DRAFT

INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

US-395 & AUBURN AVENUE CUP 22-19, LDP 22-15, & TPM 20607 ADELANTO, CALIFORNIA

APNs 0459-053-56, 0459-053-57, 0459-053-58, & 0459-053-08

LEAD AGENCY:

CITY OF ADELANTO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
PLANNING DIVISION
11600 AIR EXPRESSWAY
ADELANTO, CALIFORNIA 92301

REPORT PREPARED BY:

BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
2211 S. HACIENDA BOULEVARD, SUITE 107
HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA 91745

JUNE 29, 2023

ADLT 083

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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT NAME: US-395 & Auburn Avenue (CUP 22-19, LDP 22-15, & TPM 20607)

PROJECT APPLICANT: The Applicant for the proposed project is Mr. Gus Otaki, Lifetime Realty Investments Inc., 30233 Frontera Del Norte, Highland, California 92346.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project site is located to the east of US 395, to the north of Barcelona Avenue, south of Auburn Avenue, and west of Montezuma Street in the City of Adelanto, California 92301. The corresponding Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) are 0459-053-56, 0459-053-57, 0459-053-58, and 0459-053-08.

CITY AND COUNTY: City of Adelanto, San Bernardino County.

PROJECT: The City of Adelanto is reviewing an application submitted by Mr. Gus Otaki to construct and operate a commercial shopping center development. There would be a total of five individual parcels (referred to as Parcels A through E), subdivided from the current four parcels, totaling 11.81 acres, included in the proposed development. Parcel A would be a 5,866 square foot convenience store with a 945 square foot upper-level office with 45 parking spaces. A fueling canopy with eight double sided fuel dispensers and an alternative fuel with 2 double sided fuel dispensers, would be constructed to the north of the proposed convenience store. Parcel B would be a 3,400 square feet drive-thru restaurant with 39 parking spaces. Parcel C would be a 10,500 square foot multi-tenant retail building with 42 parking spaces, a 16,702 square foot supermarket with 80 parking spaces, and another 9,620 square foot multi-tenant retail building with 39 parking spaces. Parcel D would be a 5,577 square feet automated carwash with 6 parking spaces. Parcel E would be a 68,054 square foot, three-story hotel (100 rooms) with 158 parking spaces. The maximum height of the hotel would be 40-feet. The site's Accessor Parcel Numbers are 0459-053-56, 0459-053-57, 0459-053-58, and 0459-053-08 with a zoning designation of Airport Development District (ADD).

EVALUATION FORMAT: The attached initial study is prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq.). Specifically, the preparation of the attached Initial Study was guided by Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The project was evaluated based on its effect on 21 major categories of environmental factors. Each factor is reviewed by responding to a series of questions regarding the impact of the project on each element of the overall factor. The Initial Study checklist includes a formatted analysis that provides a determination of the effect of the project on the factor and its elements. The effect of the project is categorized into one of the following four categories of possible determinations:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact

Substantiation is then provided to justify each determination. One of the four following conclusions is then provided as a summary of the analysis for each of the major environmental factors.

No Impact: No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

Less than Significant Impact: No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation: Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated and mitigation measures are required as a condition of the project's approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significance.

Potentially Significant Impact: Significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to evaluate these impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below will be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist in the attached Initial Study.

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

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

Signature _____ Date _____

The project is also described in greater detail in the attached Initial Study.

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SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

This Initial Study analyzes the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of a commercial shopping center development in the City of Adelanto. The proposed project would total five individual parcels (referred to as Parcels A through E, subdivided from the current four parcels) totaling 11.81 acres. Parcel A would be a 5,866 square foot convenience store with a 956 square foot upper-level office with 45 parking spaces. A fueling canopy with eight double sided fuel dispensers and an alternative fuel with 2 double sided fuel dispensers, would be constructed to the north of the proposed convenience store. Parcel B would be a 3,400 square feet drive-thru restaurant with 39 parking spaces. Parcel C would be a 10,500 square foot multi-tenant retail building with 42 parking spaces, a 16,702 square foot supermarket with 80 parking spaces, and another 9,620 square foot multi-tenant retail building with 39 parking spaces. Parcel D would be a 5,577 square feet automated carwash with 6 parking spaces. Parcel E would be a 68,054 square foot three-story hotel (100 rooms) with 158 parking spaces. The maximum height of the hotel would be 40-feet. The site's Accessor Parcel Numbers include 0459-053-56, 0459-053-57, 0459-053-58, and 0459-053-08. The project site's zoning designation is Airport Development District (ADD).[1]

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS INITIAL STUDY

The City of Adelanto is the designated *Lead Agency,* and as such, the City will be responsible for the project's environmental review. Section 21067 of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) defines a Lead Agency as the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.[2] As part of the proposed project's environmental review, the City of Adelanto has authorized the preparation of this Initial Study.[3] The primary purpose of CEQA is to ensure that decision-makers and the public understand the environmental implications of a specific action or project. An additional purpose of this Initial Study is to ascertain whether the proposed project will have the potential for significant adverse impacts on the environment once it is implemented. Pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, additional purposes of this Initial Study include the following:

- To provide the City of Adelanto with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR), mitigated negative declaration, or negative declaration for a project;
- To facilitate the project's environmental assessment early in the design and development of the proposed project;
- To eliminate unnecessary EIRs; and,
- To determine the nature and extent of any impacts associated the proposed project.

Although this Initial Study was prepared with consultant support, the analysis, conclusions, and findings made as part of this document's preparation fully represent the independent judgment and position of the City of Adelanto in its capacity as the Lead Agency. The City also determined, as part of this Initial Study's

[1] Steeno Design Studios. Highway 395 & Auburn Ave Adelanto Commercial Development, Site Plan. May 2023.

[2] California, State of. *California Public Resources Code. Division 13, Chapter 2.5. Definitions.* as Amended 2001. §21067.

[3] Ibid. (CEQA Guidelines) §15050.

preparation, that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is the appropriate environmental document for the proposed project's CEQA review.

Certain projects or actions may also require oversight approvals or permits from other public agencies. These other agencies are referred to as *Responsible Agencies* and *Trustee Agencies*, pursuant to Sections 15381 and 15386 of the State CEQA Guidelines.[4] This Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration will be forwarded to the State of California Office of Planning Research (the State Clearinghouse). A 30-day public review period will be provided to allow these entities and other interested parties to comment on the proposed project and the findings of this Initial Study.[5] Questions and/or comments should be submitted to the following contact person:

James Hirsch, Contract Planner
City of Adelanto, Planning Division
11600 Air Expressway
Adelanto, California 92301

1.3 INITIAL STUDY'S ORGANIZATION

The following annotated outline summarizes the contents of this Initial Study:

- *Section 1 Introduction* provides the procedural context surrounding this Initial Study's preparation and insight into its composition.
- *Section 2 Project Description* provides an overview of the existing environment as it relates to the project area and describes the proposed project's physical and operational characteristics.
- *Section 3 Environmental Analysis* includes an analysis of potential impacts associated with the construction and the subsequent operation of the proposed project.
- *Section 4 Conclusions* summarizes the findings of the analysis.
- *Section 5 References* identifies the sources used in the preparation of this Initial Study.

[4] California, State of. Public Resources Code Division 13. *The California Environmental Quality Act. Chapter 2.5, Section 21067 and Section 21069.* 2000.

[5] California, State of. Public Resources Code Division 13. *The California Environmental Quality Act. Chapter 2.6, Section 2109(b).* 2000.

SECTION 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The City of Adelanto is located approximately 85 miles northeast of Downtown Los Angeles and 40 miles north of the City of San Bernardino. Adelanto is bounded on the north by unincorporated San Bernardino County; on the east by Victorville and unincorporated San Bernardino County; on the south by Hesperia and unincorporated San Bernardino County; and on the west by unincorporated San Bernardino County.[6] Regional access to the City of Adelanto is provided by three area highways: the Mojave Freeway (Interstate 15), extending in a southwest to northeast orientation approximately three miles east of the City; U.S. Highway 395, traversing the eastern portion of the City in a northwest to southeast orientation; and Palmdale Road (State Route 18), which traverses the southern portion of the City in an east to west orientation.[7] The project site's latitude and longitude is 34.593309, -117.415872. The location of Adelanto, in a regional context, is shown in Exhibit 2-1.

A citywide map is provided In Exhibit 2-2. The proposed project site is located to east of US 395, to the north of Barcelona Avenue, to the south of Auburn Avenue, and to the west of Montezuma Street in the City of Adelanto, California 92301. The corresponding Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) are 0459-053-56, 0459-053-57, 0459-053-58, and 0459-053-08. A local vicinity map is provided in Exhibit 2-3. An aerial photograph of the site and the surrounding area is provided in Exhibit 2-4.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site is located on a site that is currently vacant and undeveloped. As indicated previously, the proposed project site is located on five individual parcels, totaling 11.81 acres, that are currently undeveloped. The site contains a disturbed desert scrub habitat that supports vegetation such as creosote bush (Larrea tridentata), Joshua tree (Yucca brevifolia), rubber rabbitbrush (Ericameria nauseosa), Nevada jointfir (Ephedra nevadensis), Asian mustard (Brassica tournefortii), Flatspine burr ragweed (Ambrosia acanthicarpa) and cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum).[8] The site and the surrounding area are provided in Exhibit 2-4. Land uses and development located in the vicinity of the proposed project site are outlined below:

- *North of the project site:* Auburn Avenue extends along the project's northern side. Vacant undeveloped land extends along the north side of the aforementioned roadway. This area is zoned as Airport Development District (ADD).[9]
- *East of the project site:* Vacant undeveloped land extends along the proposed project's east side. This area is zoned as Airport Development District (ADD). The Southern California Logistics Airport is located further east approximately 0.85 miles away.[10]

[6] Blodgett Baylosis Environmental Planning. 2022.

[7] Google Earth. Website accessed October 26, 2022.

[8] RCA Associates, Inc. *General Biological Resources Assessment, Adelanto, California.* June 24, 2022.

[9] Google Earth. Website accessed October 26, 2022. and City of Adelanto Zoning Map

[10] Ibid.

- *South of the project site:* Vacant undeveloped land abuts the project's southern side. This area is zoned as Airport Development District (ADD).[11]
- *West of the project site:* US-395 abuts the project side to the west. Vacant undeveloped land is located further west of the project site. This area located to the west of the aforementioned roadway is zoned as Mixed Use (MU) and Single Family Residential (R-S5).[12]

An aerial photograph of the project site and the surrounding area is provided in Exhibit 2-4

2.3 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

This Initial Study analyzes the environmental impacts associated with a commercial development totaling 11.81 acres, included in the proposed development. The proposed project would involve the development of the currently vacant site as a shopping center that would include an automotive fueling area, a car wash, other restaurant and retail uses, and a hotel. The proposed project would consist of the following elements:

- *Parcel A*. A 5,866 square foot convenience store with a 956 upper-level office and a fueling station would be constructed on a 61,973 square foot (1.4 acres) parcel located to the northwestern portion of the project site. A fueling canopy with eight double sided fuel dispensers and an alternative fuel with 2 double sided fuel dispensers, would be constructed to the north of the proposed convenience store. Three underground (fuel) storage tanks (UST), one 87 octane UST, one 91 octane UST, and a diesel UST, will be installed underground between the fueling station and the proposed convenience store. A propane tank will also be installed on the northwestern most corner of the project site.[13]
- *Parcel B*. On this 34,925 square foot (0.80-acre) parcel, a 3,400 square foot drive thru restaurant would be constructed on the central western portion of the project site, south of Parcel A.[14]
- *Parcel C*. Three buildings would be constructed on this 144,926 square foot (3.3-acre) parcel. A 10,500 square foot multi-tenant retail building would be constructed on the southwestern corner of the project site. Adjacent to this building would be a 16,702 square foot supermarket. Finally, a 9,620 square foot multi-tenant retail building would be constructed in the southeastern corner of the project site.[15]
- *Parcel D*. A 5,577 square foot automated carwash would be constructed on a 116,409 square foot (2.7 acre) parcel. A total of 37 vacuum stations would be installed in the southwestern portion of the parcel.[16]
- *Parcel E*. A 68,054 square foot three-story hotel, that would consist of 100 rooms, would be constructed in the northeastern portion of the project site. A pool and recreation area will also be constructed south of the hotel. The hotel would have a maximum height of 40-feet.
- *Access and Parking*. Access to the new commercial development would be provided by three new driveway connections along the south side of Auburn Avenue. A total of 408 parking spaces would be provided for the project site. Parcel A would provide 45 total parking spaces; 17 of these parking

[11] Google Earth. Website accessed October 26, 2022. and City of Adelanto Zoning Map

[12] Ibid.

[13] Steeno Design Studios. Highway 395 & Auburn Ave Adelanto Commercial Development, Site Plan. May 2023.

[14] Ibid.

[15] Ibid.

[16] Ibid.

spaces would be dedicated to Electric Vehicle parking located on the northwestern portion of the project site, the remaining 27 parking spaces, with 2 ADA compliant stalls, would be located to the north and east of the proposed convenience store. Parcel B would be provided with 39 total parking spaces that will consist of 2 ADA compliant stalls. Parcel C would be provided with 161 total parking spaces including 2 truck ramps located on the south side of the proposed supermarket, 8 ADA compliant stalls, and 10 Electric Vehicle parking located on the north side of the retail buildings. Parcel D would be provided with 6 parking spaces along the west and south side of the proposed vacuum stalls. Finally, Parcel E would be provided with 158 parking spaces with RV parking provided to the south of the parcel and proposed hotel building.[17]

The proposed project's site plan is illustrated in Exhibit 2-5. The proposed project's building elevations are illustrated in Exhibits 2-6 and 2-7.

2.4 OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project's anticipated hours of operation will vary depending on the various proposed uses of the project. The proposed retail use is anticipated to employ approximately 80 new jobs. This employment rate figure assumes one new job for every 1,009 square feet of floor area for regional retail land use; 2,544 square feet of floor area for hotel/motel use; and 124 square feet of floor area for other retail and service commercial related uses.[18]

2.5 CONSTRUCTION CHARACTERISTICS

The construction for the proposed project is assumed to commence in January 2024 and would take approximately thirteen months to complete. The key construction tasks that would occur are outlined in the paragraphs below.

- *Task 1 Grading*. The project site would be graded and ready for construction. The site would be graded to a depth of approximately 6 inches. The typical heavy equipment used during this construction phase would include graders, bulldozers, offroad trucks, back-hoes, and trenching equipment. This task would require one month to complete.
- *Task 2 Site Preparation*. During this phase, the building footings, utility lines, and other underground infrastructure would be installed. The typical heavy equipment used during this construction phase would include bulldozers, offroad trucks, back-hoes, and trenching equipment. This task would require one month to complete.
- *Task 3 Building Construction*. The new buildings would be constructed during this phase. The typical heavy equipment used during this construction phase would include offroad trucks, cranes, and fork-lifts. This task will take approximately ten months to complete.
- *Task 4 Paving and Finishing*. This concluding task would involve the paving and finishing. The typical heavy equipment used during this construction phase would include trucks, backhoes, rollers, pavers, and trenching equipment. The completion of this phase will take approximately one month to complete.

[17] Steeno Design Studios. Highway 395 & Auburn Ave Adelanto Commercial Development, Site Plan. May 2023.

[18] The Natelson Company. Employment Density Study, Summary Report

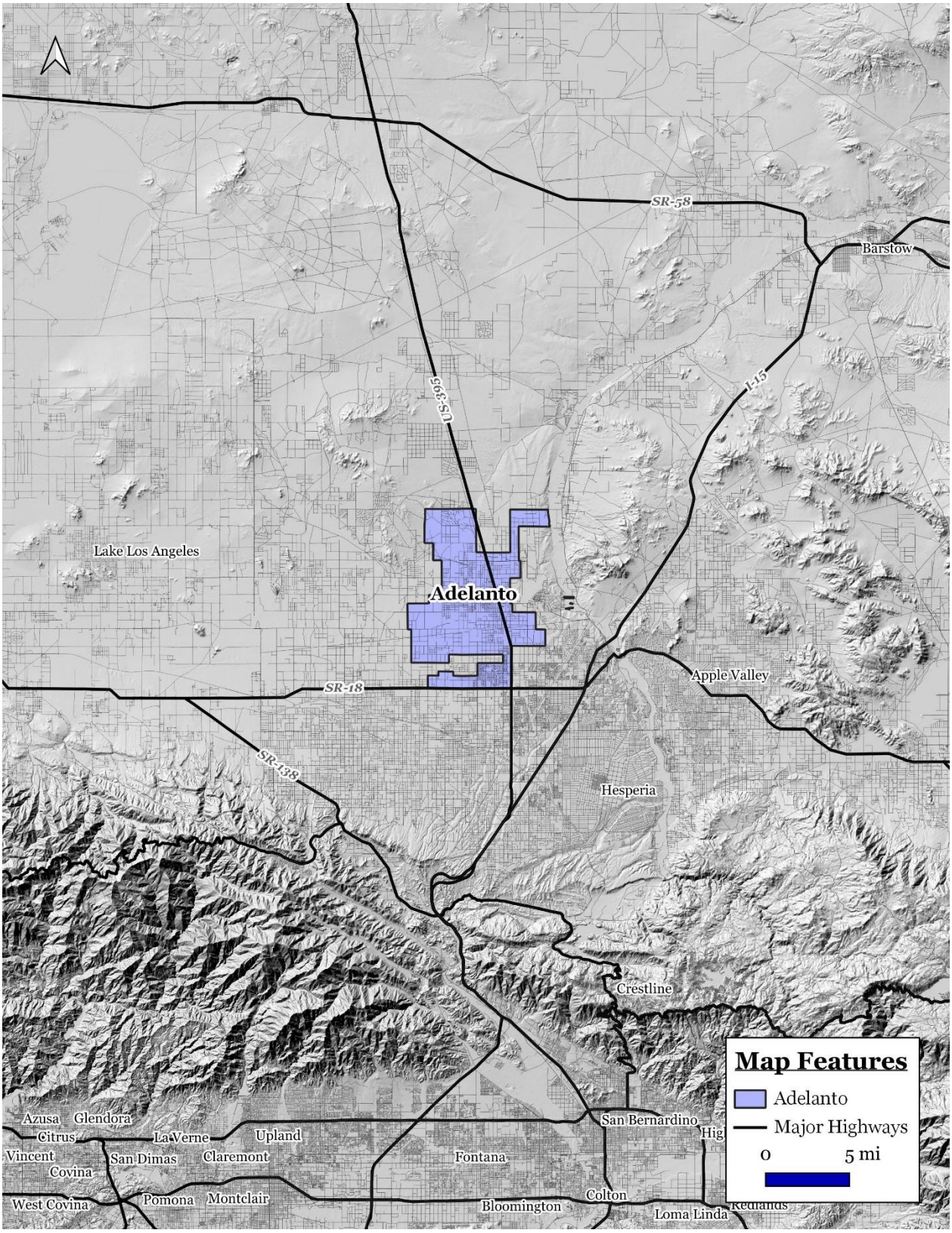

EXHIBIT 2-1 REGIONAL MAP
SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

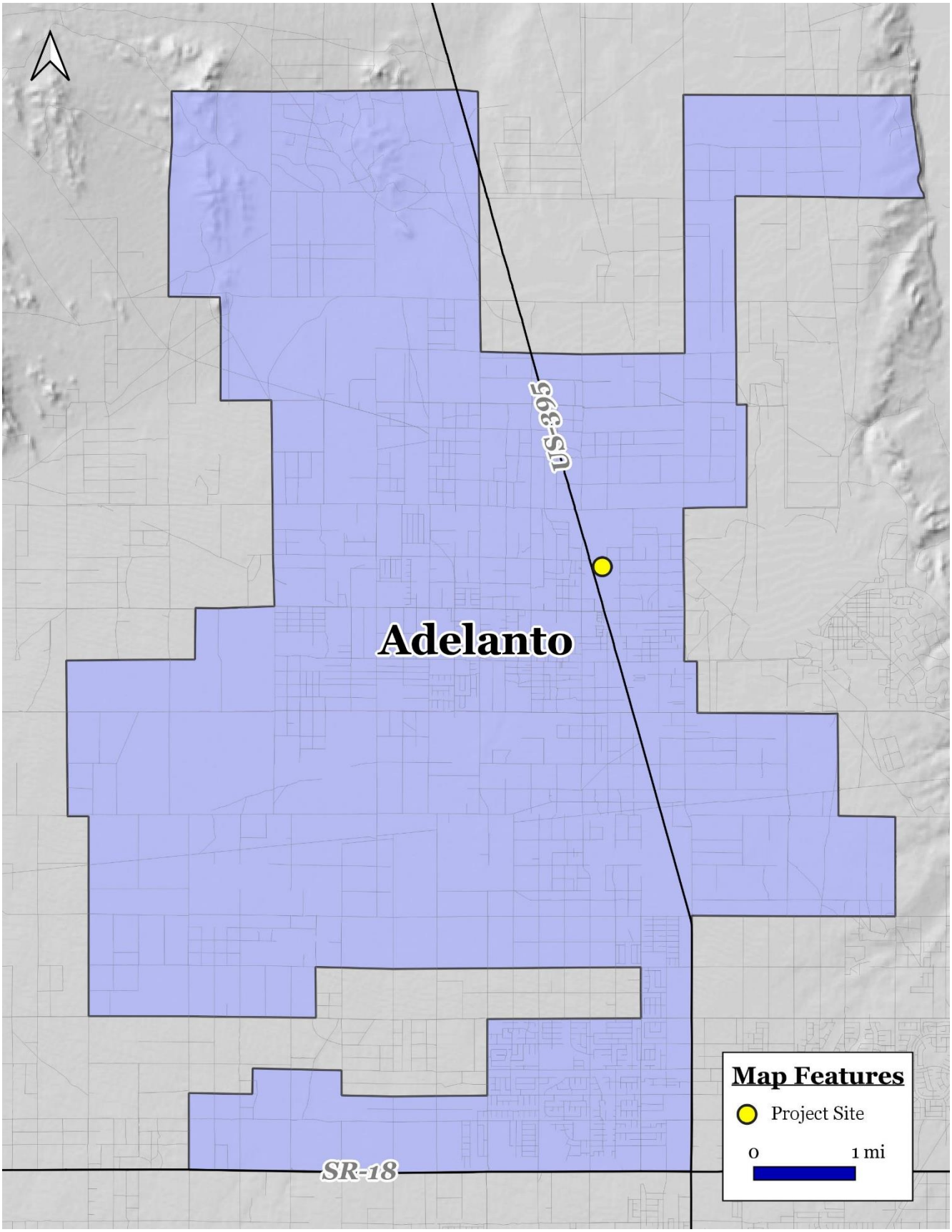

EXHIBIT 2-2 CITYWIDE MAP
SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

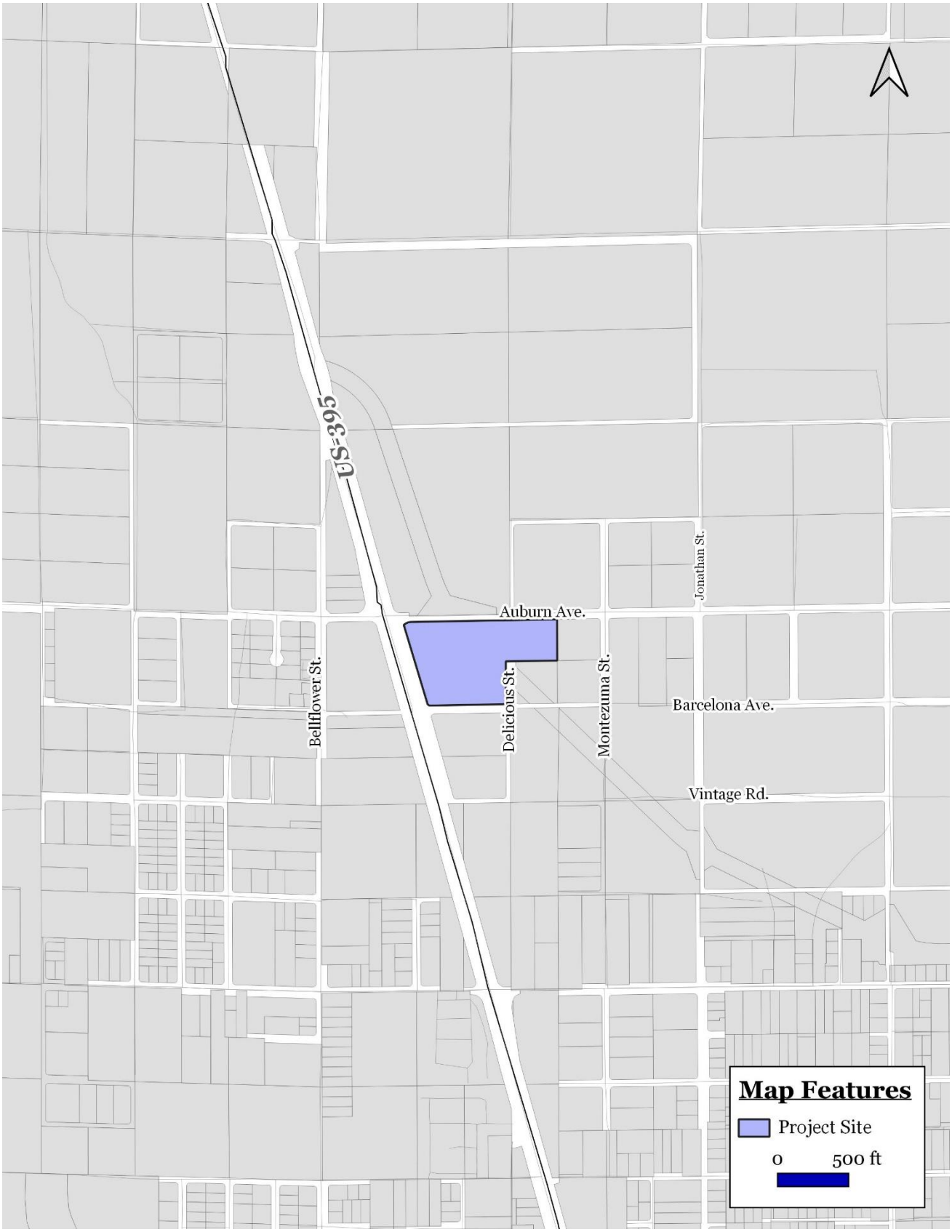

EXHIBIT 2-3 LOCAL MAP

SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

EXHIBIT 2-4 AERIAL IMAGE OF PROJECT SITE
SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

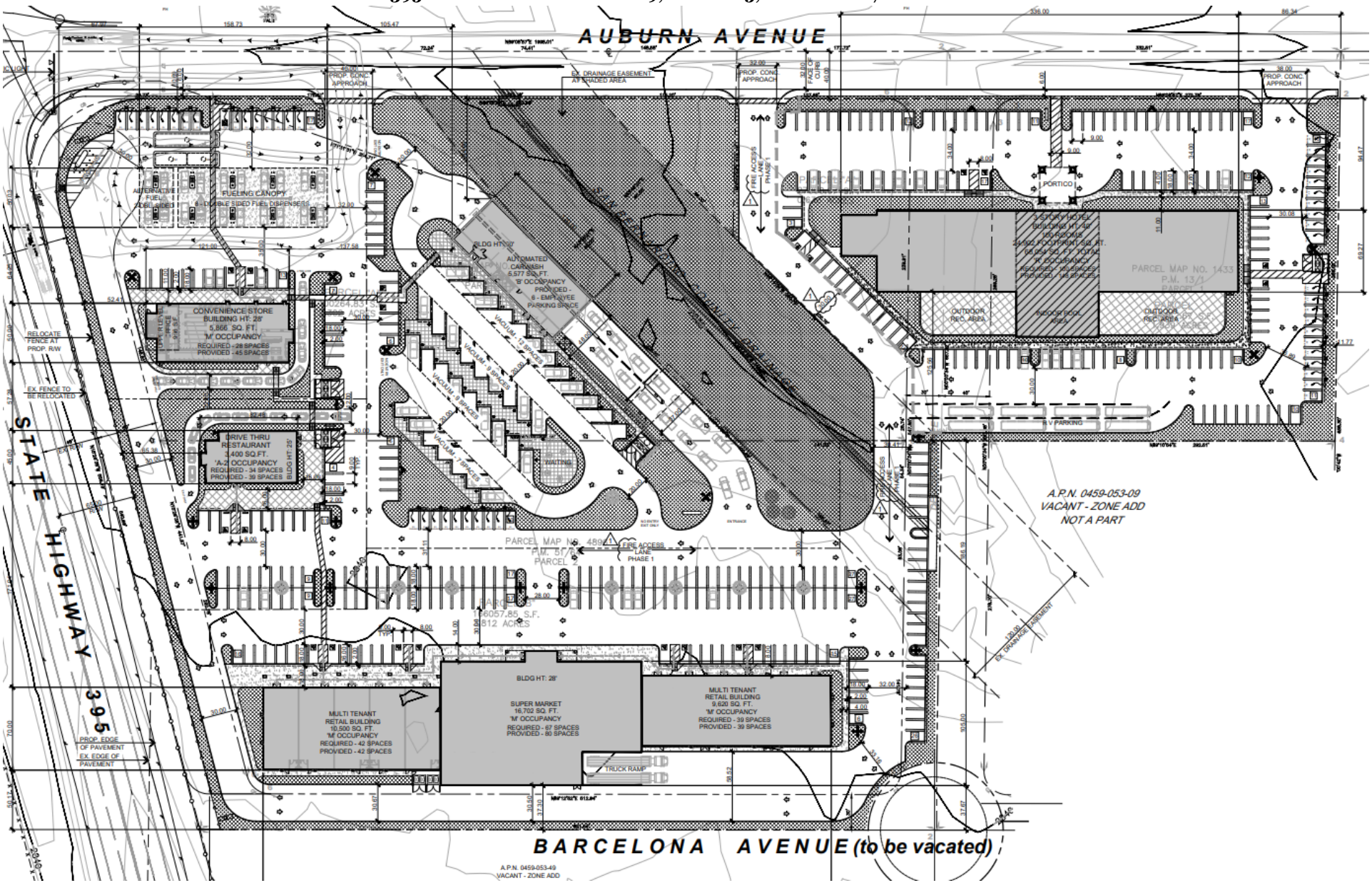

EXHIBIT 2-5 SITE PLAN OF PROJECT SITE

SOURCE: STEENO DESIGN STUDIO INC.

