CITY OF WILLIAMS
GENERAL PLAN PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT
INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION

JULY 2023

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D e N o v o P l a n n i n g G r o u p

A Land Use Planning, Design, and Environmental Firm

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Public Review Draft

Initial Study/Negative Declaration

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July 2023

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND REQUIREMENTS

This Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Sections 21000, et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations Title 14 Sections 15000, et seq.). This Initial Study is an informational document intended to be used as a decision-making tool for the Lead Agency and responsible agencies in considering and acting on the proposed Project.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, the City, as Lead Agency, has prepared this Initial Study to determine if the proposed General Plan Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element (Project) would have a significant effect on the environment. If, as a result of the Initial Study, the Lead Agency finds that there is evidence that mitigation cannot reduce the impact to a less than significant level for any aspect of the proposed Project, then the Lead Agency must prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze project-related and cumulative environmental impacts. Alternatively, if the Lead Agency finds that there is no evidence that the Project, as proposed, may cause a significant effect on the environment, the Lead Agency may prepare a Negative Declaration (ND). If the Lead Agency finds that there is evidence of a significant impact, but the impact can be reduced through mitigation, the Lead Agency may prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). Such determination can be made only if "there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the Lead Agency" that such significant environmental impacts may occur (PRC Section 21080(c)).

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c), the purposes of an Initial Study are to:

1. Provide the Lead Agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an EIR or a Negative Declaration;
2. Enable an applicant or Lead Agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling the project to qualify for a Negative Declaration;
3. Assist in the preparation of an EIR, if one is required, by;
    a. Focusing the EIR on the effects determined to be significant,
    b. Identifying the effects determined not to be significant,
    c. Explaining the reasons for determining that potentially significant effects would not be significant, and
    d. Identifying whether a program EIR, tiering, or another appropriate process can be used for analysis of the project's environment effects.
4. Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of a project;
5. Provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in a Negative Declaration that a project will not have a significant effect on the environment;
6. Eliminate unnecessary EIRs; and
7. Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used with the project.

The environmental documentation, which is ultimately selected by the City in accordance with CEQA, is intended as an informational document undertaken to provide an environmental basis for subsequent discretionary actions upon the proposed Project. The resulting environmental documentation is not, however, a policy document and its approval and/or certification neither presupposes nor mandates any actions on the part of those agencies from whom permits and other discretionary approvals would be required.

1.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15367, the City of Williams (City), as the Lead Agency, has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project and will decide whether an EIR or Negative Declaration will be required for the project and will cause the document to be prepared. As set forth in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a public agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed Negative Declaration (IS/ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for a project subject to CEQA when:

- The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment (resulting in a Negative Declaration), or

- The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects, but:
    - Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by the applicant before a proposed mitigated negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
    - There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment (resulting in a Mitigated Negative Declaration).

Based on the Environmental Checklist Form and supporting environmental analysis provided in Section 4.0, *Environmental Analysis*, the proposed Project would have no impact or a less than significant impact concerning all environmental issue areas.

1.3 PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Negative Declaration has been provided to the Clerk of Colusa County and mailed to responsible agencies and trustee agencies concerned with the Project and other public agencies with jurisdiction by law over resources affected by the Project. A 30-day public review period has been established for the IS/ND in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15073. During the public review period, the IS/ND was made available for review at the following location:

- City of Williams Website:

    https://www.cityofwilliams.org

In reviewing the IS/ND, affected public agencies and interested members of the public should focus on the document's adequacy in identifying and analyzing the potential environmental impacts and the ways in which the Project's potentially significant effects can be avoided or mitigated.

Written comments on this IS/ND may be sent to:

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Following receipt and evaluation of comments from agencies, organizations, and/or individuals, the City will determine whether any substantial new environmental issues have been raised, and if further documentation may be required. If no new environmental issues have been raised or if the issues raised do not provide substantial evidence that the Project would have a significant effect on the environment, the IS/ND will be considered for adoption and the Project for approval.

1.4 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15150, a Negative Declaration may incorporate by reference all or portions of another document which is a matter of public record or is generally available to the public. Where all or part of another document is incorporated by reference, the incorporated language shall be set forth in full as part of the Negative Declaration's text.

The documents outlined below, which were utilized during preparation of this Negative Declaration and are a matter of public record, are hereby incorporated by reference.

Williams General Plan

The City Council comprehensively adopted the City of Williams 2010 General Plan on June 20, 2012 (Resolution 12-15). The General Plan is a comprehensive legal document that sets forth the City's long-range planning policies and serves as the guiding document for achieving the community's vision for the future. The General Plan contains policies to guide land use and development and is organized into the following seven elements, in compliance with the mandatory "elements" required by California Government Code Section 65302: Land Use and Character, Public Safety, Public Facilities, Noise, Open Space and Conservation, Circulation, and Housing elements. The Public Safety Element Update and new Environmental Justice Element are the subject of this Negative Declaration.

As shown in General Plan Figure 2.2 and Table 2.2, population forecasts utilized for the General Plan yielded a range of growth between 7,664 and 12,048 residents by the year 2030. The midpoint of these projections, 9,822 persons, was used as the expected population by 2030 for the Williams Land Use and Character Element.

Williams General Plan EIR

On June 20, 2012, the City certified the Final Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Williams General Plan Update (SCH #2010072071) (Final EIR) and adopted the 2010 General Plan (Williams 2010 General Plan EIR). The Final EIR analyzed potential environmental impacts associated with future development in the City allowed under the proposed Land Use and Character Element. The Final EIR's analysis is based on the change between development under existing conditions (at the time of document preparation) and likely development projected in accordance with the General Plan. Based on General

Plan population projections, the Final EIR assumed and analyzed the environmental impacts resulting from an additional 4,535 persons, resulting in a projected population of 9,822 persons. With the implementation of General Plan policies and programs, the Final EIR concluded that all impacts, with the exception of agricultural resources (Impact 4.12.1, loss of prime farmland), air quality (Impacts 4.5.2 and 4.5.3, violation of air quality standards; Impact 4.5.6, greenhouse gas emissions and climate change), noise (Impact 4.6.3, increases in traffic noise levels), and energy (Impact 4.16.2, additional energy infrastructure) can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for the significant and unavoidable impacts. The environmental review undertaken for the City of Williams General Plan Update does not eliminate the requirements for any subsequent environmental review for development arising from the General Plan's implementation.

Williams Municipal Code

The City of Williams Municipal Code consists of the City's regulatory and penal ordinances, and certain administrative ordinances. The City's Zoning Code is codified into Title 17, *Zoning*. The purpose of the Zoning Code is to divide the City into zoning districts and set out which uses of land are permitted by right, conditionally permitted, and prohibited in each zoning district. It also provides limitations, separation, and special bulk standards for certain uses.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 BACKGROUND

California Government Code Section 65300 et seq. requires all counties and cities to prepare and maintain a general plan for the long-term growth, development, and management of the land within the jurisdiction's planning boundaries. The general plan must include land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, air quality, noise, safety, and environmental justice elements, as specified in Government Code Section 65302, to the extent that the issues identified by State law exist in the City's planning area. At the discretion of each jurisdiction, the general plan may combine these elements and may add optional elements relevant to the physical features of the jurisdiction. The general plan acts as a "constitution" for development and is the jurisdiction's lead legal document in relation to growth, development, and resource management issues. Development regulations (e.g., zoning and subdivision standards) are required by law to be consistent with the general plan.

The California Government Code §65302 asserts that "The general plan shall include….a safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction; and other seismic hazards…and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding; and wildland and urban fires. The safety element shall include mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, military installations, peakload water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire and geologic hazards." Additionally, the Safety Element is required to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the City.

The California Government Code §65302 asserts that "The general plan shall include….an environmental justice element, or related goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, that identifies disadvantaged communities within the area covered by the general plan of the city, county, or city and county, if the city, county, or city and county has a disadvantaged community. The environmental justice element, or related environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, shall do all of the following:

(A) Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.

(B) Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process.

(C) Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

The City of Williams is located in the Sacramento Valley between the first foothills of the Coast Range on the west and the Colusa Basin on the east. The City exists as a node of development along Interstate 5 in

Colusa County (County), approximately 70 miles northwest of Sacramento in California's Central Valley Region; refer to Figure 1, *Regional Location*. Regional access is provided by Interstate 5 (I-5), which runs in a north-south direction, and State Route 20 (SR-20), which runs in an east-west direction. The Planning Area for the Williams General Plan consists of the corporate limits of the City as well as land in unincorporated Colusa County within the City's Sphere of Influence (SOI); refer to Figure 2, *General Plan Planning Area*. The City is a growing agricultural community with a present-day population of approximately 5,568 people.[1] The City is a free-standing community, meaning that it surrounded by open, agricultural lands, with the nearest communities of Maxwell, Colusa, and Arbuckle being eight miles north, 11 miles east, and 12 miles south, respectively.

The City of Williams 2010 General Plan was adopted in 2012 and is a comprehensive, long-range plan that guides the City and serve as its constitution. The City's General Plan contains seven elements: Land Use and Character, Public Safety, Public Facilities, Noise, Open Space and Conservation, Circulation, and Housing.

