Santa Susana Field Laboratory

SITE REMEDIATION PROGRAM

State Clearinghouse Number: 2013111068

CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations

Prepared by

California Environmental Protection Agency

Department of Toxic Substances Control

January 2026

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Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Exhibits

SECTION 1

Introduction

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15000 et seq.), the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in its capacity as the CEQA lead agency for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) Site Remediation Program, prepared a programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR). DTSC certified the PEIR on July 19, 2023 (Certified PEIR). The Site Remediation Program as evaluated in the Certified PEIR consists of the overall site cleanup and the initial activities, collectively referred to as the project. The project addresses soil and groundwater contamination and the removal of structures under DTSC oversight at the SSFL site. Because of documented and potential releases of contamination at SSFL, DTSC is using its regulatory authority to require cleanup under state law. The PEIR includes an evaluation of remedial technology alternatives necessary to address the different types of contaminated land and water resources, the wide variety of contaminants present, and the unique and varied conditions at the SSFL site (topography, vegetation, access, sensitive biological and cultural resources, etc.).

As explained in DTSC's July 19, 2023 Certification of the Final PEIR, DTSC's certification included findings for two limited purposes: (1) addressing certification of the PEIR; and (2) DTSC's determination that recirculation of the Draft PEIR was not required under CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5. The Findings for Certification of the Final PEIR are hereby incorporated by reference, and the Certification is attached as Exhibit A. DTSC certified the Final PEIR on July 19, 2023, establishing that the lead agency's decision maker reviewed the Final PEIR and concluded it complied with CEQA and reflected the agency's independent judgment (CEQA Guidelines §§ 15090, 15092).

Upon certification of the PEIR, DTSC approved the overall SSFL project. However, DTSC did not release any specific cleanup decision documents at that time. Following DTSC's receipt of the first cleanup document for review, DTSC is now moving forward with releasing its first cleanup decision document.

Concurrently with the adoption of these Findings, DTSC published an Addendum to the Certified PEIR to address information provided to DTSC since the Final PEIR was certified. DTSC determined that none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, regarding preparation of a subsequent EIR, were present, and that it was appropriate to address the newly provided information in an Addendum.

The Findings of Fact (Findings) and Statement of Overriding Considerations presented herein address the environmental effects associated with the project as described and analyzed in the Certified PEIR. These Findings are made pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21081 and 21081.6, as well as the CEQA Guidelines Sections 15090, 15091, 15092, and 15093. Public Resources Code Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 require that DTSC, as the Lead Agency for this project, prepare written findings for any identified significant environmental effects along with a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding. The possible specific findings under CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a) are:

1. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effects as identified in the final EIR.
2. Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.
3. Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the final EIR.

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15092 and 15093, whenever significant effects cannot be mitigated to below a level of significance, DTSC as the decision-making Lead Agency is required to balance, as applicable, the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the project against its significant unavoidable environmental impacts when determining whether to approve the project. If the specific benefits of a project outweigh the significant unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse effects may be considered “acceptable,” in which case the Lead Agency must adopt a formal statement of overriding considerations before approving the project. When making the findings, the Lead Agency shall also adopt a program for reporting on or monitoring the changes, which it has either required in the project or made a condition of approval to avoid or substantially lessen significant environmental effects. These measures must be fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures. (CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15091, 15097.)

Conversely, the Lead Agency must not approve a project that will have a significant effect on the environment unless it finds that specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the project outweigh the significant unavoidable adverse environmental effects. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081(b); CEQA Guidelines, § 15093.)

DTSC has made one or more of the specific written findings above regarding each significant impact associated with the project. Those findings are presented in Sections 5 through 8 below. In addition, Findings for the first cleanup decision document, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Phase 1 Groundwater Corrective Measure Study (Phase 1 CMS) and Statement of Basis, are provided in Section 12.

SECTION 2

Project Description

The Certified PEIR[1] Chapter 2, *Introduction*, and Chapter 3, *Project Description*, include a detailed description of the project and its background, regulatory history, and cleanup requirements. The discussion below summarizes the project description for convenience; however, it is not intended as a substitute for the project description in the Certified PEIR.

2.1 Project Location

The approximately 2,850-acre SSFL site is located in the southeastern most part of Ventura County and adjacent to Los Angeles County, approximately 29 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, California (Certified PEIR Figure 1-1, Regional Location Map). The SSFL site is divided into administrative Areas I through IV, and the Northern and Southern Undeveloped Areas (also referred to as buffer zones in other documents) (Certified PEIR Figure 1-2, Administrative Areas). These administrative areas generally represent land ownership, cleanup responsibility, and cleanup requirements.

2.2 Background and History

Past operational activities at SSFL resulted in the release of contaminants to soil and groundwater. Two primary operational activities were conducted at SSFL:

- From the early 1950s to 1998, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its predecessor agency, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), sponsored nuclear and non-nuclear energy research and development projects at the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) (DOE, 2018).
- From 1950 to 2006, testing and development of rocket engines and rocket engine components were conducted by Boeing (and its predecessor North American Aviation and Rockwell International), the U.S. Air Force (USAF), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The testing and development of rocket engines and rocket engine components were the majority of non-nuclear activities at SSFL. Additional activities conducted by Boeing and

[1] The certified PEIR includes both the Revised Draft PEIR and Final PEIR for the project. Due to each document having its own set of chapter and section numbers, please refer to the chapter or section title to determine if the reference is to the Revised Draft PEIR or the Final PEIR.

its predecessors included military anti-satellite lasers, munitions, and related technologies (MHW, 2017).

The past operational activities at SSFL resulted in the release of chemicals of concern to both soil and groundwater. The proposed project that is evaluated in the Certified PEIR is the overall cleanup program of soil and groundwater remediation activities and the removal of structures under DTSC oversight at the SSFL site. Boeing, NASA, and DOE are the responsible parties (RPs) for the investigation and cleanup of contaminants released from past activities at the SSFL site.

The cleanup includes "corrective action," for the Boeing areas of responsibility and groundwater for DOE and NASA as defined under Chapter 6.5 of Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code, which is California's analog to the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The cleanup activities also include soil remediation for the DOE and NASA areas of responsibility under Chapter 6.8 of Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code, which is California's analog to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). DTSC is implementing these laws at SSFL under the 2007 Consent Order (DTSC, 2007), as amended by the 2022 Settlement Agreement[2] for the Boeing areas of responsibility (DTSC, 2022); and the 2010 Administrative Orders on Consent (2010 AOC's, or AOC's) (DTSC, 2010a; 2010b) for the federal RPs. Cleanup under the 2007 Consent Order requires cleanup to risk-based standards for Boeing soils and site-wide groundwater, and cleanup under the 2010 AOC's requires cleanup of DOE and NASA soils to background. The Program Management Plan (PMP) (Certified PEIR Appendix A) provides a roadmap for the current understanding of how the cleanup is expected to be undertaken on the site.

2.3 Project Objectives

The primary objective of the project is to implement SSFL cleanup under the 2007 Consent Order and the 2010 AOC's. DTSC's project objectives were developed considering the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (National Contingency Plan) (40 CFR 300.430 (e)(9)(iii)) criteria. These are grouped into three categories: primary, or "threshold", criteria; secondary, or "balancing", criteria; and additional "modifying" criteria.

[2] DTSC and Boeing entered into an agreement (2022 Settlement Agreement) on May 9, 2022, to establish a comprehensive framework to guide cleanup of the site. The 2022 Settlement Agreement, which became effective on August 12, 2022, amends the 2007 Consent Order to set forth the processes and methodologies for the cleanup of the Boeing areas of responsibility at SSFL.

Assessments against the following two of the criteria relate directly to statutory findings. Therefore, these are categorized as primary or "threshold criteria" that each alternative must meet:

1. Protect human health and the environment, attain soil and groundwater cleanup standards, and control source(s) of releases. This can be done by ensuring exposure pathways are controlled, eliminated, or reduced through treatment, engineering controls, or institutional controls.
2. The cleanup for soil and groundwater must comply with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements, laws, and regulations.

   To aid the decision-making bodies in their review of the project and the environmental impacts and alternatives to the cleanup, the following secondary (i.e. balancing) (3–7) and modifying (8) criteria are assessed and considered:

3. Long-term effectiveness and reliability (after remedial activities are complete) in protecting human health and the environment (inclusive of surrounding communities) from exposure to materials containing contaminants above applicable cleanup requirements.
4. Reduction of toxicity, mobility, and/or volume of contaminated media.
5. Short-term effectiveness (during implementation/construction activities) in protecting human health and the environment (inclusive of surrounding communities) from exposure to materials with contaminants above applicable cleanup requirements.
6. Ability to implement the remedial activities, including feasibility to construct and operate, administrative feasibility and availability of services and materials.
7. Remediate the site in an expedient and cost-effective manner.
8. Community input during a formal public comment period on the cleanup decision document.

In addition to the primary objective, DTSC developed project objectives considering the elements of the above criteria:

1. For contaminants that have already migrated offsite (e.g., groundwater), prevent further migration of the contaminants and mitigate any exposure pathways.
2. For soils, continue to prevent the migration of contaminants that pose a threat to offsite areas.
3. Implement the proposed project in a manner that fully considers Ventura County's zoning and general plan designations among other relevant factors when DTSC identifies the reasonably anticipated future land use for cleanup planning purposes.

4. Recognize the unique biological and cultural significance of the project site through protection of resources to the extent practicable and consistent with applicable laws and regulations for such resources.
5. Use in situ methods, to the extent practicable, to minimize physical impacts to the environment.

2.4 Project Description

The project is the cleanup of soil and groundwater remediation activities and the removal of structures under DTSC oversight at the approximately 2,850-acre SSFL site.

2.4.1 Overall Site Cleanup

The PEIR evaluates remedial technologies necessary to address the different types of contaminated land and water resources, the wide variety of contaminants present, and the unique and varied conditions at the site (topography, vegetation, access, sensitive biological and cultural resources, etc.). Specifically, the Certified PEIR considered the following remedial actions:

1. Soil Remediation – Soil remediation considered included excavation and offsite disposal (excavation and backfilling, construction equipment and staging, soil removal and transport, disposal, dewatering, and restoration revegetation); soil vapor extraction (SVE) (soil vapor extraction system, soil vapor extraction decommissioning, and restoration); biological treatment (bioventing, gaseous electron donor injection technology, ex situ biological treatment, monitored natural attenuation); phytoremediation; physical remediation methods (soil washing/partitioning, soil solidification/stabilization, and thermal desorption); and capping and onsite management.
2. Lead Shot and Clay Pigeon Cleanup Activities – Boeing performed the cleanup of lead shot in the vicinity of the Former Rocketdyne Employee Shooting Range pursuant to an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Determination and Consent Order issued in March 2022, Docket Number HSA-FY21/22-131. This activity is included in this PEIR to provide a conservative analysis of project impacts.
3. Groundwater and Unweathered Bedrock – The cleanup methods considered for groundwater and/or vadose zone cleanup include groundwater extraction and treatment (pump and treat); thermal enhanced vapor extraction; in situ chemical oxidation; in situ enhanced biological treatment, air sparging and vapor extraction; monitored natural attenuation (MNA) and institutional controls;

passive treatment at seeps; bedrock removal (for strontium-90); and bedrock vapor extraction.

4. Decommissioning of Monitoring Wells and Former Water Supply Wells – Monitoring wells and former water supply wells within the project site would be decommissioned in place by grouting with a bentonite cement grout.

As indicated above, the 2007 Consent Order requires a risk-based cleanup on the Boeing areas while the 2010 AOCs require cleanup of soil to background concentrations on the DOE and NASA areas. The AOCs require development of lookup table values (LUT values), which are the site-specific chemical and radiological values used to assess whether the DOE and NASA cleanup objectives have been achieved at SSFL. The DOE and NASA cleanup to background soil volumes are based on provisional LUT values established by DTSC. For risk-based cleanup, even though future development of the site is not a part of the project, as part of DTSC's regulatory framework to ensure protection of human health and the environment, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) guidance requires DTSC to consider the reasonably anticipated future land use (see Final PEIR, Chapter 2, Topical Response 2). DTSC estimated cleanup soil volumes for the Boeing areas for the PEIR based on exposure factors that relate to potential residents living on the property and consuming homegrown produce from a backyard garden. Based on USEPA's revised guidance and the comments received on the Draft PEIR, DTSC updated the PEIR to use the resident with 100 percent garden scenario (also referred to as the standard garden scenario) to calculate the risk-based screening levels for soil. The Certified PEIR provides a conservative analysis given that the estimated acreages and soil volumes evaluated for cleanup do not account for application of any AOC exceptions (i.e., areas that have biological and/or cultural resources that may be excepted from cleanup) given the uncertainty as to where these exceptions would apply.

The cleanup will include transport of materials, excavated soil, and groundwater to appropriately permitted disposal facilities. The maximum daily truck trips for export of excavated soil and demolition debris and import of equipment and backfill material is limited to 96 trucks (round trips, resulting in 192 total trips) per day for all RPs combined in accordance with the *Transportation and Road Agreement* that was executed between NASA, DOE, and Boeing in 2015.

In accordance with cleanup requirements, after any required confirmation sampling is completed, excavation areas will be restored with approved backfill soil, followed by regrading to mimic natural topography and minimize ponding, and reseeding of the replacement soil.

The overall cleanup is anticipated to be completed in 10 to 15 years and the various cleanup activities (vegetation removal, clearing, grubbing, road improvements, excavation, stockpiling, etc.) will be completed using different combinations of equipment. Most cleanup activities will occur 5 days per week (Monday through Friday), 11 hours per day, and during daylight hours (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.). Longer workdays during the summer and work on Saturdays may occur.

2.4.2 Initial Activities

Cleanup activities associated with the initial activities will occur for approximately 3 to 5 years and will primarily consist of demolition, soil excavation, and offsite disposal of demolition debris, soil, bedrock and groundwater. Monitoring and maintenance will likely continue beyond the foreseeable future. The Certified PEIR evaluated the following specific cleanup actions (initial activities) that have a sufficient level of detail for an in-depth analysis (Revised Draft PEIR Chapter 3, Section 3.7):

Building demolition in Area IV: The remaining buildings, pads, and below-ground features in Area IV will be removed. DOE will remove the slabs and below-ground features of Area IV RCRA and non-RCRA permitted structures that remain after the previously completed emergency removal of the above-ground portions of the Radioactive Materials Handling Facility (RMHF) buildings in July 2020 and completed removal of above-ground portions of all DOE-owned buildings in Area IV in January 2022 (Revised Draft PEIR Chapter 3, Figure 3-13). In addition, Boeing will remove above- and below-ground non-RCRA permitted buildings within Area IV.

The removal of the structures in Area IV will provide access to the underlying contaminated soil. DOE's initial activities will include the cleanup of radiological and contiguous chemically contaminated soil in Area IV.

Bedrock removal for Strontium-90: Bedrock in the vicinity of the former leach field at the RMHF contains strontium-90 and is a continuing source of this radionuclide to groundwater. The bedrock source will be removed using standard construction equipment assisted by subsurface controlled blasting to access and remove the impacted bedrock.

NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant: NASA will clean up the former Liquid Oxygen Plant located in Area I.

Thermal Treatment Facility (TTF): Final cleanup of the TTF in Area I will be completed as part of the final soil remedy for Boeing areas of responsibility. While part of this work is the subject of the May 2022 ISE Determination and Consent Order for the Area I Burn Pit (Docket Number HSA-FY21/22-148), this activity is included in the Certified PEIR to provide a conservative analysis of the impacts.

Impoundments: NASA's final soil cleanup plans will require the removal of the remaining soil contamination in and around the Area II impoundments. It is anticipated that the existing caps and associated features will be removed to gain access to the underlying soils for remediation. Post-remediation groundwater monitoring will continue.

A proposed permit modification from Boeing for the cleanup of the Boeing Area I/III impoundments could allow the surface impoundment caps to be removed and the soil to be remediated as part of the final soil cleanup for those areas. If Boeing remediates the underlying contaminated soil, the existing caps and associated maintenance are not anticipated to be necessary after completion of the cleanup. Post-remediation groundwater monitoring will continue.

The cleanup will include transport of materials, excavated soil, and groundwater to appropriately permitted disposal facilities. After any required confirmation sampling is completed, excavation areas will be restored.

2.5 Project Changes/New Information

After certification of an EIR, there is a presumption against subsequent (or supplemental) environmental review. CEQA prohibits such review except in limited circumstances listed under CEQA Guidelines section 15162:

When an EIR has been certified or a negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole of the record, one or more of the following:

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
2. Substantial changes occur with respect to circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:

a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;

b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;

c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or

d. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Pursuant to Section 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the lead agency "shall prepare an addendum to the previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred."

For these reasons, DTSC subsequently prepared an Addendum to the Certified PEIR to disclose new information that was provided to DTSC after certifying the PEIR concerning the presence of mountain lions and Crotch's bumble bees on the project site. Although this information was not known to DTSC at the time it certified the PEIR, it was known to others, so it *could* have been known. Therefore, it was not information that was "not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified." Additionally, this information does not show that the project will have one or more significant environmental effects that were not disclosed in the PEIR, or substantially more severe environmental effects than were disclosed in the PEIR, and there are no feasible mitigation measures or alternatives that would substantially reduce the project's significant environmental effects that DTSC declines to adopt. Accordingly, the new information does not meet the threshold of CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3) and does not constitute one of the events requiring a subsequent or supplemental EIR under Section 21166.

Instead, DTSC has determined that an Addendum to the PEIR is the appropriate vehicle to address the newly available information, as well as errata to the Certified PEIR. CEQA Guidelines Section 15164(a) provides that a lead agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR where "some changes or additions are necessary," but where Section 15162 does not otherwise require the preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR. Thus, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164(a), DTSC prepared the Addendum to address the additional information it received after certification of the PEIR, as well as provide errata to the Certified PEIR.

2.6 Approval Process for Cleanup Decision Documents

As noted in the Certified PEIR, after completion of the investigation and characterization documents and treatability studies, each RP will prepare draft cleanup decision documents[3] and propose specific corrective actions for their respective areas of responsibility. DTSC will review the draft cleanup decision documents to ensure that the corrective actions are consistent to the degree necessary with the National Contingency Plan (Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, § 300.1 et seq.) as incorporated into the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HSC § 25100 *et seq.*) and all other applicable legal requirements. As part of its review, DTSC will make the draft cleanup decision documents available for public review and comment.

Upon completion of final cleanup decision documents and project-level designs associated with discrete footprints within the project area, DTSC will determine whether the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the project-level designs were examined in the Certified PEIR. (See Draft PEIR Section 2.1.2, *Future Review of Project-Level Designs*; see also CEQA Guidelines § 15168(c).) If it is determined that subsequent project-level details would include substantial new information that was not examined in the PEIR, further environmental review may be required pursuant to CEQA (Pub. Resources Code § 21166; CEQA Guidelines §§ 15162–15164, 15168(c)). Per CEQA Guidelines § 15094, the lead agency must file a notice of determination with the Office of Planning and Research within 5 days of deciding to approve an individual project. DTSC will file a separate notice of determination for each decision document.

2.7 NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis

Remedial alternatives for the four NASA SSFL Phase 1 High Trichloroethene Concentration Area Target Treatment Areas (TTAs), named the WS-09 TTA, the ND-136 TTA, the C-6 TTA, and the Southern Seep TTA are evaluated in the Draft NASA Phase 1 Groundwater Corrective Measure Study (Phase 1 CMS) and proposed as remedial alternatives in the DTSC Draft Statement of Basis for the Phase 1 Groundwater Remedy Selection (Phase 1 Statement of Basis). These TTAs are the highest concentration, highest-risk source areas of impacted groundwater (AIGs) on the NASA SSFL project site. Additionally, they are associated with high groundwater, soil vapor, and seep concentrations of trichloroethene (TCE) and its degradation daughter

[3] "Cleanup decision documents" include the Statements of Basis for Boeing soils cleanup and site-wide groundwater cleanup, Soils Remedial Action Implementation Plan (SRAIP) for DOE and NASA soils cleanup, removal action plans, Closure Plans for the various permitted and interim status units, and Post-Closure Permits for the closed surface impoundments.

products of cis-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, and vinyl chloride. In addition to the Phase 1 CMS, information related to the TTAs evaluated in the Phase 1 CMS is contained in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI, November 2020). The RFI includes detailed information on site history, physical characteristics of the site, and a conceptual site model for each AIG. The Phase 2 CMS and Phase 2 Statement of Basis will address the remaining NASA groundwater areas impacted by TCE and all other contaminants of concern (COCs) for groundwater contamination at the NASA SSFL sites. Remedies will also be selected.

The Phase 1 CMS addresses the highest concentration TCE and its degradation daughter products in NASA groundwater source areas in three categories: high TCE concentration areas in groundwater, bedrock vapor, and seep areas. Phase 1 TTAs were identified based on groundwater concentrations exceeding 10,000 micrograms per liter (µg/L) and soil/bedrock vapor concentrations which could impact groundwater at this concentration. The Phase 1 CMS provides site history, cleanup objectives, applicable regulations, and a summary of human health and ecological risk assessments that were completed. In addition, the Phase 1 CMS identifies potential technologies for groundwater cleanup, which are screened for effectiveness and implementability. The Phase 1 CMS developed four alternatives with combinations of technologies for the areas to be included in the Phase 1 CMS. The alternatives were analyzed and ranked to determine the groundwater cleanup that would be implemented at each of the four TTAs.

The proposed remediation technologies for the cleanup include a mixture of Enhanced In Situ Bioremediation (EISB), Bedrock Vapor Extraction (BVE), Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA), Pump and Treat (P&T), and Land Use Controls (LUCs). The NASA areas, cleanup technologies, and how the methods were selected are described in greater detail in the CEQA Analysis for the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis.

DTSC anticipates that the selected corrective action will be implemented beginning in 2026 and that cleanup remedial measures will be applied over the course of several decades. DTSC has also determined that the proposed cleanup is protective of human health and the environment for the anticipated groundwater receptors and potential uses of the water.

SECTION 3

Record of Proceedings

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15132, the Final PEIR, in this case the Certified PEIR, consists of the Draft PEIR, comments and recommendations received on the Draft PEIR, DTSC's responses to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process, revisions and updates to the Draft PEIR, list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft PEIR, and other information added by the lead agency. Revisions to the Draft PEIR incorporate changes to the project and updated analyses since the Draft PEIR's release in 2017 as well as revisions made in response to comments and recommendations received in the review and consultation process.

In accordance with Public Resources Code section 21167.6(e), the record of proceedings includes the following documents at a minimum:

1. The Certified PEIR for the project (SCH# 2013111068) and all documents cited or relied on in the PEIR.
2. All staff reports and related documents prepared by DTSC with respect to its compliance with the substantive and procedural requirements of CEQA and with respect to the action on the project.
3. All related documents prepared by DTSC and written testimony or documents submitted by any person relevant to any findings or statement of overriding considerations adopted by DTSC pursuant to CEQA.
4. All transcripts or minutes of the proceedings that DTSC heard testimony on, or considered any environmental document on, for the project.
5. All notices issued by DTSC to comply with law governing the processing and approval of the project.
6. All written comments received in response to, or in connection with, the environmental document prepared for the project, including comments on the NOP.
7. The documentation of DTSC's decision regarding the overall project, including the associated Findings for Certification of the Final PEIR, the NASA Phase I Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis, and all documents cited or relied on in the findings or in the statement of overriding considerations.

8. Any other written materials relevant to DTSC's compliance with CEQA or to its decision on the project, that have been released for public review, and copies of studies or other documents relied upon in any environmental document prepared for the project and either made available to the public during the public review period or included in the public agency's files on the project.
9. Any other written materials required to be in the record of proceedings by Public Resources Code Section 21167.6(e).

The documents and other materials that constitute the record of proceedings on which DTSC's decisions regarding the project and the NASA Phase I Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis are based are located at DTSC's Chatsworth Office at 9211 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth, California. DTSC is the custodian of record and documents are available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays, excluding state holidays.

SECTION 4

Findings Required under CEQA

Public Resources Code Section 21002 provides that “public agencies should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of such projects[.]” The same statute states that the procedures required by CEQA “are intended to assist public agencies in systematically identifying both the significant effects of proposed projects and the feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures which will avoid or substantially lessen such significant effects.”

Section 21002 goes on to state that “in the event [that] specific economic, social, or other conditions make infeasible such project alternatives or such mitigation measures, individual projects may be approved in spite of one or more significant effects thereof.”

The mandate and principles announced in Public Resources Code Section 21002 are implemented, in part, through the requirement that agencies must adopt findings before approving projects for which EIRs are required. (See Pub. Resources Code, § 21081, subd. (a); CEQA Guidelines, § 15091, subd. (a).) For each significant environmental effect identified in an EIR for a proposed project, the approving agency must issue a written finding reaching one or more of three permissible conclusions. The first such finding is that “[c]hanges or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.” (CEQA Guidelines, § 15091(a)(1).)

The second permissible finding is that “[s]uch changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency” (CEQA Guidelines, § 15091(a)(2).)

The third potential conclusion is that “[s]pecific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the final EIR.” (CEQA Guidelines, § 15091(a)(3).) Public Resources Code Section 21061.1 defines “feasible” to mean “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social and technological factors.” CEQA Guidelines section 15364 adds another factor: “legal” considerations. (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors* (1990) 52 Cal.3d 553, 565). The concept of “feasibility” also encompasses the question of whether a particular

alternative or mitigation measure promotes the underlying goals and objectives of a project. (*City of Del Mar v. City of San Diego* (1982) 133 Cal.App.3d 410, 417.)

The CEQA Guidelines do not define the difference between "avoiding" a significant environmental effect and merely "substantially lessening" such an effect. Public Resources Code Section 21081, on which CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 is based, uses the term "mitigate" rather than "substantially lessen." The CEQA Guidelines therefore equate "mitigating" with "substantially lessening." Such an understanding of the statutory term is consistent with the policies underlying CEQA, which include the policy that "public agencies should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of such projects." (Pub. Resources Code, § 21002.)

For purposes of these findings, the term "avoid" refers to the effectiveness of one or more mitigation measures to reduce an otherwise significant effect to a less-than-significant level. In contrast, the term "substantially lessen" refers to the effectiveness of such measure(s) to substantially reduce the severity of a significant effect, but not to reduce that effect to a less-than-significant level.

Although CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 requires only that approving agencies specify that a particular significant effect is "avoid[ed] or substantially lessen[ed]," these findings, for purposes of clarity, will specify whether the effect in question has been avoided or reduced to a less-than-significant level, or has simply been substantially lessened but remains significant. Moreover, although Section 15091 does not expressly require findings to address environmental effects that an EIR identifies as merely "potentially significant," or less than significant before implementation of mitigation measures, these findings will nevertheless fully account for all such effects identified in the Certified PEIR.

CEQA requires that the lead agency adopt mitigation measures or alternatives, where feasible, to substantially lessen or avoid significant environmental impacts that would otherwise occur. Project modification or alternatives are not required, however, where such changes are infeasible or where the responsibility for modifying the project lies with some other agency. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15091(a), (b).) With respect to a project for which significant impacts are not avoided or substantially lessened either through the adoption of feasible mitigation measures or feasible environmentally superior alternative, a public agency, after adopting proper findings, may nevertheless approve the project if the agency first adopts a statement of overriding considerations setting forth the specific reasons why the agency found that the project's "benefits" rendered "acceptable" its "unavoidable adverse environmental effects." (CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15093, 15043(b); see also Pub. Resources Code, § 21081(b)) These findings reflect

the independent judgment of DTSC and constitute its best efforts to set forth the rationale and support for its decision under the requirements of CEQA.

These findings do not attempt to describe the full analysis contained within the Certified PEIR. Instead, a full explanation of these environmental findings and conclusions can be found in the Final PEIR,[4] and these findings hereby incorporate by reference the discussion and analyses in the Final PEIR supporting the Final PEIR's determination regarding the project's impacts and mitigation measures designed to address those impacts.

Sections 5 through 8 below provide the discussion of findings contained in the Final PEIR. The findings are divided into four categories:

1. Impacts Found to Be Less than Significant Prior to Mitigation (Section 5);
2. Impacts Found to Be Less than Significant After Mitigation (Section 6);
3. Impacts Found to Be Significant After Mitigation (Section 7); and
4. Cumulative Impacts (Section 8)

[4] Except for page citations, which refer to the Draft and Final PEIR as they are bound, the references here to the Final PEIR have the meaning given in CEQA Guidelines Section 15132. That section provides that a final EIR consists of the draft EIR or a revision of the draft; comments received on the draft EIR verbatim or in summary; a list of all commenters on the draft EIR; the Lead Agency responses to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and any other information added by the Lead Agency.

SECTION 5

Impacts Found to Be Less than Significant Prior to Mitigation

As required by Section 15128 of the CEQA Guidelines, an EIR shall contain a brief discussion stating the reasons why various possible significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and are therefore not discussed in detail in the EIR. In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, Certified PEIR Chapter 7, Impacts Found Not to Be Significant, provides a discussion of the environmental issue areas where impacts were found to be less than significant. These discussions address the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist questions for each of the environmental topic areas. In addition, Ventura County's Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, which present a range of quantitative, qualitative, and performance levels for particular environmental effects, have been incorporated, as appropriate.

Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), no mitigation measures are required for impacts that are less than significant. DTSC finds that, based on substantial evidence in Chapter 7 of the Certified PEIR and in the entire record of proceedings, that implementation of the project will not result in significant impacts on the following resources:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources: Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) to a non-agriculture use or conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract; conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production or result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.
- Geology and Soils: Soils incapable of supporting use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials: Located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, or within the vicinity of a private airstrip, and resulting in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.
- Hydrology and Water Quality: Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area; expose people or structures to significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam; result in inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow; use of groundwater in any capacity located within two miles

of the boundary of a former or current test site for rocket engines; increase surface water demand, including but not limited to diversion or dewatering downstream reaches, resulting in an adverse impact to one or more of the beneficial uses listed in the Basin Plan.

- Land Use and Planning: Physically divide an established community.
- Mineral Resources: Loss of known mineral or petroleum resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state or loss of a locally important mineral resource recovery site or oil field delineated on a plan.
- Noise: Located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, exposing people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.
- Population and Housing: Induce substantial population growth directly or indirectly.
- Public Services: Fire protection; police protection; schools; parks; other public facilities (such as libraries).
- Recreation: Increase the use of existing parks or recreational facilities such that deterioration would occur; require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.
- Transportation/Traffic: Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways; result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks; conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities.[5]
- Utilities and Service Systems: Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board; require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects; require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects; sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from

[5] The temporary effects on the performance and safety of bicycle and pedestrian facilities were evaluated in certified PEIR Section 4.11, Transportation and Traffic, under Impacts 4.11 2a and 4.11 2b.

existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed; adequate wastewater capacity; adequate communication capacity.

In addition to resource areas evaluated in Certified PEIR Chapter 7, some resource areas evaluated in Chapter 4 also concluded the impact would be less than significant prior to mitigation. Certified PEIR Sections 4.1 through 4.13 contain two impact statements for each impact that is addressed. The first impact statement (e.g., Impact 4.1-1a) evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the overall cleanup and the second impact statement (e.g., Impact 4.1-1b) evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the initial activities. In some instances, the potential environmental impacts from the overall cleanup differ from the potential environmental impacts of the initial activities. Thus, some cleanup actions are listed in more than one section of this document based on the impacts. DTSC finds that, based on substantial evidence in Chapter 4 of the Certified PEIR and in the entire record of proceedings, that implementation of the overall cleanup and the initial activities will not result in significant impacts on the following resources:

Aesthetics - Impact 4.1-2a and Impact 4.1-2b: Scenic resources within a State scenic highway; Impact 4.1-4a and Impact 4.1-4b: Light and glare.

Air Quality - Impact 4.2-2a: Violation of air quality standards; Impact 4.2-3a and Impact 4.2-3b: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations of CO, Nox, PM10, PM2.5 and TACs; Impact 4.2-5a and Impact 4.2-5b: Objectional odors.

Biological Resources - Impact 4.3-7 (overall cleanup and initial activities): Conflict with adopted Conservation and Habitat Plans.

Cultural Resources - Impact 4.4-3a and Impact 4.4-3b: Built environment resources.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Impact 4.6-2a and Impact 4.6-2b: Conflict with adopted plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials – Impact 4.7-6b: Use of chemical amendments.

Hydrology and Water Quality – Impact 4.8-2a and Impact 4.8-2b: Deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge.

Noise – Impact 4.10-2a and Impact 4.10-2b: Ground-borne vibration and ground-borne noise.

Utilities and Service Systems: Impact 4.12-1a and Impact 4.12-1b: Landfill capacity; Impact 4.12-2a and Impact 4.12-2b: Compliance with applicable regulations related to solid waste.

Energy – Impact 4.13-3a and Impact 4.13-3b: Result in need for additional energy capacity.

SECTION 6

Impacts Found to Be Less than Significant after Mitigation

DTSC finds that mitigation measures have been identified in the Certified PEIR that will avoid or substantially lessen the following potentially significant environmental impacts to less than significant levels. The mitigation measures are provided in their entirety in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) that is provided as Exhibit B to these Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations. The potentially significant impacts, and reference to the mitigation measures that will reduce the significant environmental impact to less-than-significant levels, are discussed below.

As indicated above, Certified PEIR Sections 4.1 through 4.13 contain two impact statements for each impact that is addressed. The first impact statement (i.e., Impact 4.1-1a) evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the overall cleanup and the second impact statement (i.e., Impact 4.1-1b) evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the initial activities. In some instances, the potential environmental impacts from the overall cleanup differ from the potential environmental impacts of the initial activities.

6.1 Aesthetics

Section 4.1 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to aesthetics that may result from implementation of the project.

6.1.1 Scenic Vistas

Impact 4.1-1a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Much of the existing project site is hardscape and contains several facilities, equipment, and vehicles; therefore, the introduction of remediation equipment and materials to complete cleanup activities will not substantially degrade visual quality of the area from Sage Ranch Loop Trail or other trails surrounding the project site. The project will result in removal of some medium to large boulders along the rock outcroppings throughout the site [Certified PEIR Figures 4.1-7a and 4.1-7b (Key Observation Point [KOP] 2)]. Recreational users of the park will experience temporary visual impacts related to cleanup activities in the former Rocketdyne Employee Shooting Range area, located northwest of Area I within Sage Ranch Park, from the presence of cleanup equipment, personnel, and potential trail access restrictions. In addition, the generation of dust

during cleanup could cause visual impacts. Following cleanup actions, best management practices (BMPs) will be installed for erosion control (straw waddles, silt fencing, etc.) and the site will be restored to the extent practical, including replacement of boulders and grading to mimic the natural topography. With implementation of the following feasible mitigation measures during cleanup activities and during restoration, the visual character of the area will be improved at the project site and surrounding area from all KOPs (Certified PEIR Figures 4.1-6a through 4.1-7b.).

Mitigation Measure AQ-2: Perimeter Air Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to views of the site and potential effects to scenic vistas. With implementation of the mitigation measures, overall site cleanup will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, and impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.1-35 to 4.1-38.)

Impact 4.1-1b: Would implementation of the initial activities have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

DOE's initial project of radiological and contiguous chemically contaminated soil removal will be located approximately one mile west of Sage Ranch Loop Trail (see Certified PEIR Figure 4.1-1) and could be partially visible from the trail. Visual impacts from Sage Ranch Park, particularly the Sage Ranch Loop Trail, will include earth-moving activities, stockpiled soils, remediation materials, equipment, etc. However, with implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-5 and BIO-6, impacts will be less than significant.

NASA's initial project area is located in the northern part of Area I and cleanup will include excavation and offsite disposal of soil, as well as backfilling and restoration. The cleanup area will be visible from the Sage Ranch Loop Trail. All structures at this location have previously been removed; the site is generally flat and contains weeds due to previous disturbance (Certified PEIR Figure 4.1-4b). After excavation, views will generally remain consistent with existing visual conditions. With implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-5, and BIO-6, impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level, and the grading and revegetation could improve the visual quality of the area.

The removal of slabs and underground structures as well as soil and bedrock excavation that will occur throughout Area IV may be partially visible from Sage Ranch Loop Trail (as depicted in KOPs 2 and 3), creating temporary visual impacts to the scenic vista. Activities will occur within a previously disturbed built environment and will be temporary. With implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-5, and BIO-6, impacts will be less than significant.

Closure of the TTF, RMHF, and HWMF will include excavation and disposal of the soils and building debris that were contaminated by operations, followed by confirmation sampling and restoration. With implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-5, and BIO-6, impacts will be less than significant.

Activities associated with the NASA and Boeing impoundment permits could include the removal of caps, remediation of remaining contaminated soil, and potentially managing impoundments through monitoring and periodic maintenance. The remediation work will be limited in duration and will not substantially degrade a scenic vista. Impacts will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure AQ-2: Perimeter Air Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to views of the site and potential effects to scenic vistas. With implementation of the mitigation measures, the initial activities will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, and impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.1-38 to 4.1-41.)

6.1.2 Visual Character

Impact 4.1-3a: Would the overall site cleanup substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Remediation will require earth moving activities such as grading and may also require the removal or relocation of boulders and rock outcroppings, which could result in visual impacts to the visual character. Visual simulations illustrate potential visual effects of project-related changes on KOPs (Certified PEIR Figures 4.1-6b through 4.1-7b). Mitigation measures to reduce dust and restore the site will reduce impacts to visual character to less than significant. The project will replace existing contrasting buildings

with open space and/or natural vegetation found in the site vicinity and enhance the visual quality from these KOPs.

Mitigation Measure AQ-2: Perimeter Air Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts from the overall site cleanup regarding visual character or quality will be reduced to a less-than-significant level**.** (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.1-43 to 4.1-49.)

Impact 4.1-3b: Would the initial activities substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

In general, visual impacts associated with remediation will include the presence of staging and operation of equipment and generation of dust.

Views of Area IV are limited to existing facilities within the background from KOP 1. Once completed, changes associated with implementation of the initial activities will improve the visual character of the area as seen from public areas, by replacing existing contrasting buildings with natural vegetation within revegetated areas. With implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-5 and BIO-6, impacts will be less than significant.

The NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant area is visible from Sage Ranch Loop Trail (Certified PEIR Figure 4.1-4b). Views of the cleanup activities in Visual impacts associated with remediation will include the presence of staging and operation of equipment, as well as earth-moving activities and generation of dust. Implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-5 and BIO-6, this impact will be less than significant.

The removal of buildings, slabs and underground structures as well as soil and bedrock excavation throughout Area IV will remove discordant features in the landscape and replace them with harmonious features such as natural landscaped areas. With implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-5, and BIO-6 impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Closure of the TTF, RMHF, and HWMF in Areas I and IV will include excavation and disposal of the soils and building debris, followed by confirmation sampling and restoration. Once completed, changes associated with the initial activities will improve

the visual character of the area by replacing discordant features with harmonious features such as natural landscaped areas. With implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-5 and BIO-6, visual impacts associated with remediation activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

The activities associated with the NASA and Boeing impoundment permits will include the removal of caps, remediation of remaining contaminated soil, and managing impoundments through monitoring and periodic maintenance. While earth-moving activities associated with the remediation of contaminated soil will be required, impacts will be limited and will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure AQ-2: Perimeter Air Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts from the initial activities regarding visual character or quality will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.1-50 to 4.1-52.)

6.2 Air Quality

Section 4.2 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to air quality that may result from implementation of the project.

6.2.1 Valley Fever

Impact 4.2-6a: Would the overall site cleanup trigger the release and propagation of spores from Coccidioides immiti, a fungus known for causing Valley Fever?

Impact 4.2-6b: Would the initial activities trigger the release and propagation of spores from Coccidioides immiti, a fungus known for causing Valley Fever?

The project site meets the following factors that indicate it has the potential to create significant Valley Fever impacts: the project will excavate impacted soils, which will disturb the top 12 inches; the site contains areas of dry and sandy soils, and undisturbed soil; and is prone to gusts of wind that have the potential to spread the

soils. Onsite workers are the most at risk of contracting Valley Fever; the closest offsite sensitive receptors are located 1 mile north, 0.3 miles east, and 0.5 miles south in Bell Canyon. Implementation of the following mitigation measures will minimize the effects of hazardous materials cleanup and the risk of infections and spread of *Coccidioides immiti*.

Mitigation Measure AQ-6: Valley Fever

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to workers and the surrounding community related to Valley Fever. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts from the overall site cleanup and the initial activities regarding Valley Fever will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.2-71 to 4.2-72.)

Implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-6, HAZ-1 through HAZ-3, HYDRO-1 and HYDRO-2, and TRANS-1 will minimize the effects of hazardous materials cleanup and the risk of infections and spread of *Coccidioides immiti*.

6.3 Biological Resources

Section 4.3 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to biological resources that may result from implementation of the project. For purposes of the PEIR, the estimated acreages and soil volumes evaluated in the Certified PEIR for cleanup do not account for application of any AOC exceptions given the uncertainty as to where these exceptions would apply. DTSC will make decisions on whether and, if so, how to apply biological resource exceptions as part of the cleanup decision documents. The acceptance and exercise of any of the exceptions is subject to DTSC's oversight and approval, in coordination with applicable regulatory agencies.

6.3.1 Protected Wetlands and Waters

Impact 4.3-4b: Would the initial activities have a substantial adverse effect on federally or state protected wetlands and waters through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

USACE-defined wetlands are likely present within or adjacent to several of the potentially jurisdictional features, including at R-1 Pond, Silvernale Pond, and the seeps in Bell Canyon. Features present within Area I, Area III, and Southern Undeveloped Area that may be subject to CDFW jurisdiction pursuant to Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code include ponds, streams, and riparian woodland.

The DOE slabs and below ground structures and Boeing buildings in Area IV that will be demolished are located within currently developed areas, which do not support any jurisdictional wetlands or waters. As such, no direct impacts to jurisdictional features would occur. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-115 to 4.3-116.)

With regard to the RCRA Post-Closure and Hazardous Waste Facility closure, the buildings and other physical infrastructure are located within currently disturbed or developed areas that do support jurisdictional habitats. Therefore, no impact will occur. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-116.)

Activities associated with the impoundment permit renewals will include the remediation of remaining contaminated soil and managing impoundments through monitoring and periodic maintenance. Removal of contamination for the NASA and Boeing impoundments will be limited to currently disturbed areas. No new construction is proposed as part of ongoing monitoring and maintenance activities. Therefore, no impacts to jurisdictional wetlands or waters will occur. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-116.)

The permitted RMHF features where bedrock removal containing strontium-90 will occur are located within currently developed or disturbed areas that do not support any federally or state protected wetlands or waters. As such, no impacts to jurisdictional features will occur. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-116.)

No groundwater remediation will occur with the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal. Thus, no indirect impacts to potentially jurisdictional habitats will occur. Approximately 0.13 acres of impacts to jurisdictional waters will occur, and no impacts to jurisdictional wetlands (including vernal pools) are anticipated. Some of these resources would be avoided if AOC exceptions are applied. However, DTSC has not yet determined where to apply AOC exceptions. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-4 and BIO-21 impacts to federally or state protected wetlands and waters in Area IV resulting from radiological and contiguous chemically contaminated soil removal activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-114 to 4.3-115.)

Cleanup of the NASA liquid oxygen plant will result in no impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and 0.11 acre of impacts to jurisdictional waters. No groundwater remediation is proposed under this initial project; therefore, there would be no indirect impacts to potentially jurisdictional habitats. Approximately 1.3 acres of coast live oak riparian woodland will be directly impacted during NASA's initial project (Certified PEIR Table 4.3-10). With implementation of the following Mitigation measures impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-115.)

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-21: Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to federally or state protected wetlands and waters from the initial soil remediation activities. Initial soil remediation activities with potential impacts to jurisdictional wetlands or waters would include DOE and NASA soil removal, Post-Closure and Hazardous Waste Facility Closure, and removal of bedrock for Strontium-90 in Area IV. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts to federally or state protected wetlands and waters resulting from the initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.3-114 to 4.3-115.)

6.3.2 Fish or Wildlife Movement Corridors and Nursery Sites

Impact 4.3-5a: Would the overall site cleanup 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?

Soil excavation within terrestrial and aquatic habitats (and dewatering of ponds and other aquatic features) has the potential for disturbance or mortality of resident or migratory birds, amphibians, invertebrates and some reptiles (i.e., two-striped garter snake) that would result in significant impacts if they were to occur during breeding periods or migratory stopovers. Waterbirds observed at the project site include red-winged blackbird, killdeer, great blue heron, American white pelican, great egret, double-crested cormorant, and others. Of these birds, the American white pelican and great egret are migratory species that winter in the region, while the others are known to be year-round residents. Mitigation Measure BIO-16 will reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels.

As described in the Addendum, SSFL is located within the eastern strand of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Landscape Linkage and provides local and regional opportunities

for wildlife including mountain lions to reside, forage, disperse, and migrate between habitats.

Onsite access routes traverse areas identified as a local and regional wildlife movement corridors and the increase in traffic on local roads to and from the site and within the remediation areas could impact terrestrial wildlife and wildlife movement as a result of roadkill. Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: Avian Protection Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-22: Wildlife Movement

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to wildlife movement resulting from the overall site cleanup. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts from the overall site cleanup will not substantially interfere 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 and impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.3-117 to 4.3-118.)

Impact 4.3-5b: Would the initial activities 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?

While DOE's initial project in Area IV to remove radiological and contiguous chemically contaminated soil is located within a known migration corridor, potential impacts from soil removal could hinder localized terrestrial wildlife movement and/or result in the temporary loss of habitat for birds that winter or migrate through the area. DOE's initial excavation and soil removal would disturb approximately 23 acres of habitat including that of mountain lions. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance) requires avoidance of state or federally listed species that may be encountered onsite, Mitigation Measure BIO-2 (Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training) and BIO-12 (Wildlife Monitoring) would require worker environmental awareness training and wildlife monitoring to minimize potential impacts to terrestrial wildlife that would be encountered, and Mitigation Measure BIO-25 (Mountain Lion Natal Den Survey and Avoidance) requires avoidance of potential mountain lion dens. With implementation of BIO-1 (Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance), BIO-6 (Revegetation Plan), BIO-20 (Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration), impacts would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels.

DOE slabs and below ground structures and Boeing buildings in Area IV that will be demolished are not located within a known migration corridor; however, this infrastructure could provide suitable habitat for nesting resident and migratory birds. Building demolition could hinder localized terrestrial wildlife movement or result in injury or mortality of juvenile birds, removal of active nests, and/or nest failure. Mitigation Measures BIO-16 and BIO-22 will reduce potential impacts to wildlife movement to less than significant.

Similarly, while NASA's Liquid Oxygen Plant is not located within a known migration corridor, potential impacts from soil removal could hinder localized terrestrial wildlife movement and/or result in the temporary loss of habitat for birds that winter or migrate through the area. NASA's Initial Project would result in the excavation of soil that would remove or otherwise disturb approximately 16 acres of habitat including coast live oak woodland, coast live oak woodland (riparian), mulefat scrub, chaparral, Venturan coastal sage scrub, and disturbed and developed areas. The excavated areas will be backfilled and restored by grading and reseeding. Mitigation Measures BIO-16 and BIO-22 would also apply to NASA's initial project to reduce potential impacts to wildlife movement to a less-than-significant level.

DOE's Initial Project and NASA's Initial Project could result in the disturbance or removal of vegetation that is suitable or occupied by CBB, particularly chaparral and Venturan coastal sage scrub. As the Certified PEIR concluded, implementation of BIO-6 (Revegetation Plan), BIO-9 (Special-Status Invertebrates), and BIO-20 (Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration), would require restoration of suitable habitat, seed collection/cuttings, and preconstruction capture and release surveys if special-status invertebrates, such as CBB, are detected. Additionally, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance) and BIO-24 (Crotch's Bumble Bee) would avoid and minimize impacts to CBB and their habitat and require appropriate authorization and mitigation for any impacts that cannot be avoided. Thus, impacts to CBB and their habitat would be less than significant with mitigation. This was the same conclusion reached in the Certified PEIR.

The buildings and other physical infrastructure associated with the RCRA Post-Closure and Hazardous Waste Facility Closure are located within currently disturbed or developed areas in Area I, within the eastern strand of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Landscape Linkage, a known migration corridor. Mitigation measures BIO-12, BIO-16, and BIO-22 will reduce potential impacts to wildlife movement to less-than-significant levels.

The historical surface impoundments provide suitable habitat for nesting resident and migratory birds. Two existing impoundments are located in Area I, which is within the eastern strand of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Landscape Linkage, a known

migration corridor. Maintenance activities and the removal of soil contamination for the NASA and Boeing impoundments could result in injury or mortality of juvenile birds, removal of active nests, and/or nest failure. In addition, terrestrial wildlife would be encountered by workers during monitoring or maintenance. Mitigation Measure BIO-16 requires avoidance of nesting birds (including migratory birds) and raptors and their nests during the nesting bird season; and Mitigation Measure BIO-22 provides measures to avoid harm to terrestrial wildlife encountered and minimize roadkill. With implementation of these measures impacts from the Areas I, II, and III impoundment post-closure will be less than significant.

The permitted RMHF features where bedrock removal for Strontium-90 will occur are not located within a known migration corridor. Subsurface blasting associated with bedrock removal activities could potentially impact avian species (i.e., migratory birds) that could be nesting in the vicinity of the blast area. Blasting activities could result in nest abandonment/failure, or hinder localized terrestrial wildlife movement. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 requires implementation of worker environmental training. Measure BIO-12 requires wildlife monitoring by a qualified biologist prior to all initial ground disturbing activities and for any work within 100 feet of native habitats. Measures BIO-14, BIO-15, and BIO-16 will avoid impacts to avian species by requiring blasting activities to occur outside of the avian nesting season. Mitigation Measure BIO-22 will minimize potential impacts to terrestrial wildlife should they move into the work area by temporarily halting work and avoiding harm to the species. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. DOE's bedrock blasting/removal would disturb approximately 23 acres of habitat including that of mountain lions. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance) requires avoidance of state or federally listed species that may be encountered onsite, Mitigation Measure BIO-2 (Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training) and BIO-12 (Wildlife Monitoring) would require worker environmental awareness training and wildlife monitoring to minimize potential impacts to terrestrial wildlife that would be encountered and Mitigation Measure BIO-25 (Mountain Lion Natal Den Survey and Avoidance) requires avoidance of potential mountain lion dens. With implementation of BIO-1 (Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance), BIO-6 (Revegetation Plan), BIO-20 (Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration), impacts would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels.

Suitable habitat for the CBB and mountain lion exists onsite and within some of the areas in which cumulative projects are located. The project, in conjunction with cumulative projects, could incrementally impact sensitive and sensitive-status species, including the CBB and mountain lion, as well as the habitat. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 (Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance), BIO-6

(Revegetation Plan), BIO-20 (Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration), BIO-24 (Crotch's Bumble Bee), and BIO-25 (Mountain Lion Natal Den Survey and Avoidance), the project's contribution to cumulative impacts to sensitive or special-status species would be reduced to less than significant.

In summary, Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-6, BIO-16, BIO-20, BIO-22, and BIO-25 apply to the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal, the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant, Area IV Structure Demolition, and the Impoundments. Mitigation Measures BIO-12, BIO-16, and BIO-22 apply to the RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring and Maintenance and Hazardous Waste Facility Closure. Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-12, BIO-14, BIO-15, BIO-16, BIO-22, BIO-24, and BIO-25 apply to the bedrock removal for Strontium-90.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Special-Status Invertebrates

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-14: Least Bell's Vireo

Mitigation Measure BIO-15: Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: Avian Protection Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-20: Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration

Mitigation Measure BIO-22: Wildlife Movement

Mitigation Measure BIO-24: Crotch's Bumble Bee

Mitigation Measure BIO-25: Mountain Lion Den Survey and Avoidance

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to wildlife movement. Impacts to sensitive and special-status species, including CBB and mountain lions as well as their habitats, and terrestrial wildlife movement and migration corridors would be less than significant. Biological resources impacted in the short-term with implementation of the project, including temporary loss of sensitive habitats, would ultimately benefit in the long term from the remediation that would occur on the site. With implementation of the mitigation measures, the initial activities will not substantially interfere 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 and impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level**.** (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.3-118 to 4.3-121.)

6.4 Cultural Resources

Section 4.4 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to cultural resources, including paleontological resources, that may result from implementation of the project. For purposes of the PEIR, the estimated acreages and soil volumes evaluated in the PEIR for cleanup do not account for application of any AOC exceptions given the uncertainty as to where these exceptions would apply. DTSC, in coordination with the appropriate regulatory agencies and tribes, will make decisions on whether and, if so, how to apply cultural resources exceptions as part of the cleanup decision documents.

6.4.1 Paleontological Resources

Impact 4.4-4a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

The eight geological formations/units on the site have high (Santa Susana Formation), moderate to high (lower Chatsworth Formation), moderate, (detrital sediments of Lindero Canyon), low to moderate (upper Chatsworth Formation) and low with increasing sensitivity at depth (Quaternary alluvium) paleontological sensitivities. Excavation into high, moderate to high, and moderate sensitivity units (Tsu, Tsuv, Tsi, Kcsh, Tls, and Tlsc), excavation below 3 feet in low to moderate upper Chatsworth Formation (Kcs), and excavation below 3 feet in Quaternary alluvium (Qa), has the potential to impact a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. With implementation of the following mitigation measure impacts will be reduced to less than significant.

> **Mitigation Measure CUL-17:** Paleontological Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to paleontological resources from the overall site cleanup. With implementation of the mitigation measure, impacts from the overall site cleanup to paleontological resources will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.4-121 to 4.4-122.)

Impact 4.4-4b: Would implementation of the initial activities directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Closure activities for RMHF and HWMF will generally be limited to decontamination and demolition of the physical facility and characterization of all building debris (slabs and below grade structures). Because these actions do not involve removal of soil beyond surficial soils, they will result in no impact to unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features.

The activities associated with the impoundment permit renewals, which include remediation of remaining contaminated soil and managing impoundments through monitoring and periodic maintenance, will be conducted within the previously disturbed impoundments and no new ground disturbance will occur, there is no potential for impacts to unique paleontological resources or sites of unique geologic features. Because this action is limited to the removal of previously disturbed soil and monitoring, it would result in no impact to unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features.

Soil removal will occur with DOE radiological and contiguous chemically contaminated soil cleanup within Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Area, as well as for bedrock blasting/removal for Strontium-90. The bulk of soil remediation will occur within the upper Chatsworth Formation (Kcs); however, some locations will be located within the clay and siltstone beds of the Santa Susana Formation (Tsu). Excavations into these high sensitivity formations have the potential to impact a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-17 will reduce impacts to less than significant.

NASA's initial activities will remove soil in the northern portion of Area I, which is entirely underlain by the low-to-moderate-sensitivity upper Chatsworth Formation. However, excavations below 3 feet in the low-to-moderate-sensitivity upper Chatsworth Formation (Kcs) have the potential to impact a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Mitigation Measure CUL-17 will reduce impacts to less than significant.

DOE and Boeing Area IV demolition activities associated with the removal of at grade and below grade slabs and infrastructure will occur on the low-to-moderate-sensitivity upper Chatsworth Formation (Kcs). Some excavation will extend into the low-to-moderate-sensitivity upper Chatsworth Formation (Kcs) resulting in a potential to impact a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Mitigation Measure CUL-17 will reduce impacts to less than significant.

TTF closure will include the excavation and removal of soil. Excavations will extend up to 10 feet below the ground surface; excavations below 3 feet in Quaternary alluvium (Qa) have the potential to impact a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Mitigation Measure CUL-17 will reduce impacts to less than significant.

In summary, Mitigation Measure CUL-17 applies to the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal, Bedrock Removal for Strontium-90, the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant, Area IV Structure Demolition, and TTF cleanup. With implementation of the following mitigation measure, impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. A detailed impact analysis that describes the potential effects of the overall and initial projects including mitigation measures that would minimize or reduce the effects can be found in Chapter 4 (Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation) of the Final Certified PEIR (pp.4-1 to 4.13-23).

> **Mitigation Measure CUL-17:** Paleontological Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to paleontological resources from the initial activities. Closure activities for RMHF and HWMF and activities associated with the impoundment permit renewals will result in no impacts to paleontological resources. DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal, Bedrock Removal for Strontium-90, the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant, Area IV Structure Demolition, and TTF cleanup will result in potentially significant impacts to paleontological resources. However, with implementation of the mitigation measure, impacts to paleontological resources in these areas will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.4-122 to 4.4-124.)

6.4.2 Human Remains

Impact 4.4-5a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Impact 4.4-5b: Would implementation of the initial activities disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

There is a possible presence of cremated human remains at the Burro Flats Site Complex. There is no documentation or direct evidence of such remains; however, large habitation sites such as the Burro Flats Site Complex very often have cemeteries associated with them. Therefore, there is a strong possibility that human remains have been, or still are, present within the project site. In addition, DOE Area IV Soil Removal and Bedrock Blasting/Removal for Strontium-90, NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant, DOE and Boeing Area IV Building Demolition, TTF, and RMHF and HWMF involve varying

degrees of soil disturbances and could result in the inadvertent discovery of human remains, which would be a significant impact. Area I/III and Area II Impoundments Post-Closure would include excavation within previously disturbed soils and no impact would occur.

Given the length and intensity of human occupation of the area, it is possible that unknown human remains may be present within the project site. Ground-disturbing activities associated with the project could result in the inadvertent discovery of human remains, resulting in a significant impact. Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Cultural Resources Personnel Professional Qualifications Standard

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Worker Cultural Resources Sensitivity Program

Mitigation Measure CUL-4: Avoidance and Preservation in Place

Mitigation Measure CUL-5: Archaeological and Native American Monitoring

Mitigation Measure CUL-6: Inadvertent Discovery of Potential Historical Resources and Unique Archaeological Resources

Mitigation Measure CUL-18: Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to human remains from the overall site cleanup and the initial activities. With implementation of mitigation measures, impacts to human remains from the overall site cleanup and initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.4-124 to 4.4-126.)

6.5 Geology and Soils

Section 4.5 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to geology and soil that may result from implementation of the project.

6.5.1 Faults, Ground Shaking, Ground Failure, and Landslides

Impact 4.5-1a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup result in the exposure of people or structures to 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?

- **Strong seismic ground shaking?**
- **Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?**
- **Landslides?**

None of the project activities at the project site will occur within an active fault rupture zone as delineated by the State Geologist. There are active or potentially active faults located within 35 miles of the project site (Certified PEIR Figure 4.5-2). Intense ground shaking and high ground accelerations would affect the entire area around the soil and groundwater treatment facilities and associated pipelines. The primary and secondary effects of ground shaking could damage structural foundations, induce ground failure (e.g., landslides), distort or break pipelines and other water conveyance facilities, and cause structural failure. Compliance with applicable regulations and implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 will reduce the potential physical hazards associated with strong seismic ground shaking.

The area in which the site is located is not characterized by the presence of deep sediments and/or shallow groundwater and is not mapped as being at risk for seismically induced ground failure such as liquefaction by the State or by Ventura County. The bedrock of the Chatsworth Formation is present at or within 5 feet of the ground surface throughout much of the project site and is not expected to liquefy during an earthquake.

While alluvium greater than five feet thick is present in the valleys of the site, overall site cleanup will not add water in excess of existing amounts to the alluvium, and excavation along with partial backfilling and grading would replace removed alluvium with clean compacted fill. The potential of placing project workers, equipment, or facilities on liquefiable material is thus very low, and any risk that the project will expose structures or humans to loss or injury from seismically induced ground failure is less than significant. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1, which focuses on ensuring foundations for structures are properly designed and constructed, will ensure impacts will be less than significant.

Cleanup activity and treatment system installation will occur within or adjacent to areas mapped by the CGS as susceptible to seismically induced landslides (Certified PEIR Figure 4.5-3). Adherence to grading practices, such as bracing or underpinning of excavated faces and installation of protective barriers to stop and contain falling earthen material, as required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations will reduce the potential for injury or structural damage as a result of seismically induced landslides during excavation activities. Implementation of Mitigation

Measure GEO-1 will ensure impacts will be less than significant. In addition, Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1, which will minimize the potential for land sliding.

Implementation of the soil and groundwater remediation systems could involve the installation of facilities that will be operated over varying time frames. Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 will ensure that physical hazards associated with strong seismic ground shaking will result in less than significant impacts for remediation systems requiring foundations.

Implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1 and HYDRO-1 and compliance with building code requirements, the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, and OSHA regulations will ensure that implementation of overall site cleanup activities is such that the risk of loss, injury, or death from seismicity during overall site cleanup will be less than significant.

With regard to the initial activities, the ten initial activities will place people and structures in an area that could experience strong seismic ground shaking or seismically induced ground failures. Implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1 and HYDRO-1, as well as compliance with building code requirements, the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, and OSHA regulations, the initial activities will be designed such that the risk of loss, injury, or death from seismicity during the initial activities will be less than significant. The following mitigation measures will reduce geology and soils impacts for the overall cleanup and the initial activities to less than significant:

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Geotechnical Evaluation

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts to the risk of loss, injury, or death from seismicity from the overall site cleanup. With implementation of the mitigation measures impacts relating to the risk of loss, injury, or death from seismicity from the overall site cleanup and the initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.5-22 to 4.5-26.)

6.5.2 Erosion

Impact 4.5-2a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Activities associated with overall cleanup will expose soil to erosion by wind. Mitigation Measures HYDRO-1 and AQ-4 will limit soil erosion and protect soil from wind erosion. In addition, Mitigation Measure BIO-6 will ensure that disturbed areas are revegetated to prevent erosion and Mitigation Measure GEO-1 will include project-specific measures to

reduce the potential physical hazards associated earthwork-related conditions during remediation.

Compliance with regulations and implementation of mitigation measures will limit the duration of exposed disturbed soil conditions, stabilize areas, limit the duration of exposure to erosive forces by vegetating areas and protect slopes and channels by grading in ways that reflect natural contours.

The SWPPP will also require implementation of post-cleanup BMPs that will restore previous topographic grades and slopes at the worksite to facilitate revegetation and minimize long-term erosion problems and the impacts of loss of topsoil. With implementation of the following mitigation measures impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Geotechnical Evaluation

Mitigation Measure AQ-4: Soil Management Plan

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts regarding erosion from the overall site cleanup. With implementation of the mitigation measures, erosion impacts from the overall site cleanup will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.5-26 to 4.5-28.)

Impact 4.5-2b: Would implementation of the initial activities result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

The excavation of contaminated soils and bedrock associated with the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal, NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant and Bedrock Removal for Strontium-90 in Area IV will expose soil, both clean and contaminated, to potential sedimentation and erosion. Compliance with the soil handling protocols and BMPs described in DTSC-approved cleanup decision documents and implementation of Mitigation Measures HYDRO-1, AQ-4, BIO-6, and GEO-1 will ensure that erosion is minimized during ground disturbing activities that will occur during these initial activities. Following completion of soil and bedrock removal, depending on the depth of excavation, the excavated areas will be partially backfilled with clean soil and regraded in accordance with the cleanup decision documents. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-6 and GEO-1 will ensure areas are seeded with native vegetation, stabilized, and monitored for effectiveness to ensure that the potential for erosion is minimized.

Demolition in Area IV will expose soil to erosion during demolition, excavation, and material stockpiling. The potential for the excavation portion of these demolition activities to increase soil instability and result in onsite or offsite soil mobilization will be minimized by compliance with applicable regulations. Stockpiles and debris piles will be secured per the SWPPP required by the Construction General Permit and Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1. In addition, Mitigation Measure AQ-4 will protect soil from wind erosion and Mitigation Measure BIO-6 will ensure that disturbed areas are revegetated to prevent erosion. In addition, excavation areas will be backfilled and contoured to mimic natural drainage patterns. Compliance with the Construction General Permit and Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1 will ensure that post-cleanup BMPs that minimize the release of pollutants, including sediment, into stormwater are implemented to minimize the potential for onsite erosion or the transport of soil offsite during cleanup activities.

The TTF closure project will expose soil to erosion during sampling and excavation. Compliance with the Construction General Permit and implementation of Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1 will ensure that impacts related to erosion and soil loss will be less than significant. In addition, Mitigation Measure AQ-4 will protect soil from wind erosion and Mitigation Measure BIO-6 will ensure that disturbed areas are revegetated to prevent erosion. Additionally, excavation areas will be backfilled and contoured to mimic natural drainage patterns.

The RMHF and HWMF closure projects will be completed in accordance with DTSC-approved closure plans and the SWPPPs required by the Construction General Permit and implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, AQ-4, GEO-1, and HYDRO-1.

Activities associated with the NASA and Boeing impoundment permits will involve ground disturbance and, therefore, could potentially result in erosion or loss of topsoil. Implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-4, BIO-6, GEO-1, and HYDRO-1 will ensure that impacts related to erosion and soil loss will be less than significant.

In summary, compliance with applicable regulations and implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts from the initial activities to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Geotechnical Evaluation

Mitigation Measure AQ-4: Soil Management Plan

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts regarding erosion from the initial activities. With implementation of the mitigation measures, erosion

impacts from the initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.5-28 to 4.5-32.)

6.5.3 Unstable Soils

Impact 4.5-3a: Would the overall site cleanup be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of project implementation, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

The hillside areas of the project site are mapped as either Generally Susceptible or Marginally Susceptible to land sliding. Overall site cleanup activities that modify terrain adjacent to or within Marginally Susceptible Areas or Generally Susceptible Areas could result in landslides. While the areas in which excavation and other earthmoving activities that will occur are mapped as generally exhibiting low susceptibility for ground failure, heavy rainfall, poorly planned grading, or other changes to the topography of the area could mobilize soils at the project site (project impacts related to seismically induced landslides and liquefaction are discussed in Impact 4.5-1). Subsidence of the ground surface has not been observed in the project area because the soil across the project site is generally coarse-grained making the soil units less susceptible to subsidence. In addition, there is limited saturated soil present and groundwater onsite is within fractured bedrock, which is also less susceptible to subsidence. No collapsible soils have been mapped at the project site, and no materials exhibiting collapsible soil properties have been identified at the project site. However, the long-term stability of geologic materials at the site could be affected by the type and compaction of material used to backfill the excavated areas and the topography of the site after cleanup activities are completed. If fill materials are not adequately compacted, or are not cohesive, then the project could increase the potential for onsite or offsite land sliding or collapse.

Adherence to sound grading practices, as required by OSHA regulations, will generally ensure that construction activities will not create new areas of instability. In addition, implementation of the BMPs in the SWPPP required by the Construction General Permit and implementation of mitigation measures will limit water infiltration into soil stockpiles or excavated areas and will minimize creation of unstable conditions. Geotechnical recommendations and site-specific design measures developed to address slope stability, grading, excavation characteristics, and placement and compaction of fill will be incorporated in the project as required by the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act and Mitigation Measure GEO-1. Protection of steeply sloping disturbed material prior to rain events in accordance with SWPPP BMPs (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1) will also limit impacts on soil stability. Areas where new facilities are required will be sloped, and compacted if necessary, to reduce the possibility of slope failure. Stockpiled material will

be covered with non-toxic dust suppressants or tarps in accordance with Mitigation Measure AQ-4.

In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-6 will ensure that areas will be replanted, further protecting soil from mobilization over the long-term. Therefore, with implementation of the following mitigation measures impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Geotechnical Evaluation

Mitigation Measure AQ-4: Soil Management Plan

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts related to unstable soils from the overall site cleanup. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts related to unstable soils from the overall site cleanup will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.5-32 to 4.5-34.)

Impact 4.5-3b: Would the initial activities be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of project implementation, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal, cleanup of the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant and Bedrock Removal for Strontium-90 in Area IV will include soil and bedrock removal, including subsurface controlled blasting. Compliance the SWPPP (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1) required by the Construction General Permit and OSHA excavation requirements will ensure that impacts related to unstable soil will be less than significant. In addition, compliance with applicable protocols and implementation of BMPs described in DTSC-approved cleanup decision documents, and Mitigation Measures AQ-4, BIO-6, and GEO-1 will further reduce impacts. Once earthwork activities are complete, the excavated areas will be stabilized in accordance with the cleanup decision documents and monitored for effectiveness to ensure that the potential for erosion is minimized. While these three initial activities will alter topography in areas that are susceptible to slope instability, with implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1, AQ-4, BIO-6, and HYDRO-1, this impact will be less than significant.

Demolition in Area IV will include excavation to remove underground structures followed by backfilling and/or stabilization of the excavation area. The existing structures and infrastructure to be demolished are predominantly located in the relatively flat Burro

Flats area. Demolition of structures along the northwest edge of the Burro Flats area may modify materials marginally susceptible to landslides. Compliance with applicable requirements and regulations will ensure that cleanup activities located on unstable geologic or soil units, or that could become unstable as a result of cleanup will be less than significant. In addition, Mitigation Measure BIO-6 will stabilize disturbed soils and stockpiled material will be covered with non-toxic dust suppressants or tarps in accordance with Mitigation Measure AQ-4. The demolition sites will generally not be at risk for destabilizing soils because most of the sites are located on relatively flat topography. Regardless of topography, all of the sites will be required to comply with the SWPPP post-construction BMPs (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1) that minimize the potential for onsite erosion or the transport of soil offsite. With compliance with regulations and implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1, AQ-4, BIO-6, and HYDRO-1, this impact will be less than significant.

With regard to the TTF closure project, excavation will occur within an area marginally susceptible to unstable soil conditions, where excavation could affect slope instability if improperly done. Compliance with the DTSC-approved closure plan and OSHA excavation requirements and implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 will ensure that drainage patterns in the area are similar to pre-excavation conditions by backfilling and recontouring the area and new areas of soil instability are not created. The SWPPP (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1) will ensure the control of runoff and further reduce impacts to the stability of soils. Compliance with applicable regulations and requirements and implementation of mitigation measures will ensure that impacts related to slope instability will be less than significant. In addition, Mitigation Measures AQ-4 and BIO-6 will also minimize the potential for site soils to become unstable. With implementation of these mitigation measures, this impact will be less than significant.

The RMHF and HWMF facilities are predominantly located in the relatively flat Burro Flats area, within which the land will likely remain stable. While cleanup activities along the northwest edge of the Burro Flats area may modify materials marginally susceptible to unstable soil issues, such as landslides, compliance with DTSC-approved closure plans and implementation of Mitigation Measures HYDRO-1, AQ-4 and BIO-6 will ensure stabilization of slopes during cleanup and after cleanup is completed. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, impacts will be less than significant.

Activities associated with the NASA and Boeing impoundment permits could include excavation. Potential soil instability will be minimized by compliance with DTSC-approved closure plans and implementation of Mitigation Measures HYDRO-1 and AQ-4 will ensure that impacts regarding slope instability from cleanup of the impoundments will be less than significant.

Overall, with the implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts from the initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Geotechnical Evaluation

Mitigation Measure AQ-4: Soil Management Plan

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts related to unstable soils from the initial activities. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts from the initial activities related to unstable soils will be reduced to a less-than-significant level (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.5-34 to 4.5-38).

6.5.4 Expansive Soils

Impact 4.5-4a: Would the overall site cleanup be located on expansive soil, and create substantial risks to life or property?

While potentially expansive soils are present at the site, they pose a relatively low risk to life and property for overall site cleanup for the following reasons:

1. Excavation will remove some potentially expansive soils at the site, particularly in the Burro Flats area.
2. Soil expansion at excavation and backfill sites, if any, will have no impact since there would be no structures to damage.
3. For treatment sites with facilities (wells, piping, treatment system equipment), none of the facilities to be constructed on site will be occupied. Incremental movement of these facilities would not be expected to damage the facilities.

Given the relatively low susceptibility of the cleanup activities to damage from soil expansion and with implementation of the following mitigation measure, the overall site cleanup will result in a less than significant with regard to expansive soils.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Geotechnical Evaluation

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts related to expansive soils from the overall site cleanup. With implementation of the mitigation measure, impacts from the overall site cleanup related to expansive soils will not create substantial risks to life or property and impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.5-38 to 4.5-39).

Impact 4.5-4b: Would the initial activities be located on expansive soil, and create substantial risks to life or property?

Demolition in Area IV and removal of bedrock for Strontium-90 in Area IV will occur on soils of low to moderate soil expansion potential, which will pose a relatively low risk to life and property for the demolition activities and impacts will be less than significant. In addition, the cleanup activities associated with the impoundment permits in Areas I, II, and II will not result in installation of new facilities on expansive soil. Therefore, the Areas I, II, and III Impoundment Post-Closure activities will not result in risks to life and property resulting from expansive soil.

The removal of DOE Area IV radiological and contiguous chemically impacted soil will remove soil with moderate to high potential for soil expansion. While potentially expansive soils are present at the site, such soils pose a relatively low risk to life and property for the DOE initial project. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 will ensure impacts will be less than significant.

The NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant cleanup will remove soils with low potential for soil expansion and will result in a less than significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 will ensure impacts will be less than significant.

The underlying soils at the TTF site have low soil expansion potential, which pose a relatively low risk to life and property for the TTF closure. Impacts related to risks to life and property resulting from expansive soil at the TTF Closure will be less than significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 will further reduce this impact.

The RMHF and HWMF buildings to be decontaminated and demolished are located on soils with low soil expansion potential. Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 will further reduce this impact. Impacts related to risks to life and property resulting from expansive soil at the RMHF and HWMF locations will be less than significant.

With implementation of the following mitigation measure, the initial activities will result in less than significant impacts related to expansive soils.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Geotechnical Evaluation

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts related to expansive soils from the initial activities. With implementation of the mitigation measure, impacts from the initial activities related to expansive soils will not create substantial risks to life or property and impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.5-39 to 4.5-41).

6.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Section 4.6 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to GHG emissions that may result from implementation of the project.

6.6.1 Emissions Generation

Impact 4.6-1a: Would the overall site cleanup generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Impact 4.6-1b: Would the initial activities generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

The estimated maximum annual emissions during remediation and maintenance and monitoring from direct and indirect sources will exceed the regulatory threshold of 10,000 metric tons (MT) CO2e per year resulting in a potentially significant impact (Certified PEIR Table 4.6-2).

Implementation of a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan (Mitigation Measure GHG-3) that contains feasible strategies will reduce GHG emissions. Any reduction of GHG emissions used for compliance purposes (e.g., carbon credits) must be real, permanent, quantifiable, verifiable, enforceable, and additional (Health and Safety Code §38562(d)(1) and (2)). In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measures GHG-1, TRANS-1, EC-1, EC-2 and AQ-5 will reduce GHG emissions by limiting vehicle emissions (either to transport debris or workers, or limiting the amount of time trucks are idling). Use of a newer truck fleet (Mitigation Measure GHG-2) will reduce emissions from on-road sources and therefore reduce CO2e emissions. Through these strategies that will result in direct or indirect reductions, GHG emissions from the overall site cleanup will result in emissions that will not exceed regulatory thresholds (Certified PEIR Table 4.6-3).

With regard to the initial activities, the estimated total unmitigated GHG emissions will exceed the thresholds (Certified PEIR Table 4.6-4). Implementation of Mitigation Measures GHG-1 through GHG-3, EC-1, EC-2, TRANS-1, and AQ-5 will result in GHG emissions that will not exceed regulatory thresholds and this impact will be less than significant (Certified PEIR Table 4.6-5). Thus, with implementation of the following mitigation measures greenhouse gas emissions generated from the overall cleanup and initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Recycling Requirement

Mitigation Measure GHG-2: On-Road Vehicle Fleet Requirements

Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

Mitigation Measure EC-1: Energy Conservation – New Onsite Facilities

Mitigation Measure EC-2: Energy Conservation – New Onsite Equipment

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant GHG impacts from the overall site cleanup. With implementation of the following mitigation measures, GHG emissions from the overall site cleanup and initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.6-12 to 4.6-17).

6.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Section 4.7 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials that may result from implementation of the project.

6.7.1 Transport, Disposal, and Use of Hazardous Materials

Impact 4.7-1a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

The overall site cleanup will result in short-term emissions of diesel particulate matter (DPM), which is a toxic air contaminant (TAC), from onsite construction equipment as well as offsite truck trips. In addition to DPM, contaminants of concern (COCs) contained in soil will also be emitted during soil handling activities, road dust entrainment and wind erosion. Volatile compounds treated using the soil vapor extraction system will achieve overall control efficiencies of at least 95 percent, however small quantities of volatile COCs may be emitted during the treatment process.

Because lifetime risk is additive in nature, the risk from onsite sources is combined with that from offsite sources to determine the maximum incremental increase risk scenario associated with the overall site cleanup. The maximum (unmitigated) incremental increase in cancer risk will not exceed the SCAQMD significance threshold of 10 in 1 million. (Certified PEIR Table 4.7-5.) The chronic and acute hazard risk related to cleanup activities will not exceed the SCAQMD significance threshold of one. Therefore, the unmitigated health risk will not result in a potentially significant impact.

In order to identify the health risk impact contribution by each source and chemical, the maximally exposed individual (MEI) was further analyzed to identify source and chemical contribution. Health risk impacts representing the combined impact from the various chemicals that would be emitted during cleanup activities were also analyzed. (Certified PEIR Table 4.7-6.) Risks at all other receptor locations would be less than these maximum values. While not necessary to reduce impacts, Mitigation Measures AQ-1 and GHG-2, resulting in a mitigated incremental increase in cancer risk of approximately 0.74 in one million, which is further below the SCAQMD significance threshold of 10 in one million.

The overall site cleanup will employ the protections and controls to limit radiation exposure within regulatory limits. Workers handling radioactive materials will be required by federal regulations to employ radiation protection practices to ensure worker doses are as low as reasonably achievable below occupational exposure limits. In addition, Mitigation Measure AQ-3 will limit general inhalation of soil and other demolition material particulates by workers and the public through the control of fugitive dust, and therefore, will further reduce the risk of inadvertent radiological exposure. The overall site cleanup will result in radiological exposures that are as low as reasonably achievable and below occupational exposure limit and the radiological impact on human health will be less than significant.

In the event that soils are discovered with radioactivity that exceed applicable standards, Mitigation Measures HAZ-2 and TRANS-1 will reduce impacts to less than significant. Radiological impacts were estimated for both workers and the general population during incident-free transportation. No scenario will exceed the DOE individual regulatory limit of 100 mrem per year. Therefore, the incident-free transportation risk to the maximally exposed individual will be less than significant.

With compliance with cleanup decision documents and implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts related to the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials during implementation of the overall site cleanup will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant hazards impacts associated with the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous waste from the overall site cleanup. With implementation of the mitigation measures, hazards associated with the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous waste from the overall site cleanup will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.7-34 to 4.7-40.)

Impact 4.7-1b: Would implementation of the initial activities create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

The maximum incremental increase in cancer risk will be up to approximately 5.5 in 1 million, which will not exceed the SCAQMD significance threshold of 10 in 1 million (Certified PEIR Table 4.7-5). Neither the chronic nor acute hazard index related to cleanup activities will exceed 0.05, which is below the SCAQMD significance threshold of 1.0. While the project impacts are less than significant without mitigation measures, Mitigation Measures AQ-1, AQ-5, and GHG-2 will further reduce the cancer risk to 1.8 in 1 million (Certified PEIR Table 4.7-7). Health risks from exposure to emissions from general cleanup activities will be below the significance thresholds and impacts from initial activities will be less than significant.

With regard to handling and transport of radioactive materials, with implementation of Mitigation Measures TRANS-1 and HAZ-2 the maximum annual risk of radiation exposure will be 0.0034 mrem (Certified PEIR Table 4.7-8), which is below the DOE limit of 100 mrem. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation measures, impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. In summary with implementation of the following mitigation measures impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant hazards impacts associated with the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous waste from the initial activities. With implementation of the mitigation measures, hazards associated with the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous waste from the initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.7-40 to 4.7-41).

6.7.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Upset and Accident Conditions

Impact 4.7-2b: Would implementation of the initial activities 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?

Cleanup of the initial activities will include the use of fuels and lubricants for equipment and hauling of materials. Materials will be transported to different landfills (Class I, II, or III) depending on the contaminants. To provide a conservative analysis, it was assumed all trucks transporting hazardous or radiological impacted material will haul material that could contain acutely hazardous materials (AHMs).

Reasonably foreseeable spills and accident conditions could occur involving the release of hazardous materials, which could be an adverse impact to the public and environment along offsite transportation routes. Based on the analysis of the consequence category, implementation of the initial activities could result in risk level considered “acceptable (with controls).” Drivers of waste hauling trucks are required to be trained to respond to and contain releases, to notify appropriate emergency responders if necessary, and to utilize and implement appropriate controls, preventative measures, and best management practices.