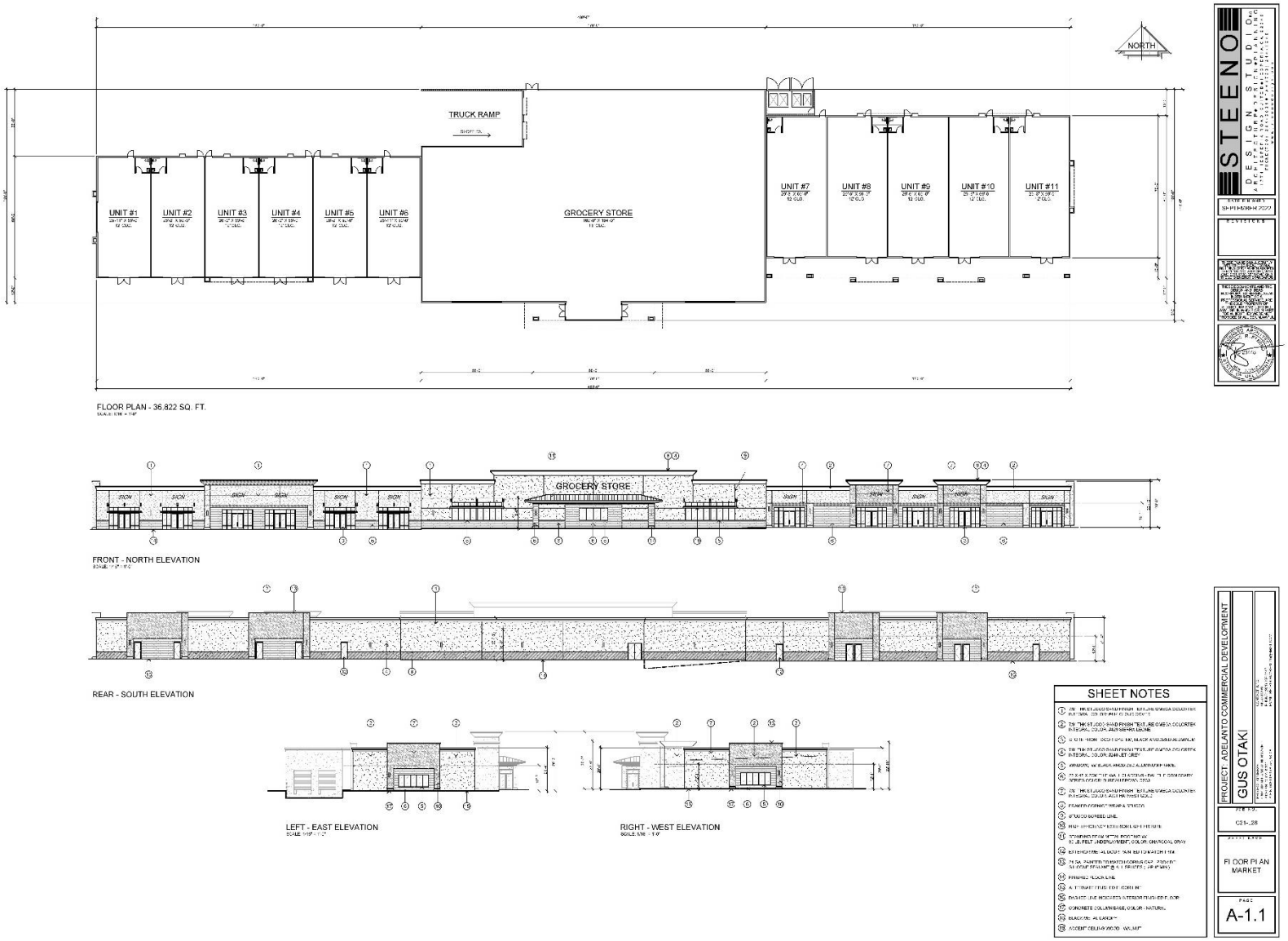

EXHIBIT 2-6 BUILDING ELEVATIONS

SOURCE: STEENO DESIGN STUDIO INC.

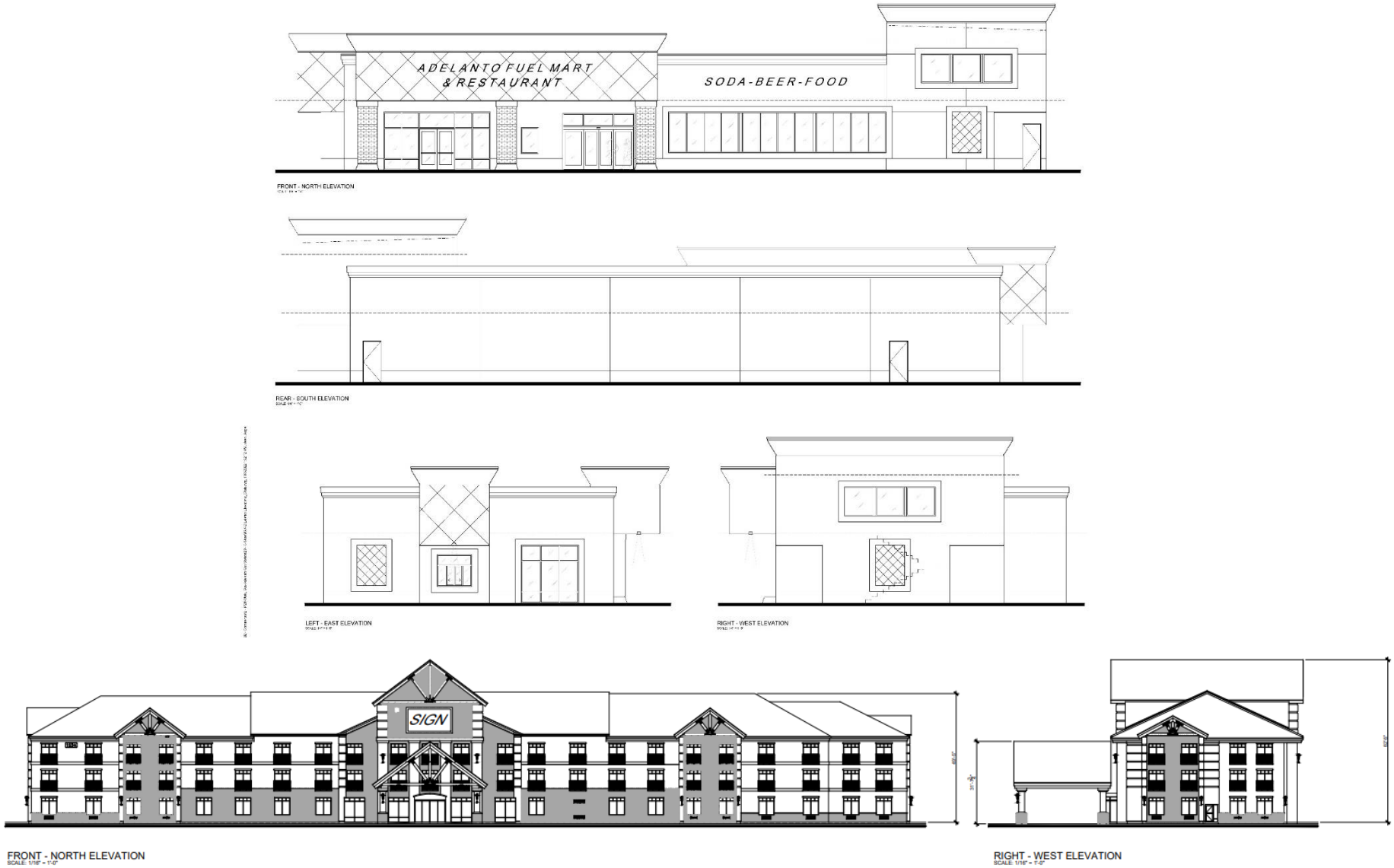

EXHIBIT 2-7 BUILDING ELEVATIONS

SOURCE: STEENO DESIGN STUDIO INC.

2.6 DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS

The City has initiate a Zoning Code amendment (revision to Appendix A) that would permit convenience stores, hotels, and gasoline retailers in the ADD zones. A Discretionary Action is an action taken by a government agency (for this project, the government agency is the City of Adelanto) that calls for an exercise of judgment in deciding whether to approve a project. The following discretionary approvals are required:

- The approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP 22-19) for the sales of alcohol for off-site consumption;
- The approval of a Land Development Plan (LDP 22-15);
- The approval of a Tentative Parcel Map (TPM 20607); and,
- Approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).

All potentially interested tribes identified by the NAHC were also contacted pursuant to AB-52 for information regarding their knowledge of cultural resources that were within or near the project area. These groups include: the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Soboba Band Luiseno Indians, and the Serrano Nation.

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SECTION 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section of the Initial Study analyzes the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed project's implementation. The issue areas evaluated in this Initial Study include the following:

Aesthetics (Section 3.1);
Agricultural &Forestry Resources (Section 3.2);
Air Quality (Section 3.3);
Biological Resources (Section 3.4);
Cultural Resources (Section 3.5);
Energy (Section 3.6);
Geology & Soils (Section 3.7);
Greenhouse Gas Emissions; (Section 3.8);
Hazards & Hazardous Materials (Section 3.9);
Hydrology & Water Quality (Section 2.39);
Land Use & Planning (Section 3.11);
Mineral Resources (Section 3.12);
Noise (Section 3.13);
Population & Housing (Section 3.14).
Public Services (Section 3.15);
Recreation (Section 3.16);
Transportation (Section 3.17);
Tribal Cultural Resources (Section 3.18);
Utilities (Section 3.19);
Wildfire (Section 3.20); and,
Mandatory Findings of Significance (Section 3.21).

The environmental analysis included in this section reflects the Initial Study Checklist format used by the City of Adelanto in its environmental review process (refer to Section 1.3 herein). Under each issue area, an analysis of impacts is provided in the form of questions followed by corresponding detailed responses. For the evaluation of potential impacts, questions are stated and an answer is provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of this Initial Study's preparation. To each question, there are four possible responses:

- *No Impact*. The proposed project *will not* have any measurable environmental impact on the environment.
- *Less Than Significant Impact*. The proposed project *may have* the potential for affecting the environment, although these impacts will be below levels or thresholds that the City of Adelanto or other responsible agencies consider to be significant.
- *Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation*. The proposed project *may have* the potential to generate impacts that will have a significant impact on the environment. However, the level of impact may be reduced to levels that are less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures.
- *Potentially Significant Impact*. The proposed project may result in environmental impacts that are significant.

This Initial Study will assist the City of Adelanto in deciding as to whether there is a potential for significant adverse impacts on the environment associated with the implementation of the proposed project.

3.1 AESTHETICS

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				✕
B. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.				✕
C. Would the project in nonurbanized areas substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zinging and other regulations governing scenic quality?				✕
D. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				✕

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on aesthetics if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would have an adverse effect on a scenic vista, except as provided in PRC Sec. 21099.
- The proposed project would have an adverse effect on scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.
- The proposed project would substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. or,
- The proposed project would, except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

The evaluation of aesthetics and aesthetic impacts is generally subjective, and it typically requires the identification of key visual features in the area and their importance. The characterization of aesthetic impacts involves establishing the existing visual characteristics including visual resources and scenic vistas that are unique to the area. Visual resources are determined by identifying existing landforms (e.g., topography and grading), views (e.g., scenic resources such as natural features or urban characteristics), and existing light and glare characteristics (e.g., nighttime illumination). Changes to the existing aesthetic environment associated with the proposed project's implementation are identified and *qualitatively* evaluated based on the proposed modifications to the existing setting and the viewers' sensitivity. The project-related impacts are then compared to the context of the existing setting, using the threshold criteria discussed above.

A. *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? ● No Impact*

The dominant scenic views from the project site include the views of the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains, located 20 miles south and southeast of the site. In addition, local views are already dominated by regional Southern California Edison (SCE) transmissions towers and transmission lines located to the south of the project site. Views from the mountains will not be obstructed. Once operational, views of the aforementioned mountains will continue to be visible from the public right-of-way. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway ● No Impact.*

According to the California Department of Transportation, none of the roadways located adjacent to the proposed project site are designated scenic highways and there are no state or county designated scenic highways in the vicinity of the project site.[19] There are no officially designated highways located near the City. The nearest highways that are eligible for designation as a scenic highway include SR-2 (from SR-210 to SR-138), located 11 miles southwest of the City; SR-58 (from SR-14 to I-15), located 20 miles north of the City; SR-138 (from SR-2 to SR-18), located 13 miles south of the City; SR-173 (from SR-138 to SR-18), located 15 miles southeast of the City; and, SR-247 (from SR-62 to I-15), located 23 miles east of the City. The City of Adelanto 2035 Sustainable Plan identifies prominent view sheds within the City. These view sheds are comprised primarily of undeveloped desert land, the Mojave River, and distant views of the mountains.[20]Lastly, the project site does not contain any buildings listed in the State or National registrar. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

C. *Would the project in nonurbanized areas substantially degraded the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? ● No Impact*

There are no protected views in the vicinity of the project site and the City does not contain any scenic vistas. In addition, the City does not have any zoning regulations or other regulations governing scenic quality other that the development standards for which the new building will conform to. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

D. *Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? ● No Impact*

The nearest sensitive receptor to the project site is located 3,900 feet north of the project site. Project-related sources of nighttime light would include parking area exterior lights, security lighting, and vehicular headlights. The proposed project will not expose any sensitive receptors to daytime or nighttime light trespass since the project will be in conformance with Section 17.90.040 – Lighting of the City of Adelanto Municipal Code. The City's Code includes the following requirements related to outdoor lighting:

[19] California Department of Transportation. *Official Designated Scenic Highways.*

[20] MIG Hogle-Ireland. *Adelanto North 2035 Comprehensive Sustainable Plan*. August 27, 2014.

- All on-site lighting shall be energy efficient, stationary, and directed away from adjoining properties and public rights-of-way.
- Light fixtures shall be shielded so no light is emitted above the horizontal plane of the bottom of the light fixture.
- Light fixtures shall be shielded so no light above 0.5 footcandle spills over onto adjacent properties and rights-of-way. There shall be no spillover (0.0 footcandle) onto adjacent residential used or zoned properties.

The proposed project must also comply with the State's applicable regulatory specifications requirements that all outdoor lighting for security purposes must be shielded and downward facing. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 3 § 16304(a)(7). *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The proposed project will not expose any sensitive receptors to daytime or nighttime light trespass since the project will be in conformance with Section 17.90.040 – Lighting of the City of Adelanto Municipal Code. The proposed project must also comply with the State's applicable regulatory specifications requirements that all outdoor lighting for security purposes must be shielded and downward facing. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 3 § 16304(a)(7). As a result, no light-related impacts are anticipated. The analysis of aesthetics concluded that no impact on these resources would occur as part of the proposed project's implementation. As a result, no mitigation is required.

3.2 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural uses?				✖
B. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural uses, or a Williamson Act Contract?				✖
C. Would the project **c**onflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?				✖
D. Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use?				✖
E. Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on agriculture and forestry resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use.
- The proposed project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.
- The proposed project would conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)).
- The proposed project would result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.
- The proposed project would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) was established in 1982 to track changes in agricultural land use and to help preserve areas of Important Farmland. It divides the state's land into eight categories of land use designation based on soil quality and

existing agriculture uses to produce maps and statistical data. These maps and data are used to help preserve productive farmland and to analyze impacts on farmland. Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance are all Important Farmland and are collectively referred to as Important Farmland in this analysis. The highest rated Important Farmland is Prime Farmland. The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, or the Williamson Act, allows a city or county government to preserve agricultural land or open space through contracts with landowners. The County has areas that are currently agriculture preserves under contract with San Bernardino County through the Williamson Act of 1965. Contracts last 10 years and are automatically renewed unless a notice of nonrenewal is issued.

A. *Would the project Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural uses? ● No Impact.*

According to the California Department of Conservation, the project site does not contain any areas of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and no agricultural uses are located onsite or adjacent to the property. The implementation of the proposed project would not involve the conversion of any prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance to urban uses. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*[11]

B. *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural uses, or a Williamson Act Contract? ● No Impact.*

The project site is currently zoned as Airport Development District (ADD). The property is vacant and undeveloped and there are no agricultural uses located within the site that would be affected by the project's implementation. According to the California Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection, the project site is not subject to a Williamson Act Contract.[21]*As a result, no impacts will result.*

C. *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))? ● No Impact.*

The project site is currently vacant. There are no forest lands or timber lands located within or adjacent to the site. Furthermore, the site's existing zoning designation does not contemplate forest land or timber land uses. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

D. *Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? ● No Impact.*

No forest lands are located within the project site. The proposed use will be restricted to the site and will not affect any land under the jurisdiction of the BLM. *As a result, no impacts will result.*

[11] California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping, and Monitoring Program. *California Important Farmland Finder*.

[21] California Department of Conservation. *State of California Williamson Act Contract Land.*

E. *Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use? ● No Impact.*

The project would not involve the disruption or damage of the existing environment that would result in a loss of farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use because the project site is currently vacant and does not contain any significant vegetation. *As a result, no impacts will result.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of agricultural and forestry resources indicated that no impact on these resources would occur as part of the proposed project's implementation. As a result, no mitigation is required.

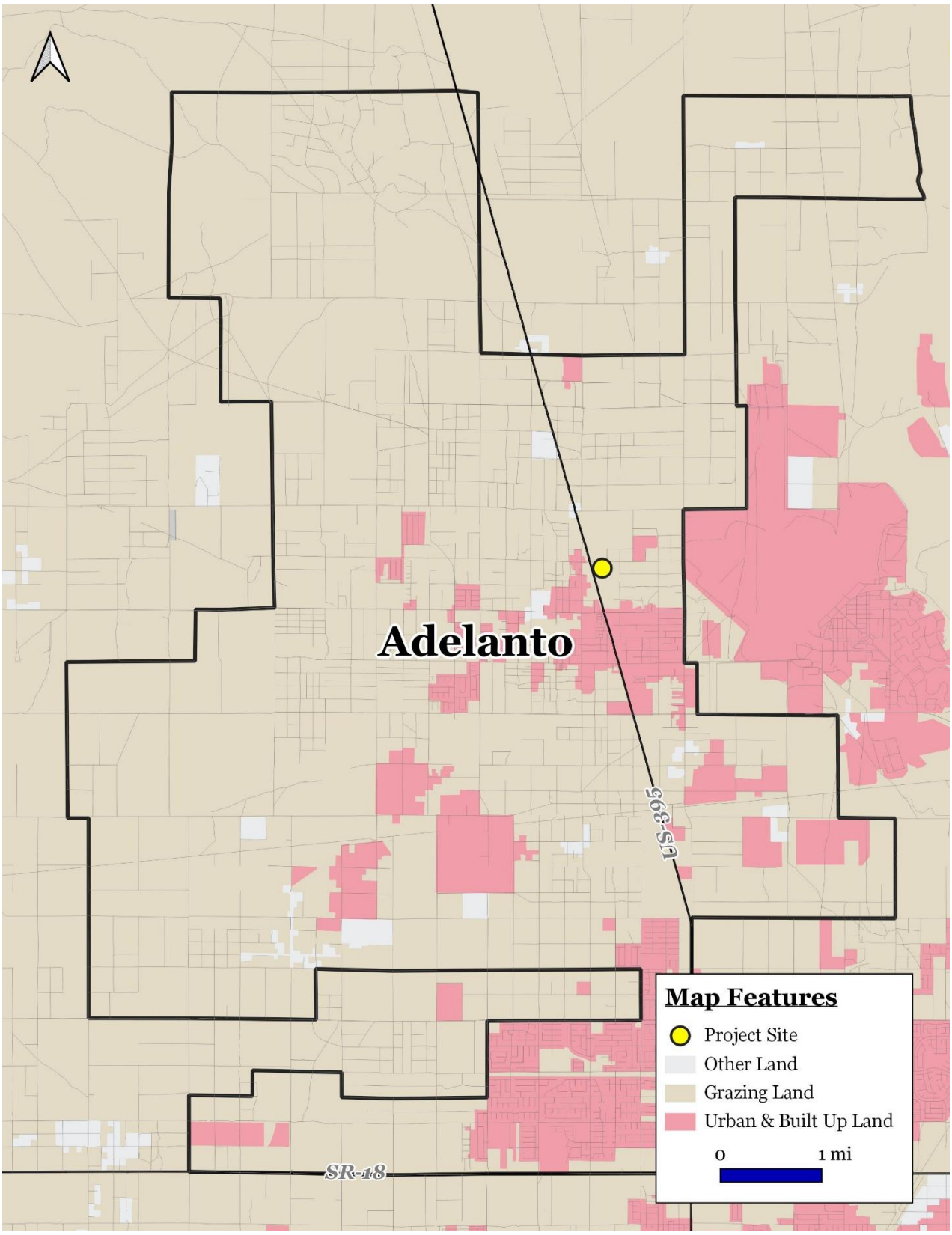

EXHIBIT 3-1 AGRICULTURAL MAP
SOURCE: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

3.3 AIR QUALITY

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				✖
B. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard?		✖		
C. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			✖	
D. Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			✖	

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on air quality if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.
- The proposed project would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.
- The proposed project would expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- The proposed project would result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people.

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) has established quantitative thresholds for short-term (construction) emissions and long-term (operational) emissions for the criteria pollutants listed below. Projects in the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) generating construction and operational-related emissions that exceed any of the following emissions thresholds are considered to be significant under CEQA.

- *Ozone (O_3)* is a nearly colorless gas that irritates the lungs, and damages materials and vegetation. Ozone is formed a by photochemical reaction (when nitrogen dioxide is broken down by sunlight).
- *Carbon Monoxide (CO)* is a colorless, odorless toxic gas that interferes with the transfer of oxygen to the brain and is produced by the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels emitted as vehicle exhaust. The threshold is 548 pounds per day of carbon monoxide (CO).

- *Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x)* is a yellowish-brown gas, which at high levels can cause breathing difficulties. NO_x is formed when nitric oxide (a pollutant from burning processes) combines with oxygen. The daily threshold is 137 pounds per day of nitrogen oxide (NO_x).
- *Sulfur Dioxide* (SO_2) is a colorless, pungent gas formed primarily by the combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels. Health effects include acute respiratory symptoms. The daily threshold is 137 pounds per day of sulfur oxides (SO_x).
- *PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$* refers to particulate matter less than ten microns and two and one-half microns in diameter, respectively. Particulates of this size cause a greater health risk than larger-sized particles since fine particles can more easily cause irritation. The daily threshold is 82 pounds per day of PM_{10} and 65 pounds per day of $PM_{2.5}$.
- *Reactive Organic Gasses (ROG)* refers to organic chemicals that, with the interaction of sunlight photochemical reactions may lead to the creation of "smog." The daily threshold is 137 pounds per day of ROG.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? ● No Impact.*

Air quality impacts may occur during the construction or operation of a project, and may come from stationary (e.g., industrial processes, generators), mobile (e.g., automobiles, trucks), or area (e.g., residential water heaters) sources. The City is located within the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) and is under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD). The district covers the majority of the MDAB. The MDAB is an assemblage of mountain ranges interspersed with long broad valleys that often contain dry lakes. The MDAB is separated from the southern California coastal and central California valley regions by mountains (highest elevation approximately 10,000 feet). The Antelope Valley is bordered in the northwest by the Tehachapi Mountains and in the south by the San Gabriel Mountains. The adjacent Mojave Desert is bordered in the southwest by the San Bernardino Mountains.[22]

Projects that are consistent with the projections of employment and population forecasts identified in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) prepared by SCAG are considered consistent with the MDAQMP growth projections, since the RTP/SCS forms the basis of the land use and transportation control portions of the MDAQMP. According to the Growth Forecast Appendix prepared by SCAG for the 2016-2040 RTP/SCS, the City of Adelanto is projected to add a total of 38,900 new residents and 3,900 new employees through the year 2040.[23] The proposed project is not in conflict with the growth projections established for the City by SCAG. The project's construction emissions would be below the thresholds of significance established by the MDAQMD (the project's daily construction emissions are summarized in Table 3-1). In addition, the proposed project's long-term (operational) airborne emissions will be below levels that the MDAQMD considers to be a significant impact (refer to Table 3-2). *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

[22] Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD). *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Federal Conformity Guidelines*. Report dated August 2016.