The City's land uses are designated for agricultural, residential, commercial, business park, and industrial uses at varying levels of density and intensity. The pattern of development is oriented along the major corridors, including mostly industrial and limited commercial development adjacent to I-5 and the California Northern Railroad alignments downtown, retail/office and public uses along 7th Street both north and south of E Street, and street-oriented commercial uses along E Street extending from 11th Street across I-5 to the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation Canal. There are industrial and agriculture-industrial uses to the southeast along Husted Road. The community is surrounded by agricultural lands. The remaining areas of the community are residentially developed with mostly single-family detached dwellings, together with a few attached and multiple family dwellings (including duplexes, senior living, migrant housing, and apartments). Figure 3, *General Plan Land Use Map*, and Figure 4, *Zoning Map*, show the existing land uses and zoning for the City of Williams.

The City's Public Safety Element contains policies and actions for the purpose of protecting the community and its residents, as well as its structures, properties, and infrastructure, from any risks associated with the effects of natural or manmade hazards, including: flooding; seismic and geologic hazards; structural fires and wildfires; police protection services; and hazardous materials. The Public Safety Element identifies the various threats to the health and safety of the community, and addresses them with both short-term and long-range solutions that will be proactive in an effort to prevent the occurrence of unnecessary disasters, while also protecting against the loss of life, property, and resources should one occur.

2.3 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The City of Williams is proposing an update to its existing General Plan Public Safety Element and the addition of an Environmental Justice Element. The proposed amendment would not modify the City of Williams General Plan Land Use Map, land use designations, or intensities/densities identified within the General Plan Land Use and Character Element. Further, no changes to the maximum development

[1] California Department of Finance (DOF), *Report E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, and Counties, and the State, January 2021-2023*, May 2023.

potential approved for the General Plan and analyzed in the General Plan Final EIR would occur with the proposed amendment.

2.3.1 Public Safety Element

In compliance with State Law, the City of Williams has prepared an update to its Safety Element to further address fire hazards, emergency preparedness, and climate change and resiliency. Proposed updates to the City's Public Safety Element will meet the requirements of California Government Code Section 65302(g) as updated by Senate Bills 1241, 379, 99, and 1035 and will incorporate information from the Colusa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (pursuant to SB 379), as well as other relevant planning documents, such as the Colusa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The Public Safety Element addresses potential and existing hazards in the City, which are outlined in the following categories: Flood Protection; Seismic and Geologic Hazards; Fire Protection Services; Police Protection Services; and Hazardous Materials. Updates to the Public Safety Element are largely focused on the topics of flood protection, fire protection and wildfire, emergency preparedness, and climate change and resiliency. The Safety Element addresses these potential issues with goals, policies, and actions to continue to serve and protect Williams and its residents.

Public Safety Element Organization

The Public Safety Element includes an introduction and stated Purpose of the Element, followed by the following topical areas: Flood Protection; Seismic and Geologic Hazards; Fire Protection Services; Police Protection Services; Hazardous Materials; and Climate Change and Resiliency Planning. Each topical area contains a description of existing conditions, key future planning considerations, and the context of each topical area. Policies and actions pertaining to each topical area are identified at the end of each subsection.

Summary of Public Safety Element Modifications

Minor updates to the introduction section were made to reflect changes to the Public Safety Element and updates to the existing regulatory environment that have occurred since the existing Element's adoption in 2012. A new section was added to discuss the relationship between the Public Safety Element and the Colusa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

Within the Flood Protection section, revisions were made to address areas of special flood hazard and updated flood hazard mapping, as well as the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. Two figures were added to the Flood Protection section: Figure PS-1, FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer Map, depicts areas of the City located within the 100-year and 500-year floodplain as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and Figure PS-2, State Plan of Flood Control Facility Locations, shows approximate locations of federal and State flood damage reduction projects within the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Watersheds that are included in the State Plan of Flood Control. The Flood Protection section has also been updated to include a discussion of the Emergency Evacuation Assessment conducted in compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 99. The Emergency Evacuation Assessment is presented as an Appendix to the Public Safety Element. Minor and substantive additions were made to policies and actions related to Flood Protection, as described below.

Within the Fire Protection Services section, the fire hazards discussion was updated to include current information regarding Fire Hazard Severity Zones mapped by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). One figure within the Fire Protection Services section was added: Figure PS-3,

CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones, shows fire hazard severity zones in State Responsibility Areas and Local Responsibility Areas, as mapped by CAL FIRE. The fire hazards discussion was also updated to include current information related to the Colusa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, as well as updates to the fire facilities development fee. Minor and substantive additions were made to policies and actions related to Fire Protection Services, as described below.

A new section related to Climate Change and Resiliency was added to the Public Safety Element. This new section references and identifies regional impacts from the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment conducted as part of the County LHMP. New policies and actions were added related to Climate Change and Resiliency, as described below.

No goals, policies or actions from the current Public Safety Element were eliminated as part of the update. The following modifications and additions were made:

Flood Protection

- Proposed Policy 4.16. Maintain the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding.
- Proposed Policy 4.17. Locate, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of flood hazard zones, including hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities. If these facilities are located in flood hazard zones, use construction or other methods to minimize damage.
- Proposed Policy 4.18. Maintain communication with flood control districts regarding regional flood facilities and the potential future need to expand the capacity of flood control facilities based on changing flood conditions associated with climate change and extreme weather.
- Modified Action 4.f. Identify Best Management Practices (BMPs), particularly construction site storm water runoff control and post-construction storm water management, to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the storm water system. These should be integrated as standards into the City's subdivision regulations.
- Modified Action 4.g. Through improved land development practices and regulations, adhere to a hierarchy for managing storm water with the following priorities: minimize impervious surfaces, attenuate flows by use of open, vegetated swales and natural depressions and preserve existing natural stream channels, infiltrate runoff, provide storm water retention and then detention structures, provide velocity dissipation structures or channel design, and construct storm sewers.
- Proposed Action 4.k. Communicate with FEMA periodically regarding updates to Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Letter of Map Revisions. Monitor changes in federal and State laws and regulations related to local flood protection, including the National Flood Insurance Program and incorporate necessary changes into the Municipal Code and building codes as required and ensure that the City's regulations require that new development within flood hazard zones is consistent with this Public Safety Element and is required to meet the flood protection requirements of State law, including but not limited to Government Code Sections 65007, 65865.5, 65962 and 66474.5.
- Proposed Action 4.l. Disseminate information on flooding, flood control on private property, floodplains, and flood preparedness to the public.
- Modified Action 4.o. Investigate the feasibility of the flood mitigation alternatives outlined in the Flood Hazard Mitigation Study. The structural alternatives include improving the conveyance capacity of Freshwater and Salt Creeks and the supporting network of drainage laterals, constructing diversion dams to channel flows away from the City, constructing flood detention

and multi-purpose flood retention reservoirs, constructing a levee along the western City limits, elevating the existing grade to include the levee height at roadway crossings, incorporating removeable floodwall sections, making internal drainage improvements, and retrofitting existing structures. The non-structural alternatives include land acquisition, cropland storage, channel restoration, upland revegetation, and improved maintenance of stream channels.

- Modified Action 4.s. In accordance with California Government Code Sections 65302.9 and 65860.1, each time the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) is updated, the City will review, and if necessary amend, this Public Safety Element and the Zoning Code, to ensure that they are consistent with the CVFPP.

Fire Protection Services

- Modified Policy 4.29. The City will support the construction of a second WFPA fire station on the east side of I-5.
- Proposed Policy 4.30. Require visible street signs and safe access for emergency response vehicles in new development.
- Proposed Policy 4.31. Require that all buildings and facilities comply with local, state, and federal regulatory standards such as the California Building and Fire Codes as well as other applicable fire safety standards.
- Proposed Policy 4.32. Work with CAL FIRE/WFPA to maintain an ongoing fire inspection program to reduce fire hazards associated with multifamily development, critical facilities, public assembly facilities, industrial buildings, and nonresidential buildings.
- Proposed Policy 4.33. Coordinate with CAL FIRE/WFPA to identify any changes in regional fire hazard severity zones to further reduce fire hazards in the community the community.
- Proposed Policy 4.34. Restrict the use of fire-prone building materials in areas defined by the WFPA as presenting high-conflagration risk.
- Proposed Policy 4.35. Work with WFPA to disseminate educational programs for residents on fire hazard risks and fire safety measures, including evacuation routes, with a special focus on at-risk populations such as seniors.
- Proposed Policy 4.36. Uphold locally and regionally adopted fire protection plans, including the Colusa County LHMP, and regularly renew such plans as new information becomes available.
- Modified Action 4.y. Provide assistance to the WFPA with coordination with the Colusa County Office of Emergency Services when updating the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This should be done at least every 5 years to reflect current community needs, and to ensure the City continues to receive federal FEMA mitigation assistance.
- Modified Action 4.ee. Support the construction of a second WFPA fire station on the east side of I-5.
- Proposed Action 4.ff. Mitigate, as feasible, existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards where feasible, including road standards and vegetative hazards.
- Proposed Action 4.gg. Require that all new habitable structures be designed in accordance with the most recent California Building and Fire Code with local amendments adopted by the City, including the use of fire sprinklers.
- Proposed Action 4.hh. Work with Colusa County to develop a comprehensive fire plan which forecasts future personnel and equipment needs and require new development to pay its pro-rata share of costs for fire services.