DTSC-approved cleanup decision documents, existing hazardous materials handling regulations, and Mitigation Measures HAZ-1, HAZ-2, HAZ-3, HYDRO-1, HYDRO-2, and TRANS-1 will ensure that hazardous materials are properly managed and transported during initial activities to prevent or minimize releases, and that any spills that might occur are immediately cleaned up in a manner that minimizes adverse effects.

Following completion of removal of soil and materials and restoration efforts, there would be no further use, transport, or disposal of any hazardous materials related to the initial activities. As a result, there would be no long-term impacts associated with routine use or upset and accident conditions with respect to the initial activities. With implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts from the initial activities related to hazards will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure HYRDO-2: Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen significant hazards impacts associated with the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous waste from the initial activities. With compliance with cleanup decision documents, applicable regulations, and implementation of the mitigation measures, hazards associated with the routine use or reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving hazardous materials disposal from the initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.7-46 to 4.7-50).

6.7.3 Hazardous Materials Near a School

Impact 4.7-3a: Would the overall site cleanup emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?

Impact 4.7-3b: Would the initial activities emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?

Although there are no schools or day care centers located within 0.25 mile of the project site, there are 14 schools or daycare centers located alongside or within 0.25 mile of one or more of the four proposed transportation routes that will be used by trucks hauling materials from the project site and by trucks delivering materials to the site (Certified PEIR Figure 3-7). The transportation of hazardous materials along these routes could result in emissions of hazardous materials if not contained appropriately or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions that could expose the schools to adverse effects.

USDOT and the USNRC have specific requirements for the containerization and transport of hazardous and radioactive materials. In addition, the cleanup decision documents will include routine monitoring for radioactive levels. In the event that materials are discovered with radioactivity above the USDOT and USNRC standards, then the regulations incorporated into Mitigation Measure HAZ-2 will require that such materials be packaged in accordance with regulations and transported by licensed radioactive materials haulers and disposed of at a licensed radioactive materials management facility.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the overall cleanup and the initial activities that avoid or substantially lessen hazardous emissions near a school. With compliance with applicable regulations, cleanup decision documents, and implementation of the mitigation measures, emission of hazardous emissions or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.7-50 to 4.7-53.)

6.7.4 Interfere with Emergency Response Plans

Impact 4.7-4a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Impact 4.7-4b: Would implementation of the initial activities impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The increased truck traffic on roadways designated as disaster routes that will be used by haul trucks could interfere with emergency evacuation routes as trucks may move somewhat slower than passenger vehicles and are less maneuverable. Most site activities will occur 5 days per week (Monday through Friday), 11 hours per day, and during daylight hours (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.). Project activities will result in a daily maximum of up to 96 trucks visiting the site (resulting in 192 one-way truck trips) for all RPs combined. Project-related activities have the potential to worsen the existing LOS from LOS E to LOS F for one roadway segment that is part of designated Secondary Disaster Route (i.e., Valley Circle Boulevard between Box Canyon Road and Woolsey Canyon Road). The project will not require any lane or road closures and will not entail activities that could substantially affect access to adjacent land uses or impede emergency access or evacuations.

With regard to wildfires, DTSC and the RPs will continue to monitor for fires in the region and monitor weather conditions on site. The RPs will continue to coordinate with local fire, sheriff, and police departments regarding emergency access and evacuation scenarios and will comply with all applicable emergency plans. If a wildfire were to occur in the immediate vicinity of the project or when sustained winds of 20 miles per hour or more or gusts over 30 miles per hour occur, work on the site will be halted; therefore, haul truck trips will stop thereby leaving roadways clear for evacuations and usage by emergency vehicles. Further, with implementation of Mitigation Measure TRANS-1, project-related traffic will not interfere with evacuation routes. Since long-term monitoring activities will not require a significant quantity of vehicles and no roads will be closed or restricted, such impacts during long-term monitoring will be less than significant. Overall, the following mitigation measure will reduce impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen interference with emergency response plans. With implementation of the mitigation measure, the overall site cleanup and initial activities will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted

emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan and impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.7-53 to 4.7-56.)

6.7.5 Wildfire Risk

Impact 4.7-5a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Impact 4.7-5b: Would implementation of the initial activities expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

The site is located in an area that the State has designated as a very high Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) area. DTSC and the RPs monitor public notifications regarding fires in the region and monitor weather conditions on site. The cleanup will include the use of equipment such as trucks for carrying workers and equipment that could spark fires and some treatment methods will use chemicals that are flammable. If a wildfire were to occur in the immediate vicinity of the project or when sustained winds of 20 miles per hour or more or gusts over 30 miles per hour occur, work on the site would be halted; haul truck trips would stop thereby leaving roadways clear for evacuations and use by emergency vehicles.

Mitigation Measures HAZ-1, HAZ-3, and HAZ-4 will establish procedures to prevent and control fires and requirements for the proper storage and handling of flammable gases, fuels, and other chemicals.

Once cleanup activities have been completed, maintenance and monitoring activities will generally occur on a quarterly basis and will require limited equipment and materials. Mitigation Measure HAZ-4 will also be implemented during the maintenance and monitoring phase. Overall, with implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-4: Fire Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen project risks involving wildfire. With

implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts related to wildfires as a result of the overall site cleanup and initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.7-56 to 4.7-57.)

6.7.6 Use of Chemical Amendments

Impact 4.7-6a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the presence of chemical amendments for the treatment of chemicals in soil and/or groundwater?

The use of chemical amendments will be necessary for certain soil and groundwater treatment technologies to facilitate cleanup of soil and groundwater. Some chemical agents will be placed into and left in the subsurface environment as a part of the treatment technology but could create adverse effects if not managed appropriately. The volume of chemical amendments added will be only as much as necessary to treat the previously defined affected area. The end result of these remediation technologies will be purposely designed such that the addition of these chemical amendments results in the formation of innocuous nontoxic end components. In addition, some treatment methods will use chemicals that are flammable, such as hydrogen, propane gas, or oxidizers. These could ignite, injuring workers or damaging the local environment, and possibly starting a wildfire. Mitigation Measure HAZ-4 requires preparation of a Fire Management Plan that will establish procedures to prevent and control fires. DTSC and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB), when necessary, will review and approve the cleanup decision documents prior to implementation of cleanup activities.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2 describes the O&M Plan that includes monitoring for both chemicals to be treated and chemical amendments added to promote treatment, which will be enforceable under waste discharge requirements (WDRs) determined by the LARWQCB. In addition, Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1 requires implementation of a LARWQCB-approved SWPPP that will include BMPs for spill prevention and control. Long-term monitoring of soil or groundwater will not include the use of any chemical amendments or other hazardous materials. The following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-4: Fire Management Plan

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the hazard from the use of chemical

amendments. With implementation of mitigation measures, impacts related to the use of chemical amendments as a result of the overall site cleanup will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.7-59 to 4.7-62.)

6.7.7 Location on a Hazardous Materials Sites

Impact 4.7-7b: Would implementation of the initial activities 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, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

The project site has been identified by DTSC and CalEPA as a contaminated site. However, the initial activities will clean up the project site and will not involve construction of residences, businesses, or other uses that locate people at the project site. With implementation of mitigation measures, the initial activities will result in a less-than-significant impact with respect to the transport and disposal of hazardous materials (Certified PEIR Impact 4.7-1b). The initial activities will result in a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated with respect to reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions (Certified PEIR Impact 4.7-2b). The initial activities will also result in a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated with respect to the transport of hazardous material near a school (Certified PEIR Impact 4.7-3b). With the implementation of the following mitigation measures (identified for Impacts 4.7-1a, 4.7-2a, and 4.7-3a), this impact will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure HAZ -3: Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to the site listed as a hazardous materials site and thereby resulting or creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts related to the project's location on a hazardous materials site and consequent risks of reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions will be reduced to a less-than significant level. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.7-64 to 4.7-65.)

6.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

Section 4.8 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to hydrology and water quality that may result from implementation of the project.

6.8.1 Water Quality Standards

Impact 4.8-1a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

The water quality standards applicable to the project are the cleanup requirements derived from the 2007 Consent Order and State Board Resolution 68-16, as implemented through State Board Resolution 92-49, and apply to remediation of the soil and groundwater and associated discharge of treated water. Discharges of stormwater associated with soil cleanup activities will be regulated by applicable permits, including the General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

Soil disturbance during excavation and well installation could expose soils to the effects of wind and water erosional forces that could adversely affect receiving waters if not managed appropriately. To control the impact of erosion, sedimentation, and other pollutants on receiving waters during earthwork activities, the Construction General Permit requires the implementation of BMPs to eliminate or reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater and cleanup activity-related non-stormwater discharges (Mitigation Measures BIO-6, HYDRO-1, and HYDRO-2). Under the Construction General Permit and Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1, a SWPPP will be prepared and BMPs detailed in the SWPPP will be implemented during earthwork activities. BMPs will be designed to minimize erosion and sedimentation and prevent spills using silt fences around soil piles, tarps/covers for soil piles, and gravel bag berms along temporary flow paths to control and minimize erosion and sedimentation, among other measures. The SWPPP will also identify locations for equipment storage, cleaning and maintenance areas/activities; points of ingress and egress to the site; material loading, unloading, and storage practices and areas. With implementation of the SWPPP BMPs (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1) in compliance with the Construction General Permit, the potential impacts during cleanup activities will be less than significant relative to water quality standards and WDRs.

Mitigation Measures BIO-6, HAZ-3, and HYDRO-2 will further address the management of materials and the restoration of disturbed areas after cleanup. Implementation of a soil management plan ((Mitigation Measure AQ-3), a hazardous materials business plan (Mitigation Measure HAZ-3), and an O&M plan (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2) will further reduce impacts.

After remediation, natural drainage patterns will be restored to the extent practicable and areas previously vegetated will be reseeded with native vegetation and irrigated until vegetation has stabilized the soil surface (Mitigation Measure BIO-6). With implementation of the backfilling and revegetation plans, impacts of the potential post-cleanup activities from cleanup projects will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated relative to water quality standards and WDRs.

Groundwater cleanup activities could be relatively long-term. While some vehicle traffic will be required for operational, maintenance, and monitoring activities, activities will be relatively light with limited soil disturbance. Extracted groundwater, water from the seeps, and soil vapor will be treated prior to discharge in accordance with the applicable NPDES and other appropriate permits as overseen by DTSC, LARWQCB, and VCAPCD. Any other necessary review by resource agencies, such as CDFW, will be required. Outfalls will be monitored under the existing permit to ensure that treatment of extracted water is meeting water quality objectives (including those of the Basin Plan) and discharge limitations as defined within the permit. Any exceedances will require cessation of the groundwater treatment system and necessary adjustments to ensure effluent limitations can be met.

The long-term groundwater-monitoring program (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2) will ensure that former source areas and the project site perimeter are monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of the remediation efforts. During the long-term monitoring program, if any contaminant concentrations in a perimeter or downgradient well are detected and confirmed above cleanup requirements, then additional remediation or characterization, will be required.

In areas where the hydrogeologic evaluation and remediation involves multiple-depth water-bearing zones, the construction and decommissioning of wells could become conduits for cross contamination if not managed appropriately. In order to prevent such an occurrence, all well construction and destruction activities will be completed in accordance with the California Well Standards and Ventura County Well Ordinance No. 4184. In addition, DTSC well guidelines for contaminated sites [Well Design and Construction for Monitoring Groundwater at Contaminated Sites (DTSC, 2014)] will ensure that new wells are screened appropriately to target the correct zone of contaminated or suspected contamination in a way that isolates other zones. The decommissioning of wells that are no longer in use typically involves filling the well borehole with a grout mixture that ensures that cross contamination cannot occur nor provide a means of surface spills to access deeper zones of the aquifer. With implementation of applicable regulatory requirements and the following mitigation measures, impacts will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)

Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential of the overall site cleanup to violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade water quality. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts related to water quality standards as a result of the overall site cleanup will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.8-21 to 4.8-25.)

Impact 4.8-1b: Would implementation of the initial activities violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

During review of documents submitted to Ventura County to obtain building and grading permits for the demolition of DOE and Boeing Area IV buildings, the County will evaluate the demolition procedures, including previous and proposed testing for hazardous building materials. Hazardous building materials identified will be abated and disposed of in an appropriately permitted facility. The work plans prepared for demolition activities will include interim measures to establish post-demolition safe and stable conditions pending the future projects to test and, if needed, clean up soil beneath the demolished facilities. Following completion of remediation activities, the areas will be backfilled with clean soil and restored as much as possible to conditions present prior to occupation of the site. Mitigation Measures AQ-3, BIO-6, HYDRO-1, HYDRO-2, and HAZ-3 will ensure that the discharge of pollutants in stormwater and cleanup activity-related non-stormwater discharges is minimized and meets regulatory limits. Selection of sediment control BMPs will be based on retaining sediment onsite and controlling the site perimeter.

The closure of three former hazardous waste facilities, all currently non-operational, will occur under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Facility Permitting Program. Excavated areas will be restored so that the overall drainage pattern in the area follows a meandering and relatively natural pathway. Vegetated areas, if any, will be reseeded (Mitigation Measure BIO-6). Staging areas will not require grading or significant removal of vegetation. Following demolition, demolition areas will be placed in a safe and stable configuration to facilitate later soil characterization and remediation. The Construction General Permit and Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1 require implementation of a SWPPP. BMPs within the SWPPP will include specific measures to ensure that impacts will be less than significant. Impacts will be further reduced by the implementation of the

DTSC-approved closure plans, a soil management plan (Mitigation Measure AQ-3) and an O&M plan (Mitigation Measure HAZ-3).

Activities associated with the NASA and Boeing impoundments will involve ground disturbance and, therefore, could result in a potentially significant impact on water quality. However, with implementation of mitigation measures (Mitigation Measures BIO-6, HYDRO-1, HYDRO-2, HAZ-1, and HAZ-2) and the SWPPP BMPs in compliance with the Construction General Permit, potential impacts relative to water quality standards and WDRs during remediation activities will be less than significant.

Should remediation activities not occur, the caps will remain and post-closure maintenance of the former impoundments will include ongoing maintenance of the surface impoundment caps, surface water diversion facilities, and monitoring well network used to evaluate ongoing groundwater conditions.

In summary, all excavation and earthwork activities associated with the initial activities will be completed in accordance with the soil handling protocols and BMPs described in the DTSC-approved cleanup decision documents. Natural drainage patterns will be restored to the extent practicable and if previously vegetated, the areas will be reseeded with native vegetation and irrigated until vegetation has been stabilized on the soil surface. With implementation of the following mitigation measures, along with cleanup decision document protocols, potential impacts to water quality standards and WDRs from the initial activities will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential of the initial activities to violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade water quality. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts related to water quality standards as a result of the initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.8-25 to 4.8-30.)

6.8.2 Erosion

Impact 4.8-3a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Impact 4.8-3b: Would implementation of the initial activities substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite?

While there are some impervious surfaces and paved roads on the project site from former operations, the site is largely open space and stormwater runoff occurs as sheet flow that is collected in the various drainages that intersect the site. The overall site cleanup will not add new impervious surfaces that might concentrate flows in areas to cause erosion.

Excavation and soil removal will temporarily alter drainage patterns at the site. Compliance with the Construction General Permit (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1) will require preparation of a SWPPP that includes descriptions of BMPs that will reduce the potential for discharge of pollutants in runoff during earthwork activities. The use of typical BMPs such as silt fences, fiber rolls, hay bales, stockpile management, and other equivalent erosion control measures, will limit the erosion potential to less-than-significant levels.

Excavated areas will be backfilled and recontoured so that the overall drainage pattern at the project site will be similar to pre-excavation conditions. Removal of the earthen dams will likely require a Section 404 Clean Water Act (CWA) permit, Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC), and/or streambed alteration agreement (Mitigation Measure BIO-21, Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters).

Following backfilling activities, the areas will be reseeded with native seeds for long-term stability (Mitigation Measure BIO-6). Post-remediation monitoring will commence as specified in the DTSC-approved cleanup decision documents and O&M plan (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2) to ensure that the final regrading of disturbed areas is stabilized and drainage patterns mimic preoperational conditions to the extent practicable.

As with the overall cleanup, cleanup of the initial activities will comply with the DTSC-approved cleanup decision documents and implement the BMPs required by a Construction General Permit (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1). The BMPs will ensure that drainage patterns are restored to mimic natural drainage conditions to the extent

practicable and that erosion and siltation is minimized during the soil excavation activities. With implementation of the following mitigation measures, along with cleanup decision document protocols, potential impacts to erosion from the overall cleanup and the initial activities will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-21: Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential for the overall site cleanup and the initial activities to alter the existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts related to erosion and siltation as a result of the overall site cleanup and initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.8-33 to 4.8-36.)

6.8.3 Runoff and Flooding

Impact 4.8-4a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite?

Impact 4.8-4b: Would implementation of the initial activities substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite?

The project site is not located within a flood zone area. The overall site cleanup would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river. There would be no alteration of a stream with the exception of the removal of the earthen dams at the three existing pond locations to reestablish natural drainage patterns, which will be completed in accordance with a Section 404 CWA permit, Section 401 WQC, and streambed alteration agreement (Mitigation Measure BIO-21) if required. The project will remove impervious surfaces through the demolition and removal of facilities. The construction of the soil vapor extraction system and the use of the portable DOE groundwater treatment

system will include concrete treatment pads and a treatment tank. New impervious surfaces associated with pads will not represent a substantive increase in impervious surface area that could cause flooding onsite or offsite. Overall, the project will reduce the extent of impervious surfaces and will not create substantial runoff volumes.

No impacts to streambeds or other natural drainage features are anticipated for the initial projects. The initial activities will not create any additional surface runoff that could cause flooding onsite or offsite during excavation and could even provide some temporary capture and infiltration of runoff. As with the overall cleanup, any disturbance to streambeds or natural drainage features will be completed in accordance with a Section 404 CWA permit, Section 401 WQC, and streambed alteration agreement as applicable (Mitigation Measure BIO-21). Therefore, the short-term effects of these cleanup projects will not substantially increase the rate or volume of surface runoff. As there will be no introduction of new impervious surfaces no increase in the rate or volume of stormwater runoff will occur. With implementation of the following mitigation measure, impacts regarding alteration of drainage patterns and substantial increase in runoff from the overall cleanup and the initial activities will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-21: Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential for the overall site cleanup and the initial activities to alter the existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff such that flooding would result onsite or offsite. With implementation of the mitigation measure, impacts related to runoff and flooding as a result of the overall site cleanup and initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.8-36 to 4.8-38.)

6.8.4 Stormwater Drainage and Pollution

Impact 4.8-5a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Impact 4.8-5b: Would implementation of initial activities create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

The remediation technologies for the overall cleanup and the initial activities include relatively minor new impervious surfaces (e.g., soil vapor treatment pads, DOE portable treatment system, injection well pad) and an overall net decrease in impervious surfaces from the demolition and removal of facilities. As a result, there would be no substantive increase in the amount of stormwater flow and a net increase in onsite infiltration and recharge of stormwater.

Most stormwater flows from the central and southern portions of the site drain into Bell Creek. Most of the eastern portion of the project site drains through Dayton Canyon into Dayton Creek and combines with Bell Creek downstream before joining the Los Angeles River. The northwestern perimeter of the site drains northward into Meier Canyon, which subsequently discharges into Arroyo Simi. Arroyo Simi is part of the Calleguas Creek Watershed, which drains westward toward the Pacific Ocean at Mugu Lagoon. The Northern Drainage connects to the Meier Canyon Drainage north of the project site on the Brandeis-Bardin property. A small portion of the site also drains to the northeast through Woolsey Canyon and a very small area in the northwest portion of the site drains through Runkle Canyon.

The earthen dams at the existing pond locations may be removed to reestablish natural drainage patterns, which will be conducted in accordance with a Section 404 CWA permit, Section 401 WQC, and/or streambed alteration agreement (Mitigation Measure BIO-21) and may require a permit from the Ventura County Watershed Protection District due to impacts to peak flows downstream. The removal of these earthen dams is not expected to result in polluted runoff, significant erosion, or sedimentation downstream with implementation of the SWPPP (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1). In addition, any discharge of water will be in compliance with the NPDES permit requirements.

The operation of the GETS will generate treated water, which will be either injected back into the aquifer in the former water supply well WS-5 or proposed Injection Well IN-1 or discharged to one of the existing surface water outfalls. Discharge to the NPDES outfall will be in accordance with the applicable permit, which will include limitations on quantities and rates as well as water quality. No other conditions under the overall site cleanup will provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Therefore, the impacts related to the capacity of planned drainage systems or additional sources of polluted runoff will be less than significant.

In addition, earthwork activities will be required to comply with the Construction General Permit, which requires the implementation of BMPs to eliminate or reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater and cleanup activity-related non-stormwater discharges. Under the Construction General Permit and Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1, a SWPPP will be prepared and BMPs detailed in the SWPPP will be implemented during cleanup

activities. In addition, Mitigation Measure BIO-6 and Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2 will reduce impacts related to the capacity of drainage systems or other sources of polluted runoff during cleanup activities to less than significant. With implementation of the following mitigation measures impacts from the overall cleanup and the initial activities related to runoff will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential for the overall site cleanup and the initial activities to create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts related to stormwater drainage and pollution as a result of the overall site cleanup will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.8-39 to 4.8-40.)

6.9 Noise

Section 4.10 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to noise and vibration that may result from implementation of the project.

6.9.1 Conflict with General Plan or Noise Ordinances

Impact 4.10-1a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup result in the exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

The nearest offsite sensitive receptors that will be exposed to increased noise levels during project cleanup activities are the existing single-family residential, park, and university uses located around the project site (Certified PEIR Figure 4.10-3). Of the nearest noise-sensitive land uses analyzed, with the exception of the residential homes at the Summit Mobile Home Community, which is located in Los Angeles County, all of the remaining identified uses are located within Ventura County.

Cleanup activity noise levels will fluctuate depending on the location and the particular type, number, and duration of use of the various pieces of equipment. The nearest offsite sensitive receptors will experience a range of noise levels during cleanup activities (Certified PEIR Table 4.10-13). The noise levels experienced by the offsite

sensitive receptors from cleanup activities will occur when equipment operates nearest to the receptors and will not occur continuously throughout the cleanup.

Noise levels generated by the cleanup activities will exceed the Ventura County construction noise threshold for residential uses at Sage Ranch Park, resulting in a significant impact from noise generated at the work areas in the northeastern portion of Area I (Certified PEIR Table 4.10-14). No construction noise threshold criteria have been established by the County for park uses or open space. Because specific areas within the park include permanent and temporary housing (the ranger's house and camping sites), and other uses which are noise-sensitive (the outdoor amphitheater), those areas would be considered discrete noise-sensitive receivers, subject to the applicable residential threshold. Mitigation Measure NOISE-1 will ensure no noise is generated by cleanup equipment within 2,000 feet of the ranger's house (Certified PEIR Figure 4.10-4).

Remediation activities, including the use of heavy-duty equipment, will be located as close as 50 feet to the Sage Ranch Loop Trail. While Ventura County does not define an applicable noise level threshold for outdoor or recreational uses, trail users' proximity to onsite cleanup activities will be temporary due to the transient nature of trail walking. Therefore, noise impacts to trail and other park users that do not stay at the park overnight will be less than significant.

With respect to the residential homes at the Summit Mobile Home Community, because the distance between the closest cleanup area and the Summit Mobile Home Community is 3,200 feet, equipment will be located within relatively small areas (i.e., not spread out over a large area), and the duration of cleanup activities will be greater than 10 days, the allowable maximum noise levels from equipment at single-family residential uses would be 60 dBA from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and 50 dBA from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Noise levels generated by the project will not exceed Los Angeles County thresholds for construction-related noise in the area of the Summit Mobile Home Community (Certified PEIR Table 4.10-15). Therefore, noise impacts to the Summit Mobile Home Community will be less than significant. With implementation of the following mitigation measure noise impacts will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure NOISE-1: Time Restrictions for Area I

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential for the overall site cleanup to create or contribute noise impacts that exceed the applicable thresholds. With implementation of the mitigation measure, impacts related to noise as a result of the overall site cleanup will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.10-29 to 4.10-35.)

Impact 4.10-1b: Would implementation of the initial activities result in the exposure of persons to or the generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

None of the initial projects will implement excavation or demolition activities within 2,000 feet of the noise sensitive uses at Sage Ranch Park (ranger's house and campsites). At 2,000 feet from the excavation and demolition activities, the sound level at the park's ranger's house and campsites would reach approximately 47.2 dBA, which is below the applicable Ventura County noise threshold.

Cleanup of the bedrock in the vicinity of the former leach field at the RMHF that contains strontium-90 will use standard construction equipment assisted by controlled blasting to access to remove the impacted bedrock. None of the offsite sensitive receptors in the project site vicinity will be exposed to noise level reaching or exceeding 55 dBA during project blasting period (Certified PEIR Table 4.10-16). When adding the maximum blasting noise levels to noise from soil excavation and disposal, building demolition, and/or maintenance activities, the combined noise levels from blasting and initial projects will range from 38.6 to 47.2 dBA, which does not exceed the applicable noise level threshold criteria of 55 dBA. Therefore, noise impacts will be less than significant.

However, for the sensitive wildlife habitats blasting will potentially exceed the noise threshold of 60 dBA. Implementation of the following mitigation measures will avoid or minimize noise-related impacts to sensitive biological resources to less than significant. (Certified PEIR, p. 4.10-40.)

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-14: Least Bell's Vireo

Mitigation Measure BIO-15: Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: Avian Protection Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-17: Ringtail

Mitigation Measure BIO-18: Special-Status Bats

Mitigation Measure BIO-22: Wildlife Movement

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential for the initial activities to create or contribute noise impacts that exceed the applicable thresholds. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts related to noise as a result of the

initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.10-35 to 4.10-40.)

6.10 Transportation and Traffic

Section 4.11 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to transportation and traffic that may result from implementation of the project.

6.10.1 Traffic Hazards or Incompatible Uses

Impact 4.11-2a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Impact 4.11-2b: Would implementation of initial activities substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

The overall cleanup and initial activities will not result in any hazards due to design features. However, truck trips generated by cleanup activities will introduce incompatible uses (i.e., large vehicles) to a road network that is currently predominantly used by passenger cars, resulting in a potentially significant impact to pedestrian and/or bicycle safety. Traffic controls, pedestrian crossing points and bicycle facilities were analyzed on roadways between the site access and SR 118 and US 101, including Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Valley Circle Boulevard, Plummer Street, and Roscoe Boulevard.

The pedestrian analysis focused on areas that typically generate higher-than-average pedestrian volumes (i.e., neighborhoods with parks or schools). Locations were mapped within a 0.5-mile buffered distance, which is considered typical walking distance for pedestrian travel, from the analyzed roadway corridors (Certified PEIR Appendix H, Figure 21-1). Bicycle counts were conducted on Lake Manor Drive, Roscoe Boulevard, and Valley Circle Boulevard, in the vicinity of the project site.

Daily truck trips generated by project-related remediation activities will be spread evenly over 8 hours within a single 11-hour shift. Dividing the 96 daily truck round trips by an expected 8-hour period, there would be an average of 12 truck round trips per hour (one every 5 minutes).

In general, pedestrian routes from most local neighborhoods with parks or schools have controlled locations with traffic signals at intersections, or crosswalks with warning lights at crossing points, on the analyzed roadways, with three exceptions: Orcutt Ranch Horticultural Center Park, Chatsworth Oaks Park, and Castle Peak Park. (Certified PEIR p. 4.11-44 to 4.11-45.) Potential impacts associated with bicycle travel and increased

truck-use on the analyzed roadways during the cleanup activities could occur on Lake Manor Drive, Roscoe Boulevard, and Valley Circle Boulevard (Certified PEIR pp. 4.11-45 to 4.11-46).

A DTSC-approved Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan (Mitigation Measure TRANS-1) will identify common traffic-control requirements for onsite deliveries and offsite hauling to facilitate safe and efficient traffic flow on public roadways, will provide specific traffic-control measures, signs, and delineators to be implemented by the construction contractor(s) through the duration of cleanup activities. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure TRANS-1, safety conflicts between trucks and pedestrians at the intersection of Roscoe Boulevard and Hillary Drive and between trucks and bicyclists on Valley Circle Boulevard will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

In addition, the use of large trucks to transport equipment and material to and from the cleanup sites could affect road conditions and driving safety on the designated haul routes by increasing the rate of road wear. Freeways and major arterials are designed to accommodate a mix of vehicle types, including heavy trucks; consequently, no significant wear and tear from trucks is expected on US 101, SR 118, Topanga Canyon Boulevard, or Roscoe Boulevard. The pavement of local streets (e.g., Woolsey Canyon Road and Valley Circle Boulevard north of Roscoe Boulevard) generally is not thick enough to withstand substantial truck traffic volumes. The wear-and-tear effects on road conditions and driving safety are considered to be a potentially significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure TRANS-2 will reduce impacts related to roadway damage to a less-than-significant level.

With implementation of the following mitigation measures the overall cleanup and initial activities potential conflicts with pedestrian and bicycle safety that could occur as a result of the heavy trucks on the streets and the wear and tear on the roadways will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Mitigation Measure TRANS-2: Public Roadway Repair

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential for the overall site cleanup to result in conflicts between trucks and pedestrians and impacts due to increased wear and tear on local roads. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts related to incompatible uses and wear and tear on local roads as a result of the overall site cleanup and the initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.11-43 to 4.11-486.)

6.10.2 Emergency Access

Impact 4.11-3a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup result in inadequate emergency access?

Impact 4.11-3b: Would implementation of the initial activities result in inadequate emergency access?

The roadway network serving the project site currently accommodates emergency vehicles in the area. Cleanup of the site will not require any lane or road closures and will not entail activities that could substantially affect access to adjacent land uses or impede emergency access. Trucks associated with the cleanup activities on area roadways will interact with other vehicles. Drivers could experience delays if they were traveling behind a truck because a truck may be moving somewhat slower than a passenger vehicle, but access to roads and land uses will not be impaired in any substantial manner.

Specific segments of Valley Circle Boulevard, which will be accessed by all four proposed haul routes, are part of a designated Secondary Disaster Route; part of Roscoe Boulevard also is a designated Secondary Disaster Route. US 101, SR 218, and SR 27/Topanga Canyon Boulevard are designated Primary Disaster Routes. The increased traffic on these roads could interfere with emergency evacuation routes. However, with implementation of Mitigation Measure TRANS-1, truck trips will be limited to off-peak traffic hours, when traffic levels on these roads are lower, and will also require the use of onsite borrow pits and the same trucks for hauling backfill and removing contaminated soil, which will reduce truck trips on public roadways. Therefore, with implementation of the following mitigation measure project-related traffic will not substantially impede movement of, and access for, emergency vehicles. In addition, once cleanup is completed, the project will have no effect on emergency access. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential for the overall site cleanup and the initial activities to significantly impact emergency access. With implementation of the mitigation measure, impacts related to emergency access as a result of the overall site cleanup and initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.11-48 to 4.11-49.)

6.11 Energy Consumption

Section 4.13 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to energy consumption that may result from implementation of the project.

6.11.1 Inefficient Use of Energy Resources

Impact 4.13-1a: Would the overall site cleanup result in the inefficient use of energy resources?

Impact 4.13-1b: Would initial activities result in the inefficient use of energy resources?

The overall site cleanup will result in the consumption of significant quantities of petroleum associated with the use of gasoline or diesel-powered trucks, worker vehicles, excavation/construction equipment and water trucks. Natural gas is not currently used for existing site operations and the project does not propose the use of natural gas. Therefore, there would be no impact concerning the efficient use of natural gas.

The project includes mitigation measures to increase efficiency of fuel usage through the use of fuel-efficient vehicles (Mitigation Measures AQ-1 and GHG-2); restriction of vehicle idling (Mitigation Measure AQ-5); use of onsite borrow pits and the same trucks for hauling backfill and removing contaminated soil, as feasible (Mitigation Measure TRANS-1); and the reuse of non-hazardous debris (such as crushed concrete) (Mitigation Measure GHG-1). In addition, Mitigation Measure GHG-3 prescribes a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan that requires the reduction and offset of project-related GHG emissions generated by fuel combustion sources.

Electricity usage will result from ongoing use of field office buildings and surface water treatment systems, full operation of the GETS, and the potential use of other cleanup technologies, such as SVE, bioventing, gaseous electron donor injection, and thermal desorption. During cleanup activities, it is anticipated that the monthly quantity of electricity consumed by the ongoing use of office buildings and surface water treatment systems will remain approximately the same as existing conditions.

The project has the potential to also use other cleanup technologies that could consume substantial quantities of electricity, such as SVE/air sparging, bioventing, gaseous electron donor injection, and thermal desorption. The electricity-consuming equipment used for the GETS, SVE/air sparging, bioventing, and gaseous electron donor injection is similar to the electrical equipment used for pump and treat systems. Pump and treat systems, which are commonly used for groundwater extraction and remediation, rely on the use of pumps, blowers and other machinery.

Due to the proposed use of the GETS and electricity-consuming cleanup technologies, the project has the potential to consume substantial quantities of electricity. Implementation of Mitigation Measures EC-1 and EC-2 will ensure that electricity is used as efficiently as possible for all electricity-consuming activities where energy-

efficient practices are attainable. Therefore, with implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts regarding energy use will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure EC-1: Energy Conservation – New Onsite Facilities

Mitigation Measure EC-2: Energy Conservation – New Onsite Equipment

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Tier 4 Rated Engines

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Recycling Requirement

Mitigation Measure GHG-2: On-Road Vehicle Fleet Requirements

Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to energy use. With implementation of the mitigation measures, the overall site cleanup and initial activities will not result in the inefficient use of energy resources. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.13-6 to 4.13-12.)

6.11.2 Transportation Energy

Impact 4.13-2a: Would the overall site cleanup increase transportation energy use requirements?

Impact 4.13-2b: Would initial activities increase transportation energy use requirements?

Alternative sources of transportation are not anticipated and cleanup activities will be implemented using diesel-powered truck and gasoline-powered worker vehicles. Post-cleanup monitoring and maintenance activities will rely on gasoline-powered worker vehicles. Estimated use of fuels present substantial increases in transportation energy use. The project includes mitigation measures to increase efficiency of fuel usage and transportation. Mitigation includes the use of more fuel-efficient vehicles (Mitigation Measures AQ-1 and GHG-2); restrictions on vehicle idling (Mitigation Measure AQ-5); reduction in fuel usage (Mitigation Measure TRANS-1); and reduces fuel usage; and the reuse of non-hazardous debris, such as crushed concrete (Mitigation Measure GHG-1). In addition, the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan (Mitigation Measure GHG-3) will include strategies that reduce and offset GHG emissions generated by fuel combustion sources. With implementation of the following mitigation measures impacts will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Tier 4 Rated Engines

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Recycling Requirement

Mitigation Measure GHG-2: On-Road Vehicle Fleet Requirements

Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to an increase in transportation energy use. With implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts related to transportation energy use from the overall site cleanup and initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.13-12 to 4.13-15.)

6.11.3 Conflicts with Existing Energy Standards, Policies, Regulations

Impact 4.13-4a: Would the overall site cleanup conflict with existing energy standards, policies, and regulations?

Impact 4.13-4b: Would initial activities conflict with existing energy standards, policies, and regulations?

Electricity for the project is provided by Southern California Edison (SCE), a public utility. California SB 350, while not directly applicable to the project, requires that publicly owned utilities in California procure 50 percent of their electricity sales from eligible renewable sources by the end of 2030. Thus, the project's electricity supply will be provided by a public utility that is on track to achieve the 2030 RPS goal.

The project will not conflict with the Ventura County General Plan energy resource goals and policies (Certified PEIR Table 4.13-8). The project will implement Mitigation Measures EC-1 and EC-2, and thus, it is anticipated that the project will not conflict with the California Energy Commission (CEC). The project will be consistent with all applicable energy goals and policies and with implementation of the following mitigation measures; thus, impacts will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure EC-1: Energy Conservation – New Onsite Facilities

Mitigation Measure EC-2: Energy Conservation – New Onsite Equipment

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Tier 4 Rated Engines

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Recycling Requirement

Mitigation Measure GHG-2: On-Road Vehicle Fleet Requirements

Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to conflicts with existing energy standards, policies, and regulations. With implementation of the mitigation measures, the overall site cleanup and initial activities will not conflict with existing energy standards, policies, and regulations and impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, p. 4.13-21.)

SECTION 7

Impacts Found to Be Significant after Mitigation

DTSC hereby finds that the following environmental impacts of the project are significant and unavoidable. Mitigation measures have been identified to lessen these impacts to the extent feasible; however, the environmental impacts cannot be reduced to a less-than-significant level by available mitigation measures.

As indicated above, Certified PEIR Sections 4.1 through 4.13 contain two impact statements for each impact that is addressed. The first impact statement (i.e., Impact 4.1-1a) evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the overall cleanup and the second impact statement (i.e., Impact 4.1-1b) evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the initial activities. In some instances, the potential environmental impacts from the overall cleanup differ from the potential environmental impacts of the initial activities. Only those impacts that are significant after mitigation are provided below.

7.1 Air Quality

Section 4.2 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to air quality that may result from implementation of the project.

7.1.1 Applicable Air Quality Plans

Impact 4.2-1a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup result in conflicts with or obstruction of implementation of the applicable air quality plans?

The overall site cleanup would be consistent with the VCAPCD's and SCAQMD's Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs) if it does not result in population growth above the most recently adopted AQMP and is consistent with the emission reduction strategies included in the AQMP. The overall site cleanup would not result in any population growth within the area, as it does not propose additional housing, and employees are anticipated to commute from the local area. Thus, the overall site cleanup would be consistent with the applicable AQMPs with regard to growth.

However, the overall site cleanup will conflict with the VCAPCD's and SCAQMD's AQMPs reduction strategies in that the emissions will exceed the regulatory thresholds for NOx within each of the air basins and PM_{10} for SCAQMD. Therefore, the overall site cleanup has the potential to result in daily exceedances within the SCAB and will conflict with the SCAQMD AQMP goals of reducing regional pollutant emissions consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP). With mitigation, the project level

NOX emissions will be below applicable VCAPCD and SCAQMD regional thresholds. The impact finding with respect to the VCAPCD AQMP would remain unchanged relative to the 2007 AQMP or the 2016 AQMP due to similar approaches in the AQMPs to reduce emissions in order to achieve attainment for criteria air pollutants. While implementation of all of the following feasible mitigation measures will reduce impacts, the project emissions from the overall site cleanup will still exceed SCAQMD thresholds and conflict with the SCAQMD's AQMP. Therefore, the project will result in a significant and unavoidable impact with regard to consistency with applicable AQMPs.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Tier 4 Rated Engines

Mitigation Measure AQ-2: Perimeter Air Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure AQ-4: Soil Management Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Recycling Requirement

Mitigation Measure GHG-2: On-Road Vehicle Fleet Requirements

Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to conflicts with or obstruction of implementation of applicable air quality plans to the greatest extent feasible. While implementation of all feasible mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, the overall site cleanup will still conflict with the SCAQMD's air quality plan due to the potential for daily exceedances within the SCAB. (Certified PEIR p. 4.2-41.) While implementation of the mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable air quality impacts related to applicable air quality plans.

Impact 4.2-1b: Would implementation of the initial activities result in conflicts with or obstruction of implementation of the applicable air quality plans?

As indicated in Impact 4.2-1a, the initial activities will be consistent with the growth assumptions in the AQMPs since it is not anticipated to result in any population growth within the project area. In addition, because the initial activities are not a typical land-use development project, the reduction measures identified in the AQMPs for

transportation and reduction are not applicable. The initial activities are therefore consistent with the applicable AQMPs with regard to growth.

However, the initial activities will conflict with the VCAPCD and SCAQMD AQMPs' reduction strategies in that project-level emissions will exceed the regulatory thresholds for NOx according to the VCAPCD and SCAQMD and for PM_{10} with the SCAQMD. While implementation of the following feasible mitigation measures will reduce emissions resulting from initial activities, the initial activities could still have a significant impact regarding conflicts with implementation of VCAPCD's applicable air quality plan.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Tier 4 Rated Engines

Mitigation Measure AQ-2: Perimeter Air Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure AQ-4: Soil Management Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Recycling Requirement

Mitigation Measure GHG-2: On-Road Vehicle Fleet Requirements

Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to conflicts with or obstruction of implementation of applicable air quality plans. While implementation of all feasible mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, the initial activities will conflict with the VCAPCD's and SCAQMD's AQMPs. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.2-41 to 4.2-43.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, initial activities will result in significant and unavoidable air quality impacts related to applicable air quality plans.