[23] Southern California Association of Governments. *Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy 2016-2040.Demographics &Growth Forecast*. April 2016.

B. *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

According to the MDAQMD, any project is significant if it triggers or exceeds the MDAQMD daily emissions threshold identified previously and noted at the bottom of Tables 3-1 and 3-2. In general, a project will have the potential for a significant air quality impact if any of the following are met:

- Generates total emissions (direct and indirect) that exceeds the MDAQMD thresholds (the proposed project emissions are less than the thresholds as indicated in Tables 3-1 and 3-2);
- Results in a violation of any ambient air quality standard when added to the local background (the proposed project will not result, in any violation of these standards);
- Does not conform with the applicable attainment or maintenance plan(s) (the proposed project is in conformance with the City's Zoning and General Plan); and,
- Exposes sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, including those resulting in a cancer risk greater than or equal to 10 in a million and/or a Hazard Index (HI) (non-cancerous) greater than or equal to 1 (the proposed project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations nor is the site located near any sensitive receptors).

The proposed project's construction and operation will not lead to a violation of the above-mentioned criteria. For ROG emissions to remain under the threshold during the architectural coatings phase, coatings must be below a level of 150 VOC g/L.

Table 3-1
Estimated Daily Construction Emissions

Construction Phase	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10	PM2.5
Maximum Daily Emissions	36.08	36.11	34.54	0.06	7.51	4.22
Daily Thresholds	137	137	548	137	82	65
Significant Impact?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: Urban Crossroads

Long-term emissions refer to those air quality impacts that will occur once the proposed project has been constructed and is operational. The analysis of long-term operational impacts summarized in Table 3-2 also used the CalEEModV2022.1 computer model. The analysis summarized in Table 3-2 indicates that the operational (long-term) emissions will be below the MDAQMD daily emissions thresholds.

Table 3-2
Estimated Operational Emissions in lbs./day

Emission Source	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10	PM2.5
Total (lbs./day)	70.64	46.29	409.92	0.84	27.27	5.38
Daily Thresholds	137	137	548	137	82	65
Significant Impact?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: Urban Crossroads

The analysis presented in Tables 3-1 and 3-2 reflects projected emissions that are typically higher during the summer months and represent a worse-case scenario. As indicated in Tables 3-1 and 3-2, the impacts are considered to be less than significant. In addition, the MDAQMD Rule Book contains numerous regulations governing various activities undertaken within the district. Among these regulations is Rule 403.2 – Fugitive Dust Control which was adopted in 1996 for the purpose of controlling fugitive dust. Adherence to Rule 403.2 regulations is required for all projects undertaken within the district. All internal roadways and parking areas will be paved. Future construction truck drivers must also adhere to Title 13 - §2485 of the California Code of Regulations, which limits the idling of diesel-powered vehicles to less than five minutes.[3] The proposed use of the project involves frequent transportation and storage of gas and diesel fuel. In addition to the proposed mitigation, the project applicant must also adhere to the city's code of ordinances. *Mitigation measures have been incorporated herein to further reduce the potential air quality impacts to levels that are less than significant.*

C. *Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

According to the MDAQMD, residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds, and medical facilities are considered sensitive receptor land uses. The following project types proposed for sites within the specified distance to an existing or planned (zoned) sensitive receptor land use must be evaluated: any industrial project within 1,000 feet; a distribution center (40 or more trucks per day) within 1,000 feet; a major transportation project within 1,000 feet; a dry cleaner using perchloroethylene within 500 feet; and a gasoline dispensing facility within 300 feet. The nearest sensitive receptor is approximately 400 feet to the northwest. *Due to the distance from the project site to the nearest sensitive receptor, the impacts will be less than significant.*

D. *Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

According to the Greenhouse Gas Report conducted by Urban Crossroads, the project does not contain land uses typically associated with emitting objectionable odors. Potential odor sources associated with the proposed Project may result from construction equipment exhaust and the application of asphalt and architectural coatings during construction activities and the temporary storage of typical solid waste (refuse) associated with the proposed Project's (long-term operational) uses. Standard construction requirements would minimize odor impacts from construction. The construction odor emissions would be temporary, short-term, and intermittent in nature and would cease upon completion of the respective phase of construction and is thus considered less than significant. It is expected that Project-generated refuse would be stored in covered containers and removed at regular intervals in compliance with the City's solid waste regulations. The proposed Project would also be required to comply with MDAQMD Rule 402 to prevent occurrences of public nuisances. Therefore, odors, and emissions that may lead to odors, associated with the proposed Project construction and operations would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.[24]

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures have been incorporated herein to further reduce the potential air quality impacts to levels that are less than significant.

[24] Urban Crossroads. Adelanto Commercial Greenhouse Gas Analysis. November 14, 2022.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 1. The Applicant shall prepare and submit to the MDAQMD, prior to commencing earth-moving activity, a dust control plan that describes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented at the project;

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 2. The Applicant shall ensure that signage, compliant with Rule 403 Attachment, is erected at each project site entrance not later than the commencement of construction.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 3. The Applicant shall ensure the use of a water truck to maintain moist disturbed surfaces and actively spread water during visible dusting episodes to minimize visible fugitive dust emissions. For projects with exposed sand or fines deposits (and for projects that expose such soils through earthmoving), chemical stabilization or covering with a stabilizing layer of gravel will be required to eliminate visible dust/sand from sand/fines deposits.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 4. All perimeter fencing shall be wind fencing or the equivalent, to a minimum of four feet of height or the top of all perimeter fencing. The owner/operator shall maintain the wind fencing as needed to keep it intact and remove windblown dropout. This wind fencing requirement may be superseded by local ordinance, rule or project-specific biological mitigation prohibiting wind fencing.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 5. All maintenance and access vehicular roads and parking areas shall be stabilized with chemical, gravel or asphaltic pavement sufficient to eliminate visible fugitive dust from vehicular travel and wind erosion. Take actions to prevent project-related track out onto paved surfaces and clean any project-related track out within 24 hours. All other earthen surfaces within the project area shall be stabilized by natural or irrigated vegetation, compaction, chemical or other means.

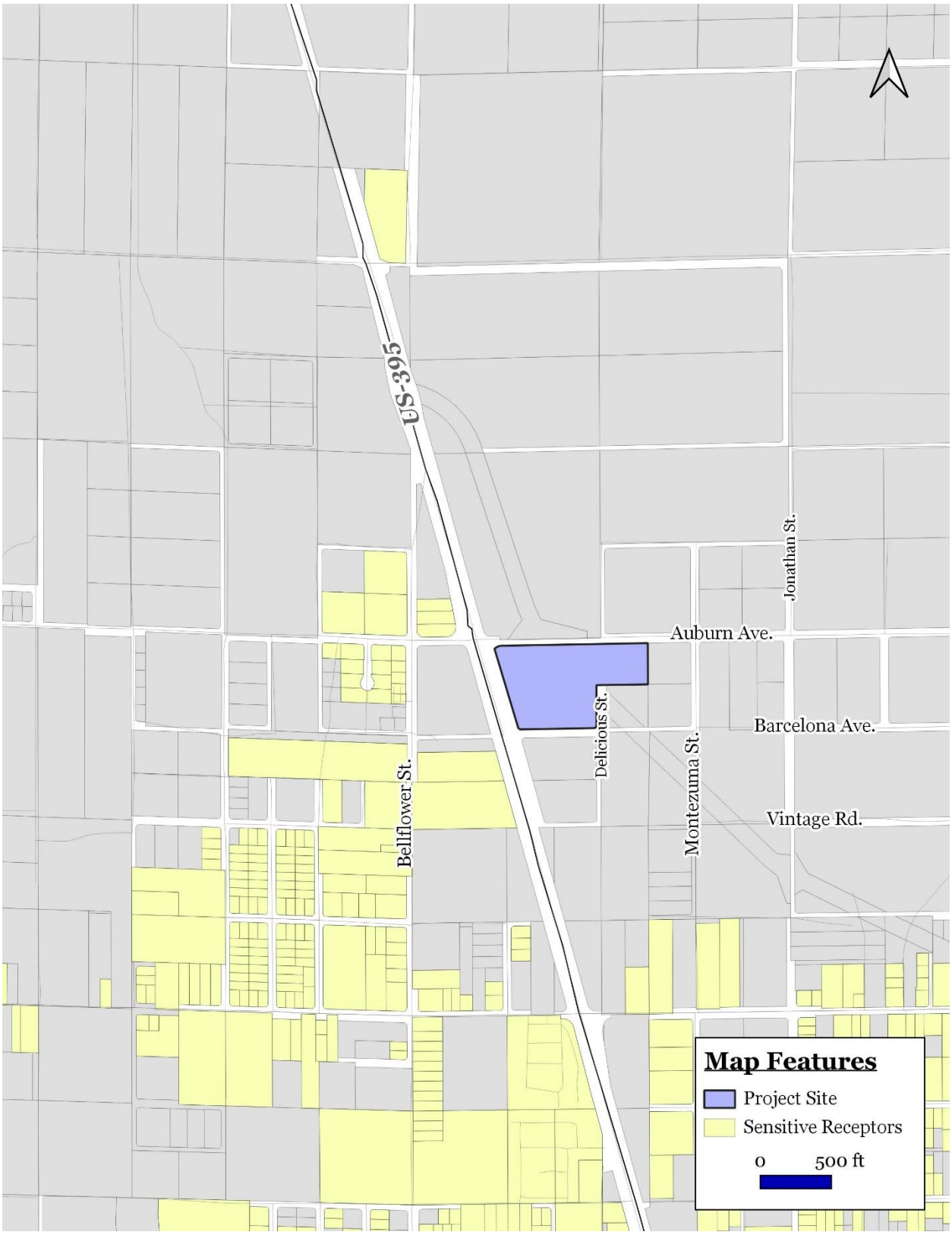

EXHIBIT 3-2 AIR QUALITY SENSITIVE RECEPTORS MAP

SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		✖		
B. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				✖
C. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on State or Federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				✖
D. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				✖
E. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		✖		
F. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on biological resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- The proposed project would 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.

- The proposed project would conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- The proposed project would conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Sensitive biological resources include a variety of plant and animal species that are specialized and endemic to a particular habitat type. Due to loss of habitat, some of these species have been designated by either, or both, the federal and state government resource agencies as threatened or endangered. Species listed as threatened include those whose numbers have dropped to such low levels and/or whose populations are so isolated that the continuation of the species could be jeopardized. Endangered species are those with such limited numbers or subject to such extreme circumstances that they are considered in imminent danger of extinction. Other government agencies and resource organizations also identify sensitive species, those that are naturally rare and that have been locally depleted and put at risk by human activities. While not in imminent danger of jeopardy or extinction, sensitive species are considered vulnerable and can become candidates for future listing as threatened or endangered.

A. *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

General biological surveys were conducted on June 21, 2022, during which biologists from RCA Associates, Inc. initially walked meandering transects throughout the property. During the surveys, data was collected on the plant and animal species present on the site. The property was also evaluated for the presence of habitats which might support sensitive species. Following completion of the initial reconnaissance survey, habitat assessments were conducted for the desert tortoise and burrowing owl, and Mohave ground squirrel.

Meandering transects were walked on the site and in surrounding areas (i.e., the zone of influence) where accessible at a pace that allowed for careful documentation of the plant and animal species present on the site. All plants observed were identified in the field and wildlife was identified through visual observations and/or by vocalizations. Habitat assessments were conducted for the desert tortoise, burrowing owl, and Mohave ground squirrel. The site dominated by creosote bush (Larrea tridentata), Joshua tree (Yucca brevifolia), rubber rabbitbrush (Ericameria nauseosa), Nevada jointfir (Ephedra nevadensis), Asian mustard (Brassica tournefortii), Flatspine burr ragweed (Ambrosia acanthicarpa) and cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum).[25]

The site supports a minimal amount of wildlife, with many of them being birds with indications of coyotes also being present on site. California ground squirrel (Otospermophilus beecheyi) and antelope ground squirrel (Ammospermophilus leucurus) are also expected to occur on site but were not observed. Birds observed included ravens (Corvus corax), house finch (Haemorhous mexicanus), and the ash throated flycatcher (Myiarchus cinerascens). One reptile was observed during the survey, Western Whiptail Lizard (Cnemidophorus tigris). Other reptiles that may occur on the site include common side-blotched lizard (Uta stansburiana).[26] Only one mammal was observed on site, the black-tailed jackrabbit (Lepus

[25] RCA Associates, Inc. *General Biological Resources Assessment, Adelanto, California. APN 0459-053-08, 55, 56, 57 & 58.* June
[26] Ibid.

californicus), although Coyote (*Canis latrans),* California ground squirrel (Otospermophilus beecheyi), black-tailed jackrabbit (Lepus californicus), antelope ground squirrel (Ammospermophilus leucurus), and Merriam's kangaroo rats (Dipodomys merriami) may also occur on the site given their wide-spread distribution in the region. No sensitive habitats (e.g., wetlands, vernal pools, critical habitats for sensitive species, etc.) were observed on the site during the field investigations. The following are the listed and special status species that have the ability to occur on the project site. It is not a comprehensive list of all the species in the quad. This information has been taken from the California Natural Diversity Database and is using the most current version.[27]

- *Desert Tortoise:* The site is located within the documented tortoise, a state and federal threatened species, habitat according to CNDDB (2021). The property supports very marginal habitat for the desert tortoise based on the location of the site in a semi-developed area of Adelanto. No tortoises were observed anywhere within the property boundaries during the November 22, 2021, surveys. The species is not expected to move onto the site in the near future based on the absence of any sign, absence of any recent observations in the immediate area. The protocol survey results are valid for one year as per CDFW and USFWS requirements.

- *Mohave Ground Squirrel:* The Mohave ground squirrel is a California state threatened species that have a short, flat, furred, white, underside tail, uniformly brown (with no spots or stripes). They inhabit open desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, and annual grasslands on sandy to gravelly surfaces in the Mojave Desert. Occupiable burrows were found on the site, but no Mohave ground squirrels were detected. It is the opinion of RCA Associates, Inc. that the habitat is not prime Mohave ground squirrel habitat and is very unlikely to support populations of the species based on the following criteria, that there have been two recent sightings, within 20 years of the species in the Adelanto quadrangle.

- *Swainson's Hawk:* The site is located within documented Swainson's hawk habitat, a state threatened raptor, according to CNDDB (2021). No hawks were seen on the property during the survey, and no suitable habitat was observed due to previous grading of the site. Swainson's hawks occupy grasslands and breed in trees that are the only ones seen for miles. Swainson's hawks are not expected to occur on the site due to lack of habitat and prime vegetation.

- *Burrowing Owl:* The site is located within documented burrowing owl habitat according to CNDDB (2021). No owls were seen on the property during the survey, and minimal suitable habitat was observed. Burrowing owls are not expected to occur on the site due to lack of suitable vegetation and burrows.

- *Le Conte's thrasher:* Le Conte's thrashers have not been recently observed in the area according to CNDDB (2021). Thrashers are not expected to occur on the site due to lack of critical vegetation used by the species, such as saltbush and catclaw acacia. Thrashers may be very infrequent in the area given the low population levels in the region as well as the lack of any recent sightings according to the CNDDB.

Future development of the site will have minimal impact on the general biological resources present on the site, and most, if not all, of the vegetation will likely be removed during future construction activities. Wildlife will also be impacted by development activities and those species with limited mobility (i.e., small mammals and reptiles) will experience increases in mortality during the construction phase. However,

RCA Associates, Inc. *General Biological Resources Assessment, Adelanto, California. APN 0459-053-08, 55, 56, 57 & 58.* June

more mobile species (i.e., birds, large mammals) will be displaced into adjacent areas and will likely experience minimal impacts. Therefore, loss of about 11.81 acres of desert vegetation is not expected to have a significant cumulative impact on the overall biological resources in the region given the presence of similar habitat throughout the surrounding desert region. No sensitive habitats (e.g., wetlands, vernal pools, critical habitats for sensitive species, etc.) were observed on the site during the field investigations.[28] No federal or State-listed wildlife species were observed on the site during the field investigations including the Mohave ground squirrel and desert tortoise. In addition, there are no documented observations of these species either on the site or in the immediate area. The site is not expected to support populations of the desert tortoise based on the absence of suitable habitat. As per CDFW protocol, the burrowing owl survey results are valid for only 30 days; therefore, CDFW may require a 30-day pre-construction survey be performed prior to any clearing/grading activities to determine if owls have moved on to the site since the survey.[29]

Future development activities are expected to grade the property and remove the vegetation from the 11.81 acres parcel; however, cumulative impacts to the general biological resources (plants and animals) in the surrounding area are expected to be negligible. This assumption is based on the habitat containing scarce vegetation of non-native species. In addition, future development activities are not expected to have any impact on any State or Federal listed or State special status plant or animal species. As discussed above, the site does not support any desert tortoises. In addition, burrowing owls do not inhabit the site and are not expected to be impacted given the absence of any suitable burrows. The following mitigation measures are recommended:

- If construction occurs during the non-nesting season (typically September 16 through December 31), a pre-construction sweep shall be performed to verify absence of nesting birds. A qualified biologist shall conduct the pre-activity sweep within the project areas (including access routes) and a 300-foot buffer surrounding the project areas, within 2 hours prior to initiating project activities. If project activities are planned during bird nesting season (generally, raptor nesting season is January 1 through September 15; and passerine bird nesting season is February 1 through September 1, a nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within no more than three (3) days prior to the initiation of project activities, including, but not limited to clearing, grubbing, and/or rough grading to prevent impacts to birds and their nests. If nesting bird activity is present, a no disturbance buffer zone shall be established by the qualified biologist around each nest. The buffer shall be a minimum of 300 feet for raptors and 100 feet for songbirds, unless a smaller buffer is specifically determined by a qualified biologist familiar with the nesting phenology of the nesting species. The buffer areas shall be avoided until the nests are no longer occupied and the juvenile birds can survive independently from the nests. If there is no nesting activity, then no further action is needed for this measure.
- Prior to grading or any other ground-disturbing activity, a pre-construction burrowing owl clearance survey must be conducted in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation, State of California Natural Resource Agency, Department of Fish and Game, May 7, 2012, by a qualified biologist within 30 days prior to the beginning of project activities. A secondary survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist within 24 hours prior to the beginning of project construction to determine if the project site contains burrowing owl or sign thereof to avoid any potential impacts to the species. The surveys shall include 100 percent coverage of the project site.

[28] RCA Associates, Inc. *General Biological Resources Assessment, Adelanto, California. APN 0459-053-08, 55, 56, 57 & 58.* June 24, 2022.

[29] Ibid.

If both surveys reveal no burrowing owls are present or sign thereof, no additional actions related to this measure are required and a letter shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the survey. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW prior to construction. If occupied active burrows or sign thereof are found within the development footprint during the pre-construction clearance survey, Biological Resources Mitigation Measure 3 shall also apply.

- If active burrows or signs thereof are found within the development footprint during the pre-construction clearance surveys, site-specific non-disturbance buffer zones shall be established by the qualified biologist shall be no less than 300 feet If determined appropriate, a smaller buffer may be established by the qualified biologist following monitoring and assessments of the Project's effects on the burrowing owls. If it is not possible to avoid active burrows, passive relocation shall be implemented if a qualified biologist has determined there are no nesting owls and/or juvenile owls are no longer dependent on the burrows. A qualified biologist, in coordination with the applicant and the City, shall prepare and submit a passive relocation program in accordance with Appendix E (i.e., Example Components for Burrowing Owl Artificial Burrow and Exclusion Plans) of the CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012) for CDFW review/approval prior to the commencement of disturbance activities onsite and proposed mitigation for permanent loss of occupied burrow(s) and habitat consistent with the 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. When a qualified biologist determines that burrowing owls are no longer occupying the Project Site and passive relocation is complete, construction activities may begin. A final letter report shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the passive relocation. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW.
- Pre-construction surveys following the Mohave Ground Squirrel Survey Guidelines (CDFG 2010) or most recent version shall be performed by a qualified biologist authorized by a Memorandum of Understanding issued by CDFW. The pre-construction surveys shall cover the Project Area and a 50-foot buffer zone. Should Mohave ground squirrel presence be confirmed during the survey, the Project Proponent should obtain an ITP for Mohave ground squirrel prior to the start of Project activities. CDFW shall be notified if Mohave ground squirrel presence is confirmed during the pre-construction survey. If a Mohave ground squirrel is observed during Project activities, and the Project Proponent does not have an ITP, all work shall immediately stop, and the observation shall be immediately reported to CDFW.
- A CDFW-approved biologist shall conduct a protocol level presence or absence survey within the project area and 50-foot buffer no more than 48 hours prior to Project activities during desert tortoise active season (April to May or September to October), in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2019 desert tortoise survey methodology. The survey shall utilize perpendicular survey routes and 100-percent visual coverage for desert tortoise and their sign. Results of the survey shall be submitted to CDFW. If the survey confirms absence, the CDFW-approved biologist shall ensure desert tortoise do not enter the project area. If the survey confirms presence, the project proponent shall submit to CDFW for review and approval a desert tortoise-specific avoidance plan detailing the protective avoidance measures to be implemented to ensure complete avoidance of take to desert tortoise. If complete avoidance cannot be achieved, CDFW recommends the project proponent not undertake project activities and project activities be postponed until appropriate authorization (i.e., CESA ITP under Fish and Game Code section 2081) is obtained.
- Prior to project implementation, and during the appropriate season, the City shall conduct botanical field survey following protocols set forth in the Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities (CDFW 2018). The surveys shall be conducted by a CDFW-approved botanist(s) experienced in conducting floristic botanical field surveys, knowledgeable of plant taxonomy and plant community ecology

and classification, familiar with the plants of the area, including special status and locally significant plants, and familiar with the appropriate state and federal statutes related to plants and plant collecting. The botanical field surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate time of year when plants will both be evident and identifiable (usually, during flowering or fruiting) and, in a manner, which maximizes the likelihood of locating special status plants and sensitive natural communities that may be present. Botanical field surveys shall be conducted floristic in nature, meaning that every plant taxon that occurs in the project area is identified to the taxonomic level necessary to determine rarity and listing status. If any rare plants or sensitive vegetation communities are identified, the City shall either avoid the occurrence, with an appropriate buffer, or mitigate the loss of the occurrence through the purchase of mitigation credits from a CDFW-approved bank or land acquisition and conservation at a minimum 3:1 (replacement-to-impact) ratio. Note that a higher ratio may be warranted if the proposed mitigation lands are located far away from the Project site (i.e., within a separate watershed) or is not occupied by or available to special status species. If the Project has the potential to impact a State-listed species, the City should apply for a California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

- Prior to construction and issuance of any grading permit, the project applicant should obtain written correspondence from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) stating that notification under section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code is not required for the project, or the project applicant should obtain a CDFW-executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, authorizing impacts to Fish and Game Code section 1602 resources associated with the project.
- Pre-construction surveys shall encompass all areas within the potential footprint of disturbance for the project, as well as a reasonable buffer around these areas.[30]

The above mitigation will reduce the impacts to levels that are less than significant.

B. *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? ● No Impact.*

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the results of the Biological Report, there are no wetland or migratory bird nesting areas located within the project site.[31] In addition, there is no riparian habitat located on-site or in the surrounding areas.[18] No offsite wetland or migratory bird nesting areas will be affected by the proposed development since all development will be confined to the project site. *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

C. *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

According to the biological study, no wetland areas or riparian habitats (e.g., wetlands, vernal pools, critical habitats for sensitive species, etc.) were observed on the site during the field investigations.[32] However, a

[30] RCA Associates, Inc. *General Biological Resources Assessment, Adelanto, California. APN 0459-053-08, 55, 56, 57 & 58.* June 24, 2022.

[31] United States Fish and Wildlife Service. *National Wetlands Inventory*.

[32] RCA Associates, Inc. General Biological Resources Assessment, Adelanto, California. APN 0459-053-08, 55, 56, 57 & 58. June 24, 2022.

potential jurisdictional channel was observed where a blue line channel crosses the northern boundary of the project site and runs southeast exiting the site at the eastern border.[33] A comprehensive jurisdictional delineation may be required at a future date due to a possible downstream connection or nexus with a wash or drainage to determine if the channel meets the criteria as Waters of the State (WoS) and/or Waters of the U.S. (WoUS). *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant with mitigation*.

D. *Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? ● No Impact.*

The site's utility as a habitat and a migration corridor is constrained by the presence of adjacent roadways and the development that is present in the neighboring areas. *As a result, no impacts are anticipated*.

E. *Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

A Protected Plant Preservation Plan was also conducted by RCA Associates, Inc to evaluate present Joshua Trees and determine the suitability for relocation or disposal. There are 7 Joshua trees located on the property and 1 of the trees are suitable for relocation/transplanting. This conclusion was based on: (1) trees which were one foot or greater in height and less than twelve feet tall (approximate); (2) in good health; (3), two branches or less; (4) density of trees (i.e., no clonal trees); (5) no exposed roots; (6) and trees that are not leaning over excessively.[34]

Joshua Trees are protected under Chapter 17.57 – Biotic Resources of the City of Adelanto's Municipal Code. In addition, the City of Adelanto enforces Title 8, Division 9 of San Bernardino County Code, which requires that every Joshua Tree proposed for removal be inspected by the city to assure the Joshua tree is not a "specimen" class tree requiring preservation and transplantation. Joshua trees occur throughout the Mojave Desert in Southern California and are typically found at an elevation of 1,200 to 5,400 feet. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife consider Joshua tree woodlands as areas that support relatively high species diversity and as such are considered to be a sensitive desert community. Joshua trees are also considered a significant resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and are included in the Desert Plant Protection Act, Food, and Agricultural Code (80001 – 80006). As of September 22, 2020, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife temporarily listed the western Joshua Tree (Yucca brevifolia) as an endangered species for one year until a final decision is made in 2022. Therefore, any attempt to remove a Joshua tree or part of a Joshua tree, dead or alive from its current position will require an Incidental Take Permit (ITP). As a result, the proposed project will be required to implement the following mitigation measure:

1. The Joshua trees will be retained in place or replanted somewhere on the site where they can remain in perpetuity or will be transplanted to an off-site area approved by the city where they can remain in perpetuity. Joshua trees which are deemed not suitable for transplanting will be cut-up and discarded as per City requirements.
2. Earthen berms will be created around each tree by the biologist prior to excavation and the trees will be watered approximately one week before transplanting. Watering the trees prior to

[33] Ibid.

[34] RCA Associates, Inc. Protected Plant Preservation Plan. Report dated May 24, 2022.

excavation will help make excavation easier, ensure the root ball will hold together, and minimize stress to the tree.