- Proposed Action 4.ii. Upgrade older water mains in the City as needed to ensure adequate water pressure for firefighting.

Climate Change and Resiliency Planning

- Proposed Policy 4.56. Promote a well-prepared City that can effectively overcome natural disasters and scarcity of resources due to climate change.
- Proposed Policy 4.57. Monitor climate change-related effects with local, regional, state, and/or federal partners to provide information on effectiveness of existing infrastructure and programs.
- Proposed Policy 4.58. Require that new developments, major remodels, and redevelopments address urban heat island issues and reduce urban heat island effects for the proposed project site and adjacent properties.
- Proposed Policy 4.59. Expand drought preparation and response, especially for the most vulnerable community members.
- Proposed Policy 4.60. Protect the community from flood risks associated with climate change.
- Proposed Policy 4.61. Provide support for agricultural and ranching activities that may be impacted by climate change.
- Proposed Policy 4.62. Coordinate with water purveyors to protect water resources and provide adequate water supply to the community.
- Proposed Policy 4.63. Protect the community from wildfire risks associated with climate change.
- Proposed Policy 4.64. Address the needs of individuals with limited mobility or limited access to transportation for access to safe and comfortable shelter during extreme heat events or other severe weather events.
- Proposed Policy 4.65. Coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations to promote sustainable tourism.
- Proposed Policy 4.66. Consider climate change impacts associated with zoning and land use designations.
- Proposed Policy 4.67. Locate, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of at-risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities. If these facilities are located in at-risk areas, use construction or other methods to minimize damage.
- Proposed Action 4.tt. Provide information and resources to the public and businesses regarding steps the City is taking to address the issue of climate change.
- Proposed Action 4.uu. Minimize damage associated with heat island effects through proper landscaping planting and management techniques.
- Proposed Action 4.vv. Expand the use of energy-efficient lighting, such as LEDs, for City-owned light facilities.
- Proposed Action 4.ww. Explore using renewable energy and clean generation technologies such as solar, wind, biogas, or fuel cells to power City facilities where appropriate.
- Proposed Action 4.xx. Evaluate the feasibility for government-constructed and/or -operated new development to exceed the CalGreen Tier 1, or successor program, standards.
- Proposed Action 4.yy. In new development and major redevelopment, promote the use of sustainable and carbon-neutral energy sources as well as natural infrastructure such as permeable pavements and bioswales.

- Proposed Action 4.zz. Designate public buildings, specific private buildings, or institutions with air conditioning as public cooling shelters; extend hours at air-conditioned sites during periods of extreme heat or power outage (if the site is supported by a backup generator).
- Proposed Action 4.aaa. Issue heat alerts and provide tips to the community on how vulnerable people can protect themselves. Provide access to flood protection resources and services (signage, sandbags, etc.) as feasible at designated public facilities during and after extreme weather events.
- Proposed Action 4.bbb. Coordinate with utility providers to reduce utility rates and/or provide programs that offer assistance to elderly, low-income residents to install roof insulation, solar, trees and cool surfaces to save energy and lower indoor temperatures.

2.3.2 Environmental Justice Element

Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on September 24, 2016, mandating that cities and counties with disadvantaged communities adopt an environmental justice (EJ) element or integrate EJ goals, objectives, and policies into other elements of their General Plans, with the intent to create healthier cities and counties by protecting sensitive land uses and prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities. The City of Williams does not have any disadvantaged communities within its Planning Area[2] and is therefore not required to prepare an EJ Element. However, the City has prepared an EJ Element to be included in the General Plan as an optional element (not required by State law) to support the long-term needs of the community's most vulnerable populations. The EJ Element addresses the following priorities: Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality; Access to Public Facilities; Healthy Food Access; Safe and Sanitary Homes; Promote Physical Activity; Reduce Any Unique Health Risks; Promote Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-Making Process; and Prioritize Improvements and Programs that Address the Needs of Areas with Higher Levels of Environmental Burdens.

The Williams General Plan addresses most of these topics within the context of other Elements, especially in the Land Use and Character Element, Public Safety Element, Public Facilities Element, Noise Element, Open Space and Conservation Element, Circulation Element, and Housing Elements. The EJ Element serves to highlight those existing policies and actions contained in other Elements as they relate to environmental justice by duplicating them in the EJ Element, within the priority areas identified above. In addition, new policies and actions have been included to supplement the City's existing policy direction.

Summary of New Environmental Justice Goals and Policies

As stated above, the majority of policies and actions included in the EJ Element are contained in other elements and duplicated in the EJ Element. The following policies and actions included in the EJ Element are new:

Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality

- Proposed Policy 10.1. Support policies and programs to meet or exceed the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

[2] Based on the State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) Version 4.0.

Access to Public Facilities

- Proposed Policy 10.12. Support opportunities to increase the number of parks, public facilities, and other recreational amenities within or near underserved areas of the City.

Healthy Food Access

- Proposed Policy 10.25. Support the establishment of farmer's markets, farm stands, neighborhood markets, mobile health food markets, and other stores that sell healthy food and fresh produce, to expand access to healthy food options throughout the City.
- Proposed Policy 10.26. Encourage retailers to improve the quality and selection of healthy foods and nutritional information and to stock fresh and healthy food at affordable prices by providing incentive programs, technical assistance, or other services.
- Proposed Policy 10.27. Support opportunities for neighborhood-run community gardens including coordination with local school districts and non-profits.
- Proposed Policy 10.28. Support policies and programs to divert organic waste from landfills into recycling activities and food recovery organizations that help provide healthy food to the local community.
- Proposed Policy 10.29. Support local schools, non-profits, and community-based organizations that provide nutrition and healthy cooking instruction.
- Proposed Action 10.s. Set an example in City facilities and at City-sponsored events by providing healthy food and beverage options.
- Proposed Action 10.t. Coordinate with local markets, restaurants, and food recovery organizations to donate surplus food to residents in need.
- Proposed Action 10.u. Prepare and distribute information on the benefits of healthy eating and on the availability of food assistance programs.
- Proposed Action 10.v. Work with local organizations and community groups to provide free or reduced cost lunches after the school year ends.
- Proposed Action 10.w. Support and promote activity associated with farmer's markets.

Safe and Sanitary Homes

- Proposed Policy 10.33. Support capital improvements such as sewer, water, street, and electrical improvements that facilitate the provision of safe, decent, and sanitary housing.
- Proposed Policy 10.34. Focus code enforcement efforts to improve unsafe and unsanitary conditions, focusing on overcrowding, illegal garage conversions, illegal home businesses, unpermitted plumbing and electrical, property maintenance, trash and dumping, and graffiti.
- Proposed Policy 10.35. Raise awareness about the risks associated with lead-based paint and other housing hazards.
- Proposed Policy 10.36. Encourage measures to reduce indoor air quality impacts (e.g., air filtration systems, kitchen range hood exhaust fans, low-VOC paint and carpet) for new developments.
- Proposed Action 10.z. Distribute information about remediation of lead and best practices to reduce and eliminate other housing hazards.
- Proposed Action 10.aa. Conduct periodic absentee owner outreach in Environmental Justice Communities to inform owners of their legal requirements to maintain and upkeep their rental properties.

- Proposed Action 10.bb. Distribute information with City newsletters and/or other periodical publications about protecting tenant rights, so they are not penalized for reporting or living in a dwelling unit that does not meet health and safety standards.
- Proposed Action 10.cc. Apply for funds for housing rehabilitation resources as feasible.

Promote Physical Activity

- Proposed Policy 10.40. Form partnerships with non-profit organizations, healthcare organizations, and regional governmental agencies to foster and participate in efforts promoting healthy lifestyles, physical activity, and positive health outcomes.

