during vegetation clearing, grading, and construction, to monitor occupied BUOW burrows and any construction-related impacts.
- Prior to any ground disturbance, all limits of Project construction will be delineated and marked to be clearly visible to personnel on foot and in heavy equipment. All construction-related activities (e.g., vegetation removal, grading, equipment lay-down and storage, and contractor parking) will occur inside the limits of construction and designated staging areas. Construction staging and equipment storage will be located outside any occupied BUOW burrow locations.
 - All movement of contractors, subcontractors, or their agents and equipment will be restricted to the limits of construction and staging areas.
 - A qualified biologist will conduct any necessary BUOW passive relocation that may be required to avoid Project effects to BUOW.

- If BUOW must be moved away from the proposed work area, passive relocation techniques would be used rather than actual avian trapping. At least one or more weeks would be necessary to accomplish this to allow the birds to acclimate to alternate burrows.
- The Project would provide funding for long-term management and monitoring of the protected lands acquired for BUOW impacts. This monitoring would include an annual report submittal to the CDFW.

MM CUL-1:

The Applicant shall retain the services of a Qualified Archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior Standards, for the duration of ground-disturbing construction activity. All construction-related ground disturbing activity that includes cutting into native intact soils shall be monitored by a cultural resources specialist proficient in construction monitoring setting. The Qualified Archaeologist or cultural resources specialist working under the direction of the Qualified Archaeologist shall provide training to inform all construction personnel prior to construction activities about the proper procedures in the event of an archaeological discovery. The training shall be held in conjunction with the Project's initial on-site safety meeting and shall explain the importance and legal basis for the protection of significant archaeological resources.

In the event of an inadvertent discovery of potential archaeological resources (artifacts or features) during ground-disturbing activities, construction activities within a 50-foot radius of the discovery shall be halted while the Qualified Archaeologist assesses the find. If the resource is determined to be significant or unique through significance evaluation, and site avoidance is not possible, appropriate site-specific mitigation measures shall be established and undertaken. These might include an archaeological mitigation and monitoring plan, treatment, or data recovery programs. All monitoring or associated plans would be prepared and implemented under the direction of a qualified archaeologist. All required close-out reporting would be completed in accordance with the Office of Historic Preservation's ARMR.

MM PAL-1:

The Applicant shall be required to obtain the services of a Qualified Paleontologist to remain on-call for the duration of the ground-disturbing construction activity. If requested by the City, a paleontological mitigation plan (PMP) outlining procedures for paleontological monitoring and/or data recovery shall be prepared for the Project and submitted to the City for review and approval. The development and implementation of the PMP shall include, but not be limited to, additional research and further assessment of paleontological sensitivity in the Project site, consultations with the Applicant's engineering geologist, as well as a requirement that the curation of all specimens recovered under any scenario shall be through an appropriate repository agreed upon by the City. The PMP shall also include developing a multilevel ranking system, or Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC), as a tool to demonstrate the potential yield of fossils within a given stratigraphic unit. The PMP shall outline the monitoring and salvage protocols to address paleontological resources encountered during Project-related ground-disturbing activities. As well as the appropriate recording, collection, processing, curation, and reporting protocols to appropriately address any monitoring conducted or resources discovered.

- 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?)*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project would not occur simultaneously with other projects in the area that would result in a cumulative impact. Various projects are scheduled to occur within the City, however, none are within the immediate area of the Project site and therefore, no cumulative impact would occur. The Project consists of improving flood infrastructure and is not introducing new land uses that would create cumulative effects to the area. The Project would not result in any impacts that would be significant after mitigation. With the mitigation measures listed in this Initial Study, impacts from the Project would not be cumulatively considerable.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Environmental effects that may cause substantial adverse effects on humans typically result from impacts to air quality and GHGs; noise; hazardous materials; ground shaking; hazardous design features with respect to transportation and roadway designs; and wildfire. The analysis of this document indicates that impacts would be less than significant to the environmental areas mentioned above and, therefore, would not cause substantial adverse impacts to human beings. Impacts would be less than significant.

SECTION 5.0 – REFERENCES

The following is a list of references used in the preparation of this document.

California Department of Conservation (DOC)

- 2024 Department of Conservation, California Important Farmland Finder, Accessed August 2024. Available online at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>
- 2024 California Earthquake Hazards Zone Application. Available online at: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/geohazards/eq-zapp>

CalFire

- 2007 CalFire, Fire Hazard Severity Zones in SRA, Los Angeles County, Adopted November 7, 2007. Accessed August 2023. Available online at: https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/6705/fhszs_map19.pdf

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

- 2023 Envirostor Database, Accessed August 2023. Available online at https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60001577

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

- 2020 Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual. Available online at: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/environmental-analysis/documents/env/tcvgm-apr2020-a11y.pdf>
- 2024 Caltrans, Scenic Highways. Accessed August 2024. Available online at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>

County of Riverside (County)

- 2024 County of Riverside Emergency Operations Plan. Available online at: <https://rivcoready.org/sites/g/files/aldnop181/files/users/user41/RivCo%20EOP%202024.pdf>

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

- 2024 State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker Map. Accessed August 2023. Available online at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=6500+Atlantic+Avenue%2C+Long+Beach%2C+CA+90805+>

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

- 2023 USEPA EnviroMapper. Accessed August 2023. Available online at: <https://geopub.epa.gov/myem/efmap/index.html?ve=17,33.873953,-118.185684&pText=6500%20Atlantic%20Ave,%20Long%20Beach,%20California,%2090805>