3. Each tree will be moved to a pre-selected location which has already been excavated and will be placed and oriented in the same direction as their original direction. The hole will be backfilled with native soil, and the transplanted tree will be immediately watered. As noted in Section 3.0, a numbered metal tag was placed on the north side of the trees and the trees were also flagged with surveyor's flagging. The biologist will develop a watering regimen to ensure the survival of the transplanted trees. The watering regimen will be based upon the needs of the trees and the local precipitation.

The above mitigation will reduce the impacts to levels that are less than significant.

F. *Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? ● No Impact.*

The proposed project's implementation would not be in conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plans. *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of biological impacts determined that the following mitigation measures would be required to reduce the project's impacts to levels that would be less than significant.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 1.–Regardless of the time of year, a pre-construction survey shall be performed to verify absence of nesting birds. A qualified biologist shall conduct the pre-activity survey within the Project areas (including access routes) and a 500-foot buffer surrounding the Project areas, no more than three (3) days prior to the initiation of project activities, including, but not limited to clearing, grubbing, and/or rough grading to prevent impacts to birds and their nests. Pre-construction surveys shall focus on both direct and indirect evidence of nesting, including nest locations and nesting behavior. The qualified biologist shall make every effort to avoid potential nest predation as a result of survey and monitoring efforts. If nesting bird activity is present, a no disturbance buffer zone shall be established by the qualified biologist to be marked on the ground around each nest. The buffer shall be a minimum of 500 feet for raptors and 300 feet for songbirds, unless a smaller buffer is specifically determined by a qualified biologist familiar with the nesting phenology of the nesting species. The buffer areas shall be avoided until the nests are no longer occupied and the juvenile birds can survive independently from the nests. Active nest(s) and an established buffer distance(s) shall be monitored daily by the qualified biologist until the qualified biologist has determined the young have fledged or the Project has been completed. The qualified biologist has the authority to stop work if nesting pairs exhibit signs of disturbance. If there is no nesting activity, then no further action is needed for this measure.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 2. Prior to grading or any other ground-disturbing activity, a pre-construction burrowing owl clearance survey must be conducted in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation, State of California Natural Resource Agency, Department of Fish and Game, May 7, 2012, by a qualified biologist within 30 days prior to the beginning of project activities. A secondary survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist within 24 hours prior to the beginning of project construction to determine if the project site contains burrowing owl or sign thereof

to avoid any potential impacts to the species. The surveys shall include 100 percent coverage of the project site. If both surveys reveal no burrowing owls are present or sign thereof, no additional actions related to this measure are required and a letter shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the survey. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW prior to construction. If occupied active burrows or sign thereof are found within the development footprint during the pre-construction clearance survey, Biological Resources Mitigation Measure 3 shall also apply.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 3. If active burrows or signs thereof are found within the development footprint during the pre-construction clearance surveys, site-specific non-disturbance buffer zones shall be established by the qualified biologist shall be no less than 300 feet If determined appropriate, a smaller buffer may be established by the qualified biologist following monitoring and assessments of the project's effects on the burrowing owls. If it is not possible to avoid active burrows, passive relocation shall be implemented if a qualified biologist has determined there are no nesting owls and/or juvenile owls are no longer dependent on the burrows. A qualified biologist, in coordination with the applicant and the City, shall prepare and submit a passive relocation program in accordance with Appendix E (i.e., Example Components for Burrowing Owl Artificial Burrow and Exclusion Plans) of the CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012) for CDFW review/approval prior to the commencement of disturbance activities onsite and proposed mitigation for permanent loss of occupied burrow(s) and habitat consistent with the 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. When a qualified biologist determines that burrowing owls are no longer occupying the Project Site and passive relocation is complete, construction activities may begin. A final letter report shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the passive relocation. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW.

DFW has concerns that the Project is within the range of the CESA threatened Mohave ground squirrel (MGS), and the ISMND confirms the presence of burrows suitable for the species. However, the ISMND does not anticipate the presence of Mohave ground squirrel due to urbanization. Because CDFW is aware of an occurrence of Mohave ground squirrel burrow in the vicinity of the Project, CDFW is concerned that surveys were not performed to confirm presence. Therefore, CDFW recognizes the potential for Mohave ground squirrel at the start of construction and recommends pre-construction Mohave ground squirrel surveys and observations and requests the City adopt the following mitigation measures:

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 4. Pre-construction surveys following the Mohave Ground Squirrel Survey Guidelines (CDFG 2010) or most recent version shall be performed by a qualified biologist authorized by a Memorandum of Understanding issued by CDFW. The pre-construction surveys shall cover the Project Area and a 50-foot buffer zone. Should Mohave ground squirrel presence be confirmed during the survey, the Project Proponent should obtain an ITP for Mohave ground squirrel prior to the start of Project activities. CDFW shall be notified if Mohave ground squirrel presence is confirmed during the pre-construction survey. If a Mohave ground squirrel is observed during Project activities, and the Project Proponent does not have an ITP, all work shall immediately stop, and the observation shall be immediately reported to CDFW.

Desert Tortoise is a state-threatened, proposed endangered species, as such CDFW is concerned that the ISMND lacks a mitigation measure for pre-construction desert tortoise surveys, because the Project site is within the desert tortoise range and contains suitable habitat for desert tortoise: creosote bush scrub. To address potential direct/indirect impacts to desert tortoise, CDFW recommends the inclusion of the following mitigation measure prior to the City adopting the ISMND:

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 5. Prior to construction, a CDFW-approved biologist shall conduct a protocol level presence or absence survey within the Project area and 50-foot buffer no more than 48 hours prior to Project activities and after any pause in Project activities lasting 30 days or more during desert tortoise active season (April to May or September to October), in accordance with

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2019 desert tortoise survey methodology. The survey shall utilize perpendicular survey routes and 100-percent visual coverage for desert tortoise and their sign. Results of the survey shall be submitted to CDFW. If the survey confirms absence, the CDFW approved biologist shall ensure desert tortoise do not enter the Project area. If the survey confirms presence, the Project proponent shall submit to CDFW for review and approval a desert tortoise-specific avoidance plan detailing the protective avoidance measures to be implemented to ensure complete avoidance of take (California Fish and Game Code Section 86 defines "take" as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill") to desert tortoise. If complete avoidance cannot be achieved, CDFW recommends Project proponent not undertake Project activities and Project activities be postponed until appropriate authorization (i.e., CESA ITP under Fish and Game Code section 2081) is obtained.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 6. Prior to project implementation, and during the appropriate season, the City shall conduct botanical field survey following protocols set forth in the Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities (CDFW 2018). The surveys shall be conducted by a CDFW-approved botanist(s) experienced in conducting floristic botanical field surveys, knowledgeable of plant taxonomy and plant community ecology and classification, familiar with the plants of the area, including special status and locally significant plants, and familiar with the appropriate state and federal statutes related to plants and plant collecting. The botanical field surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate time of year when plants will both be evident and identifiable (usually, during flowering or fruiting) and, in a manner, which maximizes the likelihood of locating special status plants and sensitive natural communities that may be present. Botanical field surveys shall be conducted floristic in nature, meaning that every plant taxon that occurs in the project area is identified to the taxonomic level necessary to determine rarity and listing status. If any rare plants or sensitive vegetation communities are identified, the City shall either avoid the occurrence, with an appropriate buffer, or mitigate the loss of the occurrence through the purchase of mitigation credits from a CDFW-approved bank or land acquisition and conservation at a minimum 3:1 (replacement-to-impact) ratio. Note that a higher ratio may be warranted if the proposed mitigation lands are located far away from the Project site (i.e., within a separate watershed) or is not occupied by or available to special status species. If the Project has the potential to impact a State-listed species, the City should apply for a California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 7. Prior to construction and issuance of any grading permit, the Project applicant should obtain written correspondence from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) stating that notification under section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code is not required for the Project, or the Project applicant should obtain a CDFW-executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, authorizing impacts to Fish and Game Code section 1602 resources associated with the Project.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 8. Prior to construction and issuance of any grading permit, the City of Adelanto shall develop a plan with measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the impacts of pesticides used in cannabis cultivation, including fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, and rodenticides. The plan should include, but is not limited to, the following elements: (1) Proper use, storage, and disposal of pesticides, in accordance with manufacturers' directions and warnings. (2) Avoidance of pesticide use where toxic runoff may pass into waters of the State, including ephemeral streams. (3) Avoidance of pesticides that cannot legally be used on cannabis in the state of California, as set forth by the Department of Pesticide Regulation. (4) Avoidance of anticoagulant rodenticides and rodenticides with "flavorizers." (5) Avoidance of sticky/glue traps. (6) Inclusion of alternatives to toxic

rodenticides, such as sanitation (removing food sources like pet food, cleaning up refuse, and securing garbage in sealed containers) and physical barriers.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 9. Project construction shall not occur during the hours of dawn and dusk when many wildlife species are most active. To suppress Project noise, the Project shall implement the use of mufflers and all generators shall be enclosed.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 10. The following mitigation measures are applicable to the Joshua Trees that are present on the project site.

1. The Joshua trees will be retained in place or replanted somewhere on the site where they can remain in perpetuity or will be transplanted to an off-site area approved by the city where they can remain in perpetuity. Joshua trees which are deemed not suitable for transplanting will be cut-up and discarded as per City requirements.

2. Earthen berms will be created around each tree by the biologist prior to excavation and the trees will be watered approximately one week before transplanting. Watering the trees prior to excavation will help make excavation easier, ensure the root ball will hold together, and minimize stress to the tree.

3. Each tree will be moved to a pre-selected location which has already been excavated and will be placed and oriented in the same direction as their original direction. The hole will be backfilled with native soil, and the transplanted tree will be immediately watered. As noted in Section 3.0, a numbered metal tag was placed on the north side of the trees and the trees were also flagged with surveyor's flagging. The biologist will develop a watering regimen to ensure the survival of the transplanted trees. The watering regimen will be based upon the needs of the trees and the local precipitation.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 11. A comprehensive jurisdictional delineation may be required at a future date due to a possible downstream connection or nexus with a more significant body of water in order to determine if the channel meets the criteria as Waters of the State (WoS) and/or Waters of the U.S. (WoUS).

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project cause substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?				✖
B. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?		✖		
C. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?		✖		

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on cultural resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5.
- The proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5.
- The proposed project would disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Historic structures and sites are defined by local, State, and Federal criteria. A site or structure may be historically significant if it is locally protected through a General Plan or historic preservation ordinance. In addition, a site or structure may be historically significant according to State or Federal criteria even if the locality does not recognize such significance. To be considered eligible for the National Register, a property's significance may be determined if the property is associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past, with the lives of people who were important in the past, or represents significant architectural, landscape, or engineering elements. Specific criteria include the following:

- Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past;
- Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or,
- Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Ordinarily, properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years are not considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties *will qualify* if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance;
- Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- A building or structure removed from its original location that is significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure is associated with a historic person or event;
- A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building associated with his or her productive life;
- A cemetery that derives its primary importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events;
- A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived;
- A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or,
- A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.[35]

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5? ● No Impact.*

The State has established *California Historical Landmarks* that include sites, buildings, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other value. *California Points of Historical Interest* has a similar definition, except they are deemed of local significance. A cultural report conducted by BCR Consulting LLC, attached as an Appendix, found that artifacts with significant value were not found on the project site and its vicinity. A search was also done of the National Register of Historic Places and the list of California Historical Resources was conducted, and it was determined that no historic resources were listed within the City of Adelanto.[36]

The proposed project will not affect any structures or historical resources listed on the National or State Register or those identified as being eligible for listing on the National or State Register. The project site is not present on the list of historic resources identified by the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO).[37] The proposed project will be limited to the project site and will not affect any structures or historical resources listed on the National or State Register or those identified as being eligible for listing on the National or State Register. Furthermore, the project site is not present on the list of historic resources

[35] U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. National Register of Historic Places. http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov. 2010.

[36] U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. *National Register of Historic Places*. Secondary Source: California State Parks, Office of Historic Preservation. *Listed California Historical Resources*. Website accessed August 20, 2022.

[37] California Department of Parks and Recreation. *California Historical Resources*. Website accessed on October 28, 2022.

identified by the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO).[22] The project site is vacant and relatively undisturbed with the exception of vehicular activity occurring over the site, though the developments in surrounding areas do not have any historical or cultural significance. The project's implementation will not impact any Federal, State, or locally designated historic resources. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

No signs of human habitation nor any cemeteries are apparent within or near the project, and no signs of development on the parcel appear on any historic aerial map reviewed, nor on later USGS maps. Since it is possible that previously unrecognized resources could exist at the site, the proposed project would be required to adhere to Cultural Resources Mitigation Measures 1, 2, 3, and 4. *Adherence to mitigation, the impact will be less than significant.*

C. *Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

There are no dedicated cemeteries located within or in the vicinity of the project site. The proposed project will be restricted to the project site and therefore will not affect any dedicated cemeteries in the vicinity. Notwithstanding, the following mitigation is mandated by the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15064.5(b)(4):

> "A lead agency shall identify potentially feasible measures to mitigate significant adverse changes in the significance of an historical resource. The lead agency shall ensure that any adopted measures to mitigate or avoid significant adverse changes are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures."

Additionally, Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code states:

> "In the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the human remains are discovered has determined, in accordance with Chapter 10 (commencing with (b) Section 27460) of Part 3 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code, that the remains are not subject to the provisions of Section 27491 of the Government Code or any other related provisions of law concerning investigation of the circumstances, manner and cause of any death, and the recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation, or to his or her authorized representative. The coroner shall make his or her determination within two working days from the time the person responsible for the excavation, or his or her authorized representative, notifies the coroner of the discovery or recognition of the human remains. If the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority and if the coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, he or she shall contact, by telephone within 24 hours, the Native American Heritage Commission."

Adherence to the aforementioned standard condition will ensure potential impacts remain at levels that are less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures will be required to address potential cultural resources impacts:

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 1. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the City of Adelanto that a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist has been retained by the Project Applicant to conduct monitoring of excavation activities and has the authority to halt and redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected paleontological resources are unearthed.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 2. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall conduct full-time monitoring during grading and excavation operations in undisturbed, very old alluvial fan sediments at or below four (4) feet below ground surface and shall be equipped to salvage fossils if they are unearthed to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow the removal of abundant and large specimens in a timely manner. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present in the subsurface, or if present, are determined upon exposure and examination by qualified archaeologist/paleontologist personnel to have a low potential to contain or yield fossil resources.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 3. Recovered specimens shall be properly prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including screen washing sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates, if necessary. Identification and curation of specimens into a professional, accredited public museum repository with a commitment to archival conservation and permanent retrievable storage, such as the San Bernardino County Museum in San Bernardino, California, is required for significant discoveries. The archaeologist/paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to initiation of mitigation activities.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 4. A final monitoring and mitigation report of findings and significance shall be prepared, including lists of all fossils recovered, if any, and necessary maps and graphics to accurately record the original location of the specimens. The report shall be submitted to the City of Adelanto prior to building finalization.

3.6 ENERGY

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?			✖	
B. Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			✖	

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on energy resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during the proposed project's construction or operation.
- The proposed project would conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Energy and natural gas consumption were estimated using default energy intensities by building type in CalEEMod. In addition, it was assumed the new buildings would be constructed pursuant to the 2022 CALGreen standards, which was considered in the CalEEMod inputs.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

The proposed project would involve the construction and operation of a commercial shopping center development in the City of Adelanto. The proposed project would total five individual parcels (subdivided from the current four parcels) totaling 11.81 acres. The proposed project would total five individual parcels (subdivided from the current four parcels) totaling 11.81 acres. Parcel A would be a 5,866 square foot convenience store with a 956 square foot upper-level office with 44 parking spaces. Parcel B would be a 3,400 square feet drive-thru restaurant with 39 parking spaces. Parcel C would be a 10,500 square foot multi-tenant retail building with 42 parking spaces, a 16,702 square foot supermarket with 80 parking spaces, and another 9,620 square foot multi-tenant retail building with 39 parking spaces. Parcel D would

be a 5,577 square feet automated carwash with 6 parking spaces. Parcel E would be a 68,054 square foot three-story hotel (100 rooms) with 158 parking spaces.[38]

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electricity to the project site. Currently, the existing site is vacant and does not use electricity. Therefore, the proposed project would cause a permanent increase in demand for electricity when compared to existing conditions. The increased demand is expected to be sufficiently served by the existing SCE electrical facilities. According to the worksheets provided in Appendix B, the proposed project is anticipated to consume 7,089 KWH on a daily basis. The proposed project is located within the service area of the Southwest Gas Company. The project site is currently vacant and has no demand for natural gas. Therefore, the development of the proposed project will create a permanent increase in the demand for natural gas. According to the worksheets provided in Appendix B, the proposed project is anticipated to consume 417 cubic feet of natural gas on a daily basis.

The proposed project would represent an insignificant percentage of the overall demand in the region. The proposed project would be constructed pursuant to the 2022 energy conservation standards of Title 24; therefore, no significant impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation are anticipated and no mitigation measures are recommended. The proposed project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

B. *Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? ● Less Than Significant Impact.*

On January 12, 2010, the State Building Standards Commission adopted updates to the California Green Building Standards Code (Code) which became effective on January 1, 2011. The California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24, Part 11: California Green Building Standards (Title 24) became effective to aid efforts to reduce GHG emissions associated with energy consumption. Title 24 now requires that new buildings reduce water consumption, employ building commissioning to increase building system efficiencies, divert construction waste from landfills, and install low pollutant-emitting finish materials. The proposed project as well as any future development within the remainder of the project site will be required to conform to all pertinent energy conservation requirements. While the proposed project is a privately owned commercial use, the implementation of similar programs would prove effective in reducing potential energy consumption. The proposed project will be required to comply with all pertinent Title 24 requirements along with other Low Impact Development (LID) requirements. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential impacts related to energy indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed project's approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

[38] Steeno Design Studios. Highway 395 & Auburn Ave Adelanto Commercial Development, Site Plan. May 2023.

3.7 GEOLOGY & SOILS

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project directly or indirectly, cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death?			✖	
i). Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault; Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				✖
ii). Would the project, directly or indirectly cause strong seismic ground shaking?			✖	
iii). Would the project, directly or indirectly cause seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.				✖
iv). Would the project, directly or indirectly cause landslides?				✖
B. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			✖	
C. Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			✖	
D. Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?			✖	
E. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				✖
F. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		✖		

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on geology and soils if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would, directly or indirectly, cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault (refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42); strong seismic ground shaking; seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; and, landslides?
- The proposed project would result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

- The proposed project would be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.
- The proposed project would be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property.
- The proposed project would have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater.
- The proposed project would directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

The proposed project's potential seismic and soils risk was evaluated in terms of the site's proximity to earthquake faults and unstable soils.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

Surface ruptures are visible instances of horizontal or vertical displacement, or a combination of the two. The amount of ground shaking depends on the intensity of the earthquake, the duration of shaking, soil conditions, type of building, and distance from the epicenter or fault. The potential impacts from fault rupture and ground shaking are considered no greater for the project site than for the surrounding areas given the distance between the site and the fault trace. Other potential seismic issues include ground failure and liquefaction. Ground failure is the loss in stability of the ground and includes landslides, liquefaction, and lateral spreading. *As a result, the potential impacts are less than significant.*

i). *Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault; Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. ● No Impact*

The City of Adelanto is located in a seismically active region. Earthquakes from several active and potentially active faults in the Southern California region could affect the proposed project site. In 1972, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Zoning Act was passed in response to the damage sustained in the 1971 San Fernando Earthquake. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act's main purpose is to prevent the construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults. The closest fault to the project site is the Mirage Valley Fault, from the Late Quaternary period, which is located approximately 1.6 miles west of the City.[39] *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

ii). *Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause strong seismic ground shaking? ●Less than Significant Impact.*

The proposed project involves the construction and operation of a commercial shopping center development on an 11.81 acres vacant parcel located on the southeastern corner of US-395 and Auburn

[39]California Department of Conservation. Fault

Avenue. Three underground storage tanks (USTs) would be installed. Installation of the USTs include earth moving activities during construction that will produce insignificant ground shaking. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

iii). *Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? ● No Impact.*

According to the United States Geological Survey, liquefaction is the process by which water-saturated sediment temporarily loses strength and acts as a fluid. The risk for liquefaction is no greater on-site than it is for the region. The project site or the city of Adelanto is not located within a liquefaction zone.[40] *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

iv). *Would the project, directly or indirectly cause landslides? ● No Impact.*

According to the United States Geological Survey, a landslide is defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope. The project site is level with little to no slopes in the surrounding area except for an unrecognized drain passage 200 feet to the west of the project site that would provide no significant movement of debris. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

The University of California, Davis SoilWeb database was consulted to determine the nature of the soils that underlie the project site. According to the University of California, Davis SoilWeb database, the property is underlain by Bryman, Helendale, and Cajon soils associations consisting of loamy fine sand with 2 to 5 percent slopes.[41] The proposed project's contractors will be required to adhere to specific requirements that govern wind and water erosion during site preparation and construction activities. Following development, the project site would be paved over and landscaped, which would minimize soil erosion. The project's construction will not result in soil erosion with adherence to those development requirements that restrict storm water runoff (and the resulting erosion) and require soil stabilization. In addition, stormwater discharges from construction activities that disturb one or more acres, or smaller sites disturbing less than one acre that are part of a common plan of development or sale, are regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permitting program.

Prior to initiating construction, contractors must obtain coverage under an NPDES permit, which is administered by the State. In order to obtain an NPDES permit, the project Applicant must prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The County has identified sample construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) that may be included in the mandatory SWPPP. The use of these construction BMPs identified in the mandatory SWPPP will prevent soil erosion and the discharge of sediment into the local storm drains during the project's construction phase. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

[40] San Bernardino County. *Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* - July 13, 2017.

[41] UC Davis. *SoilWeb*. Website accessed October 27, 2022.

C. *Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

The proposed project's construction will not result in soil erosion since the project's contractors must implement the construction BMPs identified in the mandatory SWPPP. The BMPs will minimize soil erosion and the discharge of sediment off-site. Additionally, the project site is not located within an area that could be subject to landslides or liquefaction.[28] The soils that underlie the project site possess a low potential for shrinking and swelling. Soils that exhibit certain shrink swell characteristics become sticky when wet and expand according to the moisture content present at the time. Since the soils have a low shrink-swell potential, lateral spreading resulting from an influx of groundwater is slim. The likelihood of lateral spreading will be further reduced since the project's implementation will not require grading and excavation that would extend to depths required to encounter groundwater. Moreover, the project will not result in the direct extraction of groundwater. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

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

The University of California, Davis SoilWeb database was consulted to determine the nature of the soils that underlie the project site. According to the University of California, Davis SoilWeb database, the property is underlain by soils of various associations including Bryman, Cajon, Helendale, and Mohave variant soils associations.[42] According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, these soils are acceptable for the development of commercial buildings.[43] *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

E. *Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? ● No Impact.*

The proposed project would utilize existing sewer connections located along Auburn Avenue. No septic tanks will be used as part of the proposed project's implementation. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

F. *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? ● Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation*

The proposed project site is located on an 11.81 acre project site that is currently vacant and undeveloped. The surface deposits in the proposed project area are composed entirely of younger Quaternary Alluvium. This younger Quaternary Alluvium is unlikely to contain significant vertebrate fossils, at least in the uppermost layers. The closest fossil vertebrate locality is LACM7786, between Adelanto and the former George Air Force Base. This locality produced a fossil specimen of meadow vole, *Microtus*. *The* following mitigation will be applicable during earth-disturbing activities as a means to protect potential paleontological resources:

- Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the City of

[28] United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. *Soil Survey of Riverside California – Palm Spring Area*. Report dated 1978.
[42] UC Davis. *SoilWeb*. Website accessed October 27, 2022.
[43] United States Department of Agriculture. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Website accessed August 22, 2022.

Adelanto that a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist has been retained by the Project Applicant to conduct monitoring of excavation activities and has the authority to halt and redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected paleontological resources are unearthed.

- The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall conduct full-time monitoring during grading and excavation operations in undisturbed, very old alluvial fan sediments at or below four (4) feet below ground surface and shall be equipped to salvage fossils if they are unearthed to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow the removal of abundant and large specimens in a timely manner. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present in the subsurface, or if present, are determined upon exposure and examination by qualified archaeologist/paleontologist personnel to have a low potential to contain or yield fossil resources.
- Recovered specimens shall be properly prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including screen washing sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates, if necessary. Identification and curation of specimens into a professional, accredited public museum repository with a commitment to archival conservation and permanent retrievable storage, such as the San Bernardino County Museum in San Bernardino, California, is required for significant discoveries. The archaeologist/paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to initiation of mitigation activities.
- A final monitoring and mitigation report of findings and significance shall be prepared, including lists of all fossils recovered, if any, and necessary maps and graphics to accurately record the original location of the specimens. The report shall be submitted to the San Bernardino County Museum prior to building final.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures will be required to address potential paleontological resources impacts:

Paleontological Mitigation Measure No. 1. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the City of Adelanto that a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist has been retained by the Project Applicant to conduct monitoring of excavation activities and has the authority to halt and redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected paleontological resources are unearthed.

Paleontological Mitigation Measure No. 2. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall conduct full-time monitoring during grading and excavation operations in undisturbed, very old alluvial fan sediments at or below four (4) feet below ground surface and shall be equipped to salvage fossils if they are unearthed to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow the removal of abundant and large specimens in a timely manner. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present in the subsurface, or if present, are determined upon exposure and examination by qualified archaeologist/paleontologist personnel to have a low potential to contain fossil resources.

Paleontological Mitigation Measure No. 3. Recovered specimens shall be properly prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including screen washing sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates, if necessary. Identification and curation of specimens into a professional, accredited public museum repository with a commitment to archival conservation and permanent retrievable storage, such as the San Bernardino County Museum in San Bernardino, California, is required for significant discoveries. The archaeologist/paleontologist must have a written repository

agreement in hand prior to initiation of mitigation activities.

Paleontological Mitigation Measure No. 4. A final monitoring and mitigation report of findings and significance shall be prepared, including lists of all fossils recovered, if any, and necessary maps and graphics to accurately record the original location of the specimens. The report shall be submitted to the San Bernardino County Museum prior to building finalization.