Promote Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-Making Process

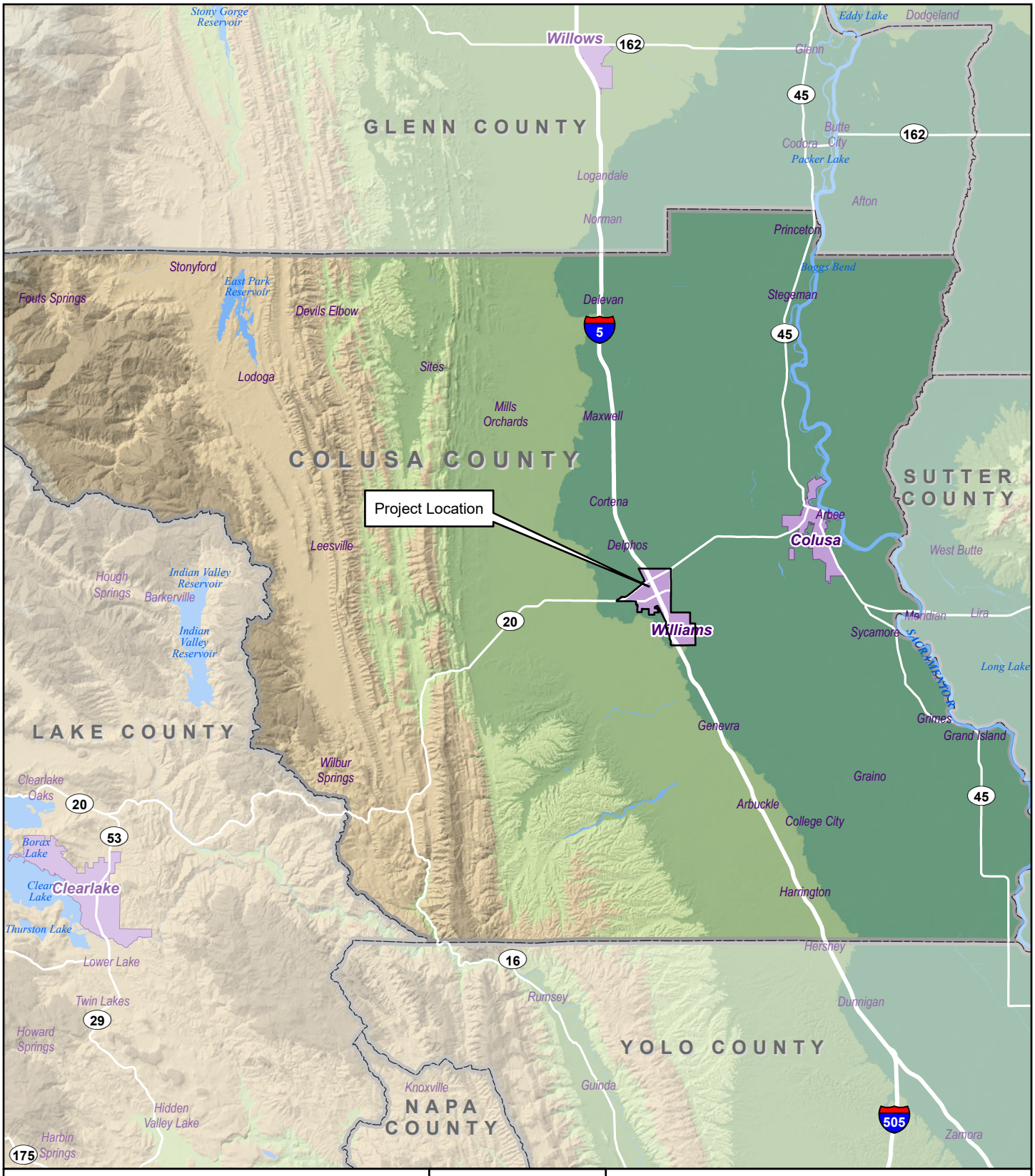
- Proposed Policy 10.51. Support a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to civic engagement and public outreach on local planning and decision-making processes to facilitate a variety of participation opportunities and methods.
- Proposed Action 10.nn. Promote meaningful cross-cultural participation in local planning and decision-making processes by:
    - Providing City-sponsored material in multiple languages.
    - Organizing outreach events and conducting surveys directly to specific demographic groups.
    - Partnering with community-based organizations that have
    - relationships, trust, and cultural competency with target communities to conduct outreach for local initiatives and issues.
    - Tailoring activities and the venues where they take place to accommodate the cultural preferences of different racial/ethnic groups.
- Proposed Action 10.oo. Make meetings and other public engagement forums accessible to a wide range of residents and encourage greater attendance by:
    - Ensuring any materials are distributed far enough in advance of meetings to allow sufficient time for review and comment.
    - Using communication methods that convey complex or technical information in an easily understandable manner.
    - Facilitating meetings using diverse methods that can engage all participants and can appeal to multiple styles of learning.
    - Focusing on methods to effectively engage younger residents.

Prioritize Improvements and Programs That Address the Needs of Areas With Higher Levels Of Environmental Burdens

- Proposed Policy 10.55. Promote the equitable provision of public amenities such as sidewalks, street trees, crosswalks, paving, streetlights, bike lanes, and other amenities as specified in other sections of this EJ Element.
- Proposed Policy 10.56. Encourage programs that serve targeted populations such as youth and women.
- Proposed Policy 10.57. Prioritize agricultural flood recovery programs targeted to small business owners.
- Proposed Action 10.vv. Engage with the community to identify desired programs that would benefit targeted segments of the population such as youth, women, and small business owners.

2.4 REQUIRED APPROVALS

The City of Williams City Council is the City's legislative body and the approving authority for the City of Williams Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project. In order to implement the proposed Project, the City Council must adopt the Initial Study/Negative Declaration prepared for the Project and approve the Public Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element.



LEGEND

- Williams City Boundary
- Incorporated Area
- County Boundary

Sources: California State Geoportal. Map date: July 12, 2023.