7.1.2 Air Quality Standards

Impact 4.2-2a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup result in violation of air quality standards or contribute substantially to existing or projected air quality violations?

Onsite equipment use will result in a potentially significant impact for NOx within VCAPCD, but is below VCAPCD thresholds for ROC/VOC. VCAPCD does not have

thresholds for CO, SOx, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. Offsite haul trucks will result in a potentially significant impact for NOx and PM_{10} within SCAQMD's jurisdiction but are below the SCAQMD thresholds for ROC/VOC, CO, SOx, and $PM_{2.5}$. (Certified PEIR Table 4.2-9).

Onsite emissions of NOx and PM_{10} can be reduced by implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1 and Mitigation Measure AQ-3 will further reduce PM_{10} emissions. NOx emissions in VCAPCD and SCAQMD will be reduced to below regulatory thresholds. In addition to Mitigation Measure AQ-1 and AQ-3, Mitigation Measures AQ-2, AQ-4, AQ-5, BIO-6, GHG-1, HAZ-2, and TRANS-1 will also reduce criteria pollutant emissions. Mitigation Measures AQ-2 and BIO-6 will reduce fugitive dust and Mitigation Measures AQ-4 and HAZ-2 will reduce ROC/VOC emissions. Mitigation Measure AQ-5 will reduce exhaust emissions and Mitigation Measure GHG-2 will reduce criteria pollutant emissions. Mitigation Measure GHG-3 could reduce criteria pollutants depending on the GHG reduction measures chosen. However, while these measures have the potential to reduce emissions, there is not enough information available as to the exact timing and implementation of the measures for these reductions to be quantified. Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts from the overall site cleanup will remain significant and unavoidable.

Mobile source emissions will occur from the up to 96 trucks accessing the site daily. Based on the location of disposal facilities, project-related trucks will travel through up to eight air basins and 15 air districts air districts. Truck emissions will exceed the thresholds for jurisdictions within the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB), Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB), Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SACVAB), and San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) for NOx; MDAB, SACVAB, and SJVAB for PM_{10}; and MDAB for $PM_{2.5}$ without implementation of mitigation (Certified PEIR Table 4.2-11). With implementation of Mitigation Measure GHG-2, the overall site cleanup will result in emissions associated with truck trips that will exceed the thresholds for NOx in MDAB (compared to SCAQMD's daily threshold) and SACVAB (compared to VCAPCD's and SCAQMD's daily thresholds); the thresholds for PM_{10} in MDAB, SACVAB, and SJVAB; and the threshold for $PM_{2.5}$ in MDAB. Because CEQA does not cover jurisdictions outside of California, emissions from VMT beyond the California border are included in the analysis for informational purposes only and are not compared to any thresholds (Certified PEIR Tables 4.2-11 and 4.2-12).

The Air Districts established, and recommended CEQA air quality analysis of criteria pollutants using, significance thresholds set at emission levels tied to the region's attainment status, based on emission levels at which stationary pollution sources permitted by the respective air district must offset their emissions. Such offset levels allow for growth while keeping the cumulative effects of new sources at a level that will not impede attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (Certified PEIR Section 4.2). The health risks associated with exposure to criteria

pollutants are evaluated on a regional level based on the region's attainment of the NAAQS, and the mass emissions significance thresholds used in CEQA air quality analysis are not intended to be indicative of any localized human health impact that a project may have (refer to the *amicus curiae* briefs submitted for the *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* [Friant Ranch] case by the SCAQMD and SJVAPCD). Therefore, exceedance of the mass regional emissions threshold (i.e., pounds per day thresholds) from a project's activities does not necessarily indicate that the project will cause or contribute to the exposure of sensitive receptors in terms of size, the overall site cleanup would represent a very small fraction of the total emissions from existing sources within each of the respective air basins. Further, because of the geographic distribution of the overall site cleanup's precursor emissions (i.e., NOx) and meteorological dispersive effects, it is unlikely that the exceedance of the project-level NOx and particulate matter regional mass emissions thresholds would result in a substantial measurable increase in the respective pollutant concentrations to a degree that clearly predictable and identifiable heath impacts would specifically result from this project's emissions during the overall site cleanup. terms of size, the overall site cleanup would represent a very small fraction of the total emissions from existing sources within each of the respective air basins. Further, because of the geographic distribution of the overall site cleanup's precursor emissions (i.e., NOx) and meteorological dispersive effects, it is unlikely that the exceedance of the project-level NOx and particulate matter regional mass emissions thresholds would result in a substantial measurable increase in the respective pollutant concentrations to a degree that clearly predictable and identifiable heath impacts would specifically result from this project's emissions during the overall site cleanup.

While the following mitigation measures will reduce the potentially significant emissions that will result from the overall cleanup, as there are no additional feasible mitigation measures, the impact will be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Tier 4 Rated Engines

Mitigation Measure AQ-2: Perimeter Air Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure AQ-4: Soil Management Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Recycling Requirement

Mitigation Measure GHG-2: On-Road Vehicle Fleet Requirements

Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to violation of air quality standards or substantial contribution to existing or projected air quality violations. While implementation of the following feasible mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, the overall site cleanup will result in a violation of PM_{10} emissions thresholds within the SCAB, thereby contributing to existing and projected air quality violations with respect to particulate matter. The overall site cleanup will result in emissions associated with truck trips that exceed the NOx threshold in MDAB (exceed SCAQMD's daily threshold) and SACVAB (exceed VCAPCD and SCAQMD's daily thresholds). Emissions will exceed PM_{10} thresholds in MDAB, SACVAB, and SJVAB, and $PM_{2.5}$ thresholds in MDAB. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.2-43 to 4.2-55.) Therefore, overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to violation of air quality standards or substantial contribution to existing or projected air quality violations.

Impact 4.2-2b: Would implementation of the initial activities result in violation or air quality standards or contribute substantially to existing or projected air quality violations?

Air emissions for the initial activities were estimated for the greatest degree of potential impact for daily activities as was as greatest degree of potential impact for annual emissions. Emissions during the initial activities will result in a potentially significant impact for NOx for VCAPCD and SCAQMD, and PM_{10} for SCAQMD (Certified PEIR Table 4.2-14). All other criteria pollutants are below their respective thresholds.

Onsite emissions for ROC/VOC, NOx, CO, and particulate matter will be reduced by implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-1 through AQ-5, BIO-6, GHG-1 through GHG-3, HAZ-2, and TRANS-1. Even with mitigation the initial activities will result in NOx emissions that exceed the VCAPCD threshold and SCAQMD threshold and PM_{10} emissions that exceed the SCAQMD threshold (Certified PEIR Table 4.2-15). Because NOx is considered a precursor to ozone formation, the initial activities could contribute to an air quality violation with respect to ozone. All other criteria air pollutants are below their respective thresholds. No additional mitigation is feasible to further reduce emissions from the initial activities.

Mitigation Measure GHG-3 requires the use of commercially available alternatively powered equipment to reduce GHG emissions from diesel use; however, these technologies are not yet viable. Therefore, the reliance on these technologies to reduce criteria pollutant emissions cannot be assured over the lifetime of the project, and the

project therefore remains significant and unavoidable for NOx within the VCAPCD and PM_{10} within the SCAQMD.

A maximum of up to 96 trucks daily could occur during the initial activities and daily truck emissions would be the same as those for the overall site cleanup (Impact 2a; Certified PEIR Table 4.2-11). Mitigated truck emissions will be reduced to below the regulatory thresholds for NOx in all air basins with three exceptions: MDAB will exceed SCAQMD's daily threshold, and SACVAB will exceed VCAPCD's and SCAQMD's daily thresholds. In addition, emissions will exceed PM_{10} thresholds in MDAB, SACVAB, and SJVAB and the threshold for $PM_{2.5}$ in MDAB (Certified PEIR Table 4.2-12). While implementation of all feasible mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, impacts will remain significant and unavoidable. No additional mitigation is feasible to further reduce initial activities truck trip emissions.

In terms of size, the initial activities would represent a very small fraction of the total emissions from existing sources within each of the respective air basins. Further, because of the geographic distribution of the overall site cleanup's precursor emissions (i.e., NOx) and meteorological dispersive effects, it is unlikely that the exceedance of the project-level NOx and particulate matter regional mass emissions thresholds would result in a substantial measurable increase in the respective pollutant concentrations to a degree that clearly predictable and identifiable heath impacts would specifically result from this project's emissions during the initial activities.

While implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce emissions resulting from the initial activities, the initial activities could still have a significant effect on air quality violations.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Tier 4 Rated Engines

Mitigation Measure AQ-2: Perimeter Air Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure AQ-4: Soil Management Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Recycling Requirement

Mitigation Measure GHG-2: On-Road Vehicle Fleet Requirements

Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to violation of air quality standards or substantial contribution to existing or projected air quality violations. While implementation of all feasible mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, the initial activities will result in a violation of PM_{10} emissions thresholds within the SCAQMD, and NOx emissions within the VCAPCD and SCAQMD thereby contributing to existing and projected air quality violations with respect to NOx and particulate matter. The initial activities will result in emissions associated with truck trips that will exceed the NOx threshold in MDAB (exceed SCAQMD's daily threshold), and SACVAB (exceed VCAPCD and SCAQMD's daily thresholds). Emissions will exceed PM_{10} thresholds in MDAB, SACVAB, and SJVAB, and $PM_{2.5}$ thresholds in MDAB. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.2-55 to 4.2-59.) While implementation of the mitigation measures will reduce emissions resulting from initial activities, the initial activities could have a significant effect related to violation of air quality standards or substantial contribution to existing or projected air quality violations.

7.1.3 Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards

Impact 4.2-4a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Impact 4.2-4b: Would implementation of the initial activities result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

The cumulative study area for air quality includes the SCCAB and SCAB. With respect to the SCCAB, because the SCCAB is currently classified as a state nonattainment area for ozone and PM_{10}, cumulative development (project in combination with other reasonably foreseeable future projects) in the SCCAB could violate an air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation. Based on VCAPCD's cumulative air quality impact methodology, if a project is determined to be inconsistent with the AQMP, it is also determined to have significant cumulative adverse

air impacts. The overall site cleanup and initial activities will not be consistent with the AQMP since NOx emissions will exceed the VCAPCD significance threshold. With implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-1 through AQ-5, BIO-6, GHG-1 through GHG-3, HAZ-2, and TRANS-1, the project level NOx emissions will still be above the applicable VCAPCD regional threshold. During the overall site cleanup and initial activities VCAPCD regulatory requirements for the control of PM_{10} emissions, such as VCAPCD Rule 55 for fugitive dust, will be implemented. Therefore, the overall site cleanup and initial activities will result in a cumulatively considerable air quality impact under VCAPCD's methodology even with implementation of mitigation.

With respect to the SCAB, because the SCAB is currently classified as a state nonattainment area for ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$, cumulative development (project in combination with other reasonably foreseeable future projects) in the SCAB could violate an air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation. Based on SCAQMD's cumulative air quality impact methodology, SCAQMD recommends that if an individual project results in air emissions of criteria pollutants (VOC, CO, NOx, SOx, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$) that exceed the SCAQMD's recommended daily thresholds for project-specific impacts, then it would also result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of these criteria pollutants for which the region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. While implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, emissions from the overall site cleanup and initial activities will exceed SCAQMD's daily threshold for PM_{10}. (Certified PEIR Tables 4.2-9 and 4.2-10). Therefore, the overall site cleanup will result in a cumulatively considerable air quality impact within the SCAQMD.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Tier 4 Rated Engines

Mitigation Measure AQ-2: Perimeter Air Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Fugitive Dust Control

Mitigation Measure AQ-4: Soil Management Plan

Mitigation Measure AQ-5: Prohibit Idling

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Recycling Requirement

Mitigation Measure GHG-2: On-Road Vehicle Fleet Requirements

Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. While implementation of all feasible mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, the overall site cleanup and initial activities will result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of PM_{10} within SCAB, a region that is nonattainment under an applicable air quality standard. (Certified PEIR p. 4.2-66 to 4.2-67.) While implementation of the mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, the overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable air quality impact related to emissions in a region that is nonattainment under applicable air quality standards.

7.2 Biological Resources

Section 4.3 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to biological resources that may result from implementation of the project. For purposes of the Certified PEIR, the estimated acreages and soil volumes evaluated in the Certified PEIR for cleanup do not account for application of any AOC exceptions given the uncertainty as to where these exceptions would apply. DTSC will make decisions on whether and, if so, how to apply biological resource exceptions as part of the cleanup decision documents. The acceptance and exercise of any of the exceptions is subject to DTSC's oversight and approval, in coordination with applicable regulatory agencies.

7.2.1 Braunton's Milk-Vetch

Impact 4.3-1a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup have a substantial adverse effect either directly or through habitat modification on Braunton's milk-vetch or its designated critical habitat?

Braunton's milk-vetch populations have been documented within northern mixed chaparral located in the vicinity of the USFWS-designated critical habitat for Braunton's milk-vetch, in the western portion of Area IV (Certified PEIR Figure 4.3-4). In a letter dated August 31, 2018, USFWS issued a Biological Opinion (BO) for the Cleanup of Area IV. No other Braunton's milk-vetch populations or individual plants have been documented within the overall site cleanup areas. Since not all areas containing suitable habitat for this species have been recently surveyed, this species could potentially be present within suitable habitat elsewhere within the project site including dormant seed banks within undisturbed areas or areas that have not been recently burned.

Designated critical habitat for Braunton's milk-vetch within the project site and an area adjacent to designated critical habitat that is occupied by Braunton's milk-vetch are

identified as potential AOC exception areas (Certified PEIR Figure 3-6). DTSC will apply the USFWS BO for the DOE areas of responsibility and follow applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations as the cleanup decision documents are reviewed and final decisions on remediation are made. As indicated, for purposes of making a significance determination for CEQA, no exceptions have been applied, although application of exceptions would avoid or reduce impacts.

Direct impacts to the federally endangered Braunton's milk-vetch could result from the permanent removal of individual plants and through the removal of soil within suitable habitat and/or areas that contain a seed bank within or adjacent to Braunton's milk-vetch populations. Removal of this plant's seed bank would prevent regeneration of the species and result in adverse indirect impacts to its population. In addition, indirect impacts to Braunton's milk-vetch and designated critical habitat could result from expansion of onsite invasive weeds and from the introduction of noxious weeds from vehicles traveling from offsite locations.

While implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce potentially significant impacts, overall site cleanup could still have significant impacts to Braunton's milk-vetch and critical habitat.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Braunton's Milk-Vetch

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential substantial adverse effect either directly or through habitat modification on Braunton's milk-vetch or its designated critical habitat. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the overall site cleanup will still result in a substantial adverse effect on Braunton's milk-vetch or its designated critical habitat. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-81 to 4.3-82.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable impacts to Braunton's milk-vetch or its designated critical habitat.

Impact 4.3-1b: Would implementation of the initial activities have a substantial adverse effect either directly or through habitat modification on Braunton's milk-vetch or its designated critical habitat?

Based on a rare plant survey conducted in 2011, Braunton's milk-vetch has not been detected within NASA's Area I or Area II and there is no USFWS-designated critical habitat for Braunton's milk-vetch within NASA areas. However, suitable vegetation and

the same soil type found within critical habitat in Area IV is present in Area I where chaparral and Venturan coastal sage scrub exists.

Activities associated with the removal of the buildings, slabs, and belowground structures in Area IV, TTF, RMHF, and HWMF closures, bedrock removal for Strontium-90, and impoundments post-closure will not have a substantial adverse effect either directly or through habitat modification on Braunton's milk-vetch or its designated critical habitat, since the location of these facilities are disturbed or developed and not within, or immediately adjacent to, areas providing suitable habitat. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Disturbances to these suitable habitats from the cleanup of the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant could result in direct impacts to Braunton's milk-vetch if recent focused surveys confirm presence. Implementation of the following mitigation measures will avoid and minimize direct or indirect impacts to Braunton's milk-vetch plants and impacts will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Braunton's Milk-Vetch

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

The DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal area contains approximately 2 acres with radionuclides above the preliminary LUT values in Area IV that is located within a known Braunton's milk-vetch population and designated critical habitat for this species. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-4 will avoid, minimize, and reduce impacts to Braunton's milk-vetch. However, since complete avoidance may not be possible due to the extent of soils above LUT values in Area IV, soil removal associated with DOE's initial activities could have a substantial adverse effect on Braunton's milk-vetch and its designated critical habitat, and, with implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts will be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Braunton's Milk-Vetch

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that the activities associated with the removal of the buildings, slabs, and belowground structures in Area IV, TTF, RMHF, and HWMF closures,

bedrock removal for Strontium-90, and impoundments post-closure will not impact Braunton's milk-vetch or its designated critical habitat, since these facilities are not located within, or immediately adjacent to, areas providing suitable habitat. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential substantial adverse effect either directly or through habitat modification on Braunton's milk-vetch or its designated critical habitat. With implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts to Braunton's milk-vetch from the cleanup of NASA's Liquid Oxygen Plant will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR, pp. 4.3-83 to 4.3-84.) However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the cleanup of the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal could result in a substantial adverse effect on Braunton's milk-vetch or its designated critical habitat. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-83.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, the initial activities will result in significant and unavoidable impacts to Braunton's milk-vetch or its designated critical habitat.

7.2.2 Sensitive or Special-Status Species

Impact 4.3-2a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup have a substantial adverse effect either directly or through habitat modification on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS?

Special-Status Plants

Some areas in which cleanup will occur support, or have the potential to support, a number of special-status species. If present, special-status plant or animal species could be temporarily displaced or inadvertently killed during project implementation. Indirect impacts to special-status plant species could result from the introduction of noxious weeds in proposed remediation areas from vehicles and equipment transporting non-native seed and plant parts from offsite locations. Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would minimize the spread of noxious weeds.

Special-status plant species known to be present within the project site include: Malibu baccharis, Catalina mariposa lily, slender mariposa lily, Plummer's mariposa lily, Santa Susana tarplant, and ocellated Humboldt lily.

Malibu baccharis occurs within undisturbed areas of northern mixed chaparral, as well as those that have previously burned within Area IV. Slender mariposa lily has been documented in Area II and the Northern Undeveloped Area, and Plummer's mariposa lily is known to occur within Area I, Area II, Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Area.

Vegetation disturbance or removal within chaparral, coastal scrub, or grassland areas associated with excavation of soil remediation areas, borrow areas, construction of infrastructure, or roadway improvements, could impact these rare and/or locally important plants, which is considered a potentially significant impact. Vegetation disturbance or removal could eliminate or otherwise damage the dormant seed bank and genetic diversity repository for Malibu baccharis. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-7, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant.

Catalina mariposa lilies were found in the Southern Undeveloped Area with some plants within the area being considered as a soil borrow site located on both sides of the existing unpaved access road that currently consists of annual grassland intermixed with laurel sumac scrub. In addition, populations have been observed within grasslands adjacent to northern mixed chaparral in the western end of Area IV, which may also be disturbed. Although Catalina mariposa lily is a CDFW “watch list species of limited distribution” and not currently considered by resource agencies to be rare, the loss of individuals may have an adverse effect on the sustainability of the local population, which is considered a potentially significant impact. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-7, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant.

Ocellated Humboldt lily was observed within the Southern Undeveloped Area and Area II. This species is a CDFW “watch list species of limited distribution” and not currently considered by resource agencies to be rare. Therefore, the potential permanent removal of this species on the project site will not drop the regional population below self-sustaining levels and impacts will be less than significant**.**

Other special-status plants with a moderate or high potential to occur onsite include western spleenwort, Brewer’s calandrinia, round-leaved filaree, club-haired mariposa lily, late-flowered mariposa lily, Peirson’s morning-glory, Lewis’ evening-primrose, Island mountain-mahogany, San Fernando Valley spineflower, Parry’s spineflower, small-flowered morning-glory, crowned forget-me-not, Norris’ beard moss, slender-horned spineflower, trask yerba santa, Palmer’s grapplinghook, vernal barley, mesa horkelia, decumbent goldenbush, tiny poppy, white-veined monardella, Ojai navarretia, chaparral nolina, Lyon’s pentachaeta, hubby’s phacelia, south coast branching phacelia, and California screw moss. These plant species have not been observed within Area I, Area III or Southern Undeveloped Area during a floristic survey conducted in 2014. There is potential that these special-status plants and others (i.e., Ventura County Locally Important Plants) could establish within areas of suitable habitat prior to the initiation of soil or groundwater remediation activities. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-7, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-86 to 4.3-89.)

Cleanup of the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant will remove or otherwise disturb habitat including coast live oak woodland, rock outcrop/vegetated, coast live oak woodland (riparian), mulefat scrub, chaparral, Venturan coastal sage scrub, and disturbed and developed areas. No suitable habitat (i.e., artificially created ponds/pools) for California red-legged frog or western pond turtle is present within the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant area. Therefore, no impacts to either species or their habitats will occur.

Special-Status Wildlife

A number of special-status wildlife species have been observed or detected at the project site during biological field surveys, and several have the potential to occur in areas not previously surveyed based on the presence of suitable habitats (Certified PEIR Table 4.3-4 and Certified PEIR Figure 4.3-5). The various ground disturbing activities could result in inadvertent mortality of common and special-status wildlife, as well as the temporal loss of foraging, breeding, and/or dispersal habitat.

Special-Status Invertebrates

Special-status invertebrates with a moderate or high potential to occur within the project site include the federally listed vernal pool fairy shrimp, Riverside fairy shrimp, Gertsch's socalchemmis spider, and Santa Monica grasshopper. In addition, invertebrates considered by Ventura County to be locally important species and potentially occur in the project site include Zaca shoulderband snail, Ventura shoulderband snail, Matilija shoulderband snail, and walking stick. As detailed in the Addendum, the Crotch's Bumble Bee (CBB) is a special-status invertebrate that has been observed at SSFL. Suitable habitat for CBB occurs within the grasslands, shrublands, and vegetated rock outcrop vegetation communities mapped onsite. This species has been observed at SSFL in fire-recovering coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats.

The cleanup areas may contain vernal pools and other seasonal aquatic features (including features such as footprints remaining from removed infrastructure) that provide suitable habitat for the two federally listed fairy shrimp species. If the federally listed species are present in habitats that have not been surveyed before, soil and groundwater cleanup activities could impact these species. Impacts to the federally listed fairy shrimp species are considered a significant impact. With implementation of this Mitigation Measure BIO-8, impacts will be less than significant.

Potential impacts to Gertsch's socalchemmis spider, Santa Monica grasshopper, Zaca shoulderband snail, Ventura shoulderband snail, Matilija shoulderband snail, and walking stick could occur within or near proposed cleanup areas. Cleanup activities are not expected to drop a species population to below self-sustaining levels given the vast amount of undisturbed open space within the Northern and Southern Undeveloped Areas, as well as adjacent lands outside of SSFL. With implementation of Mitigation

Measures BIO-6, BIO-9, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-89 to 4.3-90.)

CBB could be impacted by the disturbance or removal of vegetation that is suitable or occupied by CBB, particularly chaparral and Venturan coastal sage scrub. As the Certified PEIR concluded, implementation of BIO-6 (Revegetation Plan), BIO-9 (Special-Status Invertebrates), and Mitigation Measure BIO-20 (Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration), would require restoration of suitable habitat, seed collection/cuttings, and preconstruction capture and release surveys if special-status invertebrates, such as CBB, are detected. Additionally, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance) and BIO-24 (Crotch's Bumble Bee) would avoid and minimize impacts to CBB and their habitat and require appropriate authorization and mitigation for any impacts that cannot be avoided. Thus, impacts to CBB and their habitat would be less than significant with mitigation.

Special-Status Amphibians and Reptiles

While the population and distribution of spadefoot are unknown in the region, western spadefoot (toad) was observed on the site and potential suitable habitat exists within the project site. Direct impacts to this species include mortality or injury during cleanup activities or the temporary or permanent loss of breeding and/or burrowing habitat. Dewatering activities associated with groundwater remediation could impact western spadefoot by reducing soil moisture. Cleanup activities are not expected to drop this species population to below self-sustaining levels given the vast amount of undisturbed open space within the Northern and Southern Undeveloped Areas, as well as adjacent open space areas outside of SSFL. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-10, impacts will be less than significant.

California red-legged frog and western pond turtle have not been documented on the project site, but suitable habitat is present within a limited number of artificially created ponds and pools that can support ponded water. In addition, cleanup activities associated with dewatering of ponds in areas outside of California red-legged frog critical habitat could result in direct mortality or injury, as well as temporary habitat loss, resulting in a potentially significant impact if the species is determined to be present. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-11 and BIO-12, impacts will be less than significant.

Other special-status amphibians and reptiles, including silvery legless lizard, coastal western whiptail, San Bernardino ringneck snake, California mountain kingsnake, coast horned lizard, coast patch-nosed snake, and two-striped garter snake have all been documented within the project site. Although not previously observed, arboreal salamander and California glossy snake potentially occur in the project site as well. Potential impacts to these species could result from temporary or permanent habitat

loss and mortality or injury could also occur during cleanup activities. This impact is potentially significant considering the potential magnitude of the rescue/relocation effort necessary for a site this large. Cleanup activities are not expected to drop a species population to below self-sustaining levels given the vast amount of undisturbed open space within the Northern and Southern Undeveloped Areas, as well as adjacent lands outside of SSFL. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-12, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-90 to 4.3-91.)

Special-Status Birds

Numerous birds have been documented within and adjacent to the project site, including the state-fully protected golden eagle. The Northern Undeveloped Area is known to support an active golden eagle nest annually within a large sandstone outcrop. Remediation activities will avoid rock outcrops, and no direct impacts will occur to this known nest. Based on extensive bird surveys, no other golden eagle nests are present in the vicinity of the project site.

Cleanup activities such as vegetation removal and excavation could result in mortality or injury to nestlings, as well temporary or long-term loss of suitable nesting and foraging habitats. Cleanup activities are not expected to drop a species population to below self-sustaining levels given the vast amount of undisturbed open space within the Northern and Southern Undeveloped Areas, as well as Area IV and adjacent lands outside of SSFL. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-6, BIO-13, BIO-14, BIO-15, BIO-16, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-92.)

Special-Status Mammals

Special-status mammals that have been documented within the project site include ringtail, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, bobcat, San Diego desert woodrat, mule deer, Los Angeles little pocket mouse, mountain lion, pallid bat, Townsend’s big-eared bat, California mastiff bat, western red bat, hoary bat, California leaf-nosed bat, western small-foot myotis, and yuma myotis. Although not detected, spotted bat has a high potential to occur due to high-quality suitable habitat for this species in the project site.

Ringtail, a California fully protected species, has been observed at the project site. Cleanup activities will avoid rock outcroppings, but loss of habitat for ringtail could occur in the other habitats from disturbances to vegetation. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-17, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant.

Rock outcrops and crevices that serve as potential bat day-roost or maternity-roost sites will be avoided. Potential direct impacts to other types of day-roosts or maternity-roosts such as suitable trees and abandoned buildings will occur as a result of vegetation

clearance or building demolition. Therefore, with implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-18, impacts will be less than significant.

Potential impacts to San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, bobcat, San Diego desert woodrat, mule deer, and Los Angeles little pocket mouse may occur as result of habitat loss, or direct mortality or injury during ground disturbing activities. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-12, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant**.**

Mountain lions, which have been observed passing through the project site, use a variety of habitats, including rock outcroppings, canyons, woodlands and forests, but prefer riparian and brushy areas. Cleanup activities will avoid rock outcroppings, but loss of habitat for mountain lions could occur in other habitats from disturbances to vegetation. Injury or mortality to mountain lions resulting from cleanup activities are not expected, as work will primarily occur during the day, and this species is nocturnal and thus most active at night. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-6, BIO-20, and BIO-25 impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-92 to 4.3-94 and Addendum.)

In summary, with implementation of mitigation measures, impacts to sensitive-status wildlife (including special-status invertebrates, special status amphibians and reptiles, special-status birds, and special status mammals) will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. Different mitigation measures apply depending on the wildlife species as discussed above.

Overall, impacts to special status species from the activities listed above would be less than significant with implementation of the following mitigation measures:

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Special-Status Plants

Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Vernal Pool Branchiopods

Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Special-Status Invertebrates

Mitigation Measure BIO-10: Western Spadefoot

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-13: Burrowing Owl

Mitigation Measure BIO-14: Least Bell’s Vireo

Mitigation Measure BIO-15: Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: Avian Protection Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-17: Ringtail

Mitigation Measure BIO-18: Special-Status Bats

Mitigation Measure BIO-20: Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration

Mitigation Measure BIO-22: Wildlife Movement

Mitigation Measure BIO-24: Crotch's Bumble Bee

Mitigation Measure BIO-25: Mountain Lion Natal Den Survey and Avoidance

Santa Susana tarplant, which is a special-status plant species, is prevalent onsite, with the majority of the population occurring within Areas I, II, and III. This species is primarily associated with sandstone outcrops in chaparral and coastal scrub, in addition to disturbed areas. Cleanup activities will not occur within sandstone outcrops. However, recolonization of this species has occurred in formerly developed areas that have been revegetated within Area I. Since Santa Susana tarplant is scattered throughout the project site and not concentrated in any one area, it is expected that some individuals could be impacted by soil remediation activities. Santa Susana tarplant has been shown to require insect pollination in order to produce viable seeds, and it relies upon native insects (typically bees); therefore, any direct impacts to Santa Susana tarplant habitat could also impact habitat for insect pollinators. In addition, areas currently supporting soil conditions suitable for this species that will be disturbed by remediation operations may be replaced with soil from offsite sources, which may permanently affect the re-establishment of this species, thus making reseeding ineffective. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 requires worker environmental training to help workers identify and avoid Santa Susana tarplant. Mitigation Measure BIO-5 requires Santa Susana tarplant habitat restoration and revegetation to promote the re-establishment of species that would be permanently removed, and it requires obtainment of an incidental take permit from CDFW and mandatory mitigation for any impacts to this species. For purposes of this analysis and making a significance determination, it is assumed that the AOC exceptions would not be applied. Therefore, impacts to Santa Susana tarplant populations located within remediation areas will be significant and unavoidable.

While the implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce some impacts, impacts related to Santa Susana tarplant will remain significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Santa Susana Tarplant

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential substantial adverse effect either directly or through habitat modification on species discussed above that are identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-86 to 4.3-94.) With the implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts to sensitive or special-status species will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential substantial adverse effect either directly or through habitat modification on the Santa Susana tarplant, which is a special-status species. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-86 to 4.3-88.) With implementation of the mitigation measures, overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable impacts to Santa Susana tarplant.

Impact 4.3-2b: Would implementation of the initial activities have a substantial adverse effect either directly or through habitat modification on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS?

DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal

The DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal will remove or otherwise disturb habitat including chaparral, Venturan coastal sage scrub, mulefat scrub, coast live oak riparian forest, coast live oak woodland, California walnut woodland, grassland, rock outcrop/vegetated, and disturbed and developed areas.

Special-Status Plants

The special-status plant species impacted in Area IV are similar to those identified for the overall site cleanup, above. Potential impacts to special-status plant species include permanent removal of individual plants during soil excavation, removal or damage to any seed banks, and introduction of noxious weeds, as described for the overall site cleanup. Indirect impacts to special-status plant species could result from the introduction of noxious weeds in proposed remediation areas from vehicles and equipment transporting non-native seed and plant parts from offsite locations.

Approximately 0.2 acres of habitat occupied by Malibu baccharis could be directly impacted as a result of DOE's initial project. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-6, and BIO-7 would avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to Malibu baccharis and impacts would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-4, BIO-6, BIO-7, and BIO-20 impacts to special-status plants, with the exception of Santa Susana tarplant (discussed below), will be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-94 to 4.3-95.)

Special-Status Wildlife

Special-Status Invertebrates

No special-status invertebrates have been documented within DOE's initial project soil removal area although focused surveys have not been conducted. Special-status invertebrates with a moderate or high potential to occur include the federally listed vernal pool fairy shrimp and Riverside fairy shrimp, Gertsch's socalchemmis spider, and Santa Monica grasshopper. In addition, invertebrates considered by Ventura County to be locally important species and potentially occur in the project site include Zaca shoulderband snail, Ventura shoulderband snail, Matilija shoulderband snail, and walking stick.

Depressions or other seasonally ponded features that provide suitable habitat for two federally listed fairy shrimp species could be directly or indirectly impacted, resulting in a potentially significant impact. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-8, impacts will be less than significant.

Potential impacts to Gertsch's socalchemmis spider, Santa Monica grasshopper, Zaca shoulderband snail, Ventura shoulderband snail, Matilija shoulderband snail, and walking stick could occur within or near soil removal areas. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-9, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-94 to 4.3-96.)

Per the Addendum, the CBB could be impacted by the disturbance or removal of vegetation that is suitable or occupied by CBB. As the Certified PEIR concluded, implementation of BIO-6, BIO-9, and BIO-20 would require restoration of suitable habitat, seed collection/cuttings, and preconstruction capture and release surveys if special-status invertebrates, such as CBB, are detected. Additionally, implementation of BIO-1 and BIO-24 would avoid and minimize impacts to CBB and their habitat and require appropriate authorization and mitigation for any impacts that cannot be avoided. Thus, impacts to CBB would be less than significant.

Special-Status Amphibians and Reptiles

Potential suitable habitat for Western Spadefoot exists within the soil removal areas including depressions and flat areas consisting of grasslands and disturbed areas (e.g., dirt access roads) capable of supporting pools after rain events. Direct impacts to this species include mortality or injury during cleanup activities or the temporary or permanent loss of breeding and/or burrowing habitat. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-10, impacts will be less than significant.

No suitable habitat for California red-legged frog or western pond turtle is present within the DOE initial project area. Therefore, no impacts to either species or their habitats will occur as a result of soil removal within the initial DOE project area.

Silvery legless lizard, coastal western whiptail, San Bernardino ringneck snake, coast horned lizard, coast patch-nosed snake, and two-striped garter snake have all been documented within the project site, and some of these species have been documented in Area IV. Although not previously observed, arboreal salamander and California glossy snake potentially occur within or near the soil removal areas as well. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-12, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-96 to 4.3-97.)

Special-Status Birds

An active golden eagle nest is known to occupy a large sandstone outcrop within the Northern Undeveloped Area, adjacent to DOE's initial project area. Soil removal activities will avoid rock outcrops and no impacts will occur to this known nest. Based on extensive bird surveys, no other golden eagle nests are present in the vicinity of the project site.

Other special-status bird species that have the potential to occur in or near the soil removal areas based on the affected habitats include Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, southern California rufous crowned sparrow, Bell's sage sparrow, burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, yellow warbler, white-tailed kite, American peregrine falcon, yellow-breasted chat, loggerhead shrike, coastal California gnatcatcher, and least Bell's vireo. Vegetation removal and excavation could result in mortality or injury to nestlings, as well as temporary or long-term loss of suitable nesting and foraging habitats. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-6, BIO-13, BIO-14, BIO-15, and BIO-20 impacts to special-status birds are considered less than significant. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-97.)

Special-Status Mammals

Special-status mammals that have been documented within the project site that could potentially be found within or near the DOE's initial project soil removal areas based on

the affected habitats include ringtail, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, bobcat, San Diego desert woodrat, mule deer, Los Angeles little pocket mouse, mountain lion, and a variety of special-status bats.

Soil removal activities will avoid rock outcroppings, but loss of habitat for ringtail, a California fully protected species, could potentially occur in the other habitats from disturbances to vegetation. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-17, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant.

Within the DOE initial project area soil removal areas, potential foraging habitat for special-status bats including pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, California mastiff bat, western red bat, hoary bat, California leaf-nosed bat, western small-foot myotis, yuma myotis, and spotted bat could be removed. However, suitable foraging habitat for these species is available within and in the vicinity of the soil removal areas, such as the canyon drainages north of the Northern Undeveloped Area. Therefore, temporary impacts to foraging habitat will be less than significant.

Soil removal will avoid rock outcrops and crevices that serve as potential bat day roost or maternity roost sites. Limited potential day or maternity roosting habitat for hoary bat and western red bat occurs within the coast live oak riparian forest habitat, and potential direct impacts could occur as a result of vegetation clearance. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-18, impacts will be less than significant.

Potential impacts to San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, bobcat, San Diego desert woodrat, mule deer, and Los Angeles little pocket mouse may occur as a result of habitat loss, or direct mortality or injury during ground disturbing activities in DOE's initial project area. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-12, and BIO-20 impacts to these species will be less than significant.

Potential impacts to mountain lion habitat may occur as a result of habitat loss during ground disturbing activities in DOE's initial project area. Cleanup activities will avoid rock outcroppings, but loss of habitat for mountain lion could occur in other habitats from disturbances to vegetation. Injury or mortality to mountain lions resulting from cleanup activities are not expected, as work will primarily occur during the day, and this species is nocturnal and thus most active at night. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-6, BIO-20, and BIO-25, impacts to mountain lions will be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-97 to 4.3-99 and Addendum.)

NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant

Cleanup of the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant will remove or otherwise disturb habitat including coast live oak woodland, rock outcrop/vegetated, coast live oak woodland

(riparian), mulefat scrub, chaparral, Venturan coastal sage scrub, and disturbed and developed areas.

Special-Status Plants

The special-status plant species that could be impacted by NASA's initial project are similar to those identified for the overall site cleanup (Impact 4.3-1a). Potential impacts to special-status plant species include permanent removal of individual plants during soil excavation, removal or damage to any seed banks and insect pollinator habitats, and introduction of noxious weeds. While Santa Susana tarplant and Malibu baccharis have not been documented in the LOX area, direct impacts to tarplant could occur if recent focused surveys confirmed presence. Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-4, and BIO-5 will minimize impacts to Santa Susana tarplant if surveys confirmed presence. Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-4, BIO-6, and BIO-7 will minimize impacts to Malibu baccharis if surveys confirmed presence. Therefore, impacts will be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-4, BIO-6, and BIO-7 impacts to other special-status plants will be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-99 to 4.3-100.)

Special-Status Wildlife

Special-Status Invertebrates

Special-status invertebrates have been documented within the NASA initial project soil removal area although, with the exception of Quino checkerspot butterfly, focused surveys have not been conducted. Special-status invertebrates with a moderate or high potential to occur include the federally listed vernal pool fairy shrimp and Riverside fairy shrimp, Gertsch's socalchemmis spider, and Santa Monica grasshopper. In addition, invertebrates considered by Ventura County to be locally important species and potentially occur in the project site include Zaca shoulderband snail, Ventura shoulderband snail, Matilija shoulderband snail, and walking stick. As detailed in the Addendum, if CBB are found, implementation of BIO-1 and BIO-24 would avoid and minimize impacts to CBB and their habitat. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-8, BIO-9, and BIO-20 will reduce potential impacts to special-status invertebrates to less than significant. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-100.)

Special-Status Amphibians and Reptiles

Cleanup of the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant will remove or otherwise disturb habitat including coast live oak woodland, rock outcrop/vegetated, coast live oak woodland (riparian), mulefat scrub, chaparral, Venturan coastal sage scrub, and disturbed and developed areas. No suitable habitat (i.e., artificially created ponds/pools) for California red-legged frog or western pond turtle is present within the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant area. Therefore, no impacts to either species or their habitats will occur.

Potential suitable habitat for western spadefoot exists within the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant area. Direct impacts to this species could include mortality or injury during cleanup activities or the temporary or permanent loss of breeding and/or burrowing habitat. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-10, which requires habitat assessments for any sites containing suitable breeding and nearby burrowing habitat and avoidance during the active and breeding season to ensure no mortality to this species occurs, impacts will be less than significant.

Based on habitats in the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant area, potential impacts to silvery legless lizard, coastal western whiptail, San Bernardino ringneck snake, California mountain kingsnake, coast horned lizard, coast patch-nosed snake, two-striped garter snake, arboreal salamander, and California glossy snake could occur. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-12, and BIO-20, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-100.)

Special-Status Birds

Special-status bird species that have the potential to occur in or near the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant area include Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, southern California rufous crowned sparrow, Bell's sage sparrow, burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, yellow warbler, white-tailed kite, American peregrine falcon, yellow-breasted chat, loggerhead shrike, coastal California gnatcatcher, and least Bell's vireo. Vegetation removal and excavation could result in mortality or injury to nestlings, as well as temporary or long-term loss of suitable nesting and foraging habitats. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-6, BIO-13 through BIO-16, and BIO-20 impacts to special-status birds will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-100.)