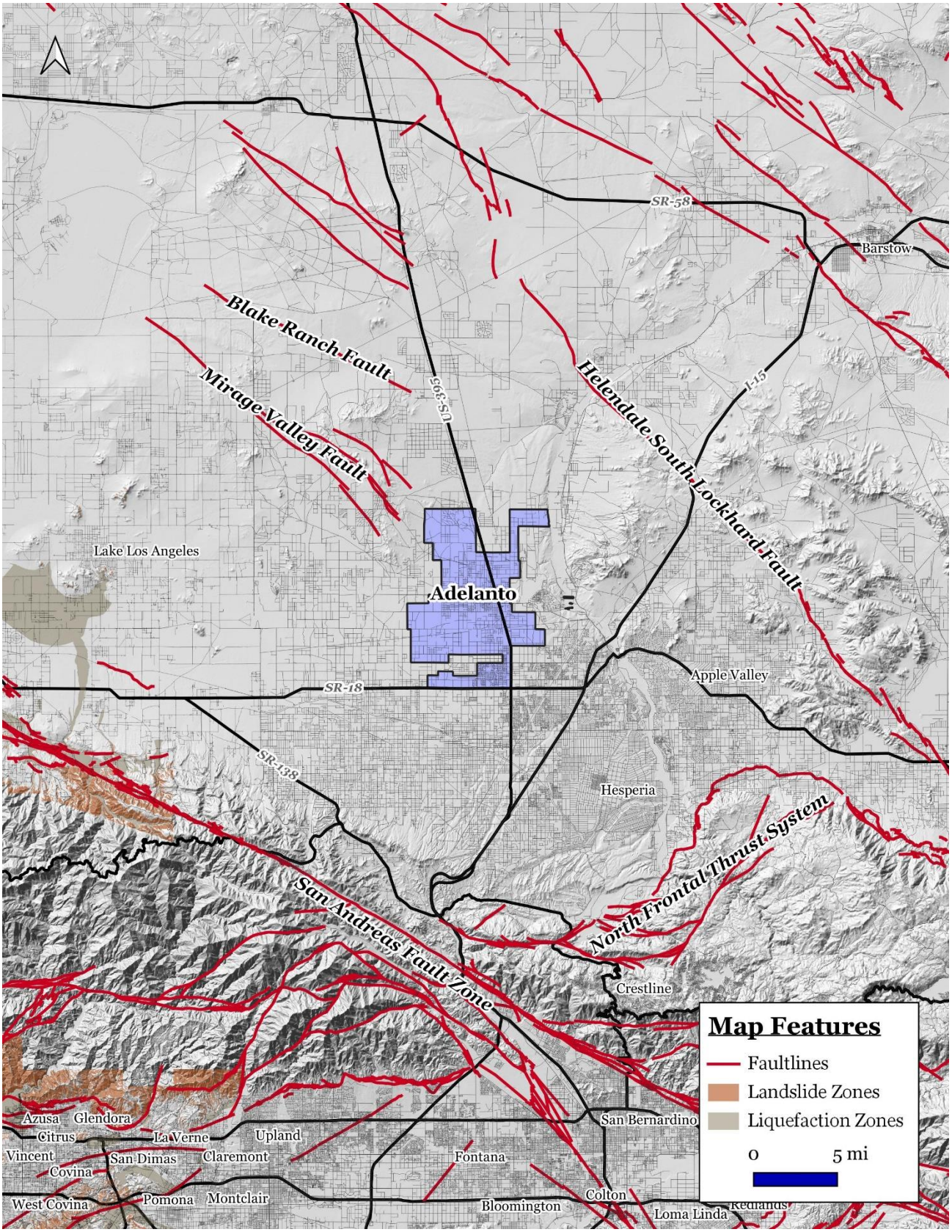

EXHIBIT 3-3 GEOLOGY MAP
SOURCE: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✖	
B. Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?		✖		

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on greenhouse gas emissions if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.
- The proposed project would conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

The proposed project site is located on a 11.8-acre (517,290 square feet) parcel that is currently vacant and undisturbed. The proposed development will be constructed in the northeast portion of the City of Adelanto. Examples of GHG that are produced both by natural and industrial processes include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O). The accumulation of GHG in the atmosphere regulates the earth's temperature. Without these natural GHG, the Earth's surface would be about 61°F cooler. However, emissions from fossil fuel combustion have elevated the concentrations of GHG in the atmosphere to above natural levels. These man-made GHG will have the effect of warming atmospheric temperatures with the attendant impacts of changes in the global climate, increased sea levels, and changes to the worldwide biome. The major GHG that influence global warming are described below.

- *Water Vapor*. Water vapor is the most abundant GHG present in the atmosphere. While water vapor is not considered a pollutant, while it remains in the atmosphere it maintains a climate necessary for life. Changes in the atmospheric concentration of water vapor is directly related to the warming of the atmosphere rather than a direct result of industrialization. As the temperature of the atmosphere rises, more water is evaporated from ground storage (rivers, oceans, reservoirs, soil). Because the air is warmer, the relative humidity can be higher (in essence, the air is able to "hold" more water when it is warmer), leading to more water vapor in the atmosphere. As a GHG, the higher concentration of water vapor is then able to absorb more thermal indirect energy radiated from the Earth, thus further warming the atmosphere. When water vapor increases in the atmosphere, more of it will eventually also condense into clouds, which are more able to reflect incoming solar radiation. This will allow less energy to reach the Earth's surface thereby affecting surface temperatures.

- *Carbon Dioxide (CO_2).* The natural production and absorption of CO_2 is achieved through the terrestrial biosphere and the ocean. Manmade sources of CO_2 include the burning coal, oil, natural gas, and wood. Since the industrial revolution began in the mid-1700's, these activities have increased the atmospheric concentrations of CO_2. Prior to the industrial revolution, concentrations were fairly stable at 280 parts per million (ppm). The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, 2014) Emissions of CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributed about 78% of the total GHG emissions increase from 1970 to 2010, with a similar percentage contribution for the increase during the period 2000 to 2010.
- *Methane (CH_4).* CH_4 is an extremely effective absorber of radiation, although its atmospheric concentration is less than that of CO_2. Methane's lifetime in the atmosphere is brief (10 to 12 years), compared to some other GHGs (such as CO_2, N_2O, and Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). CH_4 has both natural and anthropogenic sources. It is released as part of the biological processes in low oxygen environments, such as in swamplands or in rice production (at the roots of the plants). Over the last 50 years, human activities such as growing rice, raising cattle, using natural gas, and mining coal have added to the atmospheric concentration of methane. Other human-related sources of methane production include fossil-fuel combustion and biomass burning.
- *Nitrous Oxide (N_2O).* Concentrations of N_2O also began to increase at the beginning of the industrial revolution. In 1998, the global concentration of this GHG was documented at 314 parts per billion (ppb). N_2O is produced by microbial processes in soil and water, including those reactions which occur in fertilizer containing nitrogen. In addition to agricultural sources, some industrial processes (fossil fuel-fired power plants, nylon production, nitric acid production, and vehicle emissions) also contribute to its atmospheric load. It is also commonly used as an aerosol spray propellant.
- *Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC).* CFCs are gases formed synthetically by replacing all hydrogen atoms in methane or ethane (C_2H_6) with chlorine and/or fluorine atoms. CFCs are nontoxic, nonflammable, insoluble, and chemically unreactive in the troposphere (the level of air at the Earth's surface). CFCs have no natural source but were first synthesized in 1928. It was used for refrigerants, aerosol propellants, and cleaning solvents. Due to the discovery that they are able to destroy stratospheric ozone, a global effort to halt their production was undertaken and in 1989 the European Community agreed to ban CFCs by 2000 and subsequent treaties banned CFCs worldwide by 2010. This effort was extremely successful, and the levels of the major CFCs are now remaining level or declining. However, their long atmospheric lifetimes mean that some of the CFCs will remain in the atmosphere for over 100 years.
- *Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC).* HFCs are synthetic man-made chemicals that are used as a substitute for CFCs. Out of all the GHGs, they are one of three groups with the highest global warming potential. The HFCs with the largest measured atmospheric abundances are (in order), HFC-23 (CHF_3), HFC-134a (CF_3CH_2F), and HFC-152a (CH_3CHF_2). Prior to 1990, the only significant emissions were HFC-23. HFC-134a use is increasing due to its use as a refrigerant. Concentrations of HFC-23 and HFC-134a in the atmosphere are now about 10 parts per trillion (ppt) each. Concentrations of HFC-152a are about 1 ppt. HFCs are manmade and used for applications such as automobile air conditioners and refrigerants.
- *Perfluorocarbons (PFC).* PFCs have stable molecular structures and do not break down through the chemical processes in the lower atmosphere. High-energy ultraviolet rays about 60 kilometers above Earth's surface are able to destroy the compounds. Because of this, PFCs have very long lifetimes, between 10,000 and 50,000 years. Two common PFCs are tetrafluoromethane (CF_4) and

hexafluoroethane (C_2F_6). Concentrations of CF_4 in the atmosphere are over 70 ppt. The two main sources of PFCs are primary aluminum production and semiconductor manufacturing.

- *Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF_6)*. SF_6 is an inorganic, odorless, colorless, nontoxic, nonflammable gas. SF_6 has the highest global warming potential of any gas evaluated; 23,900 times that of CO_2. Concentrations in the 1990s where about 4 ppt. Sulfur hexafluoride is used for insulation in electric power transmission and distribution equipment, in the magnesium industry, in semiconductor manufacturing, and as a tracer gas for leak detection.

The MDAQMD mass emissions threshold is 100,000 tons (90,720 metric tons (MT)) CO2e per year.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

A Greenhouse Gas Report was conducted by Urban Crossroads, attached as Appendix E, indicated in Table 3-3, the operational CO2E to be 12,324 MTCO2E per year which is below the threshold. This figure does not take into account the implementation of *low impact development* (LID) requirements (drought tolerant landscaping, water efficient appliances, and energy efficient appliances) and compliance to Transportation Demand Management (TDM) requirements. *As a result, the potential impacts are considered to be less than significant.*

Table 3-3
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Source	GHG Emissions (MT/year)			
	CO2	CH4	N2O	CO2E
Long-Term - Total Emissions	11,945	4.27	0.61	12,324
Short-Term - Total Emissions	221.59	0.01	0.00	223.19
Significance Threshold				**100,000 MTCO2E**

Source: Urban Crossroads

B. *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

The San Bernardino County Transit Authority (SBCTA) authorized the preparation of a county-wide Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. This plan was completed and finalized in March of 2014. The plan contains multiple reduction measures that would be effective in reducing GHG emissions throughout the SBCTA region. The lack of development in the immediate area may preclude residents from obtaining employment or commercial services within City boundaries, thus compelling residents to travel outside of City boundaries for employment and commercial services. It is important to note that the California Department of Transportation as well as the Counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino are engaged in an effort to construct a multi-modal transportation corridor consisting of public transit, a new freeway, and bicycle lanes known as the High Desert Corridor (HDC).

The San Bernardino County Transit Authority (SBCTA) authorized the preparation of a county-wide Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. This plan was adopted in March 2021. The plan contains

multiple reduction measures that would be effective in reducing GHG emissions throughout the SBCTA region. The lack of development in the immediate area may preclude residents from obtaining employment or commercial services within City boundaries, thus compelling residents to travel outside of City boundaries for employment and commercial services. It is important to note that the California Department of Transportation as well as the Counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino are engaged in an effort to construct a multi-modal transportation corridor consisting of public transit, a new freeway, and bicycle lanes known as the High Desert Corridor (HDC). The aforementioned regional program will reduce potential GHG emissions related to excessive VMTs to levels that are less than significant.

Those Partnership jurisdictions, including Adelanto, choosing to complete and adopt local CAPs that are consistent with the County's GHG Reduction Plan and with the prior Regional Plan Program EIR and the addendum or supplemental CEQA document prepared by SBCOG will be able to tier their future project-level CEQA analyses of GHG emissions from their CAP. This can help to streamline project-level CEQA review. The City of Adelanto selected a goal to reduce its community GHG emissions to a level that is 40% below its 2020 GHG emissions level by 2030. The City will meet and exceed this goal subject to reduction measures that are technologically feasible and cost effective through a combination of state (~60%) and local (~40%) efforts. The Pavley vehicle standards, the state's LCFS, the RPS, and other state measures will reduce GHG emissions in Adelanto's on-road, off-road, and building energy sectors in 2030. An additional reduction of 59,812 MTCO2e will be achieved primarily through the following local measures, in order of reductions achieved: GHG Performance Standard for New Development (PS-1); solar installation for existing commercial/industrial facilities (Energy-8); and waste diversion and reduction (Waste-2).[44]

Adelanto's reduction plan has the greatest effect on GHG emissions in the building energy, waste, and on-road transportation. The City of Adelanto adopted the North Adelanto Sustainable Community Plan which is a City planning framework that contains many transportation and land use-related actions to reduce vehicle-related GHG emissions throughout the region. This community plan supports the goals of SB 375 and the Sustainable Communities Strategy (On Road-STATE-SCS) through a wide range of actions which include the following.

- Integrate state, regional, and local sustainable community/smart growth principles into the development and entitlement process.
- Develop a system of trails and corridors that facilitates and encourages bicycling and walking.
- Require new development to provide transit facilities, such as bus shelters, transit bays, and turnouts, as necessary.
- Require the future development of community-wide servicing facilities to be sites in transit-ready areas that can be served and made accessible by public transit.
- Provide development-related incentives for projects that promote transit use.
- Designate and maintain a network of City truck routes that provide for the effective transport of goods while minimizing negative impacts on local circulation and noise sensitive land uses.
- Transition the City fleet to low emission/fuel-efficient vehicles as they are retired from service. λ Encourage carpooling.

[44] San Bernardino County. *San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (SBCRGGRP)*. March 2021.

- Work with the regional transit provider to provide shade, weather protection, seating, and lighting at all stops.

Key general plan policies that support the City of Adelanto's GHG reduction measures or would contribute to GHG reductions and sustainable practices in the City are listed below:

- *Policy NR 1.4:* All new developments will be required to implement energy conservation techniques into the development design.
- *Policy NR 1.6:* Conservation techniques shall be required for proposed development (both domestic and industrial) to minimize consumption levels of renewable and non-renewable natural resources including water resources.
- *Policy NR 1.1:* The City shall promote the development and use of alternative energy sources, such as passive solar in industrial, commercial, and residential developments.
- *Policy NR 1.1:* The City shall promote the development and use of alternative energy sources, such as passive solar in industrial, commercial, and residential developments.
- *Policy NR 1.6:* Conservation techniques shall be required for proposed development (both domestic and industrial) to minimize consumption levels of renewable and non-renewable natural resources including water resources.
- *Policy AQ 1.1:* The City shall continue to work with the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District and any other agencies in order to enforce and implement regional air quality plans.
- *Policy WQ 1.1:* The City will require that development be designed and constructed to conserve water utilizing low flow irrigation and plumbing fixtures and facilities.
- *Policy WQ 1.5:* The City will require that all new development utilize water conservation techniques to conserve water resources, such as the use of low-flow irrigation and plumbing systems in new and existing development.

The proposed project will not involve or require any variance from an adopted plan, policy, or regulation governing GHG emissions. *As a result, no potential conflict with an applicable greenhouse gas policy plan, policy, or regulation will occur and the potential impacts are considered to be less than significant.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed project's approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation will be required.

3.9 HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?		✖		
B. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			✖	
C. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			✖	
D. Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				✖
E. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?			✖	
F. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✖
G. Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on hazards and hazardous materials if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- The proposed project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.
- The proposed project would emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.
- The proposed project would be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.
- The proposed project would result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or

working in the project area 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.

- The proposed project would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- The proposed project would expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

Hazardous materials refer generally to hazardous substances that exhibit corrosive, poisonous, flammable, and/or reactive properties and have the potential to harm human health and/or the environment. Hazardous materials are used in a wide variety of products (household cleaners, industrial solvents, paint, pesticides, etc.) and in the manufacturing of products (e.g., electronics, newspapers, plastic products). Hazardous materials can include petroleum, natural gas, synthetic gas, acutely toxic chemicals, and other toxic chemicals that are used in agriculture, commercial, and industrial uses; businesses; hospitals; and households. Accidental releases of hazardous materials can occur from a variety of causes, including highway incidents, warehouse fires, train derailments, shipping accidents, and industrial incidents.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

The project's construction would require the use of diesel fuel to power the construction equipment. The diesel fuel would be properly sealed in tanks and would be transported to the site by truck. Other hazardous materials that would be used on-site during the project's construction phase include, but are not limited to, gasoline, solvents, architectural coatings, and equipment lubricants. These products are strictly controlled and regulated and in the event of any spill, cleanup activities would be required to adhere to all pertinent protocols pertaining to Adelanto Municipal code 10.30.200.[45] The Applicant will be required to prepare a safety and hazard mitigation plan (SHMP) that indicates those protocols that must be adhered to in the event of an accident. The SHMP would first identify the initial steps that can be performed to establish a safety and health program within the proposed facility. The SHMP would consist of the following elements:

- The SHMP would outline the hazards for the facility by category (biological, chemical, and physical).
- For each hazard, a general description is given followed by information on the job role that might be specifically affected by the hazard, considerations for a hazard assessment, best practices for eliminating or managing the hazard, Federal, state, or local regulations that may apply to that hazard, and additional resources to assist in hazard recognition and management.
- A detailed outline of safety and health programs that should be implemented within the facility and provides examples and tools to help develop these programs.

The SHMP will be reviewed and approved by the County of San Bernardino Fire Department prior to the issuance of the Occupancy Permit. The proposed use of the project site will also require frequent transportation of gas and diesel to be stored into the two UST tanks which will also be strictly controlled

[45] Municode. Adelanto, CA. Chapter 10.30.200- Construction Projects. Website Accessed October 27,2022.

and regulated in accordance with Adelanto Municipal Code 10.30.170 to reduce pollutant urban runoff.[46] *The impacts will be less than significant.*

B. *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

The project's construction would require the use of diesel fuel to power the construction equipment. The diesel fuel would be properly sealed in tanks and would be transported to the site by truck. Other hazardous materials that would be used on-site during the project's construction phase include, but are not limited to, gasoline, solvents, architectural coatings, and equipment lubricants. There will also be frequent incoming transportation of gas and diesel fuel to be stored in the two USTS on the project site. These products are strictly controlled and regulated and in the event of any spill, cleanup activities would be required to adhere to all pertinent protocols pertaining to the city's code of ordinance as mentioned in subsection A. The Applicant will be required to prepare a safety and hazard mitigation plan that indicates those protocols that must be adhered to in the event of an accident. This plan will be reviewed and approved by the City prior to the issuance of the Occupancy Permit. As a result, the likelihood of encountering contamination or other environmental concerns is remote. *The impacts will be less than significant.*

C. *Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

The nearest school to the project site is Westside Park Elementary School located approximately 0.70 miles to the southwest. Due to the nature of the proposed project, no direct enrollment impacts regarding school services will occur. The proposed project will not directly increase demand for school services. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

D. *Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? ● No Impact.*

Government Code Section 65962.5 refers to the Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List, commonly known as the Cortese List. The Cortese List is a planning document used by the State and other local agencies to comply with CEQA requirements that require the provision of information regarding the location of hazardous materials release sites. A search was conducted through the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor website to identify whether the project site is listed in the database as a Cortese site. The project site is not identified as a Cortese site.[47] *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

[46] Municode. Adelanto, CA. Chapter 10.30.170-Reduction of pollutants in urban runoff. Website Accessed October 27,2022.

[47] CalEPA. *DTSC's Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List - Site Cleanup (Cortese List).* http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm.

E. *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area? ● Less than Significant Impacts.*

The project site is located 1.2 miles west of the Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA).[48] The proposed project site is located outside of the designated *Runway Protection Zone* of Runway 17-35 (refer to Exhibit 2D of the Airport Land Use Plan [ALUP]). The project site is located well outside of the 65 CNEL noise contour area (refer to Exhibit 2H). The project site is located within a designated *Compatibility Review Area 3* (refer to Exhibit 3B). For this project the proposed use is *normally acceptable* though it may be subject to restrictions for purposes of public safety.[49] The Applicant has provides evidence to the City of Adelanto that consultation has been made with the Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) regarding the proposed project to ascertain whether there are any restrictions required regarding the proposed project/use with respect to its conformity with the Designated Compatibility Review Area 3. *The impacts will be less than significant.*

F. *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? ● No Impact.*

At no time will any adjacent street be completely closed to traffic during the proposed project's construction. In addition, all construction staging must occur on-site. As a result, no impacts are associated with the proposed project's implementation.

G. *Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires? ● No Impact.*

The project site is not located within a "moderate fire hazard severity zone" and Local Responsibility Area (LRA).[50] *As a result, no impacts will result.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis determined that no mitigation would be required

[48] Toll-Free Airline. *San Bernardino County Public and Private Airports, California.*

[49] Coffman Associates, Inc. *Southern California Logistics Airport. Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. September 2008

[50] CalFire. *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map for SW San Bernardino County*. http://frap.fire.ca.gov/webdata/maps/san_bernardino_sw/

3.10 HYDROLOGY & WATER QUALITY

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?			✖	
B. Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			✖	
C. Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner or,			✖	
i). Would the project result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;			✖	
ii). Would the project substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner in which would result in flooding on- or off-site.			✖	
iii). Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or			✖	
iv). Would the project impede or redirect flood flows?			✖	
D. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?			✖	
E. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on hydrology and water quality if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality.
- The proposed project would substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.
- The proposed project would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in

flooding on- or offsite; create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or, impede or redirect flood flows.

- The proposed project would risk release of pollutants due to project inundation in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones.
- The proposed project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

The project Applicant will be required to adhere to Chapter 17.93 – Erosion and Sediment Control, of the municipal code regulates erosion and sediment control. These regulations are outlined in Section 17.93.050 – Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. The project Applicant will also be required to conform to Section 17.93.060 – Runoff Control of the City's Municipal Code. In addition, stormwater discharges from construction activities that disturb one or more acres, or smaller sites disturbing less than one acre that are part of a common plan of development or sale, are regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permitting program. *As a result, the construction impacts will be less than significant.*

B. *Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

Water used to control fugitive dust will be transported to the site via truck. No direct ground water extraction will occur. Furthermore, the construction and post-construction BMPs will address contaminants of concern from excess runoff, thereby preventing the contamination of local groundwater. These BMP controls may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Stabilization practices for all areas disturbed by construction and grading.
- Structural practices for all drainage/discharge locations.
- Stormwater management controls, including measures used to control pollutants occurring in stormwater discharges after construction activities are complete.
- Velocity dissipation devices to provide nonerosive flow conditions from the discharge point along the length of any outfall channel.
- Other controls, including waste disposal practices that prevent discharge of solid materials.

In addition, there would be no direct groundwater withdrawals associated with the proposed project's implementation. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

C. *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

The proposed project is located in a "Zone AE" flood hazard zone. Adelanto Municipal code 17.91.030 requires natural drainage courses to be preserved whenever practicable, consistent with the need to minimize flood and erosion hazards. Stream banks shall be stabilized with landscaping, rock, or other materials that harmonize with the natural setting and contain flows and control erosion.[51] The pre-development condition for the project site is undeveloped with almost no cover or vegetation. The existing drainage path of the site sheet flows to the central drainage easement. The runoff then flows northwesterly offsite. The site is divided into three distinct drainage areas, referred to as DA-1, DA-2, and DA-3 in the hydrology study. Each drainage area is graded to sheet flow runoff toward proposed curb and gutters, as well as v-gutters. The runoff will then be conveyed to drain inlets where the storm drain pipes will convey to each drainage area's respective underground infiltration chambers. Overflow will flow into the central drainage easement.[52]

The existing peak runoff from the project area was calculated to be 2.64 cubic feet per second (cfs), and 16.32 cfs onsite for the 2- year, and 100-year storm, respectively. The proposed peak runoff from the project area after improvements was calculated to be 7.15 cfs, and 23.48 cfs onsite for the 2-year, and 100-year storm, respectively. The existing runoff volumes from the project area was calculated to be 0.1537 Ac-ft (6,695 cf), and 1.9087 Ac-ft (83,143 cf) for the 2-year and 100-year storm event, respectively. The proposed runoff volume from the project area after improvements was calculated to be 0.6486 Ac-ft (28,253 cf), and 2.1957 Ac-ft (95,645 cf) for the 2-year and 100-year storm, respectively. Pre-development conditions will be maintained through onsite detention of runoff. Detained runoff will be infiltrated into the ground. Stormwater runoff storage will be provided via underground infiltration chambers. The storage volumes for the chambers are 6,124 cf, 7,729 cf, and 6,490 cf for DA-1, DA-2, and DA-3, respectively.[53] *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

i). *Would the project result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; ● Less than Significant Impact*

The project applicant will be required to abide by Adelanto's City Ordinance Chapter 17.93 – Erosion and Sediment Control that requires all applicants for projects involving construction activities, regardless of size, to submit an erosion and sediment control plan ("ESCP") to the city for review and approval as mentioned in subsection A. *As a result, the impact will be less than significant.*

ii). *Would the project substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite ● Less than Significant Impact*

As mentioned previously, the proposed project is located in a "Zone AE" flood hazard zone. The project applicants are required to follow Adelanto municipal code 17.91.030 requiring measures to control runoff from construction sites consistent with NPDES imposed by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board. *As a result, the impact will be less than significant.*

[51] Municode. Adelanto, CA. Chapter .91.030- Grading Guidelines Applicable to All Projects. Website Accessed November 23,2022.

[52] Plump Engineering, Inc. Hydrology Study Adelanto Commercial Development SEC US-395 & Auburn Ave. Adelanto, CA 92301. May 23, 2023.

[53] Plump Engineering, Inc. Hydrology Study Adelanto Commercial Development SEC US-395 & Auburn Ave. Adelanto, CA 92301. May 12, 2023.

iii). *Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; ● Less than Significant Impact*

As mentioned previously, the project's location is located on a "Zone AE" flood hazard zone, adjacent to the proposed retail building on the west with flat grated inlet drains constructed to the north of the project site and south of the proposed retail building. The proposed used of the project will not contribute to runoff water and all zoning ordinances related to polluted runoff will be followed. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*[54]

iv). *Would the project impede or redirect flood flows? ● Less than Significant Impact*

The proposed project's location is located on a "Zone AE" flood hazard zone. As mentioned previously, the site would be designed so the proposed hardscape surfaces (the building and paved areas) will percolate into the landscape parkway areas. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

D. *In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance maps obtained for the City of Adelanto, as mentioned previously, the proposed project site is located in a flood hazard zone, labeled as "Zone AE." The 1-percent annual chance flood is also referred to as the base flood or 100-year flood.[55] The proposed project site is not located in an area that is subject to inundation by seiche or tsunami. In addition, the project site is located inland approximately 70 miles from the Pacific Ocean and the project site would not be exposed to the effects of a tsunami. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

E. *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? ● No Impact.*

The proposed project is required to be in compliance with Chapter 17.93 the City of Adelanto Municipal Code. Chapter 17.93 of the City of Adelanto Municipal Code is responsible for implementing the NPDES and MS4 stormwater runoff requirements. In addition, the project's operation will not interfere with any groundwater management or recharge plan since there are no active groundwater management recharge activities on-site or in the vicinity. *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis determined that the project would not result in any significant impacts on hydrology and water quality with the implementation of the standard project design measures and conditions. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

[54] Municode. Adelanto, CA. Chapter .91.030- Grading Guidelines Applicable to All Projects. Website Accessed November 23,2022.

[55] Fema. Flood Zones. Website Accessed October 31, 2022.