N

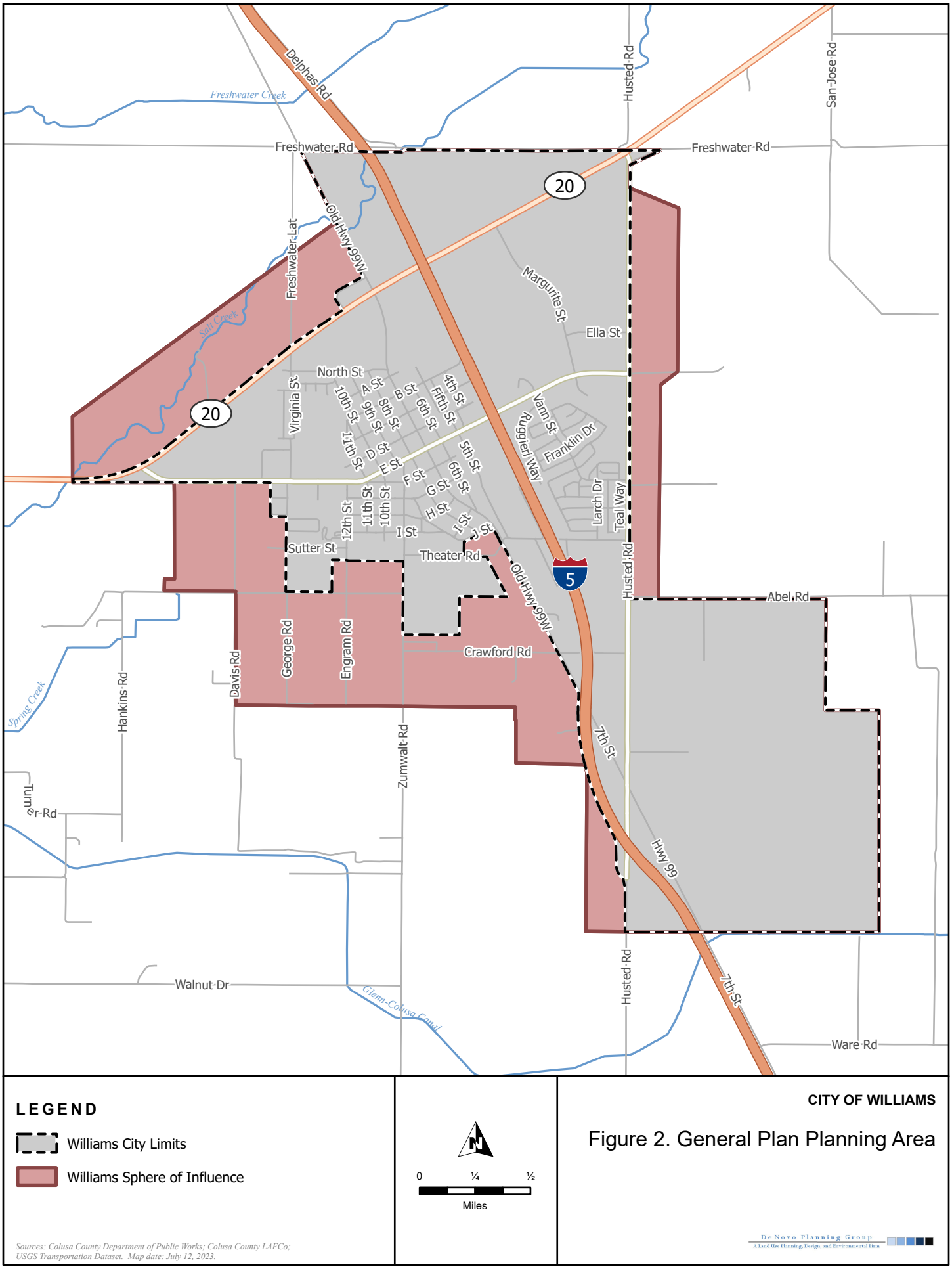
0 2½ 5

Miles

CITY OF WILLIAMS

Figure 1. Regional Location Map

De Novo Planning Group
A Land Use Planning, Design, and Environmental Firm



LEGEND

- Williams City Limits
- Williams Sphere of Influence

0 ¼ ½

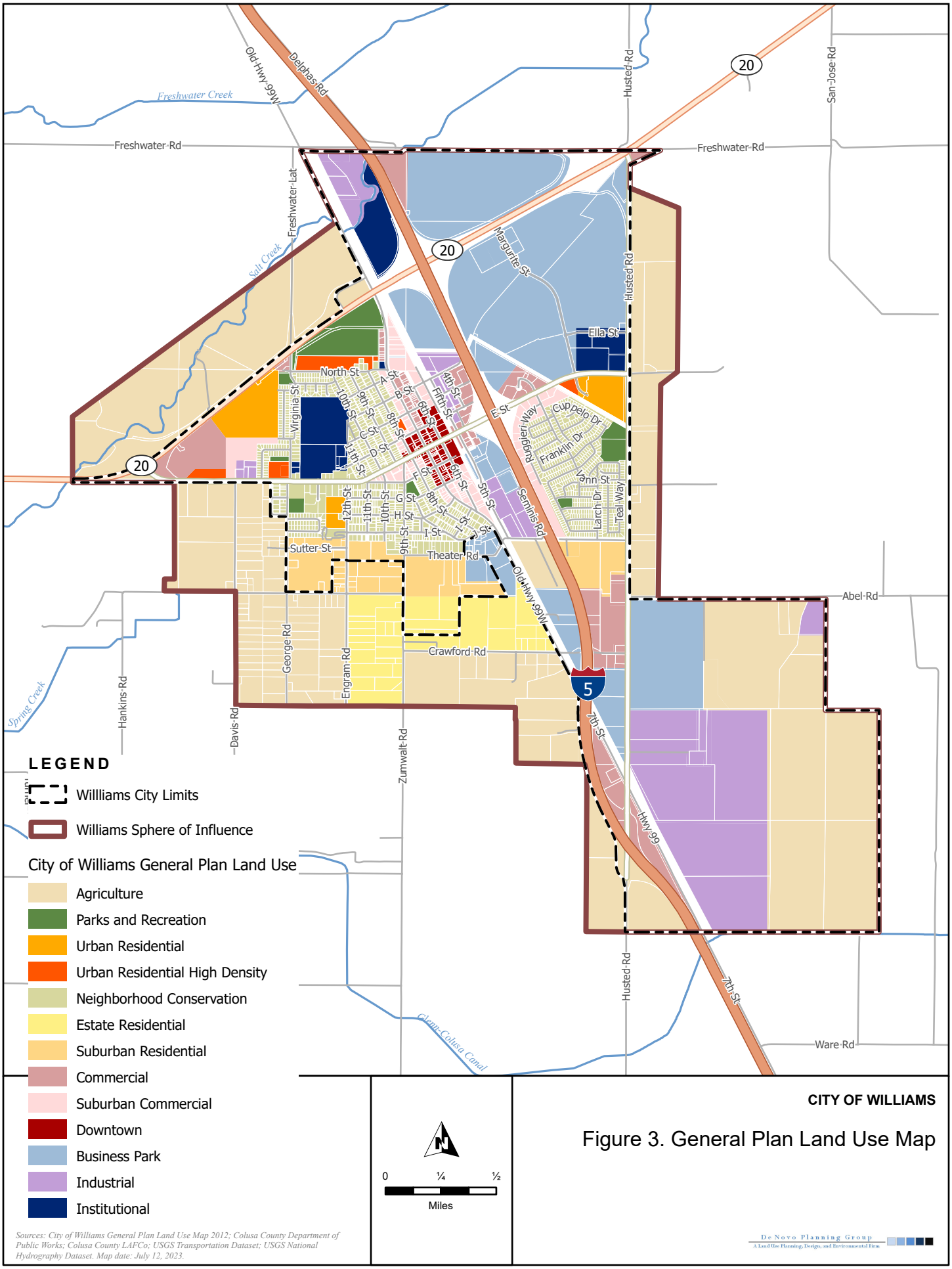
Miles

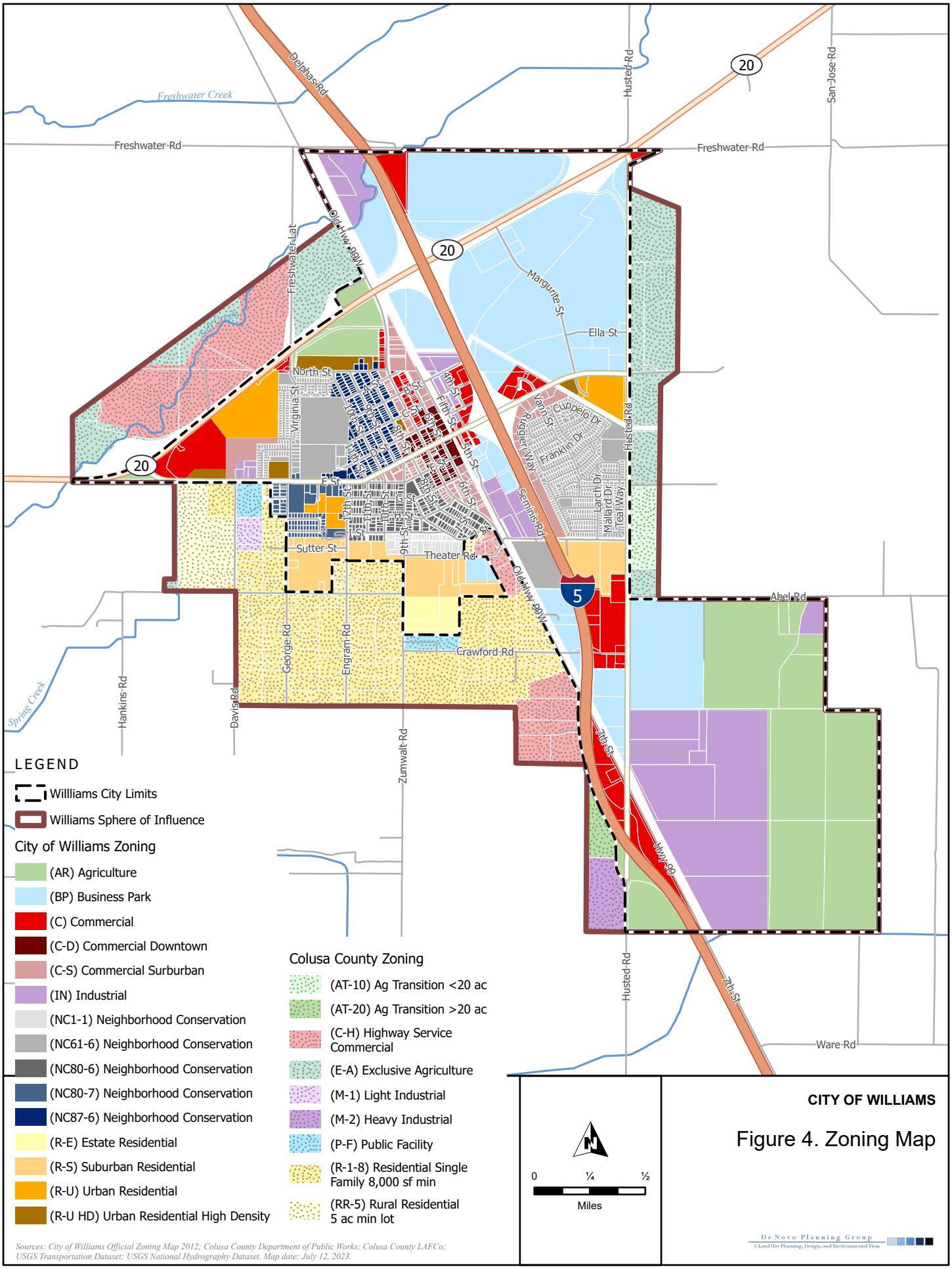
Sources: Colusa County Department of Public Works; Colusa County LAFCo; USGS Transportation Dataset. Map date: July 12, 2023.

CITY OF WILLIAMS

Figure 2. General Plan Planning Area

De Novo Planning Group
A Land Use Planning, Design, and Environmental Firm


LEGEND
Willliams City Limits
Williams Sphere of Influence
City of Williams General Plan Land Use
Agriculture
Parks and Recreation
Urban Residential
Urban Residential High Density
Neighborhood Conservation
Estate Residential
Suburban Residential
Commercial
Suburban Commercial
Downtown
Business Park
Industrial
Institutional
0
¼
½
Miles
Freshwater Creek
Salt Creek
Spring Creek
Glenn-Colusa Canal
Old Hwy 99W
Delphas Rd
Freshwater Rd
Freshwater Lat
Husted Rd
San Jose Rd
Marguerite St
Ella St
North St
Virginia St
A St
B St
C St
D St
E St
Fifth St
4th St
6th St
8th St
9th St
10th St
11th St
Cuppelo Dr
Franklin Dr
Lynn St
Larch Dr
Teal Way
Ruggieri Way
Seminis Rd
5th St
12th St
G St
H St
I St
J St
Sutter St
Theater Rd
Abel Rd
George Rd
Engram Rd
Crawford Rd
Hankins Rd
Davis Rd
Zumwalt Rd
Hwy 99
7th St
Ware Rd
20
5
CITY OF WILLIAMS
Figure 3. General Plan Land Use Map
Sources: City of Williams General Plan Land Use Map 2012; Colusa County Department of Public Works; Colusa County LAFCo; USGS Transportation Dataset; USGS National Hydrography Dataset. Map date: July 12, 2023.
De Novo Planning Group
A Land Use Planning, Design, and Environmental Firm



CITY OF WILLIAMS

Figure 4. Zoning Map

Sources: City of Williams Official Zoning Map 2012; Colusa County Department of Public Works; Colusa County LAFCo; USGS Transportation Dataset; USGS National Hydrography Dataset. Map date: July 12, 2023.