Special-Status Mammals

Special-status mammals that have been documented within the project site that would potentially be found within or near the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant based on the affected habitats include ringtail, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, bobcat, San Diego desert woodrat, mule deer, Los Angeles little pocket mouse, mountain lion and a variety of special-status bats.

Potential impacts to ringtail could occur from loss of habitat from disturbances to vegetation. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-17, impacts will be less than significant.

While potential foraging habitat for special-status bats could be removed from woodland, rock outcrops/vegetated, chaparral, and scrub habitats, suitable foraging habitat for these species is available within and in the vicinity. Therefore, temporary impacts to foraging habitat will be less than significant. Potential direct impacts to roosting habitat could occur as a result of vegetation clearance. With implementation of

Mitigation Measures BIO-6, BIO-12, BIO-18, and BIO-20 impacts will be less than significant.

Potential impacts to mountain lion habitat could occur as result of habitat loss during ground disturbing activities. Cleanup activities will avoid rock outcroppings, but loss of habitat for mountain lions could occur in other habitats from disturbances to vegetation. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-6, BIO-20, and BIO-25, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-101 to 4.3-102 and Addendum.)

Area IV Demolition Activities

DOE slabs and belowground structures and Boeing buildings in Area IV that will be demolished are all located within currently developed areas, most of which do not support any vegetation and likewise do not provide habitat for special-status plants or special-status wildlife species. Demolition of buildings and infrastructure will potentially impact nesting birds or roosting bats. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-12, BIO-16, and BIO-18, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-102.)

RCRA Post-Closure and Hazardous Waste Facility Closure

Cleanup activities related to the RCRA Post-Closure and Hazardous Waste Facility Closure involves demolition of buildings and infrastructure, along with minimal sampling, excavation and disposal of TTF soils and debris. These facilities are within currently disturbed or developed areas that do not provide habitat for special-status plants or special-status wildlife. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-12, BIO-16, and BIO-18, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-102 to 4.3-103.)

Areas I, II, and III Impoundment Post-Closure

The impoundment facilities are located in developed or disturbed areas that do not provide suitable habitat for special-status plants or wildlife. Activities associated with the NASA and Boeing impoundments include removal of contaminated soil in and immediately around the impoundments. Common terrestrial wildlife species that move into removal or maintenance areas could be killed or injured by equipment or vehicles. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, and BIO-12, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR p. 4.3-103.)

Bedrock Removal for Strontium-90

The permitted RMHF features where bedrock removal will occur are located within currently developed areas that do not support any vegetation and likewise do not provide habitat for special-status plants or special-status wildlife species. Common terrestrial wildlife species that could move into the work area could potentially be killed

or injured as a result of bedrock material being blasted into adjacent habitat areas and/or by use of equipment or vehicles. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-12 would minimize potential impacts to terrestrial wildlife that would be encountered.

Subsurface blasting associated with bedrock removal activities would potentially impact avian species that could be nesting in the vicinity of the blast area. Blasting activities could result in nest abandonment/failure. Mitigation Measure BIO-16 would minimize impacts to any active nests that may be in the area.

Areas surrounding the bedrock removal areas include chaparral habitat and vegetated rock outcrops that can support special-status species such as San Bernardino ring-neck snake. The potential for bedrock to be blasted to these adjacent habitats could result in injury or mortality to special-status species or other terrestrial wildlife. Noise-related impacts could disrupt sleep patterns of ringtail or roosting of special-status bats. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-17, BIO-18, and BIO-22, impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-103 to 4.3-104.)

Overall, with the implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts from the initial activities discussed above on sensitive-status species would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Special-Status Plants

Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Vernal Pool Branchiopods

Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Special-Status Invertebrates

Mitigation Measure BIO-10: Western Spadefoot

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-13: Burrowing Owl

Mitigation Measure BIO-14: Least Bell’s Vireo

Mitigation Measure BIO-15: Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: Avian Protection Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-17: Ringtail

Mitigation Measure BIO-18: Special-Status Bats

Mitigation Measure BIO-20: Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration

Mitigation Measure BIO-22: Wildlife Movement

Mitigation Measure BIO-24: Crotch's Bumble Bee

Mitigation Measure BIO-25: Mountain Lion Natal Den Survey and Avoidance

DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal

The DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal will remove or otherwise disturb approximately 23 acres of habitat including chaparral, Venturan coastal sage scrub, mulefat scrub, coast live oak riparian forest, coast live oak woodland, California walnut woodland, grassland, rock outcrop/vegetated, and disturbed and developed areas. Potential impacts to special-status plant species include permanent removal of individual plants during soil excavation, removal or damage to any seed banks, and introduction of noxious weeds. Approximately 3.6 acres of habitat occupied by Santa Susana tarplant could be directly impacted as a result of D O E's initial project. While implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to sensitive habitats, impacts to Santa Susana tarplant populations are considered significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Santa Susana Tarplant

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential substantial adverse effect either directly or through habitat modification on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-94 to 4.3-104.) With the implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, impacts from the initial activities on sensitive-status species and wildlife from the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal (except Santa Susana tarplant), NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant, Area IV Demolition Activities, RCRA Post-Closure and Hazardous Waste Facility Closure, Areas I, II, and III Impoundment Post-Closure, and Bedrock Removal for Strontium-90 will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the potential substantial adverse effect either

directly or through habitat modification on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-94 to 4.3-95.) However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, impacts to the Santa Susana tarplant from the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal will be significant and unavoidable.

7.2.3 Riparian Habitats and Other Sensitive Communities

Impact 4.3-3a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup 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 CDFW or USFWS?

Soil remediation activities will occur within various aquatic/riparian habitats, as well as sensitive upland habitats, including chaparral, coast live oak woodland, southern California walnut woodland, Venturan coastal sage scrub, steep dipslope grassland, and vegetated rock outcrops. Potential impacts to aquatic and riparian habitats resulting from soil cleanup activities include disturbance or loss of sensitive habitat, as well as alterations to site hydrology (i.e., soil removal or grading along or near stream channels) which, in turn, will impact additional habitat areas offsite and/or downstream. The removal or disturbance of sensitive communities would result in temporary indirect impacts to wildlife during site cleanup activities, such as a loss of nesting and/or foraging habitat for common and special-status birds and terrestrial species, as discussed under Impact 4.3-2a.[6] Since the exact sources of backfill are unknown at this time and because soil excavation followed by backfilling and restoration would still likely result in decreased ecological complexity and functionality of habitats in comparison to existing conditions, direct impacts to sensitive natural communities are considered a permanent impact even with habitat restoration.

The overall site cleanup could result in a permanent loss of riparian and sensitive natural communities despite implementation of habitat revegetation (Mitigation Measure BIO-6). While implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, the overall site cleanup could have a significant effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by CDFW or USFWS. Potential impacts would be significant and unavoidable**.**

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

[6] The Draft PEIR incorrectly cites to Impact 4.3-1b, which is corrected herein.

Mitigation Measure BIO-19: Sensitive Habitats

Mitigation Measure BIO-20: Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially substantial adverse effects on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by CDFW or USFWS. However, even with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, implementation of the overall site cleanup will result in substantial adverse effects on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-104 to 4.3-107.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable effects on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities.

Impact 4.3-3b: Would implementation of the initial activities 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 CDFW or USFWS?

Various sensitive upland and riparian habitats could be affected by soil removal and remediation activities with the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal (Certified PEIR Table 4.3-9). The majority of the habitat that could be affected by soil removal consists of chaparral and coast live oak woodland. The removal or disturbance of sensitive natural communities could result in the loss of nesting and/or foraging habitat for common and special-status bird and terrestrial species. Mitigation Measure BIO-6, BIO-19, and BIO-20 reduce impacts to native vegetation communities. However, since the exact sources of backfill are unknown at this time, and because soil excavation followed by backfilling and restoration could result in decreased ecological complexity and functionality of habitats in comparison to existing conditions, direct impacts to sensitive natural communities are considered a permanent impact even with habitat restoration requirements and implementation of applicable mitigation measures and impacts are significant and unavoidable.

Various sensitive aquatic/riparian, and upland habitats could be affected by cleanup of the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant (Certified PEIR Table 4.3-10). The majority of the habitat that could be affected consists of chaparral and Venturan coastal sage scrub. The removal or disturbance of sensitive communities could result in the loss of nesting and/or foraging habitat for common and special-status bird and terrestrial species. Since the exact sources of backfill are unknown at this time, and an estimated 30 percent of excavated soil will be backfilled within NASA areas after soil removal, direct impacts to sensitive natural communities are considered a permanent impact. While the following

mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts resulting from the initial activities, impacts will remain significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-19: Sensitive Habitats

Mitigation Measure BIO-20: Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially substantial adverse effects on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by CDFW or USFWS. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the initial activities (DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal and NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant) will result in substantial adverse effects on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-107 to 4.3-110.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, the initial activities will result in significant and unavoidable effects on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities:

7.2.4 Protected Wetlands and Waters

Impact 4.3-4a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup have a substantial adverse effect on federally or state protected wetlands and waters through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other measures?

Federally and/or state-protected wetlands and waters within the project site may include streams and drainages (i.e., riverine habitat), ponds/open water, seeps, vernal pools, marshes and other wetlands, and riparian vegetation. Impacts to these potential jurisdictional resources resulting from soil cleanup activities include disturbance or loss of habitat, as well as alterations to site hydrology resulting from soil removal, grading along or near stream channels, and/or backfilling, which, in turn, could impact additional habitat areas offsite and/or downstream. Mitigation Measure BIO-21 will reduce impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters. However, since the exact sources of backfill are unknown at this time and the extent of backfill is not yet determined, direct impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters are considered a permanent impact even with compensatory mitigation.

Indirect impacts to aquatic and riparian habitats could occur as a result of groundwater remediation activities since pumping of groundwater for treatment would lower the existing groundwater table and thus possibly reduce the current available groundwater supply that may support (at least in part) aquatic and riparian habitats, as well as some

upland plant species. While treated water may be injected back into the aquifer thereby resulting in no change to the groundwater supply, impacts to aquatic and riparian habitats will be less than significant. However, aquatic (i.e., seeps) and riparian habitats located in or near the groundwater plumes identified for cleanup will, to some extent, rely on current groundwater sources. Therefore, if this groundwater source is pumped out of the aquifer for treatment and discharged into one of the outfalls (and not reinjected back into the aquifer), aquatic and riparian habitats could be impacted as a result of reduced groundwater supply and/or soil moisture. Limited areas of riverine, open water, wetland, coast live oak riparian woodland, and southern willow scrub occur over known groundwater plumes, and impacts to these federally and/or state-protected habitats could be potentially significant.

Once the cleanup requirements are reached, the groundwater extraction system(s) will be removed and groundwater pumping terminated, which will allow groundwater levels to return to natural, pre-pumping levels. Therefore, there would be minimal net deficit in aquifer volume or lowering of the local groundwater table. Any indirect effects to sensitive habitats resulting from temporary groundwater impacts will be taken into consideration when determining compensatory mitigation during the permitting process (Mitigation Measure BIO-21).

Indirect impacts to jurisdictional habitats could also result from the spread of noxious weeds. Mitigation Measure BIO-4 will minimize the spread of noxious weeds to jurisdictional habitats that could occur as a result of vehicles and heavy machinery transporting materials. In addition, drilling muds can be hazardous to wildlife and jurisdictional wetlands or waters if the mud reaches stream channels. The installation of the treated water injection well or soil vapor wells will not use mud rotary drilling methods since the mud would clog up the aquifer pore spaces and restrict injection. Therefore, no indirect impacts to wildlife or jurisdictional wetlands or waters resulting from the use of drilling muds will occur. However, while the following mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts from the overall site cleanup, impacts will remain significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-21: Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to a potentially adverse effect on federally or state protected wetlands and waters through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other measures. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the overall site cleanup could result in an adverse effect on protected wetlands and waters. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-112 to 4.3-114.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures,

overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable impact on protected wetlands and water.

7.2.5 Local Policies or Ordinances

Impact 4.3-6a: Would the overall site cleanup conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or locally important species or communities?

Potential impacts associated with cleanup activities could conflict with local goals, objectives and policies that include the Ventura County Tree Protection Ordinance, Ventura County Oak Woodlands Management Plan, and the Ventura County General Plan. Potential impacts to protected trees include tree removal, trimming, or grading/excavating within the root zone, which are regulated activities under the Ventura County Tree Protection Ordinance. Tree removal will result in a permanent impact, while trimming or disturbance within the tree's protective zone is considered a temporary impact.

Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-25 will be implemented to reduce potential impacts to significant biological resources, as identified by County policies, to less than significant. However, DTSC has not yet determined specifically where to apply AOC exceptions to protect resources, which will be determined during review of the various cleanup decision documents. For purposes of this analysis and making a significance determination, it is assumed that the AOC exception will not be applied. Therefore, while implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce potential conflicts with local policies or ordinances, such as tree removal, trimming, or grading/excavating within the root zone, impacts are considered significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Braunton's Milk-Vetch

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Santa Susana Tarplant

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Special-Status Plants

Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Vernal Pool Branchiopods

Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Special-Status Invertebrates

Mitigation Measure BIO-10: Western Spadefoot

Mitigation Measure BIO-11: California Red-Legged Frog

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-13: Burrowing Owl

Mitigation Measure BIO-14: Least Bell's Vireo

Mitigation Measure BIO-15: Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: Avian Protection Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-17: Ringtail

Mitigation Measure BIO-18: Special-Status Bats

Mitigation Measure BIO-19: Sensitive Habitats

Mitigation Measure BIO-20: Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration

Mitigation Measure BIO-21: Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters

Mitigation Measure BIO-22: Wildlife Movement

Mitigation Measure BIO-23: Tree Protection

Mitigation Measure BIO-24: Crotch's Bumble Bee

Mitigation Measure BIO-25: Mountain Lion Natal Den Survey and Avoidance

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to potential conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or locally important species or communities. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the overall site cleanup could still conflict with Ventura County's General Plan due to the potential for impacts to biological resources. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-121 to 4.3-122.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable impacts on the physical environment related to potential conflicts with applicable Ventura County General Plan biological resource policies.

Impact 4.3-6b: Would the initial activities conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or locally important species or communities?

Cleanup activities in the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant area will be conducted with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-4, BIO-6 through BIO-10,

and BIO-12 through BIO-25. Therefore, potential conflicts with local policies or ordinances will not result in significant effects on the physical environment and impacts will be less than significant.

Area IV demolition activities, and cleanup associated with the RCRA Post-Closure and Hazardous Waste Facility Closure, and the NASA and Boeing impoundments will not directly impact protected trees or sensitive habitats (including oak woodlands) since the cleanup will occur within disturbed or developed areas. Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-12, BIO-16, BIO-18, and BIO-22 will reduce potential impacts to other significant biological resources, such as nesting birds and roosting bats, to less than significant. Therefore, potential conflicts with local policies or ordinances will not result in significant effects on the physical environment and impacts will be less than significant.

Removal of bedrock containing strontium-90 will not directly impact protected trees or sensitive habitats (including oak woodlands) since the activity will occur within currently unvegetated, developed areas. Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-12, BIO-16, BIO-17, BIO-18, and BIO-22 will reduce potential impacts to other significant biological resources to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, potential conflicts with local policies or ordinances will be less than significant.

In summary, with implementation of the following mitigation measures the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant, Area IV demolition, RCRA Post-Closure and Hazardous Waste Facility Closure and the NASA and Boeing impoundment cleanup activities will not conflict with local policies or ordinances and impacts will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Braunton’s Milk-Vetch

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Special-Status Plants

Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Vernal Pool Branchiopods

Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Special-Status Invertebrates

Mitigation Measure BIO-10: Western Spadefoot

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-13: Burrowing Owl

Mitigation Measure BIO-14: Least Bell’s Vireo

Mitigation Measure BIO-15: Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: Avian Protection Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-17: Ringtail

Mitigation Measure BIO-18: Special-Status Bats

Mitigation Measure BIO-19: Sensitive Habitats

Mitigation Measure BIO-20: Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration

Mitigation Measure BIO-21: Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters

Mitigation Measure BIO-22: Wildlife Movement

Mitigation Measure BIO-23: Tree Protection

Mitigation Measure BIO-24: Crotch's Bumble Bee

Mitigation Measure BIO-25: Mountain Lion Natal Den Survey and Avoidance

Cleanup activities associated with DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal will be conducted with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-10, and BIO-12 through BIO-25. In addition, Mitigation Measure BIO-23 will ensure protection of locally protected trees. However, as complete avoidance of conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources is not possible due to the extent of soils above LUT values in Area IV, soil removal associated with this initial activity will have a substantial adverse effect on biological resources. Therefore, potential conflicts with local policies or ordinances that may result in effects on the physical environment are considered significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Braunton's Milk-Vetch

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Weed Management Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Santa Susana Tarplant

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Special-Status Plants

Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Vernal Pool Branchiopods

Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Special-Status Invertebrates

Mitigation Measure BIO-10: Western Spadefoot

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-13: Burrowing Owl

Mitigation Measure BIO-14: Least Bell's Vireo

Mitigation Measure BIO-15: Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: Avian Protection Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-17: Ringtail

Mitigation Measure BIO-18: Special-Status Bats

Mitigation Measure BIO-19: Sensitive Habitats

Mitigation Measure BIO-20: Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration

Mitigation Measure BIO-21: Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters

Mitigation Measure BIO-22: Wildlife Movement

Mitigation Measure BIO-23: Tree Protection

Mitigation Measure BIO-24: Crotch's Bumble Bee

Mitigation Measure BIO-25: Mountain Lion Natal Den Survey and Avoidance

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or locally important species or communities. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.3-123 to 4.3-125.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, the initial activities discussed above will result in less than significant impacts on the physical environment related to conflicts with applicable Ventura County General Plan biological resource policies.

DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or locally important species or communities. However, even with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal will conflict with Ventura County's General Plan due to the potential for impacts to biological resources. (Certified

PEIR pp. 4.3-122 to 4.3-123.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, this initial activity will result in significant and unavoidable impacts on the physical environment related to conflicts with applicable Ventura County General Plan biological resource policies.

7.3 Cultural Resources

Section 4.4 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to cultural resources that may result from implementation of the project. For purposes of the Certified PEIR, the estimated acreages and soil volumes evaluated in the Certified PEIR for cleanup do not account for application of any AOC exceptions given the uncertainty as to where these exceptions would apply. DTSC, in coordination with the appropriate regulatory agencies and tribes, will make decisions on whether and, if so, how to apply cultural resources exceptions as part of the cleanup decision documents.

7.3.1 Archaeological Resources

Impact 4.4-1a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?

The Certified PEIR evaluated archaeological resources on or immediately adjacent to the project site. The Simi Hills Archaeological District (District) within the project site has been evaluated as eligible for listing in the NRHP and CRHR under Criteria A/1, C/3, and D/4. Contributors to the significance of the District must retain sufficient integrity to contribute, or have the potential to contribute, information to regional research themes, such as the understanding of local patterns of prehistoric settlement and subsistence, prehistoric lithic technology, and prehistoric rock art in the Simi Hills, in particular through the presence of archaeological data and to the resource's spatial relationships to other resources and to the environment. All of the identified prehistoric sites and the prehistoric components of the multicomponent archaeological sites within the project site are contributors to the significance of the District and are therefore considered historical resources under CEQA. Because isolates lack contextual information necessary to address regional research questions, isolates are not considered contributors to the District. Although archaeological resources were identified throughout the project site, not all resources have been evaluated.

As a result of the overall site cleanup activities, which will include vegetation removal, establishment of staging areas, operation of vehicles, and excavation, direct impacts to resources could occur. If any future individual cleanup were to impact any of the known

archaeological resources that qualify as historical resources or any of the known unevaluated archaeological resources that are subsequently demonstrated to qualify as historical resources for individual listing, the overall cleanup will result in a significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-5, and CUL-7 will avoid, minimize, or reduce impacts to known individual archaeological resources. While implementation of these mitigation measures will reduce impacts to archaeological resources, the overall site cleanup could still have a significant effect on archeological resources.

In addition, the project could result in potentially significant indirect impacts resulting from a change in the historical setting of significant resources from soil removal or disturbances to resources caused by erosion or by an increased number of vehicles and personnel at the site that expose or damage archaeological resources. Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-5 and CUL-7, as well as implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-8, will minimize or reduce some long-term and indirect impacts to historical resources and unique archaeological resources. However, these measures may not mitigate indirect impacts to individual known archaeological resources to a less-than-significant level, and impacts would be significant and unavoidable.

Because the overall site cleanup could cause direct and indirect impacts to the known District contributors, the overall site cleanup could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of the District. The District is a non-renewable resource and possesses significant archaeological, cultural, and educational value to our understanding of the lifeways of Native American inhabitants of the region and prehistoric settlement and subsistence patterns in the Simi Hills. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-5 and CUL-7 through CUL-10 will avoid, minimize, reduce, or compensate for the impact of the overall site cleanup on the District. However, because impacts to archaeological sites that contribute to the significance of the District could result in damage to the integrity of the District and a loss of data to adequately inform relevant regional research themes, impacts to the District may not be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, impacts will be significant and unavoidable.

Ground-disturbing activities associated with the overall site cleanup have the potential to cause substantial adverse changes to unknown archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources, either individually, or that may be significant as a contributor to the District. Any demolition, destruction, or alteration of such resources during or after the discovery process could result in significant impacts. While implementation of the following mitigation measures will minimize or reduce potentially significant impacts to historical resources in the event of inadvertent discovery, avoidance of impacts to unknown archaeological resources encountered during construction is often not feasible as resources are in most instances

irreversibly impacted during the discovery process. Data recovery as mitigation for historical resources that are eligible for the CRHR under Criterion 4 in that they derive their significance from their scientific value or data potential, may effectively mitigate impacts to a less-than-significant level. However, since these measures may not mitigate impacts to a less-than-significant level, particularly if a resource is found to be individually eligible for the CRHR under Criteria 1, 2, or 3 or as a contributor to the District, impacts of the overall site cleanup to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources will be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Cultural Resources Personnel Professional Qualifications Standard

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Worker Cultural Resources Sensitivity Program

Mitigation Measure CUL-4: Avoidance and Preservation in Place

Mitigation Measure CUL-5: Archaeological and Native American Monitoring

Mitigation Measure CUL-6: Inadvertent Discovery of Potential Historical Resources and Unique Archaeological Resources

Mitigation Measure CUL-7: Curation of Project Materials

Mitigation Measure CUL-8: Annual Site Condition Verification

Mitigation Measure CUL-9: Comprehensive District Study and National Register Nomination

Mitigation Measure CUL-10: Burro Flats Site Complex Documentation and National Register Nomination

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. While implementation of all feasible mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, the overall site cleanup could still result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resources. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.4-99 to 4.4-104.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, overall site cleanup could result in significant and unavoidable impacts to cultural resources.

Impact 4.4-1b: Would implementation of the initial activities cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?

DOE's initial activity of radiological and contiguous chemically contaminated soil removal in Area IV and bedrock blasting/removal for Strontium-90 overlaps with four archaeological sites (CA-VEN-1302, -1412, -1420, and -1775). Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-5, CUL-7, and CUL-8 will avoid, minimize, or reduce impacts to the three known individually eligible archaeological resources to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.4-104 to 4.4-106.)

The activities associated with Areas I, II, and III Impoundment Post-Closure could include the cleanup of remaining contaminated soil and managing impoundments through monitoring and periodic maintenance. Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-5, CUL-7 and CUL-8 will ensure that CA-VEN-1471 is not impacted and the impact will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.4-110 to 4.4-111.)

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Cultural Resources Personnel Professional Qualifications Standard

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Worker Cultural Resources Sensitivity Program

Mitigation Measure CUL-4: Avoidance and Preservation in Place

Mitigation Measure CUL-5: Archaeological and Native American Monitoring

Mitigation Measure CUL-7: Curation of Project Materials

Mitigation Measure CUL-8: Annual Site Condition Verification

DOE's initial soil and bedrock blasting/removal projects may result in direct impacts to four known archaeological sites (CA-VEN-1302, -1412, -1420, and -1775), each of which are considered contributors to the District. Impacts to known District contributors could result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of the District as a historical resource through demolition or alteration of those physical characteristics of the District that convey its historical significance and qualify it for inclusion in the CRHR. Large amounts of soil disturbance could indirectly impact the District through alteration of the historical setting of the District and its contributors. Indirect impacts could also result from disturbances to contributors caused by erosion or by an increased number of vehicles and personnel at the site, which could expose or damage contributors. Therefore, DOE's initial soil and bedrock blasting/removal projects could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of the District. Implementation of

Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-5 and CUL-7 through CUL-9 will avoid, minimize, reduce, or compensate for the impact of DOE's initial soil and bedrock blasting/removal projects on the District. However, because impacts to District contributors could result in damage to the integrity of the District and a loss of data to adequately inform relevant regional research themes impacts are considered significant and unavoidable.

Ground-disturbing activities associated with DOE's initial soil and bedrock blasting/removal projects have the potential to cause substantial adverse changes to unknown archaeological resources that may be individually eligible or eligible as contributors to the District. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-9 will avoid, minimize, reduce, or compensate for potential impacts to historical resources in the event of inadvertent discovery. However, avoidance of impacts to unknown archaeological resources encountered is often not feasible as resources are in most instances irreversibly impacted during the discovery process. These measures may not mitigate impacts to a less-than-significant level, particularly if a resource is found to be individually eligible for the CRHR under Criteria 1, 2 or 3 or as a contributor to the District. Therefore, impacts of DOE's initial soil and bedrock blasting/removal projects to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources are considered significant and unavoidable.

NASA's Liquid Oxygen Plant does not overlap with any known individual archaeological resources or District contributors and therefore would not result in direct impacts to known archaeological resources or District contributors qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources. However, as part of NASA's initial project, soil removal will occur in areas located in the vicinity of known archaeological sites that could be individually eligible and that are considered contributors to the District. Large amounts of soil disturbance could indirectly impact the District through alteration of the historical setting of its contributors. Indirect impacts could also result from disturbances to resources caused by erosion or by an increased number of vehicles and personnel at the site, which could expose or damage archaeological resources. While Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-5, CUL-7, and CUL-8 will avoid, minimize, or reduce potential indirect impact of NASA's initial project on the District, a significant and unavoidable impact could occur.

In addition, ground disturbance activities could result in impacts to unknown archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-10 will avoid, minimize, reduce, or compensate for potential impacts to historical resources in the event of inadvertent discovery. Avoidance of impacts to unknown archaeological resources encountered during cleanup may not be feasible as resources could be irreversibly impacted as a result of the discovery process. Data recovery as mitigation

for historical resources that are eligible for the CRHR may effectively reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level, unless a resource is found to be individually eligible for the CRHR or as a contributor to the District. Therefore, impacts of NASA's initial project to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources are considered significant and unavoidable.

The removal of buildings, slabs and underground structures as well as soil and bedrock excavation will occur throughout Area IV. No known individual archaeological resources or District contributors overlap this area. However, ground-disturbing activities of any previously undisturbed soils associated with the demolition activities in Area IV have the potential to cause substantial adverse changes to unknown archaeological resources that may be individually eligible or eligible as contributors to the District. While Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-9 will avoid, minimize, reduce, or compensate for potential impacts to historical resources in the event of inadvertent discovery, avoidance of impacts to unknown archaeological resources encountered during construction is often not feasible as resources are in most instances irreversibly impacted during the discovery process. Data recovery as mitigation for historical resources that are eligible for the CRHR may effectively reduce impacts to less than significant, these measures may not mitigate impacts to a less-than-significant level if a resource is found to be individually eligible for the CRHR or as a contributor to the District. Therefore, demolition activities in Area IV to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources are considered significant and unavoidable.

Closure of the TTF, RMHF, and HWMF will not directly or indirectly impact known individual archaeological resources or District contributors. However, ground-disturbing activities of any previously undisturbed soils associated with the TTF, RMHF and HWMF closures have the potential to cause substantial adverse changes to unknown significant archaeological resources that may be individually eligible or eligible as contributors to the District. While Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-9 will avoid, minimize, reduce, or compensate for potential impacts to historical resources in the event of inadvertent discovery, avoidance of impacts to unknown archaeological resources is often not feasible as resources are in most instances irreversibly impacted during the discovery process. While data recovery as mitigation for historical resources may effectively reduce impacts to less than significant, unless a resource is found to be individually eligible or as a contributor to the District. Therefore, impacts of TTF, RMHF and HWMF closures to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources are considered significant and unavoidable.

> **Mitigation Measure CUL-1:** Cultural Resources Personnel Professional Qualifications Standard

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Worker Cultural Resources Sensitivity Program

Mitigation Measure CUL-4: Avoidance and Preservation in Place

Mitigation Measure CUL-5: Archaeological and Native American Monitoring

Mitigation Measure CUL-6: Inadvertent Discovery of Potential Historical Resources and Unique Archaeological Resources

Mitigation Measure CUL-7: Curation of Project Materials

Mitigation Measure CUL-8: Annual Site Condition Verification

Mitigation Measure CUL-9: Comprehensive District Study and National Register Nomination

Mitigation Measure CUL-10: Burro Flats Site Complex Documentation and National Register Nomination

Finding: For specific initial activities, DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to substantial adverse changes in the significance of archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (Certified PEIR pp. 4.4-104 to 4.4-111). With implementation of the following mitigation measures, the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal and Areas I, II, and III Impoundment Post-Closure activities will result in less than significant impacts to archaeological resources:

DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources or unique archaeological resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. However, even with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the initial activities could result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resources (Certified PEIR pp. 4.4-104 to 4.4-111). Therefore, even with implementation of the mitigation measures, the initial activities could result in significant and unavoidable impacts to cultural resources.

7.3.2 Native American Resources (SSFL TCP)

Impact 4.4-2a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as a result of the physical destruction and alteration to

the characteristics of the property that convey its significance and qualify it for inclusion in the CRHR as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074[7]?

The project site is located within, and is encompassed by, a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) (SSFL TCP) of traditional religious and cultural significance to several local tribes.

Impacts to contributing elements will result in a significant impact to the tribal cultural resource identified as the SSFL TCP. Although some boulders might be temporarily relocated to access contaminated soils beneath them, based on the distribution of contaminants, topographic features, such as rock outcroppings and mountain peaks, are unlikely to be disturbed or otherwise impacted by the overall site cleanup. Impacts to each of the other contributing elements are considered as follows.

The overall site cleanup could directly impact contributing elements of the SSFL TCP through the alteration or destruction of prehistoric archaeological sites and isolates, alteration of the natural landscape surrounding important archaeological resources and rock art sites, and the alteration of natural habitat affecting plant and animal communities associated with the SSFL TCP. Such effects will constitute a profound impact to some Native American tribes whose culture, history, and identity is significantly tied to the area. Furthermore, the overall natural setting, feeling, and associations of the SSFL TCP will be significantly modified thus altering the interrelationships of contributing elements to one another. Excavated areas will be partially backfilled, graded to allow for natural surface water drainage, and re-vegetated; thus, the relationship of natural topography, native habitat, and other contributors within the SSFL TCP will be altered and the appearance of the SSFL TCP will be permanently altered. In addition, mountain lions are animals that are considered essential for the preservation of Tribal traditional values. The project would result in the destruction and alteration of contributing elements of the SSFL TCP, such as the mountain lion community, which would result in a substantial adverse change to this tribal cultural resource, and which would diminish the ability of the resource to convey its significance.

In summary, the SSFL TCP is a non-renewable resource and possesses significant intrinsic value to local Native American groups. The overall site cleanup will result in the destruction or alteration of contributing elements of the SSFL TCP, which will result in a substantial adverse change to this tribal cultural resource and will significantly alter the ability of the resource to convey its significance. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-11 through CUL-16, in conjunction with CUL-1 through CUL-10 as well as Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-12, BIO-19, BIO-22, and BIO-25

[7] The Draft PEIR incorrectly cites to CEQA Guidelines Section 21074, which is corrected herein.

will avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for the impact of the overall site cleanup. While the following mitigation measures will reduce significant impacts, impacts will remain significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Cultural Resources Personnel Professional Qualifications Standard

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Worker Cultural Resources Sensitivity Program

Mitigation Measure CUL-4: Avoidance and Preservation in Place

Mitigation Measure CUL-5: Archaeological and Native American Monitoring

Mitigation Measure CUL-6: Inadvertent Discovery of Potential Historical Resources and Unique Archaeological Resources

Mitigation Measure CUL-7: Curation of Project Materials

Mitigation Measure CUL-8: Annual Site Condition Verification

Mitigation Measure CUL-9: Comprehensive District Study and National Register Nomination

Mitigation Measure CUL-10: Burro Flats Site Complex Documentation and National Register Nomination

Mitigation Measure CUL-11: Native American Document Review and Comment

Mitigation Measure CUL-12: Native American Access

Mitigation Measure CUL-13: Native American Communication

Mitigation Measure CUL-14: Comprehensive Ethnographic Study

Mitigation Measure CUL-15: Rock Art Site Recordation and Interpretation

Mitigation Measure CUL-16: Research Grant for Future Cultural Resources Studies

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Cultural Resources Personnel Professional Qualifications

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Santa Susana Tarplant

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Inadvertent Discovery of Potential Historical Resources and Unique Archaeological Resources

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-19: Sensitive Habitats

Mitigation Measure BIO-22: Wildlife Movement

Mitigation Measure BIO-25: Mountain Lion Den Survey and Avoidance

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as a result of the physical destruction and alteration to the characteristics of the property that convey its significance and qualify it for inclusion in the CRHR as defined in PRC Section 21074. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the overall site cleanup will result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.4-111 to 4.4-114.) Also note that detail has been added to Mitigation Measures CUL-2, CUL-3, and CUL-14 to specifically ensure that the role of mountain lions is considered in the research design for the Cultural Resources Management Plan, in the worker cultural resources sensitivity program, and in the comprehensive ethnographic study, respectively (see the Addendum for more detail). Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, overall site cleanup will result in a significant and unavoidable impact to a tribal cultural resource.

Impact 4.4-2b: Would implementation of the initial activities cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as a result of the physical destruction and alteration to the characteristics of the property that convey its significance and qualify it for inclusion in the CRHR as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074[8]?

The activities associated with the impoundment permit renewals could include the cleanup of remaining contaminated soil and managing impoundments through monitoring and periodic maintenance. One archaeological site, CA-VEN-1471, overlaps with two impoundments subject to post-closure. Because cleanup activities will be conducted within the previously disturbed impoundment and no new ground disturbance will be associated with this activity, the site will not be directly impacted nor would there be potential for unknown archaeological resources to be disturbed. Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-5, CUL-7 and CUL-8 will ensure that CA-VEN-1471 is not impacted and impacts to the SSFL TCP will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

[8] The Draft PEIR incorrectly cites to CEQA Guidelines Section 21074, which is corrected herein.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Cultural Resources Personnel Professional Qualifications Standard

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Worker Cultural Resources Sensitivity Program

Mitigation Measure CUL-4: Avoidance and Preservation in Place

Mitigation Measure CUL-5: Archaeological and Native American Monitoring

Mitigation Measure CUL-7: Curation of Project Materials

Mitigation Measure CUL-8: Annual Site Condition Verification

Impacts to the SSFL TCP from the excavation of contaminated soils and bedrock associated with the DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal will be similar to those identified for the overall site cleanup. No known rock art would be directly impacted by DOE's initial soil and bedrock blasting/removal projects. In addition, the excavation of contaminated soil and the bedrock blasting/removal, will disturb habitat and thus plants and animals identified as contributors to the SSFL TCP associated with habitat including chaparral, Venturan coastal sage scrub, mulefat scrub, coast live oak riparian forest, coast live oak woodland, California walnut woodland, nonnative grassland, and rock outcrop habitats, significantly altering the historical setting and interrelationships of contributors to the SSFL TCP. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-9, CUL-11 through CUL-16, as well as BIO-2, BIO-6, BIO-12, and BIO-19 will avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for impacts to the SSFL TCP; however, they would not be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, impacts to the tribal cultural resource identified as the SSFL TCP will be significant and unavoidable.

NASA's Liquid Oxygen Plant will not directly impact known archaeological sites; however, isolates could be disturbed and unknown archaeological resources could be inadvertently impacted. No known rock art would be directly impacted by NASA's initial project. The soil excavation will remove or otherwise disturb habitat and thus plants and animals identified as contributors to the SSFL TCP associated with habitat including aquatic (riverine), coast live oak woodland, nonnative grassland, rock outcrop, coast live oak woodland (riparian), mulefat scrub, southern willow scrub, chaparral, and undifferentiated exotic vegetation, thus significantly altering the historical setting and interrelationships of contributors of the SSFL TCP. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-16 as well as BIO-2, BIO-6, BIO-12, and BIO-19 will avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for impacts to the SSFL TCP but will not reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, impacts to the tribal cultural resource identified as the SSFL TCP are considered significant and unavoidable.

The removal of buildings, slabs and underground structures as well as soil and bedrock excavation will occur throughout Area IV. No known archaeological resources, rock art, or natural habitat will be directly impacted by these initial projects. However, ground-disturbing activities of any previously undisturbed soils associated with the demolition activities in Area IV have the potential to inadvertently disturb unknown archaeological resources. Direct impacts to unknown archaeological resources that may be altered or destroyed constitutes a significant impact to the SSFL TCP. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-9 and CUL-11 through CUL-16 will avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for impacts to the SSFL TCP. However, because unknown archaeological resources may be irreversibly impacted during any discoveries, the mitigation measures will not reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, impacts to the tribal cultural resource identified as the SSFL TCP are considered significant and unavoidable.

Closure of the TTF, RMHF, and HWMF will not directly impact known archaeological resources, rock art, or natural habitat. However, ground-disturbing activities of any previously undisturbed soils associated with the TTF, RMHF and HWMF closures have the potential to impact unknown archaeological resources. Direct impacts to unknown archaeological resources that may be altered or destroyed would constitute a significant impact to the SSFL TCP. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-9 and CUL-11 through CUL-16 would avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for impacts to the SSFL TCP, but because unknown archaeological resources may be irreversibly impacted during any discoveries associated with the project, mitigation measures will not reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, impacts to the tribal cultural resource identified as the SSFL TCP would be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Cultural Resources Personnel Professional Qualifications Standard

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Cultural Resources Management Plan

Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Worker Cultural Resources Sensitivity Program

Mitigation Measure CUL-4: Avoidance and Preservation in Place

Mitigation Measure CUL-5: Archaeological and Native American Monitoring

Mitigation Measure CUL-6: Inadvertent Discovery of Potential Historical Resources and Unique Archaeological Resources

Mitigation Measure CUL-7: Curation of Project Materials

Mitigation Measure CUL-8: Annual Site Condition Verification

Mitigation Measure CUL-9: Comprehensive District Study and National Register Nomination

Mitigation Measure CUL-10: Burro Flats Site Complex Documentation and National Register Nomination

Mitigation Measure CUL-11: Native American Document Review and Comment

Mitigation Measure CUL-12: Native American Access

Mitigation Measure CUL-13: Native American Communication

Mitigation Measure CUL-14: Comprehensive Ethnographic Study

Mitigation Measure CUL-15: Rock Art Site Recordation and Interpretation

Mitigation Measure CUL-16: Research Grant for Future Cultural Resources Studies

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Revegetation Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-19: Sensitive Habitats

Mitigation Measure BIO-25: Mountain Lion Den Survey and Avoidance

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as a result of the physical destruction and alteration to the characteristics of the property that convey its significance and qualify it for inclusion in the CRHR as defined in PRC Section 21074. (Certified PEIR p. 4.4-118.) With implementation of the following mitigation measures, Areas I, II, and III Impoundment Post-Closure activities will result in a less than significant impact to a tribal cultural resource.

DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as a result of the physical destruction and alteration to the characteristics of the property that convey its significance and qualify it for inclusion in the CRHR as defined in PRC Section 21074. However, even with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the initial activities will result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.4-114 to 4.4-118.) Therefore, even with

implementation of the mitigation measures, the initial activities will result in a significant and unavoidable impact to a tribal cultural resource.

7.4 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Section 4.7 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials that may result from implementation of the project.

7.4.1 Reasonably Foreseeable Upset and Accident Conditions

Impact 4.7-2a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup 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?

Impacted materials, particularly soil with chemicals and/or radionuclides at concentrations above cleanup requirements, will be removed and transported from the project site to offsite disposal facilities. During the overall site cleanup, a collision involving a truck transporting impacted material resulting in a release would be likely to occur less than once per year but could occur several times over the duration of the cleanup, which is defined as a frequency category 3. (Certified PEIR Table 4.7-4.)