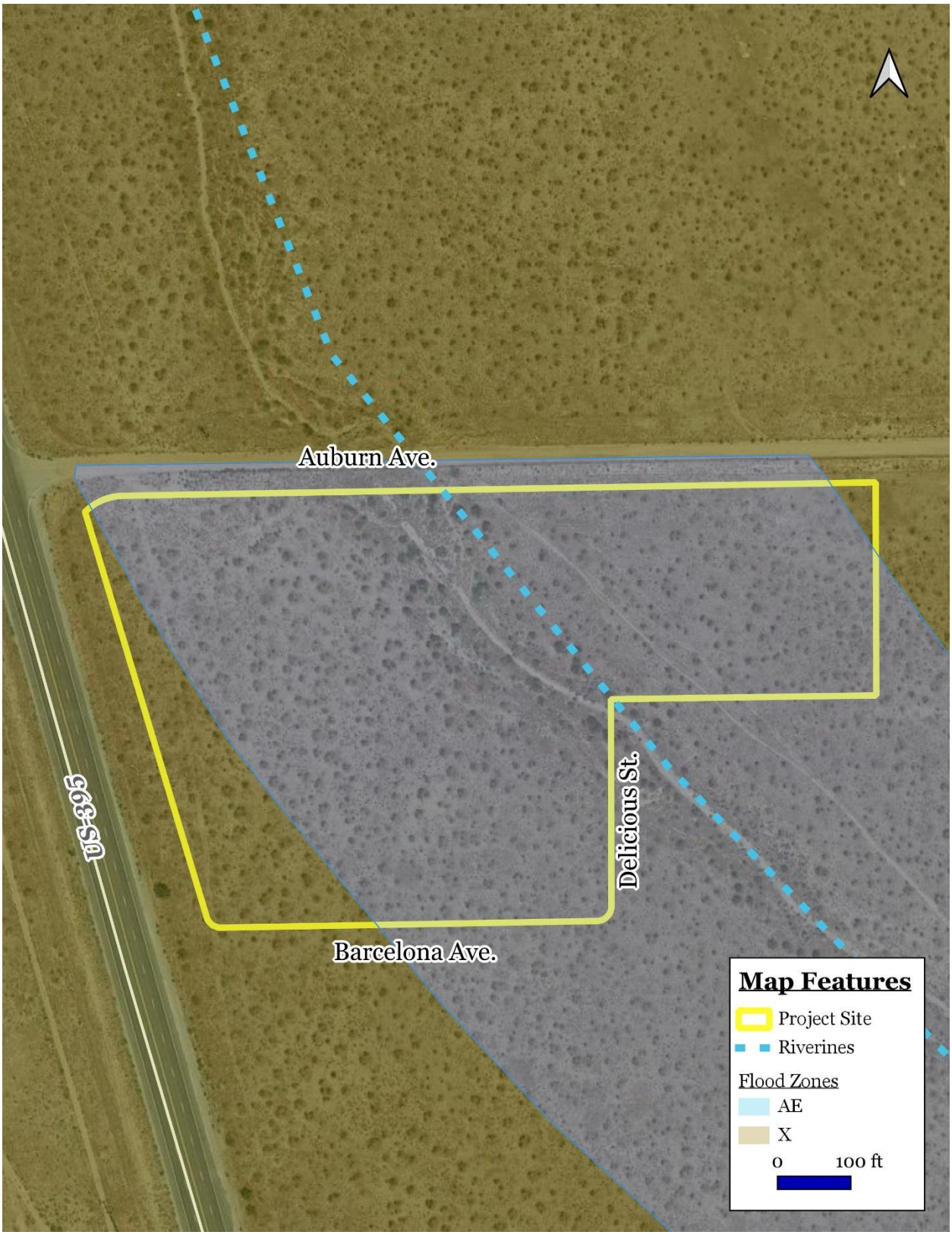

EXHIBIT 3-4 WATER RESOURCES MAP

SOURCE: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

3.11 LAND USE & PLANNING

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project physically divide an established community?				✖
B. Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, acting as Lead Agency, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on mineral resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would physically divide an established community.
- The proposed project would cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project physically divide an established community? ● No Impact.*

The area where the proposed development will be located is currently vacant. Other land uses and development located in the vicinity of the proposed project are outlined below:

- *North of the project site:* Auburn Avenue extends along the project's northern side. Vacant undeveloped land extends along the proposed project's north side. These parcels are zoned as Airport Development District (ADD).[56]
- *East of the project site:* Vacant undeveloped land extends along the proposed project's east side. These parcels are zones as Airport Development District (ADD). The Southern California Logistics Airport is located further east approximately 0.85 miles away.[57]
- *South of the project site:* Vacant undeveloped land abuts the project's southern site. This area is zoned as Airport Development District (ADD).[58]

[56] Google Maps. Site Accessed October 26, 2022, and Adelanto Zoning Map, Site Accessed, October 26, 2022.

[57] Ibid.

[58] Google Maps. Site Accessed October 26, 2022, and Adelanto Zoning Map, Site Accessed, October 26, 2022.

- *West of the project site: US-395 abuts the project side to the west.* Vacant undeveloped land is also located west of the project site. This area is zoned as Mixed Use (MU) with Single Family Residential (R-S5) usage located further west.[59]

The granting of the requested entitlements and subsequent construction of the proposed project will not result in any expansion of the use beyond the current project site boundaries. In addition, all surrounding areas of the project site are vacant. As a result, the project will not lead to any division of an existing established neighborhood. *Therefore, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? ● No Impact.*

The project site is located 1.2 miles west of the Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA).[60] The proposed project site is located outside of the designated *Runway Protection Zone* of Runway 17-35 (refer to Exhibit 2D of the Airport Land Use Plan [ALUP]). The project site is located well outside of the 65 CNEL noise contour area (refer to Exhibit 2H). The project site is located within a designated *Compatibility Review Area 3* (refer to Exhibit 3B). For this project the proposed use is *normally acceptable* though it may be subject to restrictions for purposes of public safety.[61] For this reason, the following mitigation measure is required in Section 3.9E:

- Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the City of Adelanto that consultation has been made with the Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) regarding the proposed project to ascertain whether there are any restrictions required regarding the proposed project/use with respect to its conformity with the Designated Compatibility Review Area 3.

The project site has a General Plan land use designation of Airport Development District. The proposed project involves the construction of a shopping center that would include a hotel, commercial retail uses, gas station and car wash. The City has initiate a Zoning Code amendment (revision to Appendix A) that would permit convenience stores, hotels, retailing uses, and gasoline retailers in the ADD zones. The proposed use of the project site would be compatible with the project site's land use and zoning designations. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis determined that no impacts on land use and planning would result upon the implementation of the proposed project. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

[59] Steeno Design Studios. Highway 395 & Auburn Ave Adelanto Commercial Development, Site Plan. May 2023.

[60] Toll-Free Airline. *San Bernardino County Public and Private Airports, California.*

[61] Coffman Associates, Inc. *Southern California Logistics Airport. Comprehensive Land Use Plan.* September 2008

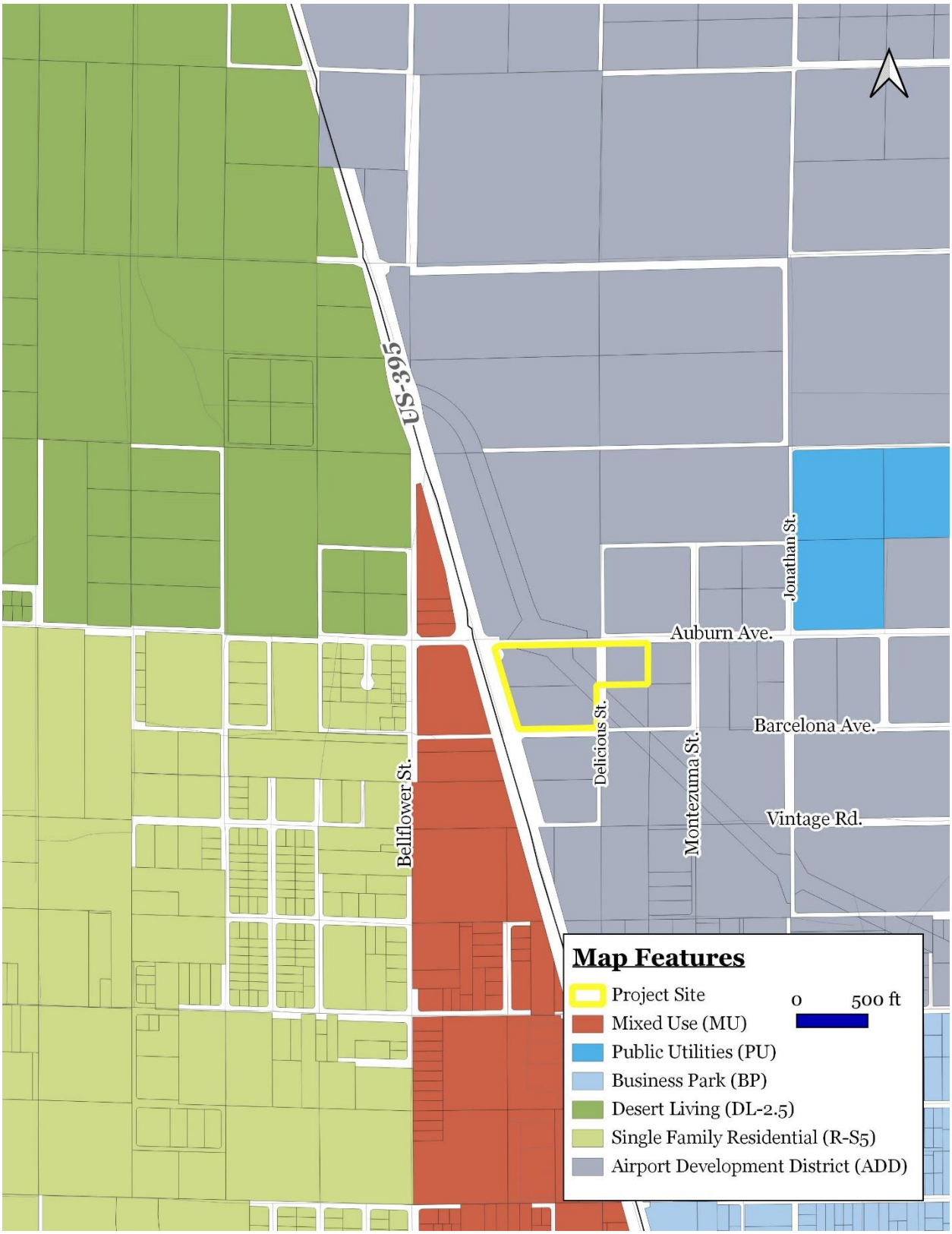

EXHIBIT 3-4 LAND USE AND ZONING MAP

SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				✖
B. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on mineral resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.
- The proposed project would result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) has developed mineral land classification maps and reports to assist in the protection and development of mineral resources. According to the SMARA, the following four mineral land use classifications are identified:

- *Mineral Resource Zone 1 (MRZ-1):* This land use classification refers to areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.
- *Mineral Resource Zone 2 (MRZ-2):* This land use classification refers to areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists.
- *Mineral Resource Zone 3 (MRZ-3):* This land use classification refers to areas where the significance of mineral deposits cannot be evaluated from the available data. Hilly or mountainous areas underlain by sedimentary, metamorphic, or igneous rock types and lowland areas underlain by alluvial wash or fan material are often included in this category. Additional information about the quality of material in these areas could either upgrade the classification to MRZ-2 or downgrade it to MRZ-1.
- *Mineral Resource Zone 4 (MRZ-4):* This land use classification refers to areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other mineral resource zone.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? ● No Impact.*

A review of California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources well finder indicates that there are no wells on-site or located in the vicinity of the project site.[62] The project site is not located in a Significant Mineral Aggregate Resource Area (SMARA) nor is it located in an area with active mineral extraction activities. A review of California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources well finder indicates that there are no wells located in the vicinity of the project site.[63] The project site is located within Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ-3A), which means there may be significant mineral resources present.[64]As indicated previously, there are no active mineral extraction activities occurring on-site or in the adjacent properties. *As a result, no impacts would occur.*

B. *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? ● No Impact.*

As previously mentioned, no mineral, oil, or energy extraction and/or generation activities are located within the project site. Moreover, the proposed project will not interfere with any resource extraction activity. *Therefore, no impacts would result.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential impacts related to mineral resources indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the approval of the proposed project and its subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

[62] California, State of. Department of Conservation. California *Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources Well Finder*. *https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/#openModal/-117.41448/34.56284/14*.

[63]California, State of. Department of Conservation. California *Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources Well Finder*.

[64] California Department of Conservation. *Mineral Land Classification Map for the Adelanto Quadrangle*. Map accessed December 12, 2021.

3.13 NOISE

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?		✖		
B. Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?		✖		
C. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on noise if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.
- The proposed project would result in the generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels.
- For a proposed project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Noise levels may be described using a number of methods designed to evaluate the "loudness" of a particular noise. The most commonly used unit for measuring the level of sound is the decibel (dB). Zero on the decibel scale represents the lowest limit of sound that can be heard by humans. The eardrum may rupture at 140 dB. In general, an increase of between 3.0 dB and 5.0 dB in the ambient noise level is considered to represent the threshold for human sensitivity. Noise level increases of 3.0 dB or less are not generally perceptible to persons with average hearing abilities. The most commonly used unit for measuring the level of sound is the decibel (dB). Zero on the decibel scale represents the lowest limit of sound that can be heard by humans. Noise levels associated with common everyday activities are illustrated in Exhibit 3-5.

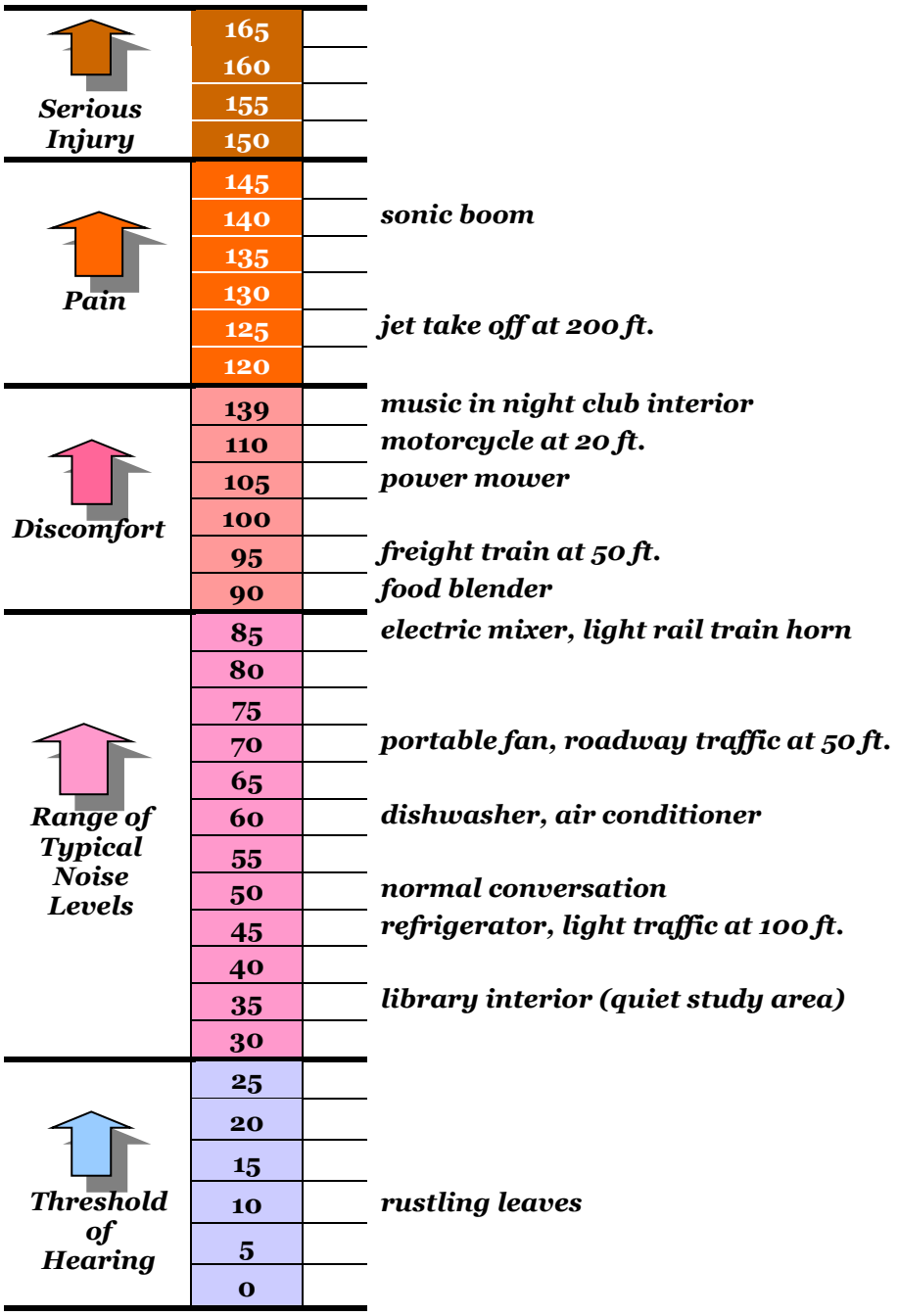

EXHIBIT 3-5 NOISE SOURCES AND LOUDNESS SCALE

SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

The primary sources of noise in the Adelanto planning area are freeways and roadways, SCLA aircraft operations, and stationary sources. Future sources of noise generated on-site will include noise from vehicles traveling to and from the project and noise emanating from back-up alarms, building equipment noise (air conditioning units, and other equipment), and other noises typically associated with commercial development. Noise sensitive land uses in the area are shown in Exhibit 3-5. The most commonly used unit for measuring the level of sound is the decibel (dB). Zero on the decibel scale represents the lowest limit of sound that can be heard by humans. Noise levels associated with common everyday activities are shown in Exhibit 3-6. The eardrum may rupture at 140 dB. In general, an increase of between 3.0 dB and 5.0 dB in the ambient noise level is considered to represent the threshold for human sensitivity. In other words, increases in ambient noise levels of 3.0 dB or less are not generally perceptible to persons with average hearing abilities.[65] The closest noise sensitive land use is located approximately 400 feet to the northwest of the project site. As a result, the proposed project will not expose sensitive receptors to excessive noise levels.

The only short-term construction noise will be limited to the grading during the site preparation phases and the erection of the new buildings. Nevertheless, the following mitigation will be required in order to further reduce construction noise:

- The Applicant must ensure that the contractors use construction equipment that includes working mufflers and other sound suppression equipment as a means to reduce machinery noise.

Adherence to the aforementioned mitigation measures will reduce the potential noise impacts to levels that are less than significant.

B. *Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

The construction of the proposed project will result in the generation of vibration and noise, though the vibrations and noise generated during the project's construction will not adversely impact the nearby residential sensitive receptors. The background vibration velocity level in residential areas is usually around 50 vibration velocity level (VdB). The vibration velocity level threshold of perception for humans is approximately 65 VdB. A vibration velocity of 75 VdB is the approximately dividing line between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible levels for many people. Sources within buildings such as operation of mechanical equipment, movement of people, or the slamming of doors causes most perceptible indoor vibration. Construction activities may result in varying degrees of ground vibration, depending on the types of equipment, the characteristics of the soil, and the age and construction of nearby buildings.

[65] Bugliarello, et. al. *The Impact of Noise Pollution,* Chapter 127, 1975.

The operation of construction equipment causes ground vibrations that spread through the ground and diminish in strength with distance. Ground vibrations associated with construction activities using modern construction methods and equipment rarely reach the levels that result in damage to nearby buildings though vibration related to construction activities may be discernible in areas located near the construction site. A possible exception is in older buildings where special care must be taken to avoid damage. Table 3-4 summarizes the levels of vibration and the usual effect on people and buildings. The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) has guidelines for vibration levels from construction related to their activities and recommends that the maximum peak-particle-velocity (PPV) levels remain below 0.05 inches per second at the nearest structures. PPV refers to the movement within the ground of molecular particles and not surface movement. Vibration levels above 0.5 inches per second have the potential to cause architectural damage to normal dwellings. The U.S. DOT also states that vibration levels above 0.015 inches per second (in/sec) are sometimes perceptible to people, and the level at which vibration becomes an irritation to people is 0.64 inches per second.

Table 3-4
Common Effects of Construction Vibration

Peak Particle Velocity (in/sec)	Effects on Humans	Effects on Buildings
<0.005	Imperceptible	No effect on buildings
0.005 to 0.015	Barely perceptible	No effect on buildings
0.02 to 0.05	Level at which continuous vibrations begin to annoy occupants of nearby buildings	No effect on buildings
0.1 to 0.5	Vibrations considered unacceptable for persons exposed to continuous or long-term vibration.	Minimal potential for damage to weak or sensitive structures
0.5 to 1.0	Vibrations considered bothersome by most people, tolerable if short-term in length	Threshold at which there is a risk of architectural damage to buildings with plastered ceilings and walls. Some risk to ancient monuments and ruins.
>3.0	Vibration is unpleasant	Potential for architectural damage and possible minor structural damage

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation

Typical levels from vibration generally do not have the potential for any structural damage. Some construction activities, such as pile driving and blasting, can produce vibration levels that may have the potential to damage some vibration sensitive structures if performed within 50 to 100 feet of the structure. The reason that normal construction vibration does not result in structural damage has to do with several issues, including the frequency vibration and magnitude of construction related vibration. Unlike earthquakes, which produce vibration at very low frequencies and have a high potential for structural damage, most construction vibration is in the mid- to upper- frequency range, and therefore, have a lower potential for structural damage.

The project's implementation will require boring for the installation of three USTS. The commercial building will be constructed over a shallow foundation that will extend no more than three to four feet bgs. The use of shallow foundations precludes the use of pile drivers or any auger type equipment. However, other vibration generating equipment may be used on-site during construction. As stated above, the project will require the use of excavators, loaders, bulldozers, and haul trucks.

Various types of construction equipment have been measured under a wide variety of construction activities with an average of source levels reported in terms of velocity levels as shown in Table 3-4. Although the table gives one level for each piece of equipment, it should be noted that there is a considerable variation in reported ground vibration levels from construction activities. The data in Table 3-4 does provide a reasonable estimate for a wide range of soil conditions. Based on Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, a vibration level of 102 VdB (vibration decibels, or 0.5 inches per second [in/sec]) is considered safe and would not result in any construction vibration damage.

Vibration resulting from the operation of construction vehicles may affect the residents located north of the project site. Strict adherence to the mitigation provided below will reduce the number of units and residents potentially affected by ground-borne vibration generated by empty haul trucks:

- Construction vehicles will be prohibited from travelling on local streets in the residential areas. All haul trucks must travel either northbound or southbound on Amethyst Road.

Adherence to the above-mentioned mitigation will reduce potential vibration impacts to levels that are less than significant. Once operational, the proposed project will not generate excessive ground-borne noise. The project will be required to adhere to all pertinent City noise control regulations. In addition, the cumulative traffic associated with the proposed project will not be great enough to result in a measurable or perceptible increase in traffic noise (it typically requires a doubling of traffic volumes to increase the ambient noise levels to 3.0 dBA or greater).

Once in operation, the proposed project will not significantly raise ground borne noise levels. Slight increases in ground-borne noise levels could occur during the construction phase. The limited duration of construction activities and the City's construction-related noise control requirements will further reduce the potential impacts. *In addition, the above required mitigation measures will reduce the impacts to levels that are less than significant.*

C. *For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? ● No Impact.*

The project site is located 1.2 miles west of the Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA).[66] The proposed project site is located outside of the designated *Runway Protection Zone* of Runway 17-35 (refer to Exhibit 2D of the Airport Land Use Plan [ALUP]). The project site is located well outside of the 65 CNEL noise contour area (refer to Exhibit 2H). The project site is located within a designated *Compatibility Review Area 3* (refer to Exhibit 3B). For this project the proposed use is *normally acceptable* though it may be subject to restrictions for purposes of public safety.[67] For this reason, the following mitigation measure is required in Section 3.9E. No noise mitigation is required. *As a result, no impacts would occur.*

[66] Toll-Free Airline. *San Bernardino County Public and Private Airports, California.*

[67] Coffman Associates, Inc. *Southern California Logistics Airport. Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. September 2008

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation will be required in order to further reduce construction noise:

Noise Mitigation Measure No. 1. The Applicant must ensure that the contractors use construction equipment that includes working mufflers and other sound suppression equipment as a means to reduce machinery noise.

To ensure the project's potential operational noise impacts are mitigated, the following mitigation measures must be implemented:

Noise Mitigation Measure No. 2. Loitering in the parking areas with attendant loud noise (radios, car noise, etc.) will not be permitted.

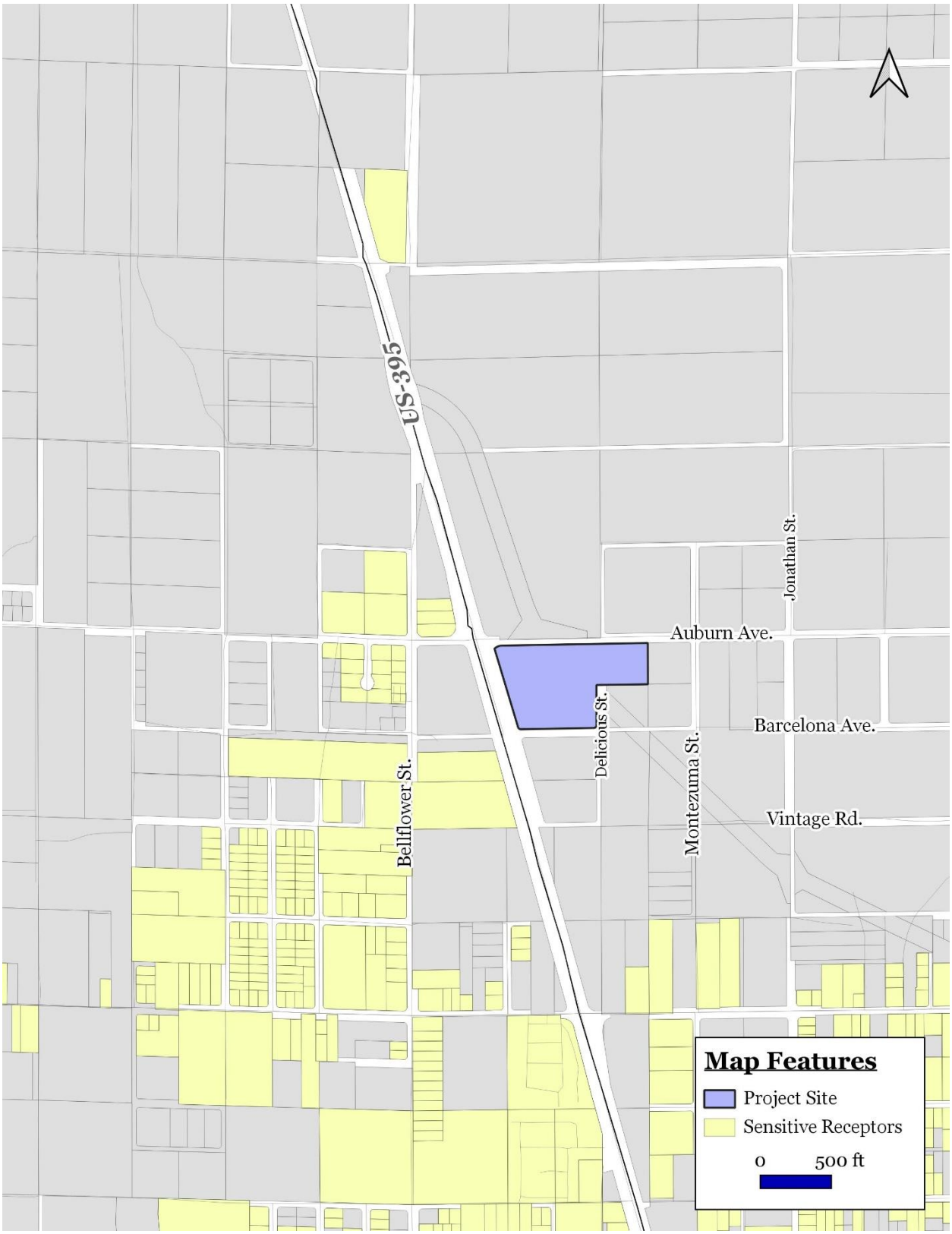

EXHIBIT 3-6 NOISE SENSITIVE LAND USES

SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

3.14 POPULATION & HOUSING

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				✖
B. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on population and housing if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure).
- The proposed project would displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? ● No Impact.*

Growth-inducing impacts are generally associated with the provision of urban services to an undeveloped or rural area. Growth-inducing impacts include the following:

- *New development in an area presently undeveloped and economic factors which may influence development*. The site is currently undeveloped and relatively undisturbed with the exception of vehicular activity occurring over the site. Land uses surrounding the property on the north, south, and east are designated as Airport Development District (ADD) and Mixed Use (MU) to the west.
- *Extension of roadways and other transportation facilities*. Future roadway and infrastructure connections will serve the proposed project site only. Roadways to the project site need improvement.
- *Extension of infrastructure and other improvements*. The installation of any new utility lines will not lead to subsequent offsite development since these utility connections will serve the site only. At present, existing water sewer connections will need to be extended to serve the project site. The project's potential utility impacts are analyzed in Section 3.19.