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3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

3.1 BACKGROUND

1. Project Title: General Plan Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element
2. Lead Agency Name and Address: City of Williams Planning Department City of Williams 810 E Street Williams, CA 95987
3. Contact Person and Address: Katheryn Ramsaur, Assistant City Planner City of Williams 810 E Street Williams, CA 95987 Email: kramsaur@cityofwilliams.org
4. Project Location: City of Williams (Citywide)
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: City of Williams 810 E Street Williams, CA 95987
6. General Plan Designation: Various
7. Zoning: Various
8. Description of the Proposed Project: See Section 2.3.
9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: See Section 2.2.
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: None.
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.? In compliance with AB 52 and SB 18, the City distributed letters to applicable Native American tribes informing them of the Project on May 26, 2023. At the time this Initial Study was made available for public review, the City received one request for formal consultation from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation; refer to Response 4.18.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

3.3 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

CITY OF WILLIAMS

Katheryn Ramsaur
Assistant City Planner

7/25/2023
Date

3.4 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The environmental analysis in this section is patterned after CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. An explanation is provided for all responses with the exception of "No Impact" responses, which are supported by the cited information sources. The responses consider the whole action involved, including on- and off-site project level and cumulative, indirect and direct, and short-term construction and long-term operational impacts. The evaluation of potential impacts also identifies the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each impact question. If applicable, mitigation measures are identified to avoid or reduce the impact to less than significant. There are four possible responses to each question:

- Potentially Significant Impact. This response is appropriate when there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, upon completion of the Initial Study, an EIR is required.

- Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. This response applies when the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact". The Lead Agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

- Less than Significant Impact. A less than significant impact is one which is deemed to have little or no adverse effect on the environment. Mitigation measures are, therefore, not necessary, although they may be recommended to further reduce a minor impact.

- No Impact. These issues were either identified as having no impact on the environment, or they are not relevant to the project.

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4 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

4.1 AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?				X
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. The City follows a pattern of development oriented along the major corridors, including mostly industrial and limited commercial development adjacent to I-5 and the California Northern Railroad alignments downtown, retail/office and public uses along 7th Street both north and south of E Street, and street-oriented commercial uses along E Street extending from 11th Street across I-5 to the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation Canal. There are industrial and agriculture-industrial uses to the southeast along Husted Road. The remaining areas of the City are residentially developed with mostly single-family detached dwellings,

together with a few attached and multiple family dwellings. The City is surrounded by agricultural lands. The City is located within a relatively flat portion of the Sacramento Valley and has long-range views of the Coast Range to the west. The Williams 2010 General Plan does not designate any scenic vistas within the Planning Area; however, the General Plan Final EIR notes that the Coast Range is visible to travelers on I-5 and westbound on SR-20. The Final EIR concludes that "[w]hile attractive, the mountains are of great enough distance from Williams that the vista cannot be characterized as being unique or significant."[3] There are no officially designated or eligible State scenic highways within or adjacent to the planning area.[4]

Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact related to aesthetics. The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. The policies and programs proposed by the Project would not have an impact on existing General Plan policies protecting or enhancing aesthetic resources. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Future development projects, consistent with the General Plan, would undergo environmental review on a project-by-project basis and would be reviewed for consistency with policies, programs, and the established regulatory framework aimed to reduce potential impacts to aesthetic resources. If necessary, mitigation would be recommended to reduce potential impacts to aesthetic resources to a less than significant level. Therefore, no impacts to aesthetics resources would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

[3] City of Williams, *Public Review Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Williams General Plan Update*, October 2011, p.4-15.

[4] California Department of Transportation, *California State Scenic Highway System Map*, https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways, accessed June 22, 2023.

4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				X
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The Williams 2010 General Plan notes that there is significant land within the Planning Area that is occupied by farming and agricultural operations. Based on data from the California Department of Conservation, while the City's urbanized core is designated as "Urban and Built Out," the surrounding land is designated by the State as Unique Farmland, Prime Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance.[5] Additionally, the Williams 2010 General Plan identifies portions of two tracts within the existing SOI, and one tract and a portion of two other tracts within the area recommended for expansion of the SOI, that are covered by a Williamson Act contract. The Williams 2010 General Plan does not identify any timber resources or forest land within the Planning Area.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Policies and actions proposed under the Project would not alter or prevent implementation of any existing General Plan policies protecting agricultural and forestry resources. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not involve the conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use or conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contact. Nor would the Project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

[5] California Department of Conservation, *Colusa County Important Farmland 2018*, January 2021.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X
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?				X
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				X
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?				X

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

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?

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. As discussed in the Williams 2010 General Plan EIR, the City is located within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, which is within the jurisdictional boundary of the Colusa County Air Pollution Control District (CCAPCD). The CCAPCD implements the rules and regulations governing air quality in Colusa County. The rules and regulations are aimed at reducing air pollutant emissions and achieving State and national air quality standards. The CCAPCD is a part of the Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area (NSVPA).[6] The NSVPA 2021 Air Quality Attainment Plan is the most recent air quality planning document for the Planning Area and the CCAPCD.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The proposed Project would not result in

[6] Sacramento Valley Air Quality Engineering and Enforcement Processionals, *Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area 2021 Triennial Air Quality Attainment Plan*, December 2021.

any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impacts related to air quality. The EJ Element identifies reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality as a priority, and identifies existing General Plan policies and new policies that address air quality. For example, the Project proposes Policy 10.1 to support policies and programs to meet or exceed the State's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets, and Policy 10.36 to encourage measures to reduce indoor air quality impacts (e.g., air filtration systems, kitchen range hood exhaust fans, low-VOC paint and carpet) for new developments. Additionally, existing General Plan policies have been incorporated into the proposed EJ Element, including policies to encourage multi-modal transit options and reduce automobile travel, which would reduce vehicular emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The Project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing air quality violation, would not result in a cumulatively considerable increase of any criteria pollutant, would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations, and would not create objectionable odors. Adoption of the EJ Element would support improved air quality and would therefore be considered consistent with the NSVPA Air Quality Attainment Plan. Therefore, no impacts to air quality would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				X
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				X
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X

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

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

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

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

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. According to the Williams 2010 General Plan, the City's developed area contains of a mixture of mature and newly planted vegetation typical of urban environments and is surrounded by farmland with patches of rangeland. The General Plan Final EIR identifies the habitat surrounding the Planning Area as containing vegetation communities characteristic of annual grasslands and agricultural habitats such as agricultural croplands, fallow agricultural lands, orchards, horticultural/landscaped land. Other habitats within or near the Planning Area include irrigated ditches or pasture, seasonal wetland, and perennial streams. A search of the California Natural Diversity Database and California Native Plant Society conducted as part of the Williams 2010 General Plan and Final EIR did not identify any occurrences of special-status plants within the City limits; however, five plants were identified to have historical occurrences within a five-mile radius. Additionally, 15 special-status wildlife species were determined to have potential to occur in a ten-mile radius around the Planning Area, including raptors and migratory birds, reptiles, and invertebrates.

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory, the City contains several freshwater ponds (PUBKx), riverine habitat (R2UBHx), and freshwater emergent wetland (PEM1A) in the northern portion of the Planning Area.[7]

Chapter 12.35, *Trees and Shrubs*, of the Williams Municipal Code relates to the care, maintenance and preservation of public trees in the City. There is no adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan applicable to the Planning Area.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. The Project does not propose site-specific

[7] United States Fish and Wildlife Service, *National Wetlands Inventory*, https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/Mapper.html, accessed June 22, 2023.

development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Policies and actions proposed under the Project would not alter or prevent implementation of any existing General Plan policies protecting biological resources. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not substantially affect any special-status species or its habitat, or have a substantial effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community; would not adversely affect wetlands, interfere with wildlife movement or wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites; would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, and would not conflict with an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. Therefore, no impacts to biological resources would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?				X
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				X
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?				X

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

No Impact. According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, a historical resource is a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources; a resource included in a local register of historical resources; or any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant. A resource is considered historically significant if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States;
- Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history;
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values; or
- Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

The Williams 2010 General Plan Final EIR notes that the City contains previously identified and potentially historic resources, most of which are located in proximity to the Downtown area and surrounding older residential neighborhood. The Final EIR states that although there are no historic landmarks registered in the Planning Area through the State of California's Office of Historic Preservation or the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior, a number of buildings contribute to the community's present and future cultural identity, including the Southern Pacific Railroad and Historic KK-Temp2 power line.