Reasonably foreseeable spills and accident conditions could occur involving the release of hazardous materials, which could be an adverse impact to the public and environment along offsite transportation routes. While drivers of waste hauling trucks are required to be trained to respond to and contain releases, to notify appropriate emergency responders if necessary, and to utilize and implement appropriate controls, preventative measures, and best management practices, impacts associated with the potential for accidental upset or release from trucks involved in the transport of contaminated materials offsite is potentially significant. The mitigation measures listed below will reduce the potential hazards of the routine use, storage, disposal, or accidental spills. Nonetheless, because the trucks will travel to appropriate offsite receiver landfills that are permitted to handle the waste types, it is not feasible to restrict the distances trucks travel. Therefore, impacts related to routine use or reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving hazardous materials for the overall site cleanup will be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, impacts related to routine use or reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving hazardous materials for the overall site cleanup will remain significant and unavoidable. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.7-42 to 4.7-44.)

7.4.2 Location on a Hazardous Materials Sites

Impact 4.7-7a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup 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, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

The project site has been identified by DTSC and California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) as a contaminated site. The project will result in the cleanup of the project site and will not involve construction of residences, businesses, or other uses that would locate people at the project site. Cleanup of the site will potentially result in a significant impact with respect to the transport of hazardous materials, however, this impact will be mitigated to less than significant (Certified PEIR Impact 4.7-1a). However, the overall site cleanup will result in a significant and unavoidable impact with respect to reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions (Certified PEIR Impact 4.7-2a). The overall site cleanup will result in a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated with respect to the transport of hazardous material near a school (Certified PEIR Impact 4.7-3a). Therefore, the overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable impacts as a result of the project's location at a hazardous materials site and consequent risks of reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions (Certified PEIR Impact 4.7-2a). While implementation of the following mitigation measures identified for Impacts 4.7-1a, 4.7-2a, and 4.7-3a will reduce significant impacts this impact will remain significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Hazardous Materials Containment

Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts related to the location on a site listed as a hazardous materials site and thereby resulting in or creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the overall site cleanup has the potential to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.7-63 to 4.7-64.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable impact related to the project's location on a hazardous materials site.

7.5 Land Use and Planning

Section 4.11 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to land use and planning that may result from implementation of the project.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(d) provides that the environmental setting of an EIR must discuss "any inconsistencies between the proposed project and applicable general plans and regional plans." Potential inconsistencies between the Project and planning documents specific to a particular issue area, such as air quality or greenhouse gases, are addressed in those sections of the Certified PEIR. The various technical sections in Chapter 4 of the Certified PEIR discuss any potential physical/environmental effects and potential incompatibilities that may be considered in the determination of physical environmental impacts. In addition, in relation to land use and planning and Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the Certified PEIR conservatively addresses implementation of the overall cleanup in relation to potential land use inconsistencies Ventura County's land use plans and policies. Under CEQA, potential inconsistencies with land use plans, goals, or policies are not, of themselves, considered impacts on the physical environment. Nevertheless, the Certified PEIR conservatively identifies significant and unavoidable "impacts" associated with its discussions of land use consistency, which are reflected in these Findings.

7.5.1 Conflicts with Land Use Plans, Policies or Regulations

Impact 4.9-1a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

The site is zoned Open Space (OS-160) and Agricultural Exclusive (AE-40) (former Rocketdyne Employee Shooting Range). The project does not include development or land use changes and any future development of the site would be subject to other discretionary actions by the County of Ventura or other government agencies (which may include DTSC under certain circumstances), including environmental review as appropriate pursuant to CEQA.

The overall site cleanup will advance many of the goals and policies of the General Plan that are associated with the use of the site as open space. However, the project is potentially inconsistent with Biological Resources Goal 1.5.1 and Land Use Policies - Open Space Policy 3.2.2.5(1) (Certified PEIR Table 4.9-3).

The overall site cleanup will result in the removal of native vegetation and soil and could adversely affect sensitive/special status plants, wildlife, and habitat. While implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-3, BIO-1 through BIO-23, HYDRO-1, HYDRO-2, HAZ-3, and NOISE-1 will reduce significant impacts on the physical environment related to land use are considered to be significant and unavoidable.

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts on the physical environment related to potential conflicts with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for purpose of avoiding or mitigation an environmental effect. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the overall site cleanup will remove native vegetation and soil that could adversely affect sensitive/special status plants, wildlife, and habitat. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.9-13 to 4.9-19.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures cited above and provided in other sections of the Certified PEIR [Sections 4.2 (Air Quality), 4.3 (Biological Resources), 4.8 (Hydrology), 4.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials), and 4.10 (Noise)], overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable impacts on the physical environment related to land use.

Impact 4.9-1b: Would implementation of the initial activities conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

The project does not include development or land use changes, and any future development of the site would be subject to other discretionary actions by the County of Ventura or other government agencies (which may include DTSC under certain circumstances), including environmental review as appropriate pursuant to CEQA.

The initial activities will improve environmental conditions and advance many of the Open Space goals and policies of the General Plan. However, the initial activities

occurring in DOE Area IV Radiological and Contiguous Chemically Contaminated Soil Removal and the NASA Liquid Oxygen Plant will result in the removal of native vegetation and soil and may adversely affect sensitive/special status plants, wildlife, and habitat. Thus, the Certified PEIR conservatively concludes that the initial activities could conflict with the Ventura County applicable goal and policy regarding biological resources and open space [Biological Resources Goal 1.5.1 and Open Space Policy 3.2.2.5(1)]. With implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-3 and BIO-1 through BIO-23, impacts on the physical environment associated with potential conflicts with the Ventura County General Plan are considered significant and unavoidable.

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts on the physical environment related to potential conflicts with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for purpose of avoiding or mitigation an environmental effect. However, even with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, implementation of the initial activities will remove native vegetation and soil that could adversely affect sensitive/special status plants, wildlife, and habitat. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.9-19 to 4.9-20.) Therefore, even with implementation of the mitigation measures cited above and provided in other sections of the Certified PEIR [Sections 4.2 (Air Quality) and 4.3 (Biological Resources)], the initial activities will result in significant and unavoidable impacts on the physical environment related to land use.

7.6 Noise

Section 4.10 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to noise that may result from implementation of the project.

7.6.1 Increase in Ambient Noise Levels

Impact 4.10-3a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup result in a temporary/periodic or substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Over the course of a day, the highest noise levels would be generated when multiple pieces of equipment are being operated concurrently. Onsite noise generated by the cleanup activities would be temporary and would occur at different locations on the site throughout the overall cleanup and would cease upon completion of the cleanup activities.

With the exception of Sage Ranch Park, none of the nearest noise-sensitive receptors will experience an increase in noise levels above the respective thresholds of 3 dBA in Ventura County or 5 dBA in Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles. The

ranger's house and campsites at Sage Ranch Park will experience a 5.5 dBA increase, which exceeds the Ventura County threshold (Certified PEIR Table 4.10-19). Mitigation Measures NOISE-1 and NOISE-2 will reduce the impact to less than significant. The park has a trail loop that runs directly adjacent to the project site. Given the proximity of the trail to onsite cleanup areas, equipment could be located within 50 feet, which will result in a greater than 5.5 dBA increase over the ambient noise level. However, since Ventura County does not define a noise level threshold for the trail, no noise impact to the trail or other park users that do not stay at the park overnight will occur. Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure NOISE-1: Area I Cleanup Hours

Mitigation Measure NOISE-2: Area I Noise Barrier

The addition of project-related traffic will result in a substantial increase in offsite traffic noise levels at the roadway segments of Facility Road at Woolsey Canyon Road and Woolsey Canyon Road between Valley Circle Boulevard and Knapp Ranch Road during peak construction days (Certified PEIR Table 4.10-20 and Figure 4.10-5). Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOISE-3 will reduce the offsite traffic noise impacts on sensitive receptors along Facility Road and Woolsey Canyon Road. However, the construction of noise barriers for the duration of the overall cleanup may not be feasible, practical, or acceptable to the noise-sensitive users in certain locations due to objection by property owners and other constraints. While the maximum truck trips will only occur on peak cleanup days and on most days, a smaller number of trucks will be used to transport materials, a substantial temporary increase in traffic noise levels on these roadways will occur. While the following mitigation measures could reduce significant impacts, due to the uncertainty of the measure being implemented, the overall site cleanup will result in a significant and unavoidable offsite traffic noise impact.

Mitigation Measure NOISE-2: Area I Noise Barrier

Mitigation Measure NOISE 3: Haul Route Noise Barrier

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant ambient noise impacts from onsite sources. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.10-44 to 4.10-50.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, ambient noise from onsite sources during the overall site cleanup will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant noise impacts. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the overall site cleanup will

result in noise impacts to offsite receptors resulting from project-generated traffic. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.10-46 to 4.10-50.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures, overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable traffic noise impacts.

Impact 4.10-3b: Would implementation of the initial activities result in a temporary/periodic or substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

In regard to onsite noise levels, with the exception of Sage Ranch Park, none of the nearest noise-sensitive receptors will experience an increase in noise levels above the respective thresholds of 3 dBA in Ventura County or 5 dBA in Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles (Certified PEIR Table 4.10-19). None of the initial projects include activities within 2,000 feet of the ranger's house or campsites and the increase in noise levels will not exceed the County of Ventura threshold. As discussed under Impact 4.10-3a, cleanup equipment could be located within 50 feet of the loop trail within the park, resulting in an increase of greater than 5.5 dBA over the ambient noise level. However, since Ventura County does not define a noise level threshold for the trail, no noise impact to the trail or other park users that do not stay at the park overnight will occur. Therefore, the initial activities will result in a less-than-significant noise impact to offsite sensitive receptors.

Based on a detailed analysis of noise and vibration impacts from blasting related to the bedrock removal for strontium-90, blasting on the project site will expose the nearest noise-sensitive uses in the project vicinity to noise levels less than the applicable Ventura County threshold. Since the offsite sensitive receptors in the project vicinity would be exposed to noise levels below the threshold during blasting, no significant noise impacts to noise-sensitive uses will occur.

Since sensitive wildlife habitat environments are located as close as 30 to 50 feet away from the blasting location and blasting could significantly disrupt sleep patterns of wildlife species when exposed to noise of 60 dBA Leq or greater, further analysis was undertaken. Blasting-related noise levels will exceed the threshold (60 dBA Leq) at sensitive wildlife habitat locations within approximately 800 feet of the blasting location resulting in potentially significant noise impacts. Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts related to noise on wildlife habitat to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Wildlife Monitoring

Mitigation Measure BIO-14: Least Bell's Vireo

Mitigation Measure BIO-15: Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: Avian Protection Plan

Mitigation Measure BIO-17: Ringtail

Mitigation Measure BIO-18: Special-Status Bats

Mitigation Measure BIO-22: Wildlife Movement

The initial activities will result in a significant traffic noise impact on the roadway segments of Facility Road at Woolsey Canyon Road and Woolsey Canyon Road, between Valley Circle Boulevard and Knapp Ranch Road during peak cleanup days when a maximum of 96 round trips occur (Certified PEIR Table 4.10-20 and Figure 4.10-5). Installation of temporary noise barriers (Mitigation Measure NOISE-3) along Facility Road and Woolsey Canyon Road will reduce noise levels from mobile sources to less than significant. However, the construction of noise barriers may not be feasible, practical, or desirable due to property owner objection and other constraints. Therefore, while the following mitigation measure could reduce significant traffic noise impacts, due to the uncertainty of its implementation impacts are considered significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure NOISE 3: Haul Route Noise Barrier

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant ambient noise impacts from the initial activities. Noise impacts to humans from the initial activities will be less than significant and with implementation of the biological resources mitigation measures listed, noise impacts to wildlife from the initial activities will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.10-50 to 4.10-52.)

DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant noise and vibration impacts. However, even with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the initial activities will result in noise impacts to offsite receptors resulting from project-generated traffic. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.10-51 to 4.10-52.) Therefore, even with implementation of the mitigation measures, the initial activities will result in significant and unavoidable traffic noise impacts.

7.7 Transportation and Traffic

Section 4.11 of the Certified PEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts related to transportation and traffic that may result from implementation of the project. The methodology used is level of service (LOS) rather than vehicle miles traveled (VMT) since environmental review of the project was undertaken before the new procedures

and criteria took effect. In addition, because this project is not a land-use development project but instead involves cleanup and remediation activities without the addition of operational trips, a typical VMT analysis consistent with SB 743 to reduce operational trips and VMT is neither applicable nor required (Certified PEIR Preface, Section 0.5.1).

7.7.1 Circulation System Performance

Impact 4.11-1a: Would implementation of the overall site cleanup conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

The daily maximum number of trucks visiting the site for export and import of materials will be 96 round trips for all RPs combined. For analysis purposes, truck trips were multiplied by a factor of 2.5 to estimate the number of passenger car equivalent trips. In addition, as many as 250 onsite workers are expected to routinely travel to the site during soil removal activities and will generate vehicle trips in addition to the trips generated by trucks.

Implementation of the overall site cleanup will significantly contribute to the future degradation of traffic LOS at area intersections and on area roadways (Certified PEIR Table 4.11-9 and Figure 4.11-8). Significant impacts will occur at the following intersections:

1. Topanga Canyon Boulevard & SR 118 Westbound Ramps (#1)
2. Topanga Canyon Boulevard & SR 118 Eastbound Ramps (#2)
    - Valley Circle Boulevard & Woolsey Canyon Road (#6)
    - Valley Circle Boulevard & Roscoe Boulevard (#7)
    - Topanga Canyon Boulevard & Roscoe Boulevard (#8)
    - Topanga Canyon Boulevard & US 101 Northbound Off-Ramp (#13)

In addition, significant impacts will occur on the following roadway segments (Certified PEIR Table 4.11-10):

1. Valley Circle Boulevard: Box Canyon Road to Woolsey Canyon Road (#D)
2. Valley Circle Boulevard: Woolsey Canyon Road to Chatlake Drive (#G)

3. Roscoe Boulevard: Shoup Avenue to Farralone Avenue (#I)
4. Valley Circle Boulevard: Vanowen Street to Victory Boulevard (#J)
5. Valley Circle Boulevard: Burbank Boulevard to US 101 (#K)

While implementation of the mitigation measures below will reduce significant impacts, the significant impacts of vehicle trips by project workers during peak traffic hours will exceed the thresholds of significance and impacts will remain significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant transportation impacts. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the overall site cleanup will result in transportation impacts relating to the performance of the circulation system. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.11-16 to 4.11-31.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measure, the overall site cleanup will result in significant and unavoidable transportation impacts.

Impact 4.11-1b: Would implementation of the initial activities conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

The initial activities will substantially degrade traffic LOS at area intersections and on area roadways. Mitigation Measure TRANS-1 will reduce direct or indirect impacts, but will not prevent such impacts from occurring. Therefore, impacts will be considered significant and unavoidable (Certified PEIR pp. 4.11-31 through 4.11-43).

Significant impacts will occur at the following intersections:

1. Topanga Canyon Boulevard & SR 118 Eastbound Ramps (#2)
2. Valley Circle Boulevard & Woolsey Canyon Road (#6)
3. Topanga Canyon Boulevard & US 101 Northbound Off-Ramp (#13)

In addition, significant impacts will occur on the following roadway segments (Certified PEIR Table 4.11-14):

1. Valley Circle Boulevard: Box Canyon Road to Woolsey Canyon Road (#D)

2. Valley Circle Boulevard: Woolsey Canyon Road to Chatlake Drive (#G)
3. Roscoe Boulevard: Shoup Avenue to Farralone Avenue (#I)
4. Valley Circle Boulevard: Vanowen Street to Victory Boulevard (#J)
5. Valley Circle Boulevard: Burbank Boulevard to US 101 (#K)

The following mitigation measure will reduce significant impacts, but impacts of vehicle trips by project workers during peak traffic hours will exceed the thresholds of significance and impacts will remain significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Site-Wide Traffic Management Plan

Finding: DTSC finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant transportation impacts. However, with implementation of all feasible mitigation measures, the initial activities will result in transportation impacts relating to the performance of the circulation system. (Certified PEIR pp. 4.11-31 to 4.11-43.) Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measure, the initial activities will result in significant and unavoidable transportation impacts

SECTION 8

Findings Regarding Cumulative Impacts

In accordance with CEQA, the Certified PEIR analyzed the cumulative impacts of the project in conjunction with other projects that affect or could affect the project area (Certified PEIR, Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts). CEQA requires the cumulative impacts discussion to reflect the likelihood that the impacts would occur and their severity if they did occur but allows the discussion to contain less detail than must be provided for the project's individual or incremental impacts.

The Certified PEIR conservatively evaluated the potential of cleanup activities to contribute to cumulative impacts under CEQA by developing a cumulative scenario that identifies and evaluates past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects within a broad geographic context that would be expected to be constructed or commence operation during the timeframe of activity associated with the project. Although not required by CEQA, in an abundance of caution during preparation of the Final PEIR, website research was conducted based on the geographic areas identified in Certified PEIR Table 5-1 to identify potential new related projects since the preparation of the Certified PEIR. Public websites and lists of available projects and environmental documentation were accessed in December 2022. Small projects in the vicinity of the project site, such as a single-family home or a small infrastructure project, which are generally exempt from CEQA review, were not included in this analysis. Projects evaluated include projects listed on public websites for Los Angeles County, Ventura County, the City of Los Angeles, the City of Simi Valley, the City of Calabasas, the City of Agoura Hills, the City of Thousand Oaks, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Calleguas Municipal Water District, and the Triunfo Water & Sanitation District.

These additional projects were generally evaluated in combination with the project based on factors such as scale and location, anticipated timing of implementation, and proximity to the project site, which confirmed the conclusions in the Certified PEIR regarding the project's contribution to cumulative impacts. No new significant cumulative impacts would occur and there would be no substantial increase in the severity of any previously identified impacts.

This section provides the Findings relative to the cumulative environmental impacts provided in Certified PEIR Chapter 5 that would result from implementation of the project.

8.1 Aesthetics

The geographic scope for aesthetics consists of projects that are located within the foreground and/or on ridgelines throughout the middle ground because the project and associated activities can be most prominent at these distances. Land uses immediately adjacent to the project site include open space in the form of public and private land and residential areas. Cumulative visual impacts could occur if related projects were constructed within the viewshed of the KOPs, substantially altering the visual character of the area or damaging views from sensitive aesthetic resources. Because of the limited visibility of the project site the potential for related projects to combine with project impacts to result in a cumulative impact on aesthetics is limited. While the project will alter the visual quality of the project site, with the removal of buildings the site will be more harmonious with the landscape, increasing the visual quality of the area. Thus, the project, in combination with related projects, will not contribute considerably to aesthetics impacts. Therefore, cumulative aesthetic impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-21 through 5-23.)

8.2 Air Quality

The geographic scope for regional air quality impacts consists of the air basin(s) in which project emissions would occur. The project's incremental contribution to cumulative air quality impacts is determined based on compliance with the AQMPs. The project will conflict with the VCAPCD and SCAQMD AQMPs' reduction strategies in that the project level emissions will exceed the regulatory thresholds for NOx within the SCCAB and PM_{10} within the SCAB. Even with the implementation of mitigation, project emissions will not be reduced to below VCAPCD and SCAQMD thresholds. (Impact 4.2-2a and Impact 4.2-2b.) Project emissions exceed the thresholds and therefore, have the potential to result in daily exceedances within the SCCAB and SCAB. Thus, given the project's inconsistency with the VCAPD and SCAQMD AQMPs, the project, in combination with related projects, will result in cumulatively considerable impacts to air quality within the SCAAB and SCAB and impacts will be significant and unavoidable. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-23 to 5-27.)

The Certified PEIR contains an analysis of emissions resulting from long-range transportation possibly occurring in MDAB, SJVAB, SSAB, GBVAB, SACVAB, and NPAB. However, impacts to air basins other than SCCAB and SCAB are described for informational purposes only (Certified PEIR p. 5-23). CO emissions from vehicles would be less than significant under the cumulative plus project scenario and, therefore, the overall site cleanup would not have a cumulative impact relative to CO hotspots.

With respect to potential odor impacts, neither the project nor any of the related projects have a high potential to generate odor impacts. Any related project that may have

potential to generate objectionable odors will be required by VCAPCD or SCAQMD to implement BACT to limit potential objectionable odor impacts to a less than significant level. Thus, cumulative odor impacts will be less than significant (Certified PEIR p. 5-27).

8.3 Biological Resources

The geographic scope for biological resources consists of the project site and surrounding lands, along with drainages that are connected to the project site, including those that run through Bell and Meier Canyons. The project will result in potentially significant impacts, including disturbance or removal of sensitive habitats (e.g., oak woodlands); removing or damaging special-status plants (i.e., Braunton's milk-vetch and Santa Susana tarplant) or protected trees; injuring, killing, harassing, or otherwise harming special-status wildlife, including western spadefoot toad, coast horned lizard, crotch's bumble bee, mountain lion, and nesting birds and raptors; and potential effects to wildlife movement and/or a wildlife movement corridor. Mitigation measures have been identified for the project to avoid and/or minimize impacts to biological resources. However, known occurrences of Braunton's milk-vetch and Santa Susana tarplant have been recorded within the vicinity of a few cumulative projects and could be removed or otherwise impacted. With regard to terrestrial wildlife and wildlife movement, the SSFL site provides important connectivity within the East Branch of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Landscape Linkage, and mountain lions and their cubs are known to pass through and take residence on the SSFL site. The project, in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the surrounding area, could incrementally impact wildlife movement and migration corridors. Therefore, when considered in addition to the anticipated impacts of other projects in the cumulative scenario, the project's incremental contribution to impacts to biological resources could be cumulatively considerable and impacts will be significant and unavoidable. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-26 to 5-28.) However, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2 (Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training), BIO-6 (Revegetation Plan), BIO-12 (Wildlife Monitoring), BIO-20 (Seed Collection and Cuttings for Habitat Restoration), and BIO-22 (Wildlife Movement) the project's contribution to the cumulative impacts would be reduced to less than significant. Biological resources impacted in the short-term with implementation of the project, including temporary loss of sensitive habitats, would ultimately benefit in the long term from the remediation that would occur on the site. Thus, with the implementation of the mitigation measures, no new significant environmental impacts or substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant cumulative environmental impact would occur.

8.4 Cultural Resources

The geographic scope of analysis for potential cumulative impacts to cultural resources includes the Simi Hills, an approximately 16-mile-long and 8-mile-wide portion of the geomorphic province known as the Transverse Ranges. Multiple related projects are proposed throughout the Simi Hills and many of the cultural resources within the geographic scope have already been subjected to impacts as a result of past projects. Projects undertaken before environmental laws were in place may not have considered, or mitigated, significant impacts to cultural resources, and may have resulted in damage to important cultural resources, including resources that retain significant cultural value to Native American groups. Projects that have already been implemented or may occur in the foreseeable future could impact cultural resources and bring additional people (e.g., work crews, residents, tourists) into the area, resulting in increased probability of vandalism or off-highway vehicle use that may impact resources or result in visual, auditory, and other environmental impacts that may adversely affect the SSFL TCP. In addition, mountain lions are animals that are considered essential for the preservation of Tribal traditional values. The project could result in the destruction and alteration of contributing elements of the SSFL TCP, such as the mountain lion community, which would result in a substantial adverse change to this tribal cultural resource and which would diminish the ability of the resource to convey its significance. Therefore, when considered in combination with the impacts of other projects in the cumulative scenario, the project would contribute incrementally to tribal cultural resources impacts and specifically mountain lions, mountain lion habitat, and their movement would be considered cumulatively significant. The project impacts could combine with impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, and the project's contribution toward cumulative effects on cultural resources would be cumulatively considerable. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 (Cultural Resources Personnel Professional Qualifications), CUL-2 (Cultural Resources Management Plan), CUL-3 (Worker Cultural Resources Sensitivity Program), CUL-4 (Avoidance and Preservation in Place), CUL-5 (Archaeological and Native American Monitoring), CUL-6 (Inadvertent Discovery of Potential Historical Resources and Unique Archaeological Resources), CUL-7 (Curation of Project Materials), CUL-8 (Annual Site Condition Verification), CUL-9 (Comprehensive District Study and National Register Nomination), CUL-10 (Burro Flats Site Complex Documentation and National Register Nomination, CUL-11 (Native American Document Review and Comment), CUL-12 (Native American Access), CUL-13 (Native American Communication), CUL-14 (Comprehensive Ethnographic Study), CUL-15 (Rock Art Site Recordation and Interpretation), and CUL-16 (Research Grant for Future Cultural Resources Studies), in conjunction with Mitigation Measures BIO-1 (Critical Habitat and Listed Species Avoidance), BIO-2 (Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training), BIO-6 (Revegetation Plan), BIO-12 (Wildlife Monitoring), BIO-19 (Sensitive Habitats), BIO-22 (Wildlife Movement),

and BIO-25 (Mountain Lion Natal Den Survey and Avoidance), the project's contribution to cumulative impacts would be reduced; however the project's cumulative impacts will be significant and unavoidable. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-28 to 5-30.)

Excavation activities associated with the project in conjunction with other projects in the area could contribute to the progressive loss of paleontological resources, such as fossil remains, as-yet unrecorded fossil sites, associated geological and geographic data, and fossil-bearing strata. However, with implementation of mitigation, the project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts to paleontological resources will not be cumulatively considerable (Certified PEIR pp. 5-30 to 5-31).

With regard to human remains, with implementation of mitigation, the project's potential to disturb any human remains will be less than significant. Therefore, the project will not contribute to a cumulative impact to human remains and cumulative impacts will be less than significant (Certified PEIR, p. 5-31).

8.5 Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

The impacts from geologic, soil, and seismic hazards are largely site specific and, therefore, limited to individual project sites. Thus, cumulative impacts related to geologic, soils, and seismic hazards occur if two or more cumulative project sites are overlapping or adjacent to each other or the project site. With implementation of mitigation measures, the project will result in less-than-significant impacts related to geologic, soil, and seismic hazards. As with the project, related projects will be required to prepare a geotechnical analysis and implement standards and regulations to ensure that potential impacts are reduced. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation measures, the project, in combination with related projects, will not contribute considerably to cumulative impacts related to geology, seismicity, and soil. Cumulative impacts to geology, seismicity, and soil will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-30 to 5-31.)

8.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The CEQA Guidelines generally address greenhouse gas emissions as a cumulative impact due to the global nature of climate change. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21083, subd. (b)(2).) According to the California Supreme Court, "because of the global scale of climate change, any one project's contribution is unlikely to be significant of itself." (*Cleveland National Forest Foundation v. San Diego Assn. of Governments* (2017) 3 Cal.5th 497, 512.) A project's significant GHG impacts must be disclosed and mitigated to the extent feasible whenever the lead agency determines that the project contributes to a significant, cumulative climate change impact. (CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15064.4, subd. (b), 15183.5). "The question therefore becomes whether the project's

incremental addition of greenhouse gases is 'cumulatively considerable' in light of the global problem, and thus significant." (*Cleveland National Forest Foundation, supra*, 3 Cal.5th at p. 512.) As stated in the Discussion Draft: CEQA and Climate Change,[9] "[a]lthough climate change is ultimately a cumulative impact, not every individual project that emits greenhouse gases must necessarily be found to contribute to a significant cumulative impact on the environment."

California agencies cannot enforce air quality and GHG regulations or conditions outside of California or otherwise control conduct outside of California's borders. Further, other states are free to modify their regulations at any time. Thus, neither DTSC nor any other California agency has the ability to concretely forecast future reductions in emissions outside of California as a result of regulation. Similarly, neither DTSC nor any other California agency has the authority to impose and enforce offsite mitigation measures outside of California. This limitation in DTSC's authority to meaningfully address truck emissions beyond California's borders means that even if emissions outside of California were compared against a threshold and, as explained in Certified PEIR Section 4.6.3 no such threshold exists, DTSC would not be able to impose measures to reduce such emissions. Therefore, disclosing out of state GHG emissions for informational purposes is an approach that conforms to both the letter and spirit of CEQA's requirements.

Cumulative impacts related to GHGs were discussed in Certified PEIR Section 5.5.6 and were found to be not cumulatively considerable with implementation of mitigation. Therefore, out of state GHG emissions would not have a significant effect on the environment in California, another state, or globally. With implementation of mitigation measures, the project will result in less-than-significant impacts associated with GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly. The project will not be inconsistent with state and local goals, plans, and policies. Cumulative impacts related to GHG and global climate change will not be cumulatively considerable and the impact will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-31 to 5-32.)

8.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Project remediation activities will result in less than significant health risk impacts with regard to TACs emissions. Implementation of mitigation measures will further reduce the health risk impacts. With implementation of mitigation measures, the project's

[9] California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, 2018. *Discussion Draft CEQA and Climate Change Advisory*, December. Available online: Discussion Draft Climate Change Advisory (ca.gov). Accessed February 4, 2021.

contribution to cumulative impacts associated with the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials is not considered cumulatively considerable.

Potential hazards caused by routine use or reasonably foreseeable accident conditions includes spills involving the soil, groundwater, demolition materials, and lead shot transported and removed from the project site that contain chemicals and radionuclides above cleanup levels, and chemicals brought to and used at the site. Because of the relative remoteness of and restricted access to the project site, the majority of impacts relative to hazards and hazardous materials would be largely confined to the project site and, thus, would not likely combine with any of the other cumulative projects to result in significant cumulative impacts.

While the project is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school, schools or daycare centers are located within one-quarter mile of the haul routes that will be used to access the site. While there could be related projects on the same transportation routes, the likelihood that these would combine with the project to result in the release of hazardous emissions or of acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school is considered low. Given that with the implementation of mitigation measures, the project impact will be less than significant and the low likelihood of combining with any of the related projects, impacts related to emissions within one-quarter mile of a school will not be cumulatively considerable and impacts will be less than significant.

However, there is the potential for cumulative impacts to occur on the project's transportation routes, both onsite and offsite, that could potentially be shared with the cumulative projects that also transport hazardous materials and at the disposal sites where the project's hazardous waste is being disposed, potentially along with related projects. When considering the potential risk of upset impacts for the project and related projects, a collision involving a truck transporting material resulting in a release could potentially occur over the project duration even with the implementation of mitigation measures. Thus, the project's potentially significant impact could cumulatively combine with the related projects located on the haul routes and impacts would be significant and unavoidable.

The project site has been identified by DTSC and CalEPA as a contaminated site. Therefore, impacts of the project and cumulative projects could combine to result in significant and unavoidable impacts as a result of the project site being identified as a hazardous materials site. Although the project will implement mitigation measures, the measures will not reduce impacts to a level of less than significant.

Since the project site is identified as contaminated and the project, in combination with related projects, could potentially result in reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, impacts related to hazards and

hazardous materials will be cumulatively considerable and impacts will be significant and unavoidable. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-33 to 5-36.)

8.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

The geographic context for cumulative impacts to hydrology and water quality is the Los Angeles River and Calleguas Creek watersheds since the site is part of these watersheds. The project in combination with related projects will be required to comply with construction controls and drainage and grading ordinances intended to control earthwork activities and regulate water quality during construction at each site. In addition, once constructed, related projects will be required to demonstrate that stormwater volumes could be managed by downstream conveyance facilities. Since the project will result in a net reduction in impervious surfaces, the project will not combine with related projects to create flooding hazards. The remediation will have a beneficial impact by reducing the potential threat on water quality for downstream receiving waters within both the Los Angeles River and Calleguas Creek watersheds. Therefore, the project, in combination with related projects, will not contribute considerably to cumulative impacts related to hydrology and water quality and cumulative impacts related to hydrology and water quality will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-36 to 5-38).

8.9 Land Use and Planning

CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(d) provides that the environmental setting of an EIR must discuss “any inconsistencies between the project and applicable general plans and regional plans.” Potential inconsistencies between the project and planning documents specific to a particular issue area, such as air quality or greenhouse gases, are addressed in those sections of the Certified PEIR. The various technical sections in Chapter 4 of the Certified PEIR discuss any potential physical/environmental effects and potential incompatibilities that may be considered in the determination of physical environmental impacts. In addition, in relation to land use and planning and Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the Certified PEIR conservatively addresses implementation of the project in relation to potential land use inconsistencies and Ventura County’s land use plans and policies. Under CEQA, potential inconsistencies with land use plans, goals, or policies are not, of themselves, considered impacts on the physical environment. Nevertheless, the Certified PEIR conservatively identifies significant and unavoidable “impacts” associated with its discussions of land use consistency, which are reflected in these Findings. Thus, even with implementation of the mitigation measures, the project in combination with related projects will contribute considerably to cumulative land use impacts and impacts will be significant and unavoidable. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-38 to 5-39.)

8.10 Noise

The geographic scope for the cumulative noise and vibration analysis is the maximum reasonable distance within which project-related noise could be heard at any point from the initiation of onsite activities since noise and vibration levels are localized and reduce in magnitude as distance from the source increases.

Due to the size of the project site and the localized nature of noise, remediation noise levels that will be experienced at the nearest offsite sensitive receptors will be loudest when remediation activities are occurring at an area within the 2,850-acre project site that is nearest to each of the offsite receptors. With implementation of mitigation, the project, in combination with related projects, will not contribute considerably to cumulative noise impacts resulting from remediation activities on the project site.

With respect to vibration, due to the rapid attenuation of vibration levels over distance, potential impacts will be site-specific and cumulative impacts will be less than significant.

Cumulative mobile source noise impacts will occur primarily as a result of increased traffic on the local roadways due to the project and related projects within the traffic study area. Cumulative development along with the project will increase the peak hour traffic noise levels by a maximum of 7.8 dBA and 6.3 dBA, on the roadway segments of Woolsey Canyon Road, between Valley Circle Boulevard and Knapp Ranch Road and Facility Road at Woolsey Canyon Road, respective, while all of the other study roadway segments will experience an increase in peak hour traffic noise levels of less than 3 or 5 dBA over existing conditions. As the roadway segments of Woolsey Canyon Road between Valley Circle Boulevard and Knapp Ranch Road and Facility Road at Woolsey Canyon Road will experience more than a 5 dBA increase in peak hour traffic noise levels, the cumulative traffic noise impacts on this roadway segment would be cumulatively significant. While mitigation measures will reduce noise levels, because the installation of barriers required by the mitigation measure may not be feasible or practical, this impact will be significant and unavoidable. Therefore, the project, in combination with related projects, will contribute considerably to cumulative noise impacts and impacts will be significant and unavoidable. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-39 to 5-42.)

8.11 Transportation and Traffic

The geographic scope for cumulative impacts to transportation and traffic is focused on the four haul routes for the project. The analysis in the Certified PEIR is based on level of service (LOS) since environmental review of the project was undertaken before the procedures and criteria for use of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) took effect. In addition, because the project is not a land-use development project but rather a cleanup and

remediation project without the addition of operational trips, a typical VMT analysis consistent with SB 743 to reduce operational trips and VMT is neither applicable nor required.

With regard to roadway conditions, with mitigation incorporated, impacts related to roadway damage will be less than significant and the project will not contribute considerably to a cumulatively significant impact regarding roadway conditions.

With regard to congestion, even with mitigation, project-generated traffic will result in a significant and unavoidable impact at area intersections and on area roadways. Therefore, the project will contribute incrementally to the cumulative impacts on transportation and traffic. Although the project's contribution to potential cumulative impacts will be temporary and will cease upon completion of site cleanup activities, the addition of project-related traffic to the local roadway network will be cumulatively considerable. With implementation of mitigation measures, the project, in combination with related projects, will contribute considerably to transportation and traffic. Therefore, cumulative impacts related to transportation and traffic would be cumulatively considerable and impacts will be significant and unavoidable. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-43 to 5-44.)

8.12 Utilities and Service Systems

The geographic scope of the cumulative solid waste analysis includes the service areas of the solid waste disposal facilities that would most likely serve the project site. The project will result in less-than significant-impacts with regard to solid waste. Based on the remaining capacities in the Certified PEIR, the non-hazardous waste facilities currently have a combined permitted remaining capacity to accommodate over one billion cubic yards of non-hazardous waste. The hazardous waste facilities currently have a combined permitted remaining capacity to accommodate over 139 million cubic yards of hazardous waste. The radiological waste facilities have a permitted remaining capacity to accommodate over 21 million cubic yards of radiological waste. While the effects of the project will contribute incrementally to the cumulative impacts on solid waste facilities, the amount of waste generated by the project will represent a small percentage of remaining capacity at the various landfills that will be used. In addition, all cumulative projects will be required to comply with federal, state, and local solid waste regulations and statutes. Participation in such local programs and compliance with solid waste regulations and statutes will ensure that waste from related projects is reduced to the maximum extent possible and disposed of at permitted facilities with sufficient capacity to accept the waste. Therefore, the project, in combination with related projects, will not contribute considerably to cumulative impacts to utilities and service systems. Cumulative impacts related to utilities and service systems will not be

cumulatively considerable and impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-44 to 5-46.)

8.13 Energy Consumption

The geographic scope of the cumulative energy consumption analysis includes the state of California for petroleum supply, the SCE service area for electrical power supply, and the SoCal Gas service area for natural gas supply. Natural gas is not provided at the site and the project will not use natural gas.

While the project will increase the demand for energy, it is not anticipated that the project-generated demand in conjunction with the demand from related projects such that available local and regional energy supplies would not be capable of serving the project in addition to the related projects. Therefore, the project, in combination with related projects, will not contribute considerably to cumulative impacts to energy consumption. Therefore, cumulative impacts related to energy consumption will not be cumulatively considerable and impacts will be less than significant. (Certified PEIR pp. 5-46 to 5-49.)

SECTION 9

Evaluation of Alternatives

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(a), the PEIR considered a reasonable range of alternatives that would meet most of the project objectives, are considered to be potentially feasible, and would avoid or substantially reduce one or more of the potentially significant impacts of the project. Under CEQA, an EIR is not required to consider every conceivable alternative to the project; rather it need only consider a reasonable range of alternatives. As the lead agency, DTSC is responsible for selecting the project alternatives and for publicly disclosing its reasoning for selecting those alternatives.

Through the alternatives analysis process presented in the Certified PEIR, three action alternatives were determined to be potentially feasible because they would attain most of the basic project objectives, consider the National Contingency Plan criteria as well as state and federal laws, their implementing regulations, and any applicable state and USEPA guidance documents, and be effective at reducing several of the project's significant effects. These alternatives were analyzed in Chapter 6, Alternatives, of the Certified PEIR. Because the project is legally mandated and location-specific, an alternative location is not relevant. In addition, while not legally feasible, the No Project Alternative was also analyzed in Chapter 6, consistent with the requirements of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines, §15126.6(e)). The potential environmental impacts of the following alternatives were analyzed in the Draft EIR:

1. Alternative 1, No Project Alternative
2. Alternative 2, Preliminary Estimated AOC Exceptions Alternative
3. Alternative 3, Reduced Truck Trip Alternative
4. Alternative 4a, Edison Overland Conveyor Alternative
5. Alternative 4b, North American Cutoff Alternative

The alternatives considered but rejected from the analysis are discussed in Section 9.2, below.

9.1 Project Objectives

The cleanup program objectives serve as a basis for comparing the alternatives, and for the evaluation of associated environmental impacts. The primary objective of the project is to implement SSFL cleanup under the 2007 Consent Order and the 2010 AOCs.

DTSC's project objectives were developed considering the National Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300.430 (e)(9)(iii)) criteria. These are grouped into three categories: primary, or "threshold", criteria; secondary, or "balancing", criteria; and additional "modifying" criteria. Project Objectives are discussed in detail in Section 2.3 of these Findings of Fact.