- *Major off-site public projects (treatment plants, etc.).* The project's increase in demand for utility services can be accommodated without the construction or expansion of landfills, water treatment plants, or wastewater treatment plants. The project's potential utility impacts are further analyzed in Section 3.19.
- *The removal of housing requiring replacement housing elsewhere.* The site does not contain any housing units. As a result, no replacement housing will be required.
- *Additional population growth leading to increased demand for goods and services.* The project will result in an increase in employment which can be accommodated by the local labor market but will not result in a change in population growth.
- *Short-term growth-inducing impacts related to the project's construction.* The project will result in temporary employment during the construction phase.

The newly established roads and existing utility lines will serve the project site only and will not extend into undeveloped areas. The proposed project will not result in any unplanned growth. *As a result, no impacts will result.*

B. *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? ● No Impact.*

The project site is vacant and undisturbed. This property and surrounding areas have a General Plan and zoning designations of Airport Development District (ADD) and Mixed Use (MU). No housing units will be permitted, and none will be displaced as a result of the proposed project's implementation. *Therefore, no impacts would result.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential population and housing impacts indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed project's approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i). Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with Fire protection?			✖	
ii). Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with Police protection?			✖	
iii). Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with Schools?			✖	
iv). Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with Parks?			✖	
v). Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with Other public facilities?			✖	

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on public services if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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

The proposed project would involve the construction and operation of a commercial shopping center development in the City of Adelanto. The proposed project would total five individual parcels (subdivided from the current four parcels) totaling 11.81 acres. Parcel A would be a 5,866 square foot convenience store with a 956 square foot upper-level office with 44 parking spaces. Parcel B would be a 3,400 square feet drive-thru restaurant with 39 parking spaces. Parcel C would be a 10,500 square foot multi-tenant retail

building with 42 parking spaces, a 16,702 square foot supermarket with 80 parking spaces, and another 9,620 square foot multi-tenant retail building with 39 parking spaces. Parcel D would be a 5,577 square feet automated carwash with 6 parking spaces. Parcel E would be a 68,054 square foot three-story hotel (100 rooms) with 158 parking spaces. The site's Accessor Parcel Numbers include 0459-053-56, 0459-053-57, 0459-053-58, and 0459-053-08. The project site's zoning designation is Airport Development District (ADD).[68]

i). *Would the project have fire protection? Less than Significant Impact.*

The City of Adelanto contracts fire protection services with the San Bernardino County Fire Department from two fire stations located within the City limits with the closest being located 2.6 miles to the southwest. The Fire Department currently reviews all new development plans. The proposed project will be required to conform to all fire protection and prevention requirements, including, but not limited to, building setbacks, emergency access, and fire flow (or the flow rate of water that is available for extinguishing fires). The proposed project would only place an incremental demand on fire services since the project will be constructed with strict adherence to all pertinent building and fire codes. In addition, the proposed project would be required to implement all pertinent Fire Code Standards including the installation of fire hydrants and sprinkler systems inside the buildings. Furthermore, the project will be reviewed by City and County Fire officials to ensure adequate fire service and safety as a result of project implementation. *As a result, the potential impacts to fire protection services would be less than significant.*

ii). *Would the project have police protection? Less than Significant Impact.*

Law enforcement services within the City are provided by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department which serves the community from one police station located approximately one mile to the southeast of the project site. The proposed project will also be required to comply with the County and City security requirements. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

iii). *Would the project be near schools? Less than Significant Impact.*

The nearest school to the project site is Westside Park Elementary School located 0.79 miles to the southwest. Due to the nature of the proposed project, no direct enrollment impacts regarding school services will occur. The proposed project will not directly increase demand for school services. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

iv). *Would the project be near parks? Less than Significant Impact.*

The nearest park to the project site is Westside Park, located approximately 0.84 miles to the southwest. The proposed project will not result in any local increase in residential development (directly or indirectly) that could potentially impact the local recreational facilities. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

[68] Steeno Design Studios. Highway 395 & Auburn Ave Adelanto Commercial Development, Site Plan. May 2023.

v). *Would the project have other public facilities? Less than Significant Impact.*

The proposed project will not create direct local population growth that could potentially create demand for other governmental service. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of public service impacts indicated that no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required with the implementation of the proposed project.

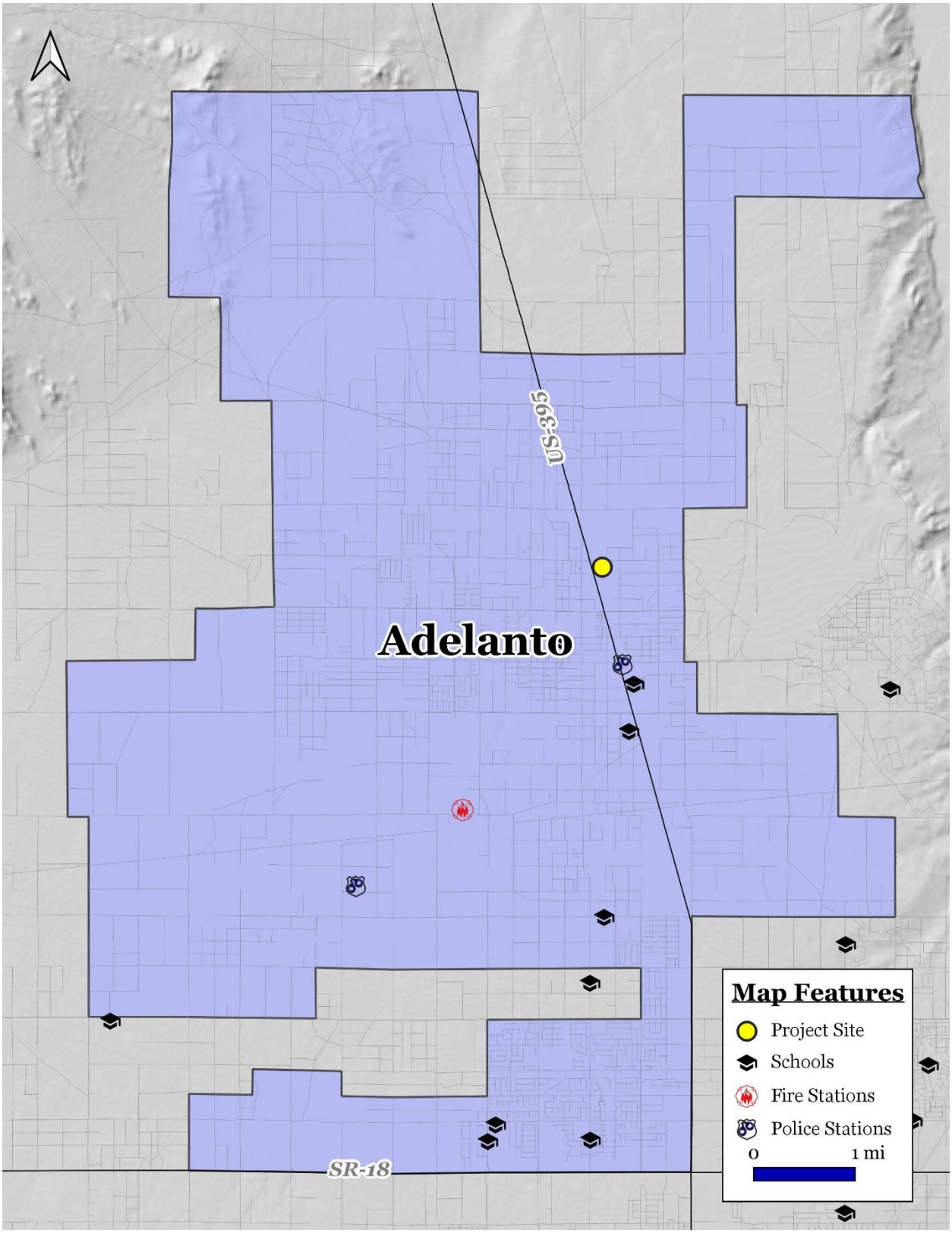

EXHIBIT 3-7 PUBLIC SERVICES
SOURCE: CITY OF ADELANTO

3.16 RECREATION

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				✖
B. Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on recreation if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.
- The proposed project would include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? ● No Impact.*

Due to the use of the proposed project, no significant increase in the use of City parks and recreational facilities is anticipated to occur. Westside Park is located approximately 0.84 miles to the southwest of the project site. The proposed project would not result in any improvements that would potentially significantly physically alter any public park facilities and services. *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

B. *Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? ● No Impact.*

As previously indicated, the implementation of the proposed project would not affect any existing parks and recreational facilities in the City. No such facilities are located adjacent to the project site. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential impacts related to parks and recreation indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result and no mitigation measures are required.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?			✖	
B. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3 subdivision (b)?			✖	
C. Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			✖	
D. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on transportation and circulation if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.
- The proposed project would conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b).
- The proposed project would substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).
- The proposed project would result in inadequate emergency access.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

Traffic generation is expressed in vehicle trip ends, defined as one-way vehicular movements, either entering or exiting the generating land use. Traffic volumes expected to be generated by the proposed project were estimated for the weekday commuter AM and PM peak hours, as well as over a 24-hour daily period, using trip generation rates provided by the Institute of Transportation Engineers' (ITE) Trip Generation Manual, 11th Edition. The ITE document contains trip rates for a variety of land uses which have been derived based on traffic counts conducted at existing sites throughout California and the United States. For this project, a traffic study was conducted by David Evans and Associates Inc, attached as Appendix E. The trip generation rates for the site including Convenience Store/Gas Station sub-category VFP (9-15) (LU 945), Small Office Building (LU 712), Fast-Food Restaurant with Drive-Through Window

(LU 934), Shopping Plaza (40-150k) - sub-category Supermarket - Yes (LU 821), Automated Car Wash (LU 948), Strip Retail Plaza (<40k) (LU 822), and Hotel (LU 310) When considering the pass-by adjustment, the total pass-by ADT will be 0 trips per day and the pass-by PM peak hour trips will be 0 PM peak hour trips. When considering the aforementioned pass-by adjustments, the total "adjusted" ADT trip generation will be 9,786 ADT (9,786 ADT – 0 pass-by ADT = 9,786 ADT) and the total PM peak hour trips will be 526 PM peak hour trips (949 PM peak hour trips – 423 pass-by PM peak hour trips = 526 PM peak hour trips).[69]

Table 3-5
Project Trip Generation

	Use	Size/Quantity	Daily	AM Peak Hour			PM Peak Hour		
				In	Out	Total	In	Out	total
1	**Convenience Market/Gas Station - VFP (16-24) Land Use Category (ITE 945)**								
	Per 1,000 Sq. Ft GLA	5,886	1,283.38	45.68	45.68	91.35	39.48	39.48	78.95
	Trips		7,554	269	269	538	232	233	466
	Internal Trips (10%)		756	27	27	54	23	24	47
	Adjusted Trips		6,798	242	242	484	209	209	4189
	Pass-By Trips (76%, 75%)		0	184	184	368	157	157	314
	Primary Trips (24%, 25%)		6,798	58	58	116	52	52	104
2	**Small Office Building Land Use Category (ITE 712)**								
	Rates (per 1,000 Sq. Ft. GFA)	956	14.39	1.37	0.30	1.67	0.73	1.43	2.16
	Trips		14	2	1	2	1	2	3
3	**Fast-Food Restaurant with Drive-Through Window - Land Use Category (ITE 934)**								
	Rates per 1,000 Sq. Ft GLA	3,400	467.48	22.75	21.86	44.61	17.18	15.85	33.03
	Trips		1,590	78	74	152	58	54	112
	Internal Trips (10%)		159	8	7	15	6	5	11
	Adjusted Trips		1,431	70	67	137	52	49	101
	Pass-By Trips (50%, 55%)		0	35	34	69	29	27	56
	Primary Trips (50%, 45%)		1,431	35	33	68	23	22	45
4	**Shopping Plaza (40-150k) -Supermarket- Yes Land Use Category (ITE 821) 3 Buildings**								
	Rates per 1,000 Sq. Ft GLA	36,822	94.49	2.19	1.34	3.53	4.33	4.7	9.03
	Trips		3,480	81	49	130	160	173	333
	Internal Trips (10%)		348	8	5	13	16	17	33
	Adjusted Trips		3,132	73	44	117	144	156	300
	Pass-By Trips (0%, 40%)		0	0	0	0	78	78	156
	Primary Trips (100%, 60%)		3,132	73	44	117	86	94	180

[69] David Evans and Associates, Inc. *Traffic Impact Analysis, Proposed Adelanto Commercial Development APN 0459-053-56, 57, 58, 08 Prepared for Adelanto, California*. November 10, 2022.

	Use	Size/Quantity	Daily	AM			PM		
				In	Out	Total	In	Out	total
	Automated Car Wash Land Use Category (ITE 948)								
5	Rates (per Car Wash Tunnels)	2	0	0	0	0	38.75	38.75	77.5
	Trips		0	0	0	0	78	78	155
	Internal Trips (10%)		0	0	0	0	8	8	16
	Adjusted Trips		0	0	0	0	70	70	140
	Hotel Land Use Category (ITE 310)								
6	Rates (per Rooms)	100	7.99	0.26	0.2	0.46	0.3	0.29	0.59
	Trips		799	26	20	46	30	29	59
	Internal Trips (10%)		80	3	2	5	3	3	6
	Adjusted Trips		719	23	18	41	27	26	53
Total Adjusted Project Trips			12,094	410	372	781	503	512	1,015
Total Pass-By Trips			0	219	218	437	244	246	490
Total Primary Trips			**12,094**	191	154	**344**	259	266	**525**

Background conditions represent the project's opening year of 2024 but without the project and includes growth in ambient traffic from regional and local development equaling 3.5 percent annually. In background conditions the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue operates at LOS C during the AM peak hour and LOS E during the PM peak hour. In background plus project conditions the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue operates at LOS F in both the AM and PM peak hours with significant increases in delay for the worst stop-controlled movement (westbound left turn). With the implementation of the proposed intersection improvements the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue would operate at LOS B during the AM and PM peak hours.[70] Future year 2040 conditions represent a long-range forecast for addressing the cumulative impacts of regional growth in traffic as determined through land use and traffic projections from the San Bernardino Countywide Traffic Analysis Model (SBTAM). In the future conditions the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue operates at LOS D during the AM peak hour and LOS F during the PM peak hour for the worst stop-controlled movement (westbound left turn). In future plus project conditions the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue operates at LOS F in the AM and PM peak hours. With the implementation of the proposed intersection improvements the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue operates at LOS B during the peak hours.[71]

The analysis of potential impacts related to traffic and circulation indicated that the following mitigation measures would be required:

[70] David Evans and Associates, Inc. *Traffic Impact Analysis, Proposed Adelanto Commercial Development APN 0459-053-56, 57, 58, 08 Prepared for Adelanto, California*. November 10, 2022.

[71] David Evans and Associates, Inc. *Traffic Impact Analysis, Proposed Adelanto Commercial Development APN 0459-053-56, 57, 58, 08 Prepared for Adelanto, California*. November 10, 2022.

- The project will be required to install a traffic signal with northbound-southbound protected left turn phases, at the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue concurrent with the construction of the project.

- The project will be required to construct site and frontage improvements. a. Within the existing Highway 395 right of way along the project's frontage, configure the northbound approach as shown on the conceptual geometric plan in Figure ES- 1 included in the Traffic Study. The configuration should accommodate a left turn lane, two through lanes, and an exclusive right turn lane on the northbound approach of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue. In the conceptual geometric plan, a Class II bike lane is provided between the right turn lane and the through lane. b. Within the existing Auburn Avenue right of way along the project's frontage, configure the westbound approach as shown on the conceptual geometric plan in Figure ES- 2. The configuration should accommodate a left turn lane and a shared through-right turn lane on the westbound approach of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue. c. Construct Auburn Avenue east of Highway 395 to include curb, gutter, two-way left turn lane, and sidewalk and driveways as shown on the conceptual geometric plan.

- Improvements at the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue include configuring the southbound approach as shown on the conceptual geometric plan in Figure ES- 1 included in the Traffic Study. The configuration should accommodate a left turn lane, a through lane, and a shared through-right turn lane.

B. *Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)(2) focuses on impacts that result from certain transportation projects. The proposed project is not a transportation project. As a result, no impacts on this issue will result. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)(3) and (b)(4) focuses on the evaluation of a project's VMT. As previously mentioned in Subsection A, the proposed project will not create a significant amount of traffic in the surrounding area. As a result, the proposed project will not result in a conflict or be inconsistent with Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) of the CEQA Guidelines and no impacts will occur. For the purposes of this section, "vehicle miles traveled" refers to the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project. Other relevant considerations may include the effects of the project on transit and non-motorized travel. Except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) below (regarding roadway capacity), a project's effect on automobile delay shall not constitute a significant environmental impact. Generally, projects within one-half mile of either an existing major transit stop or a stop along an existing high quality transit corridor should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. Projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled in the project area compared to existing conditions should also be presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact. The project site is located within 50 feet of Highway 395.

The City of Adelanto has also adopted the following VMT thresholds utilizing the San Bernardino County Travel Demand Model (SBTAM) as its preferred methodology to measure average trip lengths and the California Emission Estimator Model (CalEEMod) as its preferred method to calculate greenhouse gas emissions so as to establish the 3,000 MTCO2e as a threshold for determining new VMT development threshold with a less than significant impact to the environment. As indicated herein in Section 3.8, the Greenhouse gas emissions will be below this threshold. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

C. *Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

Access to the project site would be provided by three improved roads that will be located along the site's north side along Auburn Avenue. The proposed project will not expose future drivers to dangerous intersections or sharp curves and the proposed project will not introduce incompatible equipment or vehicles to the adjacent roads. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

D. *Would the project result in inadequate emergency access? ● No Impact.*

The proposed project would not affect emergency access to any adjacent parcels. At no time during construction will adjacent streets be completely closed to traffic. All construction staging must occur on-site. *As a result, no impacts are associated with the proposed project's implementation.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential impacts related to traffic and circulation indicated that the following mitigation measures would be required:

Mitigation Measure No. 1 (Transportation). The project will be required to install a traffic signal with northbound-southbound protected left turn phases, at the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue concurrent with the construction of the project.

Mitigation Measure No. 2 (Transportation). The project will be required to construct site and frontage improvements. a. Within the existing Highway 395 right of way along the project's frontage, configure the northbound approach as shown on the conceptual geometric plan in Figure ES- 1 included in the Traffic Study. The configuration should accommodate a left turn lane, two through lanes, and an exclusive right turn lane on the northbound approach of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue. In the conceptual geometric plan, a Class II bike lane is provided between the right turn lane and the through lane. b. Within the existing Auburn Avenue right of way along the project's frontage, configure the westbound approach as shown on the conceptual geometric plan in Figure ES- 2. The configuration should accommodate a left turn lane and a shared through-right turn lane on the westbound approach of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue. c. Construct Auburn Avenue east of Highway 395 to include curb, gutter, two-way left turn lane, and sidewalk and driveways as shown on the conceptual geometric plan.

Mitigation Measure No. 3 (Transportation). Improvements at the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue include configuring the southbound approach as shown on the conceptual geometric plan in Figure ES- 1 included in the Traffic Study. The configuration should accommodate a left turn lane, a through lane, and a shared through-right turn lane.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on tribal cultural resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k).

- The proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is: ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

The proposed project would involve the construction and operation of a commercial shopping center development in the City of Adelanto. The proposed project would total five individual parcels (subdivided from the current four parcels) totaling 11.81 acres. Parcel A would be a 5,866 square foot convenience store with a 956 square foot upper-level office with 44 parking spaces. Parcel B would be a 3,400 square feet drive-thru restaurant with 39 parking spaces. Parcel C would be a 10,500 square foot multi-tenant retail building with 42 parking spaces, a 16,702 square foot supermarket with 80 parking spaces, and another 9,620 square foot multi-tenant retail building with 39 parking spaces. Parcel D would be a 5,577 square feet automated carwash with 6 parking spaces. Parcel E would be a 68,054 square foot three-story hotel (100 rooms) with 158 parking spaces.[72] A Tribal Resource is defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 and includes the following:

- Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following: included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
- A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision I of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision I of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.
- A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of subdivision (a) is a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape.
- A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a "non-unique archaeological resource" as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms to the criteria of subdivision (a).

Adherence to the standard condition presented in Subsection B under Cultural Resources will minimize potential impacts to levels that are less than significant. The project site is located on recognized Yuhaaviatam/Maarenga'yam (Serrano) ancestral territory.[73] The site is also within an area of the City that has been disturbed due to adjacent development and there is a limited likelihood that artifacts would be encountered. The proposed project's construction would involve shallow excavation for the installation of building footings, utility lines, three USTs, and other underground infrastructure. Ground disturbance would involve grading and earth-clearing activities for the installation of the grass and landscaping and other on-site improvements. In addition, the proposed project area is not located within an area that is typically associated with habitation sites, foraging areas, ceremonial sites, or burials. Nevertheless,

[72] Steeno Design Studios. Highway 395 & Auburn Ave Adelanto Commercial Development, Site Plan. May 2023.

[73] Native Land.ca. Website Accessed October 26, 2022.

mitigation was provided in the previous subsection. *With the implementation of the mitigation measure found in subsection B of Cultural Resources, impacts would be reduced to levels that would be less than significant.*

i). *Would the listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), ● No Impact.*

Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following: included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1. The project site is not listed in the Register. *As a result, no impacts would occur.*

ii). *Would the project have a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1 In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe? ● Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a "non-unique archaeological resource" as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms to the criteria of subdivision (a). *As a result, there will be a less than significant impact with mitigation.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures are required as a means to reduce potential tribal cultural resources impacts to levels that are less than significant:

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 1. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the City of Adelanto that a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist has been retained by the Project Applicant to conduct monitoring of excavation activities and has the authority to halt and redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected paleontological resources are unearthed.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 2. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall conduct full-time monitoring during grading and excavation operations in undisturbed, very old alluvial fan sediments at or below four (4) feet below ground surface and shall be equipped to salvage fossils if they are unearthed to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow the removal of abundant and large specimens in a timely manner. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present in the subsurface, or if present, are determined upon

exposure and examination by qualified archaeologist/paleontologist personnel to have a low potential to contain or yield fossil resources.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 3. Recovered specimens shall be properly prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including screen washing sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates, if necessary. Identification and curation of specimens into a professional, accredited public museum repository with a commitment to archival conservation and permanent retrievable storage, such as the San Bernardino County Museum in San Bernardino, California, is required for significant discoveries. The archaeologist/paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to initiation of mitigation activities.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 4. A final monitoring and mitigation report of findings and significance shall be prepared, including lists of all fossils recovered, if any, and necessary maps and graphics to accurately record the original location of the specimens. The report shall be submitted to the City of Adelanto prior to building finalization.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?			✖	
B. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?			✖	
C. Would the project result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			✖	
D. Would the project generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?			✖	
E. Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on utilities if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects.
- The proposed project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years.
- The proposed project would result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the proposed project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.
- The proposed project would generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals.
- The proposed project would negatively impact the provision of solid waste services or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals.
- The proposed project would comply with Federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

There are no existing water or wastewater treatment plants, electric power plants, telecommunications facilities, natural gas facilities, or stormwater drainage infrastructure located on-site. Therefore, the project's implementation will not require the relocation of any of the aforementioned facilities. The project site is currently undeveloped and undisturbed. *As a result, the potential impacts would be less than significant.*

B. *Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

The City of Adelanto Water Department (AWD) provides water service and wastewater service to approximately 27,139 residents of Adelanto. The AWD employs a staff of twelve to manage and maintain the Department and its water resources. The Director of Public Utilities and the five-member Public Utilities Authority are responsible for providing adequate water services to the City. According to the City's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan, the City is projected to have an adequate supply of water to meet the increase in demand. In addition, the City is projected to have enough water to meet demand during a single dry year, and a multiple dry year scenario.[74] The anticipated water demand (39,789 gallons/day) for the proposed project is summarized in Table 3-6, The applicant will need a letter from the Adelanto Water Department (VWD) in order to ensure water can be served to the site. The proposed project will be required to implement all pertinent water conservation measures. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

Table 3-6
Projected Water Consumption

Project Element	Consumption Rate	Project Consumption
Office (956 sq. ft.)	0.3 gals./day/sq. ft.	287 gals./day
Automated Carwash (15 gals./assuming 70 cars)	15 gals/car	1,050 gals /day
Convenience Store (5,886 sq. ft.)	0.15 gals./day/sq. ft.	883 gals./day
Shopping Center (36,822 sq. ft.)	0.5 gals./day/sq. ft.	18,411 gals. /day
Drive Thru Restaurant (3,400 sq. ft.)	0.12 gals./day/sq. ft.	408 gals. /day
Hotel (100 Rooms)	187.50 gals./day/Room.	18,750 gals. /day
Total		39,789 gals./day

Source: Steeno Design Studios. Highway 395 & Auburn Ave Adelanto Commercial Development, Site Plan. May 2023.

[74] City of Adelanto. *2015 Urban Water Management Plan*. Report dated June 22, 2016 .