Archaeological resources are the physical remains of past human activities and can be either prehistoric or historic in origin. As stated in the General Plan Final EIR, there is a possibility that the Planning Area contains Native American resources and human remains due to its location in a region which was inhabited during prehistoric times by several Native American tribes; however, no Native American cultural resources were reported by the Native American Heritage Commission or by the tribes consulted within the Planning Area, nor were any Native American archaeological resources reported by the Northwest Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The proposed policies and actions would not alter or prevent implementation of any existing General Plan policies protecting cultural resources. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Any future development projects, consistent with the General Plan, would undergo environmental review on a project-by-project basis and would be reviewed for consistency with policies and programs aimed to reduce potential impacts to cultural resources. If necessary, mitigation would be recommended to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. If human remains are found, the remains would require proper treatment in accordance with applicable laws, including State of California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5-7055 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Section 5097.99. Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5-7055 describe the general provisions for treatment of human remains. Specifically, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 prescribes the requirements for the treatment of any human remains that are accidentally discovered during excavation of a site. Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 also requires that all activities cease immediately, and a qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor be contacted immediately. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact related to historical or archaeological resources, including human remains. Therefore, no impacts to cultural resources would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.6 ENERGY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?				X
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				X

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact. The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact related to energy. The proposed Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element policies would support and encourage multi-modal transportation options and reduced automobile trips, supporting reduced energy consumption, as well as the use of renewable energy. Any future development projects, consistent with the General Plan, would undergo environmental review on a project-by-project basis and would be reviewed for consistency with policies and programs aimed to reduce potential impacts to energy. If necessary, mitigation would be recommended to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources and would not conflict with a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, no impacts related to energy would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
1) 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.				X
2) Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
3) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
4) Landslides?				X
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				X
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?				X
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

1) 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.

2) Strong seismic ground shaking?

3) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

4) Landslides?

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

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

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

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

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act requires the State Geologist to establish regulatory zones, known as "Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones," around the surface traces of active faults and to issue appropriate maps. If an active fault is found, a structure for human occupancy cannot be placed over the trace of the fault and must be set back from the fault (typically 50 feet). The City is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone.[8] The Williams 2010 General Plan states that while there are no active faults in the Planning Area or Colusa County, the northern Sacramento Valley is to expect low-intensity shocks from time to time generated by faults outside Colusa County. Further, the General Plan Final EIR notes that seismically induced ground shaking is a potential seismic hazard for the City, and concludes the City could be subject to high levels of ground shaking and minor liquefaction during a seismic event. The General Plan Final EIR states that since the area around Williams is relatively flat, with very little change in elevation across town, thus, the risk of slope failure and earthquake-induced landslides is considered low.

[8] California Geologic Survey, *Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation*, https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/, accessed November 10, 2021.

According to the General Plan Final EIR, most of the soil in the Williams area consist of Capay silty clay and Willows silty clay, which have only slight erosion potential. The General Plan Final EIR concludes that development on infill sites would result in minimal soil erosion or loss of topsoil due to the presence of landscaped vegetation or impermeable surfaces. New development in the surrounding agricultural area has the potential to result in impacts associated with soil erosion, but these impacts would be reduced through project-level environmental review and mitigation and compliance with City and State requirements.

According to the General Plan Final EIR, paleontological resources have been documented in the region and as such, there is a likelihood of encountering or damaging unidentified fossils during construction of new development.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Policies and actions proposed under the Project would not alter or prevent implementation of any existing General Plan policies pertaining to geology and soils. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact related to risks to people or property associated with seismic hazards; would not result in substantial soil erosion; would not result in impacts related to soils susceptible to landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse; and would not require the construction of any wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impacts related to geology and soils would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				X
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				X

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

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

No Impact. The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impacts related to GHG emissions or generation of GHGs. The EJ Element identifies reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality as a priority, and identifies existing General Plan policies and new policies to reduce GHG emissions. For example, the Project proposes Policy 10.1 to support policies and programs to meet or exceed the State's GHG emission reduction targets. Additionally, existing General Plan policies have been incorporated into the proposed EJ Element, including policies to encourage multi-modal transit options and reduce automobile travel, which would reduce VMT and associated vehicular GHG emissions. The Project would not generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, or conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Adoption of the EJ Element would support opportunities for transit, walking, and cycling and reducing VMT in order to reduce GHG emissions and would therefore be considered consistent with applicable plans, policies, and regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHGs. Therefore, no impacts related to GHG emissions would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				X
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
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?				X
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				X

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

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

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

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

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) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

No Impact. The Williams 2010 General Plan indicates that hazardous materials concerns in the City include transportation of such materials along I-5 and the California Northern Railroad; use and disposal of household hazardous materials; and the use of pesticides by agricultural operations. The Williams 2010 General Plan describes the County's hazardous materials policy, including jurisdictional responsibilities, indicating that the City's Fire Chief assumes command responsibilities for all hazardous material incidents within the City limits. The Colusa County Office of Emergency Services is responsible for incidents outside of City limits. The Colusa County Environmental Health Department is responsible for assessments of environmental contamination and/or human exposure and providing oversight of cleanup activity and coordination with the lead State agency having cleanup jurisdiction.

The Department of Toxic Substance's (DTSC) EnviroStor database lists a total of nine sites in the City.[9] None of these nine sites have an "active" status; two sites have a "no further action" status and the remaining seven sites have been referred to other agencies or the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Geotracker database lists a total of 53 sites in the City.[10] Of these 53 sites, 20 are listed as leaking underground fuel storage tanks (LUST sites), and all 20 have a "Completed – Case Closed" status. One of the 20 LUST sites (ARCO #2143 located at 455 E Street) is listed as having land use restrictions; a Deed Covenant/Restriction was recorded with the County Recorder's Office in 2021. In addition to the 20 LUST sites, there are four cleanup program sites. Of the

[9] Department of Toxic Substances Control, *EnviroStor Site/Facility Search*, https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search?basic=True, accessed June 29, 2023.

[10] State Water Resources Control Board, *Geotracker Search*, https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/search, accessed June 29, 2023.

four cleanup program sites, one has a status of "Completed – Case Closed;" two have a status of "Open – Site Assessment;" and one has a status of "Open – Verification Monitoring."

There are three public schools located within the City.[11]

As indicated in the Williams 2010 General Plan EIR, there are no public airports within two miles of the Planning Area, nor is the Planning Area located within the boundaries of an airport land use plan. A private airstrip is located at the eastern edge of Williams, east of the intersection of Husted Road and E Street. This facility is owned by the Williams Soaring Center and is used primarily as a sailplane launch, landing, and training facility. The closest public airport to the City is the Colusa County Airport, approximately 7.4 miles east of the City.

The Williams 2010 General Plan Public Safety Element contains a policy to coordinate with the County Office of Emergency Services to identify and establish evacuation routes and operational plans to be used in case of a public safety hazard.

According to the Williams 2010 General Plan, the City is within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) that is unzoned as to its Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The General Plan identifies the City as being at low risk for wildland fires.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Policies and actions proposed under the Project would not alter or prevent implementation of any existing General Plan policies pertaining to hazardous materials, airport hazards, or emergency response plans. The proposed Project updates the Public Safety Element to include current information regarding Fire Hazard Severity Zones mapped by CAL FIRE, including the addition of Figure PS-3, which shows fire hazard severity zones in State Responsibility Areas and Local Responsibility Areas, as mapped by CAL FIRE. The fire hazards discussion was also updated to include current information related to the Colusa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, as well as updates to the fire facilities development fee. The proposed Public Safety Element includes a discussion of the Emergency Evacuation Assessment conducted in compliance with SB 99, which identifies residential developments in high hazard zones that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. The Project proposes minor and substantive additions to policies and actions related to fire protection and emergency services. For example, Policy 4.30 would require visible street signs and safe access for emergency response vehicles in new development; proposed Policy 4.33 would direct City coordination with CAL FIRE and the Williams Fire Protection Authority (WFPA) to identify changes in regional fire hazard severity zones to further reduce fire hazards in the community; Policy 4.35 would direct City coordination with the WFPA to disseminate educational programs for residents on fire hazard risks and fire safety measures, including evacuation routes, with a special focus on at-risk populations such as seniors; and Action 4.ff would

[11] Williams Unified School District, *Our Schools*, https://www.williamsusd.net/our-schools/, accessed June 29, 2023.

mitigate, as feasible, existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, including road standards and vegetative hazards.

Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials, including interfering with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plans. Therefore, no impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?				X
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin				X
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				X
1) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;				X
2) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;				X
3) 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				X
4) impede or redirect flood flows?				X
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				X
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				X

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

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

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

1) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

2) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;

3) 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

4) impede or redirect flood flows?

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. The City is located within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) (Region 5). The Central Valley RWQCB developed a Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, which includes a summary of beneficial water uses, water quality objectives needed to protect the identified beneficial uses, and implementation measures. The Basin Plan establishes water quality standards for all the ground and surface waters of the region. The RWQCB regulates waste discharges to minimize and control their effects on the quality of the region's ground and surface water. Permits are issued under a number of programs and authorities. The terms and conditions of these discharge permits are enforced through a variety of technical, administrative, and legal means. Water quality problems in the region are listed in the Basin Plan, along with the causes, where known.