9.2 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(c), an EIR should identify any alternatives that were considered for analysis, but were rejected as infeasible, and should briefly explain the reasons for their rejection. Alternatives may be eliminated from detailed consideration in the EIR if they fail to meet most of the project objectives, are infeasible, or do not avoid or substantially reduce any significant environmental effects. The following alternatives were considered in the Certified PEIR but were rejected from further consideration.

a. Encapsulation
b. Treatment in Place
c. Local Disposal Facility
d. Alternative Transportation Routes/Methods
e. Future Land Use Alternative
f. Onsite Disposal Cell
g. Area I and III Cleanup to Background
h. Risk-Based Cleanup Standard
i. GETS Effluent Pipeline to Municipal Treatment Facility Alternative
j. Boeing Cleanup to Suburban Residential Excluding the Consumption of Garden Produce

9.3 Alternatives Selected for Analysis

The following four alternatives were selected for detailed analysis in the Certified PEIR consistent with the requirements of CEQA:

a. Alternative 1: No Project Alternative
b. Alternative 2: Preliminary Estimated AOC Exceptions Alternative
c. Alternative 3: Reduced Truck Trip Scenario

d. Alternative 4: Transportation Alternatives

- Alternative 4a: Edison Road Overland Conveyor
- Alternative 4b: North American Cutoff Overland Conveyor

9.4 Alternatives Analysis

9.4.1 Alternative 1: No Project Alternative

Although the No Project Alternative is not legally feasible in this instance due to various regulatory and other legal mandates, CEQA requires that an EIR include an analysis of a No Project Alternative. The No Project Alternative analyzes what would be expected to occur if the project were not approved. Pursuant to Section 15126.6(e)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines, the No Project Alternative shall:

> "…discuss the existing conditions at the time the notice of preparation is published, or if no notice of preparation is published, at the time the environmental analysis is commenced, as well as what would be reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the project were not approved, based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services."

The No Project Alternative represents a continuation of the existing conditions at the project site. Under this alternative, no further action would be taken to treat or remove the impacted onsite soils and groundwater beyond current monitoring and maintenance activities. Operation of the existing GETS would continue under this alternative; all other existing site features would remain. Although all current monitoring and maintenance activities would continue, this alternative would not meet state and federal requirements for cleanup of the site since cleanup of soil and groundwater contaminants would not occur (Draft PEIR Section 6.3.2.1; Final PEIR pp. 2-92 to 2-94 [Topical Response 7b]).

Facts in Support of Finding: Under the No Project Alternative, the project site would not be cleaned up and existing contaminants would remain. The No Project Alternative is not feasible because it cannot be legally implemented and would not meet most of the basic project objectives. However, the No Project Alternative would have reduced impacts in most impact areas, compared with the project or other alternatives, and would avoid the significant and unavoidable impacts associated with air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, and noise (Certified PEIR Table 6-3; Certified PEIR, Chapter 2, Topical Response 7). It would have greater land use impacts than the project, which would be significant and unavoidable.

The No Project Alternative would not meet most of the project objectives, including the primary objective to clean up soil and groundwater contaminants in compliance with

applicable regulatory standards and the protection of human health and the environment. The No Project Alternative would not meet the objectives to prevent or minimize migration of media containing contaminants to offsite areas; use in situ cleanup methods, to the extent practicable, to minimize physical impacts to the environment; or remediate the site in an expedient and cost-effective manner. The No Project Alternative would be consistent with the objective of recognizing the unique biological and cultural significance of the project site through protection of resources to the extent practicable and consistent with applicable laws and regulations for such resources. The No Project Alternative would not be compatible with Ventura County's land use designation of Open Space for the property.

Finding: DTSC rejects the No Project Alternative because the alternative cannot be legally implemented, as it is inconsistent with the 2007 Consent Order requiring the cleanup of soils and groundwater and the 2010 AOCs, as amended by the 2022 Settlement Agreement, requiring the cleanup of soils. In addition, the alternative does not meet most of the project objectives, including the primary objective to clean up soil and groundwater contaminants in compliance with applicable regulatory standards and the protection of human health and the environment. The alternative would also result in significant and unavoidable impacts. Therefore, the No Project Alternative would not meet the basic objectives of the project. Each of these reasons provides a separate and independent basis for rejecting Alternative 1 (CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6(c)).

9.4.2 Alternative 2: Preliminary Estimated AOC Exceptions Alternative

Alternative 2 estimates the areas that could be exceptions to the cleanup standards established in the AOCs for areas that contain significant cultural and biological resources (Draft PEIR Figure 6-2). Application of the biological and cultural resource exceptions would reduce project impacts related to soil volumes removed from the site (Final PEIR Table 2.6-1). AOC exceptions could also be applied where needed to ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, California Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, California streambed alteration requirements, local biological protection regulations, and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. All other components would remain the same as the project. The primary difference between the alternative and the project is that soil volumes and areas to be disturbed would be modified (reduced), based on preliminary estimates of where exceptions for significant cultural and biological resources would be applied. However, given the uncertainty regarding the extent that exceptions will be applied, it is presently premature to quantify specific reductions, such as soil volumes, that would occur under this alternative (Final PEIR pp. 2-94 to 2-98 [Topical Response 7c]).

Facts in Support of Finding: Portions of the project site are identified as potentially eligible for biological exceptions under Alternative 2. In addition, while confidential, cultural resources exception areas would increase the areas that could potentially be protected under this alternative. Thus, the comparative analysis of Alternative 2 with the project assumed that the area disturbed under this alternative would be reduced when compared to the project. Given the uncertainty regarding the extent to which exceptions will be applied, it would be premature to quantify specific reductions, such as soil volumes, that would occur under this alternative. While the application of exception areas would reduce adverse impacts to biological and cultural resources, exception areas do not guarantee that all sensitive natural and cultural resources would be completely avoided. With the implementation of mitigation measures, impacts would be significant and unavoidable, but impacts would be less than those identified for the project (Certified PEIR, Chapter 2, Topical Response 7).

Alternative 2 would result in similar significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality, resulting from violations of air quality standards and conflicts with plans. In addition, Alternative 2 would result in similar significant and unavoidable impacts relative to ambient noise levels, conflicts with land use plans, and conflicts with transportation plans. While Alternative 2 would reduce significant and unavoidable impacts to Braunton's milk-vetch, special status species, conflicts with local policies protecting biological resources, archeological resources, and tribal cultural resources, none of these impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level. Furthermore, Alternative 2 would not reduce impacts related to upset and accident conditions involving hazards and hazardous materials and impacts for this issue would also remain significant and unavoidable (Certified PEIR pp. 6-19 through 6-34).

Alternative 2 would meet the project objectives, including cleaning up soil and groundwater contaminants in compliance with applicable regulatory standards and the protection of human health and the environment, although some objectives would be met to a lesser extent than with the project. Even though excavation areas would be reduced under Alternative 2, it would meet the project objective regarding the reduction of the toxicity, mobility, or volume of contaminated media and preventing or minimizing the migration of contaminated media to offsite areas but to a lesser extent than the Project. Alternative 2 would also meet the objective to remediate the site in an expedient and cost-effective manner. This alternative would use in situ cleanup methods, to the extent practicable, to minimize physical impacts to the environment and would remediate the site in an expedient and cost-effective manner. Alternative 2 would meet the objective of recognizing the unique biological and cultural significance of the project site by ensuring that the AOC exception sites are left undisturbed. This alternative would be compatible with Ventura County's designation of the property. After completion of the investigation and characterization documents and treatability studies,

a cleanup decision document will be submitted for review to DTSC by an RP. DTSC, along with the appropriate regulatory agencies, will determine if and where AOC exceptions would apply, consistent with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. DTSC will make its decision regarding final remediation areas when approving cleanup decision documents and will consider additional input during a separate public comment period associated with those documents.

Finding: DTSC rejects Alternative 2 because it does not avoid any of the significant and unavoidable impacts of the Project. In addition, Alternative 2 would not meet the primary project objective of reducing toxicity, mobility, and/or volume of contaminated media to the same extent as the project. In addition, AOC exceptions will not be determined until after the cleanup decision documents are prepared, thus impacts cannot be evaluated at this time. Each of these reasons provides a separate and independent basis for rejecting Alternative 2 (CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6(c)).

9.4.3 Alternative 3: Reduced Truck Trip Scenario

This alternative would limit the maximum number of daily truck trips associated with the project to 48 round trips per day, which is half of the daily maximum allowed for the project (i.e., 96 round trips per day). All other components would remain the same as under the Project. Limiting the maximum number of daily truck trips under this alternative would extend the project schedule by 10 years and would increase labor and material costs as contractors and project oversight would be necessary throughout the 25-year schedule (Final PEIR, Topical Response 7d, p. 2-98 to 2-101).

Facts in Support of Finding: The Reduced Truck Trip Scenario Alternative would result in the same cleanup activities as under the project although with a reduction in daily truck trips thereby extending the duration of the cleanup. The purpose of Alternative 3 was to be able to understand whether the reduction in daily truck trips alone would result in a substantial reduction in the environmental impacts compared with the project. More specifically, this alternative was developed to comparatively understand impacts relative to the transport of contaminated materials.

Overall impacts would be similar or reduced under Alternative 3 compared to the project, although there would be some greater impacts for aesthetics, biological resources, and geology and soils. Impacts would occur over a longer period of time given the extended construction schedule. Alternative 3 would extend the project schedule by approximately 10 years and would increase labor and material costs as contractors and project oversight would be necessary throughout the approximately 25-year schedule. However, this alternative would reduce many impacts, including transportation impacts, because the maximum number of project-related daily trucks trips would be reduced to 50 percent during remediation. Thus, there would be fewer

vehicles on the road that could impact traffic conditions in the project area. Based on the significance thresholds for criteria pollutants for the VCAPCD and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), which are quantified in pounds per day, air quality impacts associated with transporting contaminated materials would be reduced compared to the project but would still be significant and unavoidable; exposure of sensitive receptors would be reduced and as with the project would be less than significant. With regard to health risk, though impacts would be slightly less than the project, because impacts are driven by off-road equipment, this alternative would result in similar impacts with regard to health risk compared to the project. Although the same areas of disturbance would occur under Alternative 3 as with the project, impacts to biological resources would be greater than with the project because these impacts would occur over a longer period of time (Certified PEIR Table 6-3; Certified PEIR, Chapter 2, Topical Response 7d).

Alternative 3 would meet most of the project objectives, including cleanup of soil and groundwater contaminants in compliance with applicable regulatory standards and the protection of human health and the environment. Cleanup activities under Alternative 3 would reduce the toxicity, mobility, and volume of contaminated media and prevent or minimize the migration of contaminants to offsite areas. This alternative would also use in situ cleanup methods, to the extent practicable, to minimize physical impacts to the environment. Compared to the project, Alternative 3 would also comply with the objective of recognizing the unique biological and cultural significance of the project site through protection of resources to the extent practicable and consistent with applicable laws and regulations for such resources. This alternative would not meet the objective to remediate the site in an expedient and cost-effective manner because it would extend the cleanup schedule 10 years beyond the anticipated project schedule (Certified PEIR Chapter 2, Topical Response 7d).

Finding: DTSC rejects Alternative 3 because it would not meet the basic project objective to remediate the site in an expedient and cost-effective manner since Alternative 3 would extend the anticipated cleanup schedule by 10 years. In addition, Alternative 3 is rejected because it fails to reduce any of the project's significant and unavoidable impacts to a level of less than significant. Alternative 3 also increases potential impacts in several areas. Each of these reasons provides a separate and independent basis for rejecting Alternative 3 (CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6(c)).

9.4.4 Alternative 4

As a result of community concerns related to haul truck traffic necessary for the overall cleanup, DTSC evaluated several transportation options (Draft PEIR Appendix J, Transportation Feasibility Analysis). Transportation options evaluated included construction of a new road for use as a haul route for trucks, use of conveyors to

transport soil to a new truck loading facility in Simi Valley, and use of conveyors to transport soil to a new rail loading facility in Simi Valley on the north side of the project site.

DTSC considered practical feasibility, and possible complicating factors, of transporting contaminated soil from SSFL to nearby rail and highway corridors for further transit to remote disposal facilities (Certified PEIR Appendix J). As a result of this analysis, two potential routes were included in the environmental alternatives analysis of the PEIR (Certified PEIR Chapter 6, Section 6.3.2.4), which are discussed below.

Alternative 4a: Edison Road Overland Conveyor to Truck Route

This alternative would consist of constructing an overland conveyor along Edison Road to transport soil from the project site to a truck-loading site in Simi Valley, California. Once at the truck-loading site, soil trucks would be loaded with contaminated soil and would travel to disposal facilities via Tapo Canyon Boulevard to SR 118. The 4.7-acre truck-loading site would be located near the intersection of Guardian Street and Tapo Canyon Road in Simi Valley. This site would require surface grading and paving as a part of construction activities.

The conveyor system would be 2.58 miles long (Draft PEIR Figure 6-3) and would require disturbance of approximately 11,400 square feet of land area. The conveyor system would follow Edison Road, a private road, as much as possible and would not fully occupy the road right-of-way or prohibit access. Edison Road would remain available to SCE for inspection and maintenance of an existing transmission line along the roadway. The road would also be used as an access road for conveyor maintenance. Under this alternative all activities associated with the project would be implemented as described in Draft PEIR Chapter 3, Project Description. However, after the conveyor becomes operational (approximately 7-10 years after project initiation) the use of Woolsey Canyon Road as a primary route for trucks would be avoided, as trucks would travel to the freeway network from the intersection of Tapo Canyon Road and Guardian Street to SR 118 (Draft PEIR p. 6-46).

Alternative 4b: North American Cutoff Road Overland Conveyor to Rail Route

This alternative consists of constructing an overland conveyor along North American Cutoff Road to transport soil from the project site to a new rail-car loading facility in Simi Valley for transport by rail to disposal sites (Draft PEIR Figure 6-3). The rail site is located near the east end of Smith Road. The conveyor system would be approximately 3.10 miles long and require the disturbance of approximately 20,400 square feet of land area. Under this alternative all activities associated with the project would be implemented as described in Draft PEIR Chapter 3, Project Description. However, after

the conveyor becomes operational (approximately 7-10 years after project initiation) the use of trucks to transport contaminated soil would be eliminated, although backfill soil would still be transported to the project site via truck on Woolsey Canyon Road (Draft PEIR p. 6-53).

Facts in Support of Finding for Alternative 4a and 4b: The goal of Alternative 4a and 4b was to reduce significant impacts related to noise, exposure to health risks from diesel particulate matter, and traffic safety hazards along Woolsey Canyon Road, which will be the primary route for trucks. While these alternatives would reduce these impacts to residents and users of Woolsey Canyon Road, these alternatives would increase impacts related to aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and energy consumption compared to the project impacts.

Alternative 4a and 4b would meet most of the project objectives, including cleanup of soil and groundwater contaminants in compliance with applicable regulatory standards and the protection of human health and the environment. Cleanup activities under these alternatives would prevent or minimize the migration of contaminated media to offsite areas. These alternatives would also use in situ cleanup methods, to the extent practicable, to minimize physical impacts to the environment. Compared to the Project, Alternative 4a and 4b would not meet the objective of recognizing the unique biological and cultural significance of the project site through protection of resources and consistency with applicable laws and regulations for such resources since it would increase the area of disturbance with the construction of the conveyor system and result in additional impacts to biological and cultural resources. Additionally, these alternatives would not meet the objective to remediate the site in an expedient and cost-effective manner, as these alternatives: (i) would not be expected to be operational for approximately 7-10 years (Final PEIR, Topical Response 7e, pp. 2-102 to 2-108); and (ii) would cost more (approximately $80 million to develop and $464 million to operate for Alternative 4a and approximately $86 million to develop and $672 million to operate for Alternative 4b), compared to $444 million to operate the Project (Draft PEIR p. 6-59).

Finding for Alternatives 4a and 4b: DTSC rejects Alternatives 4a and 4b. Implementation of the overland conveyor would involve uncertainties resulting from land acquisition and permitting for development of the conveyor that would substantially delay the cleanup schedule (Final PEIR Chapter 2, Topical Response 7e). In addition, the conveyor would only be appropriate for transporting soils offsite and would not be used to transport any of the building demolition debris from the site. In addition, the conveyors would not be used to transport backfill soils to the project site. The goals of these alternative options were to reduce significant impacts related to noise along Woolsey Canyon Road, exposure to health risks from diesel particulate matter, and traffic safety hazards. While these alternative options would reduce these impacts to

residents and users of Woolsey Canyon Road, they would result in an increase in impacts related to aesthetics, biological resources, and cultural resources compared to the impacts identified for the project.

In addition, based on comments received on the Draft PEIR, DTSC has recognized that there is a potential for land acquisition, design, environmental documentation, permitting, and construction of the conveyor to take longer than the 4 years estimated in Draft PEIR Appendix J. Although the estimated duration needed to design and construct Alternative 4 that was included in Appendix J may be feasible, there is a realistic possibility that the effort could experience delays, resulting in a revised estimate of 7-10 years, which would diminish the benefit of using the conveyor to divert soils from travel along Woolsey Canyon Road. Similarly, the cost of the project would increase more for Alternative 4 compared to the project since Alternative 4 would require land acquisition, design, permitting, and construction (including materials, labor, energy) for the development of the new conveyor system. (Final PEIR Chapter 2, Topical Response 7).

DTSC rejects Alternatives 4a and 4b because, in addition to the factors summarized above these alternatives fail to meet several of the project objectives. In addition, Alternatives 4a and 4b would result in new additional significant and unavoidable impacts. Alternatives 4a and 4b would increase the severity of several of the Project's significant and unavoidable impacts. Alternatives 4a and 4b also fail to avoid any of the Project's significant and unavoidable impacts. Each of these reasons provides a separate and independent basis for rejecting Alternatives 4a and 4b (CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6(c)).

9.5 Environmentally Superior Alternative

Section 15126.6(e)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines indicates that an analysis of alternatives to a project shall identify an environmentally superior alternative among the alternatives considered in an EIR. CEQA defines the "environment" as the physical conditions that exist within the area that would be affected by a project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, or objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

Section 15126.6(e)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines indicates that "[i]f the environmentally superior alternative is the "no project" alternative, the EIR shall also identify an environmentally superior alternative among the other alternatives." The environmentally superior alternative is generally defined as the alternative which would result in the least adverse environmental impacts to the project site and surrounding area.

A comparative summary of the environmental impacts anticipated under each alternative to the environmental impacts associated with the project based on the detailed evaluation of the potential impacts associated with each alternative provided in

the EIR is included in the Certified EIR, Table 6-3, *Comparison of Impacts Associated with the Project and the Alternatives*.

Because the No Project Alternative would avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts associated with air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, and noise, and would have fewer impacts than other alternatives, it is considered the Environmentally Superior Alternative. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(2) to identify an Environmentally Superior Alternative other than the No Project Alternative, a comparative evaluation of the remaining alternatives indicates that Alternative 2, Preliminary Estimated AOC Exceptions, would have fewer impacts than the Project. Alternative 2 is a variation of the project that is considered potentially feasible and would meet all of the project objectives (Draft PEIR pp. 6-58 to 6-61). However, as described in further detail below, the project better achieves specific objective 4 in the Project Objectives to reduce toxicity, mobility, and/or volume of contaminated media because it assumes the maximum soil volume removal that would occur. In addition, Alternative 2 does not avoid any of the significant and unavoidable impacts of the project.

Finding: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6, DTSC has considered a range of reasonable alternatives to the Project which could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen certain significant effects of the project. DTSC has evaluated the comparative merits of the various alternatives and identified and analyzed potentially environmentally superior alternatives. Based on this analysis and substantial evidence in the Record, DTSC finds and determines that none of the alternatives are feasible within the meaning of CEQA and therefore rejects each alternative in favor of the project. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.6(f)(1), 15364; see also Pub. Resources Code, § 21061.1.)

SECTION 10

Findings on the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Pursuant to Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code, DTSC, in adopting these Findings, also adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the project. The MMRP is designed to ensure that, during project implementation, DTSC will ensure that the responsible parties comply with the mitigation measures adopted in these Findings. DTSC hereby finds that the attached MMRP (Exhibit B) meets the requirements of Public Resources Code section 21081.6 by providing for the implementation and monitoring of project conditions intended to mitigate potential environmental effects of the project.

The MMRP will remain available for public review during the implementation of the cleanup program. The mitigation measure numbers used in these Findings reflect the mitigation measure numbers used in the Certified PEIR. The Certified PEIR evaluates the overall site cleanup and initial activities under separate impact statements and in some instances the potential mitigation measures differ. In addition, some measures are site-wide and DTSC will determine the necessary timing for compliance with these measures based on the type, size, and location of the proposed cleanup. Also, some measures are geographically specific and will not apply to all proposed cleanup activities. For example, for biological resources, if the species or habitat addressed by a mitigation measure are not located in the proposed cleanup area, that particular measure will not be applicable to that proposed cleanup area. Note that Attachment B contains some minor revisions to Certified PEIR Chapter 4 that were made to clarify that DTSC will identify the applicable mitigation measures for each of the future cleanup decision documents since the necessary measures are determined by the type and location of the future cleanup activities. In addition, the schedule/timing has been clarified for Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and CUL-3.

SECTION 11

Other CEQA Considerations

On July 19, 2023, DTSC adopted findings for the limited purpose of addressing certification of the PEIR and DTSC's determination that recirculation of the Draft PEIR was not required under CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5 (see Exhibit A). The Findings for Certification of the Final PEIR established that the lead agency's decision maker reviewed the Final PEIR and concluded it complied with CEQA and reflected the agency's independent judgment (CEQA Guidelines §§ 15090, 15092).

Certification is a precondition of project approval and DTSC did not approve a project at the time it certified the PEIR. Thus, DTSC is taking the subsequent independent steps necessary to commit itself to, or otherwise legally approve, a project for which the PEIR was required.

As discussed in the Findings for Certification, DTSC determined that the information added to the PEIR serves to update and clarify the information provided in the Draft PEIR and has refined the project by addressing changes in circumstances and applying updated scientific methodology and information. As discussed in Section 2.4.1 above, DTSC reconsidered the feasibility of "Boeing Cleanup to Suburban Residential with 100 Percent Consumption of Garden Produce" in light of updated federal guidance, information, and comments received on the Draft PEIR. The 100 percent garden scenario, which results in a more stringent cleanup standard and updates to soil excavation and backfill, is evaluated in the Final PEIR. All project updates are described in Final PEIR Section 0.3, Updates to the Project Since Circulation of the 2017 Draft PEIR, in Chapter 3, Project Description of the Certified PEIR, and in the Findings for Certification of the Final PEIR. As summarized in Final PEIR Section 0.4, *Revised Analyses*, and discussed in detail throughout Chapter 4, *Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation*, the analyses demonstrate that updates to the project would not result in new significant project impacts and that there would be no substantial increase in the severity of any previously identified impacts. In addition, no mitigation measures or feasible alternatives were identified in the Final PEIR that are significantly different than those in the Draft PEIR.

DTSC finds that, in weighing the evidence on the whole record, the conclusions of the PEIR, as supplemented by the Addendum, are supported by substantial evidence, including evidence from the expert opinion of the PEIR preparers and DTSC staff. DTSC reviewed all comments received during the review period for the Draft PEIR and responded to the significant environmental issues raised in each comment. These

written responses are provided in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Final PEIR. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15088.)

Finding: DTSC approves and adopts the findings for the entirety of the actions described in these Findings and in the PEIR, as supplemented by the Addendum, as comprising the project. DTSC finds that the PEIR provides objective information to assist the decisionmaker and the public at large in their consideration of the environmental consequences of the project. DTSC further finds that the level of detail is sufficient to provide an informed understanding of the issues presented by implementation of the project, including the concerns described in the comment letters and at the public meetings. Pursuant to CEQA, on the basis of the review and consideration of the Final EIR, DTSC finds that all information included in the Final PEIR in response to comments and in the Draft PEIR that contains underline/strikethrough merely clarifies, amplifies or makes insignificant modifications to an already adequate EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(b). DTSC further finds that no substantial changes are proposed in the project, or have occurred with respect to the surrounding circumstances, which would require major revisions to the PEIR, and that the Addendum contains no new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the PEIR was certified, which would require preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR under PRC Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a).

SECTION 12

Findings for the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS Statement of Basis

All of the environmental effects of implementation of the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis, as reflected in the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for Adoption of the SSFL Site Remediation Program adopted by DTSC, were adequately addressed in the Certified PEIR in that those impacts: (1) have been mitigated or avoided, (2) have been examined at a sufficient level of detail to enable those effects to be avoided or substantially lessened by project-level designs associated with discrete footprints within the SSFL site, imposition of conditions, or by other means in connection with approval of the SSFL Site Remediation Program, or (3) cannot be feasibly mitigated to avoid or substantially lessen the significant impacts despite DTSC's adoption of all feasible mitigation measures.

The project is within the scope of the SSFL Site Remediation Program and Certified PEIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168 and does not implicate any of the conditions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 requiring preparation of further CEQA documentation. No new significant or substantially more severe environmental impacts have been identified in connection with the project that were not previously considered in the Certified PEIR. No new significant or substantially more severe impacts are anticipated to occur; all applicable mitigation measures identified in the Certified PEIR will be implemented, and no new mitigation measures are required.

The potential environmental effects of implementing the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis, including any contribution of the project to cumulative or otherwise significant and unavoidable impacts, have been fully addressed by the Certified PEIR and the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for Adoption of the SSFL Site Remediation Program. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c), DTSC hereby finds that none of the circumstances described in Section 15162(a) of the CEQA Guidelines is present and no further environmental review or documentation is required for the project.

The project does not otherwise provide an opportunity to avoid or substantially reduce any of the significant and unavoidable adverse impacts of implementing the SSFL Site Remediation Program.

In summary, based on substantial evidence and in light of the information contained in the administrative record as a whole, DTSC has made one or more of the following

Findings with respect to the significant environmental effects of the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis:

- The project will not increase the severity of significant environmental impacts previously identified in the Certified PEIR.
- The project will not result in environmental effects that were not adequately examined in the Certified PEIR.
- The project is within the scope of the Certified PEIR.
- All adopted mitigation measures applicable to the project, as identified in the CEQA Analysis for the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis, are made conditions of approval.
- All significant effects on the environment due to implementation of the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis have been avoided or substantially lessened to the extent feasible through Certified PEIR mitigation measures adopted in connection with DTSC's approval of the SSFL Site Remediation Program.
- All remaining significant effects on the environment caused by implementation of the project, found to be unavoidable, remain acceptable for the reasons set forth in the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for Adoption of the SSFL Site Remediation Program.

SECTION 13

Statement of Overriding Considerations

As described above in Section 7, Impacts Found to Be Significant After Mitigation, implementation of the SSFL Site Remediation Program (including the overall site cleanup and initial activities\) will have certain environmental impacts that cannot feasibly be mitigated to a less-than-significant level, and these impacts will remain significant and unavoidable. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081(b) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15093(a) and (b), DTSC is required to balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of the project against its unavoidable environmental effects when determining whether to approve the project. If the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered acceptable pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.

DTSC has taken the following considerations into account in moving forward with the SSFL Site Remediation Program, approving the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS, and issuing the Statement of Basis.

A. The project will protect people, communities, and the environment from toxic substances by facilitating cleanup of the site.

DTSC's mission is to protect California's people and the environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources. As described in detail in the PEIR, past operational activities at SSFL resulted in the release of chemicals which have left residual contamination in soils and groundwater at the site. The primary chemical contaminants in soils include a variety of solvents, primarily trichloroethylene (TCE), metals, and petroleum hydrocarbons. Radionuclides from past nuclear research activities have also impacted the area. In addition, existing buildings and facilities at SSFL may contain hazardous building materials such as lead-based paint, asbestos-containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyls. Potential exposures can occur from contact with soils, sediments, weathered bedrock, surface water, air, and groundwater. These conditions pose unacceptable health risks to people that use the site now and for reasonably anticipated future land uses, and to animals and plants found on the site. Failure to remediate the site risks a continued potential for unacceptable exposure of people and wildlife to toxic contamination.

The PEIR identifies over 60 mitigation measures that will serve to avoid and/or reduce potentially significant environmental impacts during the implementation of the cleanup.

The mitigation measures, which will be effective throughout the cleanup and applicable during the operation and maintenance period, will ensure that human health and the environment on site and in neighboring communities will be protected to the extent feasible throughout the cleanup process. While the project will have significant and unavoidable adverse impacts, particularly in the near-term during cleanup activities, the project will also have significant long-term benefits to people and the environment.

The PEIR evaluates several project alternatives that may reduce significant impacts associated with the cleanup activities. However, the PEIR concludes that the project would reduce the toxicity, potential mobility and/or volume of contaminated media, and/or complete the remediation more expeditiously, compared to each of the alternatives evaluated. Moreover, each alternative to the project would itself have significant and unavoidable impacts. This includes the No Project Alternative, which would have significant and unavoidable impacts relating to land use that would be greater than the project's impacts, as well as more significant impacts than the project relating to hazardous materials and water quality. As described above in Section 9, Evaluation of Alternatives, each of the potentially feasible alternatives will either not achieve the basic project objective of protecting human health and the environment in an expedient and cost-effective manner, will not avoid the significant and unavoidable impacts of the project, and/or will have greater or new impacts compared with the project.

The first cleanup activity at the site will be the cleanup described in the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis (the "NASA Phase 1 Cleanup"). This groundwater cleanup focuses on areas with high concentrations of TCE and its degradation daughter products (cis-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, and vinyl chloride) in groundwater and soil vapor, and seep areas at the NASA groundwater source areas. The NASA Phase 1 Cleanup will directly benefit human health and the environment by substantially reducing contamination in these highly impacted locations. For these reasons, both the overall project and the NASA Phase 1 Cleanup will protect people, communities, and the environment from the effects of toxic substances currently on the site. This environmental benefit has region-wide significance and outweighs the significant and unavoidable impacts identified in the PEIR.

B. The project will prevent migration of contaminants offsite and mitigate exposure pathways.

The project will reduce the potential for on-site contamination to migrate off-site and expose people and the environment to unacceptable risks. Contamination may migrate offsite through several transport mechanisms, including stormwater runoff, mobilization of sediments, groundwater flow, and wind erosion. Other pathways for contamination migration include unforeseen events such as large-scale landslides, unusually severe

storms, wildfires (which are anticipated to increase in frequency and severity due to climate change), or other incidents. The project site is upstream and upgradient of residential properties that could be impacted by contaminant migration. Numerous ephemeral stream channels and drainages, as well as seeps and springs, are present throughout the project site. Failure to remediate the site risks future off-site migration of contamination.

A key objective of the SSFL soil cleanup is to prevent migration of contaminants that might otherwise have the potential to pose a threat to offsite areas. Without remediation, impacted soils will continue to have the potential to migrate off-site, creating new areas of contamination and elevating risks of exposure. Although the PEIR identifies that the remediation activities would result in significant and unavoidable impacts during cleanup activities, the benefits of preventing off-site migration of contaminated soil and water outweigh the short-term significant impacts associated with cleanup activities.

Portions of groundwater at the site are contaminated at levels that could pose health risks to human and ecological receptors that could ingest, bathe in, or inhale vapors from groundwater. Contaminants that have entered groundwater at the project site currently remain within the local groundwater and sandstone matrix, having migrated only a few hundred to a few thousand feet from source locations. NASA performed risk assessments for the four NASA areas of impacted groundwater to assess if exposure to chemicals in groundwater, deep soil and bedrock vapor, seeps, and springs pose a current or potential risk to human health or ecological receptors. The NASA human health risk assessments confirmed that there are no current human exposures or pathways for significant offsite exposures from contamination at the NASA areas of impacted groundwater, but that risks from hypothetical future onsite human exposures to current groundwater, water discharge at the southern seeps, and subsurface vapor at those contaminated areas would be significant.

The NASA Phase 1 Cleanup will directly benefit human health and the environment by preventing migration of contamination from certain highly impacted areas of groundwater and soil vapor. Removing high concentrations of TCE from groundwater and soil vapor by implementing the NASA Phase 1 cleanup in advance of other remedies will reduce the diffusion and migration of TCE and reduce the timeframe for the Phase 2 cleanup.

The overall site cleanup, including the NASA Phase 1 Cleanup, and initial activities at the SSFL site, are designed to reduce the risk of off-site migration of contaminated groundwater, surface water, and soils. This environmental benefit has region-wide significance and outweighs the significant and unavoidable impacts identified in the PEIR.

C. The project will enhance the site's suitability for future land uses.

Toxic contamination on the project site constrains its potential land uses. The SSFL Site Remediation Program and NASA Phase 1 Cleanup project will remediate contamination, protecting human health, communities, and the environment from exposure to contamination originating from the project site. The cleanup will enable future uses of the property that provide economic benefits and fulfill regional land use planning policies.

In DOE and NASA areas of responsibility, the remediation will be consistent with the 2010 AOCs that require soil cleanup to background. In the Boeing areas of responsibility, the remediation will be consistent with the 2007 Consent Order, as amended by the 2022 Settlement Agreement, which requires soil cleanup in the Boeing areas to a risk-based standard protective of human health and the environment based on the current and reasonably anticipated future land use. In all cases, the cleanup will allow the consideration of reasonably anticipated future land uses identified in the Ventura County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance for the project site.

The NASA Phase 1 Cleanup will directly facilitate future uses of specified, highly impacted portions of the site. DTSC considers the reasonably anticipated future land use of the site, among other factors, during the remedy selection process. The Ventura County General Plan designations and zoning for the project site allow recreational, residential, and agricultural uses; thus, DTSC has considered those allowed uses as factors in its identification of the reasonably anticipated future land use of the SSFL site. The proposed project would not change the current use of the site and would not conflict with the most reasonably anticipated land uses identified for the site. The remedy technologies for the NASA Phase 1 Cleanup will protect human health and the environment, achieve cleanup objectives and facilitate long-term effectiveness, while reducing toxicity, mobility, and volume.

Corrective action is required to address risks to people that may use the site in the future. It is important to complete corrective action to mitigate these risks, so the site does not pose a threat to future use by humans, wildlife, or other ecological receptors. Without cleaning up contamination, limitations of human use of the site will continue to be necessary, and the site could pose risks to humans, plants, and animals.

The overall project, including the NASA Phase 1 Cleanup, and initial activities at the SSFL will reduce contamination on the project site to enhance the site's suitability for future land uses, consistent with regional planning goals. These social and economic benefits outweigh the significant unavoidable impacts of the project.

D. The project will enforce the legal obligation of the Responsible Parties to clean up the site.

As described in section 1.2.1 of the PEIR, the overall project is necessary to comply with the RPs' existing statutory and regulatory obligations to clean up the site, including the obligations under Health and Safety Code sections 25187 and 25356; LARWQCB's Basin Plan; and State Water Board Resolution No. 92-49.

To create the framework for implementing these requirements, DTSC executed the 2007 Consent Order with the three RPs, as amended by the 2022 Settlement Agreement for Boeing's areas of responsibility. In addition, DTSC entered into the 2010 Administrative Orders on Consent (AOCs) with DOE and NASA, which require the cleanup of the soil and groundwater at the site. The NASA Phase 1 Cleanup will directly implement a portion of NASA's obligations under the 2007 Consent Order, by remediating contamination from certain highly impacted areas of groundwater and soil vapor. The NASA Phase 1 Cleanup will address areas with the highest contaminant mass of trichloroethene (TCE) and its daughter products (cis-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, and vinyl chloride) at four locations identified as the major NASA SSFL groundwater contaminant source areas.

The overall program, including the NASA Phase 1 Cleanup, and initial activities, will carry out the responsible parties' obligations to remediate the site in accordance with applicable law. These legal benefits outweigh the significant unavoidable impacts of the project.

Conclusion

DTSC must ensure that the SSFL cleanup minimizes risks to human health and the environment. However, DTSC recognizes that in general, a more stringent cleanup may result in greater impacts to certain resources in the surrounding environment than a less stringent effort. CEQA Section 15093 requires that the lead agency balance a project's benefits with its impacts and describe how the benefits outweigh a project's adverse effects.

Having considered the entire administrative record on the project, and (i) made a reasonable and good faith effort to eliminate or substantially mitigate the impacts resulting from the project, adopting all feasible mitigation measures; (ii) examined a reasonable range of alternatives to the project and, based on this examination, determined that all those alternatives are either environmentally inferior, fail to meet the basic project objectives, or are not feasible, and therefore should be rejected; (iii) recognized all significant, unavoidable impacts; and (iv) balanced the benefits of the project against the project's significant and unavoidable effects, DTSC hereby finds that the specific economic, legal, social, technological and other benefits, including region-

wide or statewide environmental benefits of the project, outweigh the potential unavoidable adverse environmental impacts and render those potential adverse environmental impacts acceptable. DTSC further finds that each of the separate benefits of the project as stated herein is individually determined to be an overriding consideration that warrants approval of the project, independent of any other benefit.

SECTION 14

Approval

In compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, DTSC has considered the benefits of the SSFL Site Remediation Program, as described in the certified PEIR (Chapter 3 of the Draft PEIR) and the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis as balanced against their unavoidable adverse environmental effects and hereby determines that the benefits outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects. Therefore, DTSC determines that the unavoidable adverse environmental effects are considered acceptable in light of the projects' benefits. DTSC hereby finds that the certified PEIR and associated documents remain adequate and in compliance with CEQA, and adopts the MMRP, Findings, and the Statement of Overriding Considerations for the SSFL Site Remediation Program and the NASA Phase 1 Groundwater CMS and Statement of Basis.

Katherine M. Butler

1/20/2026

Katherine Butler
Director

Date

Exhibit A

Certification of the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), dated July 19, 2023

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
1001 "I" Street
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Certification of Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Site Remediation Program

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in its capacity as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, prepared a program environmental impact report (PEIR) for the cleanup program of potential remediation activities to address soil and groundwater contamination and the removal of structures under DTSC oversight at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site (State Clearinghouse Number: 2013111068). The PEIR was prepared to meet the substantive and procedural requirements of CEQA and the rules, regulations, and procedures for the implementation of CEQA as executed by DTSC. The Final PEIR was released on June 8, 2023.

DTSC has prepared findings of fact in support of certification of the Final PEIR.[1] These findings are attached to this letter. The findings are for the limited purpose of addressing certification of the PEIR and DTSC's consideration of whether conditions exist that would first require recirculation of the Draft PEIR. These are not intended as comprehensive findings pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081 and CEQA Guidelines § 15091. Those findings, including Statements of Overriding Considerations as appropriate, will be made after DTSC review of and public comment on individual decision documents.

At this time, DTSC is not filing a notice of determination (NOD) or approving a project, as those terms are defined in CEQA. Per CEQA Guidelines § 15094, DTSC will file an NOD with the Office of Planning and Research within five days of deciding to approve individual decision documents for remediation plans. Under CEQA, the act of certifying the Final PEIR does not constitute approval of any project. The remediation technologies and corrective actions evaluated in the PEIR are based on available investigation and characterization documents that have been prepared to date. After

[1] While the Final PEIR was originally scheduled for certification on June 28th, DTSC decided, in response to requests from elected officials, to delay certification to allow agencies and the public to have additional time to review the environmental documents. Thus, the original certification date of June 28th is withdrawn, and the date on this letter is the Final PEIR certification date. DTSC did not make any changes to the PEIR or findings during the additional review time.

completion of the investigation and characterization documents and treatability studies, each responsible party will prepare draft cleanup decision documents and propose specific corrective actions for their respective areas of responsibility. DTSC will file a separate NOD for each decision document. As such, DTSC believes that any legal challenges to the validity of the PEIR would not be ripe until such time as an NOD is filed.

Based on substantial evidence in light of the whole record and in accordance with CEQA Guidelines § 15090, DTSC, as lead agency for the project, certifies that:

1) The Final PEIR has been completed and processed in compliance with the requirements of CEQA;

2) The Final PEIR was presented to the persons at DTSC designated to approve the cleanup program, who reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final PEIR prior to its certification; and

3) The Final PEIR reflects DTSC's independent judgment and analysis.

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control

7/19/2023
Date

Attachment: Findings of Fact in Support of Certification of the Final PEIR

SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY SITE REMEDIATION PROGRAM

CERTIFICATION OF FINAL PEIR PURSUANT TO CEQA

Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Final PEIR)
State Clearinghouse Number: 2013111068

Prepared by
California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control
July 19, 2023

I. INTRODUCTION

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15000 et seq.), the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in its capacity as the CEQA lead agency, prepared an environmental impact report (PEIR) for the cleanup program of potential remediation activities (also referred to as the project) to address soil and groundwater contamination and the removal of structures under DTSC oversight at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site. Because of documented and potential releases of contamination at SSFL, DTSC is using its regulatory authority to require cleanup under state law. The Final PEIR includes an evaluation of remedial technologies necessary to address the different types of contaminated land and water resources, the wide variety of contaminants present, and the unique and varied conditions at the SSFL site (topography, vegetation, access, sensitive biological and cultural resources, etc.).