C. *Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

Table 3-7 indicates the proposed projects anticipated effluent generation rate. The City operates a 1.5-million-gallons-per-day activated sludge wastewater treatment facility through an operations and maintenance contract with PERC Water Corporation. In addition to operations, PERC performs routine collection system cleaning, sewage spill response and cleanup, and industrial sewage pretreatment program. The City is currently constructing a 2.5-million-gallons-per-day upgrade that will increase wastewater treatment capabilities to 4.0 million gallons per day and produce treated water that can be used for lawn/public parks irrigation, construction and dust control and other beneficial uses. *As a result, the impacts are expected to be less than significant.*

Table 3-7
Projected Effluent Generation

Project Element	Generation Rate	Project Generation
Office (956 sq. ft.)	0.20 gals. /day/sq. ft.	191 gals. /day
Automated Carwash (70 cars/day)	0.15 gals/car	10.5 gals. /day
Convenience Store (5,886 sq. ft.)	0.10 gals. /day/sq. ft.	589 gals. /day
Shopping Center (36,822 sq. ft.)	0.33 gals. /day/sq. ft.	12,152 gals. /day
Drive Thru Restaurant (3,400 sq. ft.)	0.08 gals. /day/sq. ft.	272 gals. /day
Hotel (100 Rooms)	125 gals. /day/Room	12,500 gals. /day
Total		25,714 gals. /day

Source: Steeno Design Studios. Highway 395 & Auburn Ave Adelanto Commercial Development, Site Plan. May 2023.

D. *Would the project generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals? ● Less than Significant Impact.*

Table 3-8 indicates the proposed projects anticipated solid waste generation rate. The City of Adelanto utilizes the Adelanto Landfill for solid waste disposal. This landfill is operated by the Solid Waste Management Division of the San Bernardino County Public Works Department in accordance with a Waste Disposal Agreement between the City and the County. The Adelanto landfill currently operates on 67-acres of a total 491-acre property with a capacity of 1,180 tons per day. With a planned expansion, as summarized in a Joint Technical Document prepared by the Solid Waste Management Division, the overall capacity will rise to 3,000 tons per day by expanding from a 67-acre operation to an approximately 341-acre operation. The planned expansion and additional daily acceptance capabilities, as well as the required construction waste management plan enforced during construction will accommodate the proposed solid waste generation. Other conventional solid waste may be handled by commercial waste disposal companies. *As a result, the potential impacts would be less than significant.*

Table 3-8
Projected Solid Waste Generation

Project Element	Generation Rate	Project Generation
Office (956 sq. ft.)	6 lbs./day/1,000 sq. ft.	5.7 lbs./day
Automated Carwash (5,577 sq. ft.)	42 lbs./day/1,000 sq. ft.	234.2 lbs./day
Convenience Store (5,886 sq. ft.)	42 lbs./day/1,000 sq. ft.	247.2 lbs./day
Shopping Center (36,822 sq. ft.)	6 lbs./day/1,000 sq. ft.	221 bs./day
Drive Thru Restaurant (3,400 sq. ft.)	42 lbs./day/1,000 sq. ft.	143 lbs./day
Hotel (100 Rooms)	6 lbs./day/room	600 lbs./day
Total		1,451 lbs./day

Source: Steeno Design Studios. Highway 395 & Auburn Ave Adelanto Commercial Development, Site Plan. May 2023.

E. *Would the project comply with Federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? ● No Impact.*

The proposed project, like all other development in Adelanto and San Bernardino County, would be required to adhere to City and County ordinances with respect to waste reduction and recycling. *As a result, no impacts related to State and local statutes governing solid waste are anticipated.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of utilities impacts indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed project's approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation is required.

3.20 WILDFIRE

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✖
B. Would the project due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				✖
C. Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				✖
D. Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				✖

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on wildfire risk and hazards if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would, if located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

- The proposed project would, if located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.

- The proposed project would, if located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.

- The proposed project would, if located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? ● No Impact.*

Vehicular access would be provided by new driveway connections along US-395. Surface streets that will be improved at construction will serve the project site and adjacent area. Furthermore, the proposed project would not involve the closure or alteration of any existing evacuation routes that would be important in the event of a wildfire. At no time during construction will adjacent streets be completely closed to traffic. All construction staging must occur on-site. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? ● No Impact.*

The project site is located in the midst of an undeveloped area. The proposed project may be exposed to particulate emissions generated by wildland fires in the mountains (the site is located approximately 20 miles north and northwest of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains). However, the potential impacts would not be exclusive to the project site since criteria pollutant emissions from wildland fires may affect the entire City as well as the surrounding cities and unincorporated county areas. *As a result, no impacts would occur.*

C. *Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? ● No Impact.*

The project site is not located in an area that is classified as a moderate fire risk severity within a State Responsibility Area (SRA), and therefore will not require the installation of specialized infrastructure such *as fire roads, fuel breaks, or emergency water sources. As a result, no impacts would occur.*

D. *Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? ● No Impact.*

There is no risk from wildfire within the project site or the surrounding area given the project site's distance from any area that may be subject to a wildfire event. In addition, the site is not located within a moderate fire risk and state responsibility area. Therefore, the project will not expose future employees to flooding or landslides facilitated by runoff flowing down barren and charred slopes. *As a result, no impacts would occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of wildfires impacts indicated that less than significant impacts would result from the proposed project's approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation is required.

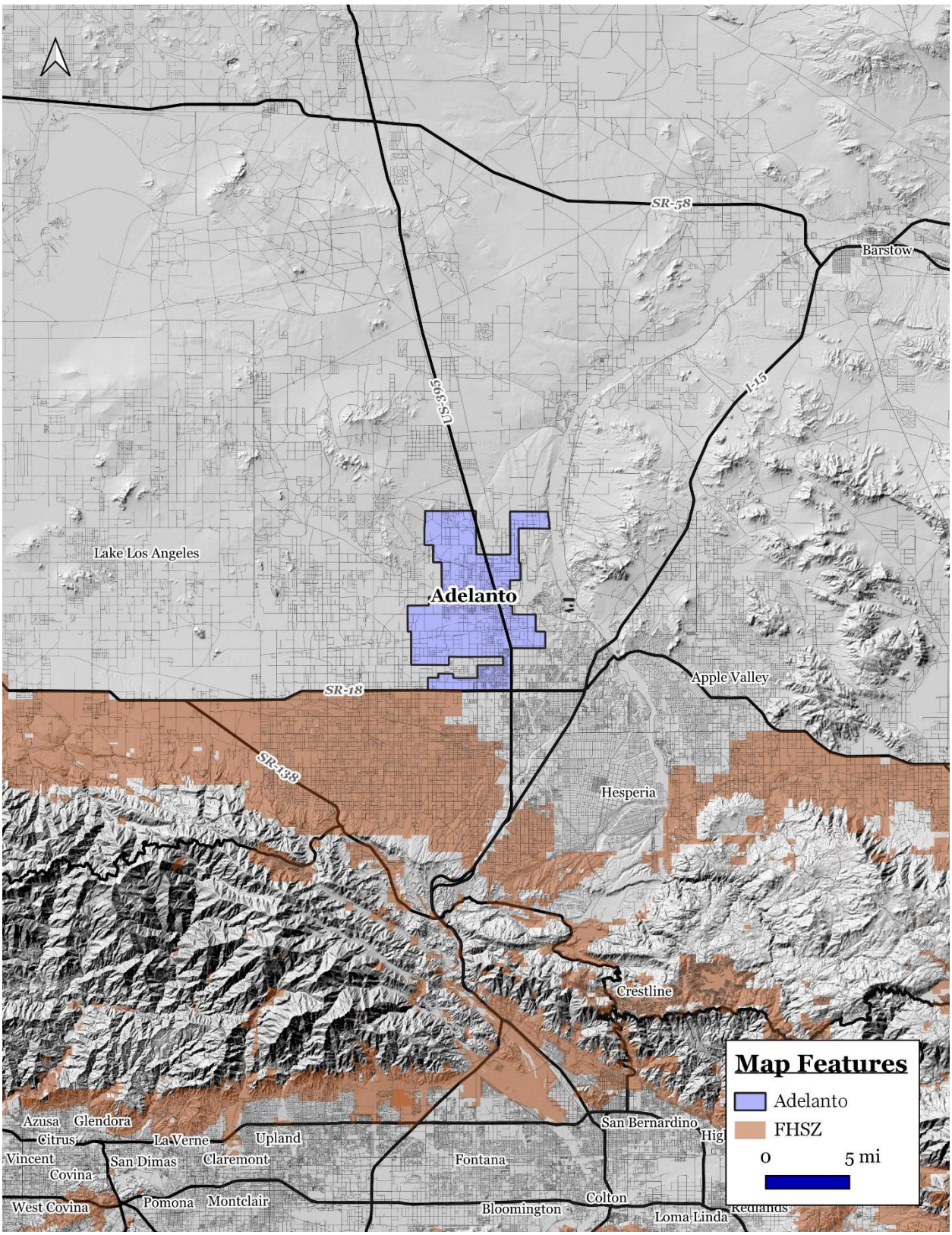

EXHIBIT 3-7 FHSZ MAP

SOURCE: CALFIRE

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				✖
B. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				✖
C. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				✖

The following findings can be made regarding the Mandatory Findings of Significance set forth in Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines based on the results of this environmental assessment:

A. The proposed project *will not* have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. As indicated in Section 3.1 through 3.20, the proposed project will not result in any significant unmitigable environmental impacts.

B. The proposed project *will not* have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The environmental impacts will not lead to a cumulatively significant impact on any of the issues analyzed herein.

C. The proposed project *will not* have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. As indicated in Section 3.1 through 3.20, the proposed project will not result in any significant unmitigable environmental impacts.

SECTION 4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 FINDINGS

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project is not expected to have significant adverse environmental impacts. The following findings can be made regarding the Mandatory Findings of Significance set forth in Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines based on the results of this Initial Study:

- The proposed project *will not* have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- The proposed project *will not* have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
- The proposed project *will not* have environmental effects which will cause substantially adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

4.2 MITIGATION MONITORING

In addition, pursuant to Section 21081(a) of the Public Resources Code, findings must be adopted by the decision-maker coincidental to the approval of a Negative Declaration. These findings shall be incorporated as part of the decision-maker's findings of fact, in response to AB-3180 and in compliance with the requirements of the Public Resources Code. In accordance with the requirements of Section 21081(a) and 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code, the City of Adelanto can make the following additional findings:

The following mitigation measures have been incorporated herein to further reduce the potential air quality impacts to levels that are less than significant.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 1. The Applicant shall prepare and submit to the MDAQMD, prior to commencing earth-moving activity, a dust control plan that describes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented at the project;

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 2. The Applicant shall ensure that signage, compliant with Rule 403 Attachment, is erected at each project site entrance not later than the commencement of construction.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 3. The Applicant shall ensure the use of a water truck to maintain moist disturbed surfaces and actively spread water during visible dusting episodes to minimize visible fugitive dust emissions. For projects with exposed sand or fines deposits (and for projects that expose such soils through earthmoving), chemical stabilization or covering with a stabilizing layer of gravel will be required to eliminate visible dust/sand from sand/fines deposits.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 4. All perimeter fencing shall be wind fencing or the equivalent, to a minimum of four feet of height or the top of all perimeter fencing. The owner/operator shall maintain the wind fencing as needed to keep it intact and remove windblown dropout. This wind fencing

requirement may be superseded by local ordinance, rule or project-specific biological mitigation prohibiting wind fencing.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 5. All maintenance and access vehicular roads and parking areas shall be stabilized with chemical, gravel or asphaltic pavement sufficient to eliminate visible fugitive dust from vehicular travel and wind erosion. Take actions to prevent project-related track out onto paved surfaces and clean any project-related track out within 24 hours. All other earthen surfaces within the project area shall be stabilized by natural or irrigated vegetation, compaction, chemical or other means.

The analysis of biological impacts determined that the following mitigation measures would be required to reduce the project's impacts to levels that would be less than significant.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 1.–Regardless of the time of year, a pre-construction survey shall be performed to verify absence of nesting birds. A qualified biologist shall conduct the pre-activity survey within the Project areas (including access routes) and a 500-foot buffer surrounding the Project areas, no more than three (3) days prior to the initiation of project activities, including, but not limited to clearing, grubbing, and/or rough grading to prevent impacts to birds and their nests. Pre-construction surveys shall focus on both direct and indirect evidence of nesting, including nest locations and nesting behavior. The qualified biologist shall make every effort to avoid potential nest predation as a result of survey and monitoring efforts. If nesting bird activity is present, a no disturbance buffer zone shall be established by the qualified biologist to be marked on the ground around each nest. The buffer shall be a minimum of 500 feet for raptors and 300 feet for songbirds, unless a smaller buffer is specifically determined by a qualified biologist familiar with the nesting phenology of the nesting species. The buffer areas shall be avoided until the nests are no longer occupied and the juvenile birds can survive independently from the nests. Active nest(s) and an established buffer distance(s) shall be monitored daily by the qualified biologist until the qualified biologist has determined the young have fledged or the Project has been completed. The qualified biologist has the authority to stop work if nesting pairs exhibit signs of disturbance. If there is no nesting activity, then no further action is needed for this measure.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 2. Prior to grading or any other ground-disturbing activity, a pre-construction burrowing owl clearance survey must be conducted in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation, State of California Natural Resource Agency, Department of Fish and Game, May 7, 2012, by a qualified biologist within 30 days prior to the beginning of project activities. A secondary survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist within 24 hours prior to the beginning of project construction to determine if the project site contains burrowing owl or sign thereof to avoid any potential impacts to the species. The surveys shall include 100 percent coverage of the project site. If both surveys reveal no burrowing owls are present or sign thereof, no additional actions related to this measure are required and a letter shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the survey. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW prior to construction. If occupied active burrows or sign thereof are found within the development footprint during the pre-construction clearance survey, Biological Resources Mitigation Measure 3 shall also apply.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 3. If active burrows or signs thereof are found within the development footprint during the pre-construction clearance surveys, site-specific non-disturbance buffer zones shall be established by the qualified biologist shall be no less than 300 feet If determined appropriate, a smaller buffer may be established by the qualified biologist following monitoring and assessments of the project's effects on the burrowing owls. If it is not possible to avoid active burrows, passive relocation shall be implemented if a qualified biologist has determined there are no nesting

owls and/or juvenile owls are no longer dependent on the burrows. A qualified biologist, in coordination with the applicant and the City, shall prepare and submit a passive relocation program in accordance with Appendix E (i.e., Example Components for Burrowing Owl Artificial Burrow and Exclusion Plans) of the CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012) for CDFW review/approval prior to the commencement of disturbance activities onsite and proposed mitigation for permanent loss of occupied burrow(s) and habitat consistent with the 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. When a qualified biologist determines that burrowing owls are no longer occupying the Project Site and passive relocation is complete, construction activities may begin. A final letter report shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the passive relocation. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW.

DFW has concerns that the Project is within the range of the CESA threatened Mohave ground squirrel (MGS), and the ISMND confirms the presence of burrows suitable for the species. However, the ISMND does not anticipate the presence of Mohave ground squirrel due to urbanization. Because CDFW is aware of an occurrence of Mohave ground squirrel burrow in the vicinity of the Project, CDFW is concerned that surveys were not performed to confirm presence. Therefore, CDFW recognizes the potential for Mohave ground squirrel at the start of construction and recommends pre-construction Mohave ground squirrel surveys and observations and requests the City adopt the following mitigation measures:

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 4. Pre-construction surveys following the Mohave Ground Squirrel Survey Guidelines (CDFG 2010) or most recent version shall be performed by a qualified biologist authorized by a Memorandum of Understanding issued by CDFW. The pre-construction surveys shall cover the Project Area and a 50-foot buffer zone. Should Mohave ground squirrel presence be confirmed during the survey, the Project Proponent should obtain an ITP for Mohave ground squirrel prior to the start of Project activities. CDFW shall be notified if Mohave ground squirrel presence is confirmed during the pre-construction survey. If a Mohave ground squirrel is observed during Project activities, and the Project Proponent does not have an ITP, all work shall immediately stop, and the observation shall be immediately reported to CDFW.

Desert Tortoise is a state-threatened, proposed endangered species, as such CDFW is concerned that the ISMND lacks a mitigation measure for pre-construction desert tortoise surveys, because the Project site is within the desert tortoise range and contains suitable habitat for desert tortoise: creosote bush scrub. To address potential direct/indirect impacts to desert tortoise, CDFW recommends the inclusion of the following mitigation measure prior to the City adopting the ISMND:

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 5. Prior to construction, a CDFW-approved biologist shall conduct a protocol level presence or absence survey within the Project area and 50-foot buffer no more than 48 hours prior to Project activities and after any pause in Project activities lasting 30 days or more during desert tortoise active season (April to May or September to October), in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2019 desert tortoise survey methodology. The survey shall utilize perpendicular survey routes and 100-percent visual coverage for desert tortoise and their sign. Results of the survey shall be submitted to CDFW. If the survey confirms absence, the CDFW approved biologist shall ensure desert tortoise do not enter the Project area. If the survey confirms presence, the Project proponent shall submit to CDFW for review and approval a desert tortoise-specific avoidance plan detailing the protective avoidance measures to be implemented to ensure complete avoidance of take (California Fish and Game Code Section 86 defines "take" as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill") to desert tortoise. If complete avoidance cannot be achieved, CDFW recommends Project proponent not undertake Project activities and Project activities be postponed until appropriate authorization (i.e., CESA ITP under Fish and Game Code section 2081) is obtained.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 6. Prior to project implementation, and during the appropriate season, the City shall conduct botanical field survey following protocols set forth in the Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities (CDFW 2018). The surveys shall be conducted by a CDFW-approved botanist(s) experienced in conducting floristic botanical field surveys, knowledgeable of plant taxonomy and plant community ecology and classification, familiar with the plants of the area, including special status and locally significant plants, and familiar with the appropriate state and federal statutes related to plants and plant collecting. The botanical field surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate time of year when plants will both be evident and identifiable (usually, during flowering or fruiting) and, in a manner, which maximizes the likelihood of locating special status plants and sensitive natural communities that may be present. Botanical field surveys shall be conducted floristic in nature, meaning that every plant taxon that occurs in the project area is identified to the taxonomic level necessary to determine rarity and listing status. If any rare plants or sensitive vegetation communities are identified, the City shall either avoid the occurrence, with an appropriate buffer, or mitigate the loss of the occurrence through the purchase of mitigation credits from a CDFW-approved bank or land acquisition and conservation at a minimum 3:1 (replacement-to-impact) ratio. Note that a higher ratio may be warranted if the proposed mitigation lands are located far away from the Project site (i.e., within a separate watershed) or is not occupied by or available to special status species. If the Project has the potential to impact a State-listed species, the City should apply for a California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 7. Prior to construction and issuance of any grading permit, the Project applicant should obtain written correspondence from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) stating that notification under section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code is not required for the Project, or the Project applicant should obtain a CDFW-executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, authorizing impacts to Fish and Game Code section 1602 resources associated with the Project.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 8. Prior to construction and issuance of any grading permit, the City of Adelanto shall develop a plan with measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the impacts of pesticides used in cannabis cultivation, including fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, and rodenticides. The plan should include, but is not limited to, the following elements: (1) Proper use, storage, and disposal of pesticides, in accordance with manufacturers' directions and warnings. (2) Avoidance of pesticide use where toxic runoff may pass into waters of the State, including ephemeral streams. (3) Avoidance of pesticides that cannot legally be used on cannabis in the state of California, as set forth by the Department of Pesticide Regulation. (4) Avoidance of anticoagulant rodenticides and rodenticides with "flavorizers." (5) Avoidance of sticky/glue traps. (6) Inclusion of alternatives to toxic rodenticides, such as sanitation (removing food sources like pet food, cleaning up refuse, and securing garbage in sealed containers) and physical barriers.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 9. Project construction shall not occur during the hours of dawn and dusk when many wildlife species are most active. To suppress Project noise, the Project shall implement the use of mufflers and all generators shall be enclosed.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 10. The following mitigation measures are applicable to the Joshua Trees that are present on the project site.

1. The Joshua trees will be retained in place or replanted somewhere on the site where they can remain in perpetuity or will be transplanted to an off-site area approved by the city where they

can remain in perpetuity. Joshua trees which are deemed not suitable for transplanting will be cut-up and discarded as per City requirements.

2. Earthen berms will be created around each tree by the biologist prior to excavation and the trees will be watered approximately one week before transplanting. Watering the trees prior to excavation will help make excavation easier, ensure the root ball will hold together, and minimize stress to the tree.

3. Each tree will be moved to a pre-selected location which has already been excavated and will be placed and oriented in the same direction as their original direction. The hole will be backfilled with native soil, and the transplanted tree will be immediately watered. As noted in Section 3.0, a numbered metal tag was placed on the north side of the trees and the trees were also flagged with surveyor's flagging. The biologist will develop a watering regimen to ensure the survival of the transplanted trees. The watering regimen will be based upon the needs of the trees and the local precipitation.[75]

Biological Resources Mitigation Measure No. 11. A comprehensive jurisdictional delineation may be required at a future date due to a possible downstream connection or nexus with a more significant body of water in order to determine if the channel meets the criteria as Waters of the State (WoS) and/or Waters of the U.S. (WoUS).

The following mitigation measures will be required to address potential cultural resources impacts:

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 1. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the City of Adelanto that a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist has been retained by the Project Applicant to conduct monitoring of excavation activities and has the authority to halt and redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected paleontological resources are unearthed.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 2. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall conduct full-time monitoring during grading and excavation operations in undisturbed, very old alluvial fan sediments at or below four (4) feet below ground surface and shall be equipped to salvage fossils if they are unearthed to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow the removal of abundant and large specimens in a timely manner. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present in the subsurface, or if present, are determined upon exposure and examination by qualified archaeologist/paleontologist personnel to have a low potential to contain or yield fossil resources.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 3. Recovered specimens shall be properly prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including screen washing sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates, if necessary. Identification and curation of specimens into a professional, accredited public museum repository with a commitment to archival conservation and permanent retrievable storage, such as the San Bernardino County Museum in San Bernardino, California, is required for significant discoveries. The archaeologist/paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to initiation of mitigation activities.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 4. A final monitoring and mitigation report of findings and significance shall be prepared, including lists of all fossils recovered, if any, and necessary maps and

[75] RCA Associates, Inc. Protected Plant Preservation Plan. Report dated May 24, 2022.

graphics to accurately record the original location of the specimens. The report shall be submitted to the City of Adelanto prior to building finalization.

The following mitigation measures will be required to address potential paleontological resources impacts:

Paleontological Mitigation Measure No. 1. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the City of Adelanto that a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist has been retained by the Project Applicant to conduct monitoring of excavation activities and has the authority to halt and redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected paleontological resources are unearthed.

Paleontological Mitigation Measure No. 2. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall conduct full-time monitoring during grading and excavation operations in undisturbed, very old alluvial fan sediments at or below four (4) feet below ground surface and shall be equipped to salvage fossils if they are unearthed to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow the removal of abundant and large specimens in a timely manner. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present in the subsurface, or if present, are determined upon exposure and examination by qualified archaeologist/paleontologist personnel to have a low potential to contain or yield fossil resources.

Paleontological Mitigation Measure No. 3. Recovered specimens shall be properly prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including screen washing sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates, if necessary. Identification and curation of specimens into a professional, accredited public museum repository with a commitment to archival conservation and permanent retrievable storage, such as the San Bernardino County Museum in San Bernardino, California, is required for significant discoveries. The archaeologist/paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to initiation of mitigation activities.

*Paleontological Mitigation Measure No. 4.*A final monitoring and mitigation report of findings and significance shall be prepared, including lists of all fossils recovered, if any, and necessary maps and graphics to accurately record the original location of the specimens. The report shall be submitted to the San Bernardino County Museum prior to building finalization.

The following mitigation will be required in order to further reduce construction noise:

Noise Mitigation Measure No. 1. The Applicant must ensure that the contractors use construction equipment that includes working mufflers and other sound suppression equipment as a means to reduce machinery noise.

To ensure the project's potential operational noise impacts are mitigated, the following mitigation measures must be implemented:

Noise Mitigation Measure No. 2. Loitering in the parking areas with attendant loud noise (radios, car noise, etc.) will not be permitted.

The analysis of potential impacts related to traffic and circulation indicated that the following mitigation measures would be required:

Mitigation Measure No. 1 (Transportation). The project will be required to install a traffic signal with northbound-southbound protected left turn phases, at the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue concurrent with the construction of the project.

Mitigation Measure No. 2 (Transportation). The project will be required to construct site and frontage improvements. a. Within the existing Highway 395 right of way along the project's frontage, configure

the northbound approach as shown on the conceptual geometric plan in Figure ES- 1 included in the Traffic Study. The configuration should accommodate a left turn lane, two through lanes, and an exclusive right turn lane on the northbound approach of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue. In the conceptual geometric plan, a Class II bike lane is provided between the right turn lane and the through lane. b. Within the existing Auburn Avenue right of way along the project's frontage, configure the westbound approach as shown on the conceptual geometric plan in Figure ES- 2. The configuration should accommodate a left turn lane and a shared through-right turn lane on the westbound approach of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue. c. Construct Auburn Avenue east of Highway 395 to include curb, gutter, two-way left turn lane, and sidewalk and driveways as shown on the conceptual geometric plan.

Mitigation Measure No. 3 (Transportation). Improvements at the intersection of Highway 395 and Auburn Avenue include configuring the southbound approach as shown on the conceptual geometric plan in Figure ES- 1 included in the Traffic Study. The configuration should accommodate a left turn lane, a through lane, and a shared through-right turn lane.

The following mitigation measures are required as a means to reduce potential tribal cultural resources impacts to levels that are less than significant:

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 1. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the City of Adelanto that a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist has been retained by the Project Applicant to conduct monitoring of excavation activities and has the authority to halt and redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected paleontological resources are unearthed.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 2. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall conduct full-time monitoring during grading and excavation operations in undisturbed, very old alluvial fan sediments at or below four (4) feet below ground surface and shall be equipped to salvage fossils if they are unearthed to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow the removal of abundant and large specimens in a timely manner. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present in the subsurface, or if present, are determined upon exposure and examination by qualified archaeologist/paleontologist personnel to have a low potential to contain or yield fossil resources.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 3. Recovered specimens shall be properly prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including screen washing sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates, if necessary. Identification and curation of specimens into a professional, accredited public museum repository with a commitment to archival conservation and permanent retrievable storage, such as the San Bernardino County Museum in San Bernardino, California, is required for significant discoveries. The archaeologist/paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to initiation of mitigation activities.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 4. A final monitoring and mitigation report of findings and significance shall be prepared, including lists of all fossils recovered, if any, and necessary maps and graphics to accurately record the original location of the specimens. The report shall be submitted to the City of Adelanto prior to building finalization.

SECTION 5. REFERENCES

5.1 PREPARERS

Blodgett Baylosis Environmental Planning
2211 S Hacienda Boulevard, Suite 107
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
(626) 336-0033

Raymond Wen, Project Planner
Marc Blodgett, Project Principal
Alice Ye, Business Developer

5.2 REFERENCES

The references that were consulted have been identified using footnotes.

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