These findings of fact in support of certification of the Final PEIR have been prepared by DTSC as the CEQA lead agency in accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines for the project evaluated in the Final PEIR—i.e., the overall cleanup program of soil and groundwater remediation activities and the removal of structures under DTSC oversight at the approximately 2,850-acre SSFL, located in the Simi Hills between Simi Valley and Los Angeles, California. Some portions of the SSFL site are owned by The Boeing Company (Boeing) and some portions are owned by the federal government and are administered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) owned several buildings at SSFL, which have been demolished to slab on grade. Boeing, NASA, and DOE are the responsible parties (RPs) for the investigation and cleanup of contaminants released from past activities at the SSFL site. The PEIR's project description therefore discusses the basic characteristics of proposed remediation activities and the approvals anticipated to implement them (CEQA Guidelines § 15124).

The purpose of the PEIR is to inform decision makers and the public of the potential environmental impacts that could result from the project, as well as mitigation measures or alternatives that would avoid or minimize potential significant impacts. DTSC, in its role as lead agency, is required to coordinate with public agencies having jurisdiction by law over the project, to provide the public opportunities to comment on the PEIR (Public Resources Code § 21091), and to respond to significant environmental points raised during the public review process. DTSC is responsible for the preparation and distribution of the PEIR pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21067. In addition, DTSC has the principal responsibility for approving the cleanup activities reviewed in the PEIR as the proposed project. The PEIR will be used in conjunction with all permits and approvals necessary for implementation of the soil and groundwater cleanup activities and the removal of structures under DTSC oversight at SSFL.

DTSC chose to use a programmatic approach along with project-level evaluation, where feasible, of specific cleanup actions that have a sufficient level of detail for an in-depth analysis, because it provides a systematic and comprehensive review of a range of potential cleanup activities at the overall project site over the reasonably foreseeable term of project implementation. This approach ensures that any potentially significant environmental impacts resulting from implementation of cleanup activities are disclosed and mitigated to the extent feasible and facilitates an earlier public review of the proposed project and, thus, efficient decision-making, which allows for a more timely initiation of cleanup activities. The cleanup includes "corrective action" for the Boeing areas of responsibility (also referred to

in the PEIR as Boeing areas) and groundwater for DOE and NASA as defined under Chapter 6.5 of Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code, which is California's analog to the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The cleanup activities also include remediation for the DOE and NASA areas of responsibility under Chapter 6.8 of Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code, which is California's analog to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). DTSC is implementing these laws at SSFL in accordance with the 2007 Consent Order (DTSC, 2007), as amended by the 2022 Settlement Agreement for the Boeing areas of responsibility (DTSC, 2022); the 2007 Consent Order for groundwater cleanup in DOE and NASA areas of responsibility; and the 2010 Administrative Orders on Consent (2010 AOCs or AOCs) for soil cleanup in DOE and NASA areas of responsibility (DTSC, 2010a; 2010b).

A program-level EIR for the overall cleanup project (with project-level evaluation where sufficient information is available) is appropriate because it meets the following criteria, defined by CEQA Guidelines § 15168:

- The actions proposed by the project are geographically connected (the areas to be cleaned up include the SSFL site and immediately adjacent areas identified to be contaminated by past activities at SSFL).
- The project is connected as logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions (multiple actions by three separate responsible parties to clean up contaminated media within a limited and defined geographic area).
- The project would be implemented consistent with rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program (federal and state regulatory framework; 2007 Consent Order and the 2010 AOCs).
- Individual activities (cleanup actions) would be carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority (RCRA, CERCLA, and the Hazardous Waste Control Law) and have generally similar environmental effects that can be mitigated in similar ways.

A program-level EIR allows a public agency to consider broad policy alternatives and program-level-wide mitigation measures at the early stages of planning. In this situation, the PEIR's comprehensive environmental review of overall cleanup activities over the anticipated timeframe of project implementation focuses the environmental review process for subsequent cleanup actions and can make cleanup plans more readily implementable when site-specific information regarding these activities can be ascertained (CEQA Guidelines § 15168). The PEIR describes a range of cleanup activities that enables careful study of the impacts of those activities while recognizing the need to respond to site-specific details through review of individual decision documents. This approach offers a comprehensive long-term analysis of cleanup activities and offers additional advantages by ensuring consideration of "big picture" issues that might be slighted in a case-by-case analysis. The PEIR also allows DTSC to consider mitigation for the range of potential cleanup activities at an early time when it has greater flexibility to deal with basic problems or cumulative impacts. The PEIR also recognizes that ensuring effective and protective cleanup of the project site involves time-, location-, and circumstance-specific questions for which data frequently is not available in advance; it must instead be developed and verified at the time individual cleanup plans are being considered.

The remediation technologies and corrective actions evaluated in the PEIR are based on available investigation and characterization documents that have been prepared to date. After completion of the

investigation and characterization documents and treatability studies, each RP will prepare draft cleanup decision documents[1] and propose specific corrective actions for their respective areas of responsibility. DTSC will review the draft cleanup decision documents to ensure that the corrective actions are consistent to the degree necessary with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (National Contingency Plan) (Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, § 300.1 et seq.) as incorporated into the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HSC § 25100 et seq.) and all other applicable legal requirements. As part of its review, DTSC will make the draft cleanup decision documents available for public review and comment.

Upon completion of final cleanup decision documents and project-level designs associated with discrete footprints within the project area, DTSC will determine whether the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the project-level designs were examined in the PEIR, or whether additional CEQA review is required prior to the approval of a project-level design. (See Draft PEIR Section 2.1.2, *Future Review of Project-Level Designs*). Per CEQA Guidelines § 15094, the lead agency must file a notice of determination with the Office of Planning and Research within 5 days of deciding to approve an individual project. DTSC will file a separate notice of determination for each decision document.

II. STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Public Resources Code § 21002 provides in part that "public agencies should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of such projects[.]" The same statute states that the procedures required by CEQA "are intended to assist public agencies in systematically identifying both the significant effects of proposed projects and the feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures which will avoid or substantially lessen such significant effects." The mandate and principles announced in Public Resources Code § 21002 are implemented, in part, through the requirement that agencies must adopt findings before approving projects for which EIRs are required. (See Public Resources Code § 21081(a); CEQA Guidelines § 15091(a).)

Under CEQA, however, the act of certifying the Final PEIR does not constitute approval of any project. Rather, certification merely establishes that the lead agency's decision makers have reviewed the Final PEIR and concluded it complies with CEQA and reflects the agency's independent judgment (CEQA Guidelines §§ 15090, 15092). Though certification is a precondition of project approval, subsequent independent steps must be taken before a public agency can commit itself to, or otherwise legally approve, a project for which an EIR was required. Such steps include the adoption or approval of the following: (i) formal findings addressing the disposition of all the significant environmental effects identified in the EIR, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081 and CEQA Guidelines § 15091; (ii) a mitigation monitoring and reporting program; and (iii) a statement of overriding considerations, when approving a project with significant unavoidable effects. DTSC is not taking such steps at this time. These steps, including adoption of the requisite findings, will be performed when DTSC makes the first project approval based on the PEIR. The findings contained herein are for the limited purpose of addressing certification of the PEIR and DTSC's consideration of whether conditions exist that would require

[1] "Cleanup decision documents" includes the Statements of Basis for Boeing soils cleanup and site-wide groundwater cleanup, Soils Remedial Action Implementation Plan (SRAIP) for DOE and NASA soils cleanup, removal action plans, Closure Plans for the various permitted and interim status units, and Post-Closure Permits for the closed surface impoundments.

recirculation of the Draft PEIR; however, these are not intended as comprehensive findings pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081 and CEQA Guidelines § 15091.

The findings and determinations contained herein are based on substantial evidence contained in the entire record relating to the project and the Final PEIR. The findings and determinations constitute the independent findings and determinations of the DTSC decisionmakers and are supported by substantial evidence in the record.

Although the findings may identify specific pages, appendices, or other references within the Draft and Final PEIR in support of various conclusions reached below, DTSC hereby incorporates by reference and adopts as its own, the reasoning set forth in those environmental documents, and thus relies on that reasoning, even where not specifically mentioned or cited, in reaching the conclusions set forth herein, except where additional evidence is specifically mentioned. DTSC further intends that if these findings fail to cross-reference or incorporate by reference any other part of these findings, any finding required or permitted to be made by DTSC with respect to any particular subject matter of the project must be deemed made if it appears in any portion of these findings or findings elsewhere in the record.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE FINAL PEIR

The PEIR for the project was developed to (1) identify and describe reasonable project objectives; (2) describe the cleanup program and its project elements; (3) analyze and identify potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures applicable to the overall cleanup program; and (4) identify and comparatively evaluate alternatives to the project at a programmatic level.

The Final PEIR consists of the revised Draft PEIR, comments and recommendations received on the Draft PEIR, the responses of the lead agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process, revisions and updates to the Draft PEIR and other information added by the lead agency in accordance with CEQA Guidelines § 15132. The revised 2017 Draft PEIR incorporates changes to the project and updated analysis since the release of the 2017 Draft PEIR. A detailed description of the project, as evaluated in the 2017 Draft PEIR, is provided in Chapter 3, *Project Description*, of the Draft PEIR.

The Final PEIR is organized as follows:

- **Draft PEIR (Revised)**
  - **Draft PEIR Chapters 1 through 12** (Changes to Draft PEIR text are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and <u>underline</u> for additions)
  - **Draft PEIR Appendices A through K** (Changes to Draft PEIR Appendices text are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and <u>underline</u> for additions except for new worksheets or memos which are identified by their recent dates)
    - Appendix A: Program Management Plan
    - Appendix B: Preliminary Screening Levels
    - Appendix C: Notice of Preparation/Scoping Report
    - Appendix D: Air Quality Worksheets
    - Appendix E: Greenhouse Gas Worksheets

- Appendix F: Health Risk Modeling
- Appendix G: Risk of Upset Worksheets
- Appendix H: Traffic Study
- Appendix I: Noise Calculations and Blasting
- Appendix J: Transportation Feasibility Analysis
- Appendix K: Excavation and Offsite Disposal Volume Estimate for Boeing Areas I, III, and Southern Buffer

- **Final PEIR**
  - **Preface:** Provides an overview of project updates and changes in circumstances that have occurred since the circulation of the 2017 Draft PEIR.
  - **Final PEIR Chapters 1 through 6**
    - **Chapter 1, Introduction:** This chapter provides a brief project summary and an overview of the public review process and summarizes the review process for subsequent actions to implement individual cleanup plans.
    - **Chapter 2, Topical Responses:** After reviewing all of the comments received on the Draft PEIR, DTSC identified several reoccurring themes and prepared "topical responses" that provide comprehensive discussions in response to thematic questions and points raised.
    - **Chapter 3, Responses to Comments:** This chapter presents responses to significant environmental points raised in comments received on the Draft PEIR. This chapter provides a list of the public agencies, tribes, organizations, individuals, and businesses that submitted comments on the Draft PEIR. In addition, this chapter includes responses to comments made at two public meetings. Public meeting transcripts and comment letters are included as Appendices L and M, respectively, of this PEIR.
    - **Chapter 4, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP):** This chapter includes the MMRP that will be used by the enforcement and monitoring agencies responsible for implementation of the project mitigation measures. The mitigation measures identified in the MMRP will be adopted by DTSC in connection with project approvals.
    - **Chapter 5, References:** Sets forth a comprehensive listing of sources of information used in preparation of the Final PEIR.
    - **Chapter 6, List of Preparers:** This includes a list of lead agency personnel and consultants involved with the preparation of the PEIR.
  - **Final PEIR Appendices**
    - Appendix L: Meeting Transcripts
    - Appendix M: Comment Letters
    - Appendix N: Biological Resources
    - Appendix O: Resumes of Key DTSC Staff and EIR Preparers
    - Appendix P: Summary of the 2022 Settlement Agreement
    - Appendix Q: Summary of Project Updates

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15082, DTSC published the Notice of Preparation (NOP) on November 22, 2013. The NOP was circulated to responsible and trustee agencies, federal agencies, Native American Tribes, and interested members of the public. The NOP public comment period concluded on February 10, 2014. DTSC broadly announced the availability of the NOP, public scoping meetings, and extended comment period (75 days) to allow interested agencies and the public to participate. Public notices were placed in three local papers of general circulation within the project vicinity (LA Daily News, Ventura County Star, and Simi Valley Acorn).

DTSC also mailed a "Community Notice" to public agencies, special districts, tribal representatives, organizations, homeowners, and local residents indicating the availability of the NOP and date/time of the scoping meetings. The Community Notice was distributed by email (approximately 900 addresses) and traditional mail (approximately 4,600 hard copy notices).

In addition, two public meetings were held during the 75-day public comment period, in accordance with Public Resources Code § 21083.9. The meetings were facilitated by DTSC and generally consisted of a presentation describing the meeting format, SSFL description and history, environmental analysis conducted to date, the PEIR and CEQA process, and opportunities for public involvement. To facilitate accurate reporting of comments, a court reporter transcribed the proceedings at the scoping meetings. The NOP comments, along with a summary matrix included in the Scoping Report, are provided in PEIR Appendix C.

As part of the PEIR process and because of the large volume of soil to be removed from the SSFL site, DTSC solicited comments from the public regarding potential transportation options (routes and methods) and evaluation criteria for the project. Two public meetings were held to solicit public comment on transportation options. A Transportation Feasibility Analysis was prepared based on this input and was used to develop alternatives addressed in the PEIR (see PEIR Appendix J).

Public and agency review of the project was further encouraged by DTSC through distribution of the Draft PEIR. The Draft PEIR was distributed with the public comment period open from September 7, 2017, to December 14, 2017, which is greater than the required 45-day public review period required under CEQA. In addition, DTSC placed public notices in three local papers of general circulation within the project vicinity.

The Draft PEIR, as well as appendices and all supporting materials and references, were available at the project website (DTSC – SSFL Site Investigation and Cleanup – CEQA), along with the Chatsworth DTSC office and local libraries.

Public meetings were held on October 5, 2017, and October 7, 2017. The public meetings included a forum for the public to review technical information that was presented in the Draft PEIR followed by a public meeting during which the members of the public had an opportunity to provide oral comments or submit written comment cards to the lead agency. All verbal input was recorded by a court reporter.

Responses to all comments submitted to DTSC during the Draft PEIR's public review and comment period were prepared and incorporated into the Final PEIR, along with revisions to the Draft PEIR made based on comments received as well as clarifications that DTSC determined were necessary, which are

shown in the Draft PEIR in underline/strikethrough. In addition, information regarding project updates and changes in circumstances that have occurred since circulation of the 2017 Draft PEIR are shown in the revised Draft PEIR in underline/strikethrough. DTSC determined this is the best approach, rather than a "corrections and additions" chapter in the Final PEIR, since the document will be used throughout the implementation of the cleanup. This approach also serves to provide the full document in an accessible format consistent with Assembly Bill 434, as codified in California Government Code § 11546.7.

V. CONSIDERATION OF RECIRCULATION

Under CEQA, recirculation of an EIR is required when "significant new information" is added to an EIR after public notice is given of the availability of the draft EIR for public review but prior to certification of the final EIR. The term "information" can include changes in the project or environmental setting, as well as additional data or other information. Mere passage of time since publication of a draft EIR does not trigger recirculation; new information added to an EIR is not "significant" unless it results in changes to the EIR that, unless recirculated, would deprive the public of a meaningful opportunity to comment upon a substantial adverse environmental effect of the project or a feasible way to mitigate or avoid such an effect (including a feasible project alternative) that the project's proponents have declined to implement. "Significant new information" requiring recirculation includes, for example, a disclosure showing that:

1. A new significant environmental impact would result from the project or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented.
2. A substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would result unless mitigation measures are adopted that reduce the impact to a level of insignificance.
3. A feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed would clearly lessen the significant environmental impacts of the project, but the project's proponents decline to adopt it.
4. The Draft EIR was so fundamentally and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded (CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5).

Recirculation is not required where the new information added to the EIR merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications in an adequate EIR.

DTSC has determined that the information added to the PEIR serves to update and clarify the information provided in the Draft PEIR and has refined the project by addressing changes in circumstances and applying updated scientific methodology and information. Project updates are described in Final PEIR Section 0.3, *Updates to the Project Since Circulation of the 2017 Draft PEIR*, and in Chapter 3 of the revised Draft PEIR. As summarized in Final PEIR Section 0.4, *Revised Analyses* and discussed in detail in Chapter 4 of the revised Draft PEIR, the updated analyses demonstrate that updates to the project would not result in new significant project impacts and that there would be no substantial increase in the severity of any previously identified impacts. In addition, no mitigation measures or feasible alternatives have been identified that are significantly different than those in the Draft PEIR.[2] The following sections

[2] DTSC has reconsidered the conclusion in Draft PEIR Chapter 6, Alternatives, Section 6.2.11, regarding the Boeing Cleanup to Suburban Residential with 100 Percent Consumption of Garden Produce in light of updated federal guidance, information, and comments received on the Draft PEIR. The 100 percent garden scenario, which results in a more stringent cleanup standard and updates to soil excavation and backfill, is evaluated in the Final PEIR.

provide a discussion of the project updates for each RP and why recirculation under CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5 is not required. An update on cumulative projects since the Draft PEIR was released is also provided.

A. Boeing Updates

As described in Final PEIR Section 0.3, *Updates to the Project Since Circulation of the 2017 Draft PEIR*, and summarized below, there have been project updates for the Boeing areas of responsibility since the publication of the Draft PEIR:

(1) Update from 25 to 100 percent garden scenario to calculate the estimated Boeing soil volumes resulting in an increase of 49,000 CY of soil to be excavated and transported off site;

(2) Increase of 8,800 CY of backfill based on the increase in estimated soil excavation to restore and revegetate the site;

(3) Evaluating the impacts from the demolition of Boeing-owned buildings in Area IV as if it were part of the project, rather than as a cumulative action (in Draft PEIR Chapter 5, *Cumulative Impacts*);

(4) Change in the potential disposal facilities to be used;

(5) Issuance of the Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Determination and Consent Order (ISE Order), Docket No. HAS-FY21/22-133 (Mar. 25, 2022), for the Former Rocketdyne Atomics International Rifle and Pistol Club Shooting Range and Overshot Area, such that the cleanup of this area is now covered by the March 25, 2022, ISE Order as a separate cleanup action from the overall soil cleanup for the Boeing areas of responsibility at SSFL;

(6) Issuance of ISE Order, Docket No. HAS-FY21/22-148 (May 9, 2022), for the Area I Burn Pit, which is co-located with the Thermal Treatment Facility, such that the initial cleanup of this area is included in the May 9, 2022, ISE Order as a separate cleanup action from the overall site cleanup for the Boeing areas of responsibility at SSFL; and

(7) Update in approach for the Area I/III impoundments involving removal of contaminated soils as part of the overall site cleanup for the Boeing areas of responsibility at SSFL.

These seven updates, identified as Boeing Items (1)–(7) in the discussion of this section, are specific to the cleanup of the Boeing areas of responsibility and are a subset of the project updates as a whole. Boeing Items (1)–(7) are addressed in detail in the Final PEIR (see Final PEIR Section 0.4, *Revised Analyses*, and Chapter 4 of the revised Draft PEIR). Based on that analysis—a high-level overview of which is set forth below—Boeing Items (1)–(7) do not result in any substantial change in the conclusions of significant impacts in the PEIR.

In addition, the discussion below addresses the 2022 Settlement Agreement between DTSC and Boeing, which outlines processes and methodologies for completing technical reports in advance of DTSC's final remedy decisions.

1. Updates Related to Soil Volume

While the Draft PEIR included text stating that the increase in soil volumes associated with the resident with 100 percent garden scenario could result in greater impacts, a closer evaluation of this issue in the Final PEIR resulted in the conclusion that while impacts would be slightly increased, the increase would not be substantial as compared to cleanup under the resident with 25 percent garden scenario [Boeing Item (1)].

Moreover, it allows for greater protection of human health and safety for future site residents who consume produce from their backyard gardens.

The increase in soil excavation and backfill for the Boeing areas of responsibility [Boeing Items (1) and (2)] in conjunction with the demolition of the Boeing-owned buildings (Boeing Item (3)), together increase the number of truck trips, because of the increase in volume of material and the reduction in truck capacity for demolition debris and bedrock removal for strontium-90. The soil volume associated with the Boeing impoundments [Boeing Item (7)] was included in the excavation and disposal volumes in Appendix K and thus evaluated in the Draft PEIR. At the same time, implementation of ISE Orders (Boeing Items 5 and 6) may decrease the total soil volume to be removed from the Boeing areas of responsibility, but DTSC has conservatively estimated that the soil volume for the Shooting Range and Area I Burn Pit will remain the same.

The daily maximum number of truck trips would remain the same owing to the 2015 Transportation Agreement, which limits the daily truck trips to 96 trucks per day for all three RPs. The average annual number of truck loads per day was analyzed to increase from 80 to 85, which, over the 15-year duration can accommodate the required total soil and debris volumes. In addition, the changes in the potential disposal facilities for Boeing waste [Boeing Item (4)] resulted in a reduction in the distance traveled for waste disposal of Boeing materials, resulting in approximately 690 fewer miles traveled per inbound trip and per outbound trip, with the reduction in mileage occurring outside of California.

The significance of impacts related to regional air pollutant emissions, which are evaluated based on maximum daily emissions, would not result in new significant or substantially more severe environmental impacts due to Boeing Items (1)–(4) or Boeing Item (7). Similarly, Boeing Items (1)–(4) and Boeing Item (7) would not result in new significant or substantially more severe environmental impacts for localized air pollutant emission impacts, health risk impacts, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and energy impacts, which are evaluated based on annual emissions and annual energy demand.

In summary, the revised regional and localized emissions modeling, health risk assessment modeling, GHG emissions modeling, and energy demand modeling do not result in any new significant impacts and do not result in any substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact compared to those disclosed in the Draft PEIR.

The potential for impacts associated with reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions from trucks traveling on roads and freeways is evaluated based on total and annual average truck trips. With respect to impacts under CEQA (within California), based on the revised calculations for reasonably foreseeable upset and accidental release conditions, the severity of the consequence remains unchanged from disclosures in the Draft PEIR.

2. Updates Related to Biological and Cultural Resources

Boeing Items (1)–(7) will not result in new significant impacts or any substantial increase in severity regarding biological or cultural resources impacts as compared to those disclosed in the Draft PEIR. Boeing Items (1)–(2) would increase potential ground disturbance compared to the 25 percent garden by

about 2.5 acres,[3] out of approximately 69.5 acres within the Boeing areas of responsibility across the site, as shown in Appendix K of the PEIR. This represents an approximately 3.6 percent increase in the estimated Boeing cleanup areas or approximately 0.5 percent of the potential cleanup areas on the project site. These project updates do not require substantial changes to the program-level analysis in this PEIR. The demolition of the Boeing-owned buildings in Area IV [Boeing Item (3)], which the Final PEIR evaluated as if it were part of the project, would occur in existing developed or disturbed areas and were previously evaluated as a cumulative project. While ground disturbance would occur for the excavation of soil within and around the impoundments [Boeing Item (7)], the areas for remediation associated with the impoundments are located in previously disturbed areas which do not have significant biological or cultural resources.

3. The 2022 Settlement Agreement

As described in Final PEIR Section 0.5.4, *Summary of the 2022 Settlement Agreement*, DTSC and Boeing entered into a Settlement Agreement effective August 12, 2022. Under the 2022 Settlement Agreement, DTSC retains its full discretion on choosing a cleanup remedy. Because the 2022 Settlement Agreement does not constrain or direct DTSC's discretion, it does not affect the analysis in the PEIR which focuses on evaluating impacts of a range of potential actions.

The 2022 Settlement Agreement outlines processes and methodologies for completing technical reports in advance of DTSC's final remedy decision, but it does not set any remedy, create any impact on the environment, or alter the determination of environmental impacts from the project or the alternatives as presented in this PEIR. Accordingly, the 2022 Settlement Agreement does not constitute significant new information or circumstances that give rise to a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact.

The 2022 Settlement Agreement sets forth processes for updating the 2014 SRAM; however, the updates to the SRAM contemplated by the 2022 Settlement Agreement do not alter the environmental analysis in the PEIR. Appendix K of the Draft PEIR contained a range of soil volume estimates for the Boeing areas of responsibility. By the time DTSC prepared the Draft PEIR in 2017, it had concluded that updates to the screening levels in the 2014 SRAM would be necessary to reflect best available science. As a result, the 2014 SRAM did not form the basis of the Draft PEIR's soil volume estimates. Instead, the Draft PEIR described the applicable updated screening levels, and soil volume calculations based on those screening levels, in Appendix K. (The screening levels from the 2014 SRAM are presented in Appendix B of the Draft PEIR.) While the 2022 Settlement Agreement contemplates further updates to the screening levels to reflect the current best available science, DTSC has determined that the range of soil volume estimates in Appendix K are still sufficient to capture the range of soil volumes resulting from the use of the

[3] The PEIR provides a program-level analysis of cleanup activities based on information available at the time the PEIR was prepared. PEIR Appendix K provides estimated soil excavation volumes for the risk-based cleanup in the Boeing areas and shows about 2.5 acres more within the Boeing areas across the site that could be affected under the 100 percent garden scenario compared to the 25 percent garden scenario. However, the specific remediation areas will be identified in the proposed cleanup decision documents prepared by the RPs. In its review of proposed cleanup decision documents and project-level designs associated with discrete footprints within the project area, DTSC will determine whether the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the project-level designs were examined in the PEIR, or whether additional CEQA review is required prior to the approval of a project-level design.

screening levels contemplated by the Final PEIR, including the ranges identified in the 2022 Settlement Agreement.

DTSC used standard methodologies to calculate a range of soil volumes that would be removed from the Boeing areas of responsibility. DTSC calculated a range of volumes because the actual volume of soil to be removed will vary depending upon the results of technical reports, which will be completed in advance of DTSC's final remedy decisions. The methodologies used to calculate the soil volumes resulted in a range of soil volumes, including a maximum soil volume which conservatively includes the largest volume of soil that could reasonably need to be removed from the site. This range of soil volumes, including the maximum soil volume estimate, allows the PEIR to examine the full range of potential environmental impacts associated with soil removal.

The maximum soil volume estimate for the Boeing areas of responsibility in this PEIR—439,000 cubic yards—is large enough to account for soil volumes estimated using even the most stringent methodologies for soil cleanup identified in the 2022 Settlement Agreement. While DTSC has not committed to any soil or groundwater remedy for the Boeing areas of responsibility, the processes and methodology for updating the 2014 SRAM and for preparing risk assessments and corrective measures studies set forth in the 2022 Settlement Agreement would result in removal of a soil volume within the range estimated in the PEIR.[4] DTSC has concluded that the 2022 Settlement Agreement does not result in the need to change the range of soil volume estimates in Appendix K or in turn the environmental analysis in the PEIR.

As set forth in each of the impact analyses of revised Draft PEIR Chapter 4, Boeing Items (1)–(7) do not result in any new significant environmental impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant environmental impact. DTSC, in its review of proposed cleanup decision documents and project-level designs associated with discrete footprints within the project area, will determine whether the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the project-level designs were

[4] The range of soil volume estimates set forth in Appendix K remains adequate because the methodology to calculate the maximum soil volume included assumptions designed to deliver a result that would conservatively include any soil that would need to be removed under any reasonably anticipated cleanup standards. The technical assumptions in the maximum soil volume estimate that result in this conservative estimate include:

1. Calculating soil volumes on a point-by-point basis (rather than an average concentration), means that concentrations at each discrete location where a sample was collected were compared to the appropriate RBSL, rather than by comparing the RBSL to an average concentration calculated from all samples collected over the entire exposure area. A point-by-point basis results in a larger soil volume estimate than an averaging process, because a risk assessment process which uses averaging may allow concentrations to remain in soil up to just below 10 times the RBSL at a single sample location, where a point-by-point comparison would not. Additionally, a hot spot analysis required by the updated SRAM would ensure any sample point 10 times the RBSL would be removed even if no unacceptable risk were observed through a risk assessment.
2. The 100 percent garden RBSLs were applied for chemicals to the entire soil column (full depth of soil), and 1.5 feet was added to the deepest sample above RBSLs even when bedrock was present. In other words, if the RBSL exceedance occurred at 5 feet below ground surface (bgs), the soil volume estimate assumed that excavation to 6.5 feet bgs would occur even if bedrock made it infeasible to excavate below 5 feet bgs. Additionally, the 100 percent garden RBSLs were applied to the full depth of soil where a less conservative process would limit application of these screening levels to the upper 2 feet of soil.
3. The 95-95 Upper Tolerance Limits, which are lower than the Lookup Table Values, were used for radionuclides, such that more soil would be removed due to lower screening levels.

The soil volume calculation that results from these technical assumptions is anticipated to be inclusive of all soil that may need to be removed from the Boeing areas of responsibility.

examined in the PEIR (CEQA Guidelines § 15168(c)). If it is determined that subsequent project-level details would include new information that was not examined in the PEIR, further environmental review may be required pursuant to CEQA.

B. DOE Updates

As described in Final PEIR Section 0.3, *Updates to the Project Since Circulation of the 2017 Draft PEIR*, and summarized below, there have been project updates for the DOE areas of responsibility since the publication of the Draft PEIR:

(1) Removal of the slabs and below ground portions of the DOE structures in Area IV (aboveground portions of the DOE buildings in Area IV were removed between 2020 and 2022 prior to finalizing the PEIR);

(2) Change in truck capacity for building material from 15.33 CY to 10 CY;

(3) Increase in backfill volumes from 947,000 CY to 967,250 CY

(4) Inclusion of bedrock removal for strontium-90 as an initial activity; and

(5) Inclusion of different disposal facility, Waste Control Specialists in Texas, for hazardous and radioactive waste.

These five updates, identified as DOE Items (1)–(5) in the discussion of this section, are specific to the cleanup of the DOE areas of responsibility, a subset of the project updates as a whole. DOE Items (1)–(5) are addressed in detail in Final PEIR Section 0.4, *Revised Analyses*, and Chapter 4 of the revised Draft PEIR. Based on that analysis—a high-level overview of which is set forth below—DOE Items (1)–(5) do not result in any substantial change in the conclusions of significant impacts in the PEIR.

DOE Items (1)–(3) were evaluated as part of the project in the Draft PEIR. Because of the updates, including the increase in volume of materials (backfill, demolition debris, and bedrock), and the change in the truck capacity, an increase in the number of truck trips would result. However, the daily maximum number of truck trips would remain the same due to the 2015 Transportation Agreement, which limits the daily truck trips to 96 trucks per day for all three RPs. The average annual number of truck loads per day was analyzed to increase from 80 to 85, which, over the 15-year duration, can accommodate the required total soil and debris volumes.

DOE Item (5), the new potential facility in Texas for disposal of hazardous and radiological materials, is farther from the facility previously evaluated and would result in approximately 380 additional miles traveled per inbound trip and per outbound trip, with the additional mileage occurring outside of California.

DOE Item (5) resulted in an increase in truck VMT outside of California due to a potential receiver location farther away from the project site than was considered in the Draft PEIR, but this does not result in any changes to impact determinations. DOE Item (5) resulted in revisions to the air quality, GHG, health risk and energy analyses, but the revised analyses do not result in new significant or substantially more severe environmental impacts under CEQA. Similarly, with respect to impacts under CEQA, calculations for reasonably foreseeable upset and accidental release conditions were revised, and those revised calculations, showed that the severity of the consequence would not change relative to the disclosures in the Draft PEIR.

Noise and vibration analyses were also updated with regard to DOE Item (4), bedrock removal for strontium-90. Given the distance to the nearest off-site noise-sensitive receptor, impacts from equipment and blasting associated with the removal of bedrock for strontium-90 would be below the significance threshold. In addition, through distance attenuation, the vibration level at off-site sensitive receptors would be below the significance threshold.

DOE Item (4) does not result in a new significant impact or substantially more severe impact on biological resources, because the cleanup, including blasting for access and removal of the contaminated bedrock, would occur in disturbed former operational areas. Disturbed former operational areas do not contain riparian or other sensitive natural communities or federally or state protected wetlands or waters, and do not support suitable habitat for Braunton's milk-vetch, silvery legless lizard, or other special status species. Implementation of mitigation measures would avoid or substantially lessen impacts to any active avian nests that may be in the area. As discussed in Impact 4.3-2b, Impact 4.3-5b, and Impact 4.10-1b of the revised Draft PEIR, while noise-related impacts associated with the blasting could impact special-status species, impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of mitigation measures BIO-2, BIO-12, BIO-14 through BIO-18, and BIO-22.

As set forth in each of the impact analyses of revised Draft PEIR Chapter 4, DOE Items (1)–(5) do not result in any new significant environmental impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant environmental impact. DTSC, in its review of proposed cleanup decision documents and project-level designs associated with discrete footprints within the project area, will determine whether the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the project-level designs were examined in the PEIR (CEQA Guidelines § 15168(c)). If it is determined that subsequent project-level details would include new information that was not examined in the PEIR, further environmental review may be required pursuant to CEQA.

C. NASA Updates

As described in Final PEIR Section 0.3, *Updates to the Project Since Circulation of the 2017 Draft PEIR*, and summarized below, there have been project updates for the NASA areas of responsibility since the publication of the Draft PEIR. These project updates include:

(1) Increase in backfill volumes from 290,000 CY to 448,000 CY; and

(2) Update in approach for the Area II impoundments involving removal of contaminated soil in and immediately around the area.

These two updates, identified as NASA Items (1)–(2) in the discussion of this section, are specific to the cleanup of the NASA areas of responsibility, a subset of the project updates as a whole. NASA Items (1)–(2) are addressed in detail in Final PEIR Section 0.4, *Revised Analyses*, and Chapter 4 of the revised Draft PEIR. Based on that analysis—a high-level overview of which is set forth below—NASA Items (1)–(2) do not result in any substantial change in the conclusions of significant impacts in the PEIR.

NASA Item (1), an increase in backfill volumes, results in an increase in truck trips and associated emissions, health risk, and energy use. As discussed in both the Boeing and DOE Updates, the daily maximum number of truck trips would remain the same as a result of the 2015 Transportation Agreement, which limits the daily truck trips to 96 trucks per day for all three RPs. The average annual number of truck loads per day was analyzed to increase from 80 to 85, which, over the 15-year duration can

accommodate the required total soil and debris volumes. As a result, NASA Item (1) does not result in any new significant or substantially more several environmental impact.

Similarly, with respect to impacts under CEQA (within California) for NASA Item (1), calculations for reasonably foreseeable upset and accidental release conditions were revised, and those revised calculations show that the severity of the consequence would not change relative to the disclosures in the Draft PEIR.

The soil volume associated with the cleanup of the Area II impoundments was previously evaluated in the Draft PEIR, and the conclusions remain unchanged even with the updates associated with NASA Item (2). With regard to impacts from NASA Items (1)–(2) on biological resources, the increase in backfill volumes and the removal of contaminated soil in and around the Area II impoundments would not result in a new significant impact or substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact. NASA Item (1) does not alter the current biological resources analysis since there is no change in the footprint of the proposed cleanup areas. NASA Item (2) addresses impoundments in developed and disturbed areas, which do not contain riparian or other sensitive natural communities or federally or state protected wetlands or waters, and do not support special status-species.

As set forth in each of the impact analyses of revised Draft PEIR Chapter 4, NASA Items (1)–(2) do not result in any new significant environmental impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant environmental impact. DTSC, in its review of proposed cleanup decision documents and project-level designs associated with discrete footprints within the project area, will determine whether the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the project-level designs were examined in the PEIR (CEQA Guidelines § 15168(c)). If it is determined that subsequent project-level details would include new information that was not examined in the PEIR, further environmental review may be required pursuant to CEQA.

D. Cumulative Projects

In accordance with CEQA, the Draft PEIR analyzed the cumulative impacts of the project in conjunction with other projects that affect or could affect the project area. CEQA requires the cumulative impacts discussion to reflect the likelihood that the impacts would occur and their severity if they did occur but allows the discussion to contain less detail than must be provided for the project's individual or incremental impacts.

The Draft PEIR conservatively evaluated the potential of project activities to contribute to cumulative impacts under CEQA by developing a cumulative scenario that identifies and evaluates past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects within a broad geographic context that would be expected to be constructed or commence operation during the timeframe of activity associated with the proposed project. Although not required by CEQA, in an abundance of caution during preparation of the Final PEIR, website research was conducted based on the geographic areas identified in Draft PEIR Table 5-1 to identify potential new related projects since the preparation of the Draft PEIR. Public websites and lists of available projects and environmental documentation were accessed in December 2022. Small projects in the vicinity of the project site, such as a single-family home or a small infrastructure project, which are generally exempt from CEQA review, were not included in this analysis. Projects evaluated include projects listed on Los Angeles County, Ventura County, the City of Los Angeles, the City of Simi Valley, the City of Calabasas, the City of Agoura Hills, the City of Thousand Oaks, California Public Utilities

Commission (CPUC), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Calleguas Municipal Water District, and the Triunfo Water & Sanitation District public website.

These additional projects were generally evaluated in combination with the proposed project based on factors such as scale and location, anticipated timing of implementation, and proximity to the project site, which confirmed the conclusions in the Draft PEIR regarding the project's contribution to cumulative impacts. No new significant cumulative impacts would occur and there would be no substantial increase in the severity of any previously identified impacts.

E. Conclusion

DTSC has determined, as summarized in detail in the preceding sections of these findings, that the information added to the PEIR serves to update and clarify the information provided in the Draft PEIR and has refined the project by addressing changes in circumstances and applying updated scientific methodology and information. The updated analyses set forth in Chapter 4 of the revised Draft PEIR conclude that with the project updates considered together, no new significant project impacts would occur and that there would be no substantial increase in the severity of any previously identified significant impacts. In addition, no mitigation measures or feasible alternatives have been identified that are significantly different than those in the Draft PEIR. The Draft PEIR, which comprised over 6,000 pages of analysis and information addressing all required topics under CEQA, was adequate to elicit meaningful public review and comment, including written and oral comments from governmental agencies, tribes, organizations, businesses, and individuals, all of which have been addressed in the Final PEIR in conformance with CEQA Guidelines § 15088. Therefore, on the basis of the entire record before it, DTSC finds that recirculation is not necessary (Public Resources Code § 21092.1; CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5; *Laurel Heights Improvement Assn. of San Francisco, Inc. v. Regents of the Univ. of Cal.* (1993) 6 Cal.4th 1112, 1130 (*Laurel Heights II*).

VI. CERTIFICATION OF FINAL PEIR

The Final PEIR was prepared to meet the substantive and procedural requirements of CEQA and the rules, regulations, and procedures for the implementation of CEQA as executed by DTSC. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15088, DTSC reviewed all comments received during the review period for the Draft PEIR and responded to each comment in the Final PEIR.

Responses were sent to all public agencies that made comments on the Draft EIR at least 10 days prior to certification of the Final PEIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15088(b). Copies of the Final PEIR, as well as appendices and all supporting materials and references, were made available to the public on June 8, 2023, and can be found at the Project website (https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=899), the EnviroStor database (https://dtsc.ca.gov/your-envirostor/), and the following locations:

- California State University, Northridge – Oviatt Library (1811 Nordoff Street, 2nd Floor, Room 265, Northridge, California 91330)
- DTSC Chatsworth Office (9211 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth, California 91311)
- Platt Library (23600 Victory Boulevard, Woodland Hills, California 91367)
- Simi Valley Library (2969 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, California 93063)

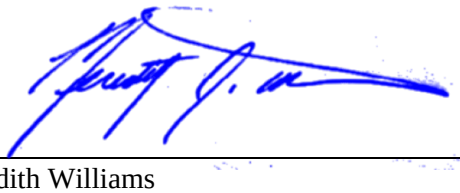
In light of all of the foregoing, based on substantial evidence in light of the whole record and in accordance with CEQA, DTSC, as lead agency for the project, certifies that:

(a) The Final PEIR for the project has been completed and processed in compliance with the requirements of CEQA;

(b) The Final PEIR was presented to the persons at DTSC designated to approve the cleanup program, who reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final PEIR prior to its certification; and

(c) The Final PEIR reflects DTSC's independent judgment and analysis.

DTSC has exercised independent judgment in accordance with Public Resources Code § 21082.1(c) in retaining its own environmental consultant, in directing the consultant in preparation of the Final PEIR, and in reviewing, analyzing, and revising material prepared by the consultant. DTSC finds that the Final PEIR presents an adequate assessment of the potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the project, identifies measures to avoid or substantially lessen significant environmental impacts to the extent feasible, sets forth an adequate range of alternatives to this project, and has otherwise been completed and processed in compliance with the requirements of CEQA.



7/19/2023

Meredith Williams
Director

Date

Exhibit B

SSFL Site Remediation Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program