According to the Williams 2010 General Plan EIR, the City is located in the Freshwater Creek Basin. One of its tributaries, Salt Creek, runs through the City limits and flows into the Sacramento River, which drains in a southerly direction toward the San Francisco Bay. Spring Creek merges into Salt Creek to the southwest of the City, and Freshwater Creek merges into Salt Creek further downstream to the northeast of the City. Groundwater for Williams' residents is drawn from the Sacramento River groundwater basin.

As discussed in the Williams 2010 General Plan, the City is confronted with persistent flood hazards due largely to the upstream watershed. Based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National

Flood Insurance Program maps, the northern portion of the community is located within an area of special flood hazard.[12]

The Williams 2010 General Plan indicates that, due to its inland location and the absence of nearby large bodies of water, the Planning Area is not at risk for tsunamis or seiches.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. With regards to flood hazards, the Project proposes revisions to address areas of special flood hazard and updated flood hazard mapping. The Project would add two figures to the Public Safety Element Flood Protection section: Figure PS-1, depicts areas of the City located within the 100-year and 500-year floodplain as mapped by FEMA; and Figure PS-2 shows approximate locations of federal and State flood damage reduction projects within the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Watersheds that are included in the State Plan of Flood Control. The Project also updates the Public Safety Element Flood Protection section to include a discussion of the Emergency Evacuation Assessment conducted in compliance with SB 99. The Project proposes minor and substantive additions to policies and actions related to Flood Protection, including proposed Policy 4.18, which would maintain communication with flood control districts regarding regional flood facilities and the potential need to expand the capacity of flood control facilities based on changing flood conditions; and proposed Action 4.k, which would direct City communication with FEMA regarding updates to Flood Insurance Rate Maps, and ensure new development within flood hazard zones is consistent with the Public Safety Element and State law.

Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact related to water quality standards, groundwater supplies or recharge, or alter existing drainage conditions which would impact erosion, drainage patterns, and storm water runoff and pollution. Further, adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation as a of flood hazards, tsunami, or seiche, and would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. Therefore, no impacts related to hydrology and water quality would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

[12] Federal Emergency Management Agency, *FEMA Flood Map Service Center: Search By Address*, *https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=williams%2C%20ca*, accessed June 29, 2023.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Physically divide an established community?				X
b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X

a) Physically divide an established community?

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

No Impact. The City is a standalone agricultural community that is surrounded by farmland. The pattern of development is oriented along the major corridors, with industrial and commercial development located adjacent to I-5 and the California Northern Railroad alignments downtown, retail/office and public uses along 7th Street, and commercial uses along E Street extending from 11th Street across I-5 to the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation Canal. There are industrial and agriculture-industrial uses to the southeast along Husted Road. The remaining areas of the community are developed primarily with single-family detached dwellings and some multiple family dwellings.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Policies and actions proposed under the Project would not alter or prevent implementation of any existing General Plan policies pertaining to land use, and would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. Future development, consistent with the Williams 2010 General Plan, would be reviewed for consistency with land use policies and actions. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact related to physically dividing an established community, nor would it conflict with any adopted land use or other related plans, policies, or regulations. Therefore, no impacts to land use and planning would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				X

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

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

No Impact. The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) requires classification of land into mineral resource zones (MRZs) according to the area's known or inferred mineral potential. According to the Williams 2010 General Plan EIR, there are no significant mineral resource zones mapped in the Planning Area. There are no active mining operations within the Planning Area according to the Department of Conservation, Division of Mine Reclamation.[13]

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Further, the proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not involve the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or locally-important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, no impacts to mineral resources would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

[13] *Department of Conservation, Division of Mine Reclamation*, Mines Online, https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html, accessed June 30, 2023.

4.13 NOISE

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				X
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				X
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?				X

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

b) 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?

No Impact. According to the Williams 2010 General Plan Noise Element, major noise sources in Williams include traffic on I-5, SR-20, and local traffic on City streets; train operations associated with the California Northern Railroad; commercial and industrial uses; recreation areas (e.g., parks and school play areas); and aircraft flights associated with the Williams Soaring Center.

As indicated in the Williams 2010 General Plan EIR, there are no public airports within two miles of the Planning Area, nor is the Planning Area located within the boundaries of an airport land use plan. A private airstrip is located at the eastern edge of Williams, east of the intersection of Husted Road and E Street. This facility is owned by the Williams Soaring Center and is used primarily as a sailplane launch, landing, and training facility. The closest public airport to the City is the Colusa County Airport, approximately 7.4 miles east of the City.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change,

and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Further, the proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. The EJ Element identifies existing General Plan policies specific to noise. For example, Policy 10.7 (also Noise Policy 6.9) prevents the introduction of new noise-producing uses in noise sensitive areas. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact related to temporary or permanent noise or groundborne vibration. Therefore, no impacts related to noise would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

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

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Policies and actions proposed by the Project would not approve or allow for new roadways or infrastructure improvements that could indirectly induce substantial unplanned population growth. The proposed EJ Element identifies safe and sanitary homes as a priority, and incorporates existing General Plan policies and identifies new policies to promote housing affordability, improve existing housing stock, and reduce displacement. For example, proposed Action 10.bb directs the City to distribute information about protecting tenant rights, and proposed Action 10.cc directs the City to apply for funds for housing rehabilitation resources as feasible. Further, the proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not induce substantial unplanned population growth, or displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing. Therefore, no impacts to population and housing would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. 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:				
1) Fire protection?				X
2) Police protection?				X
3) Schools?				X
4) Parks?				X
5) Other public facilities?				X

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

i) Fire protection?

ii) Police protection?

iii) Schools?

iv) Parks?

v) Other public facilities?

No Impact. Fire and emergency services for the City are provided by the Williams Fire Protection Authority (WFPA). The WFPA fire station is located at 810 E Street in the City of Williams.

Police protection services for the City are provided by Williams Police Department, located at 700 North Street in the City of Williams.

The Planning Area is served by the Williams Unified School District.[14] The District consists of the Williams Elementary School, Williams Upper Elementary School, and the Williams Junior Senior High School.

There are five parks within the City, including the North View Park, Redinger Park, Venice Park, Valley Vista Park, and Sierra Oaks Park.[15]

Colusa County operates one the Williams Branch Library, located at 901 E Street in the City of Williams.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Further, the proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities. Therefore, no impacts to public services would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

[14] Williams Unified School District, *Our Schools*, https://www.williamsusd.net/our-schools/, accessed June 29, 2023.

[15] City of Williams, *Parks and Facilities*, https://www.cityofwilliams.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/parks_and_facilities.php, accessed June 30, 2023.

4.16 RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X

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) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. According to the Williams 2010 General Plan, the City maintains five City parks. These include North View Park, Redinger Park, Venice Park, Valley Vista Park, and Sierra Oaks Park.[16]

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Further, the proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact to recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts related to recreation would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

[16] City of Williams, *Parks and Facilities*, https://www.cityofwilliams.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/parks_and_facilities.php, accessed June 30, 2023.

4.17 TRANSPORTATION

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

a. 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 section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

d. Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The existing Williams 2010 General Plan Circulation Element addresses the movement of people, goods, and services within and around the City. The Element contains goals, policies and programs that establish the City's circulation system to accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, motor vehicles, public transit, and other means of travel.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Further, the proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. The Project proposes minor and substantive additions to Public Safety Element policies and actions related to emergency access. For example, Policy 4.30 requires visible street signs and safe access for emergency response vehicles in new development.

Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact to

transportation. Therefore, no impacts related to transportation would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a 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:				
1) 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				X
2) 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 Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				X

a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

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

No Impact. As described above in Section 4.5, *Cultural Resources*, the General Plan Final EIR indicates there is a possibility that the Planning Area contains Native American resources and human remains due to its location in a region which was inhabited during prehistoric times by several Native American tribes; however, no Native American cultural resources were reported by the Native American Heritage Commission or by the tribes consulted within the Planning Area, nor were any Native American

archaeological resources reported by the Northwest Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 requires that lead agencies evaluate a project's potential impact on "tribal cultural resources", which include "[s]ites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or included in a local register of historical resources." AB 52 also gives lead agencies the discretion to determine, based on substantial evidence, whether a resource qualifies as a "tribal cultural resource." AB 52 applies whenever a lead agency adopts an environmental impact report, mitigated negative declaration, or negative declaration.

Senate Bill (SB) 18 requires that lead agencies, "prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county's general plan, conduct consultations with California Native American tribes for the purpose of preserving specified places, features, and objects that are located within the city or county's jurisdiction. The bill would define the term "consultation" for purposes of those provisions. By imposing new duties on local governments with respect to consultations regarding the protection and preservation of California Native American historical, cultural, and sacred sites, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program." The Project involves a General Plan Amendment and therefore is required to comply with SB 18.

In compliance with both AB 52 and SB 18, the City provided formal notification to California Native American Tribal representatives regarding the project. At the time this Initial Study was made available for public review, the City received one request for formal consultation from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Consultation occurred on July 24, 2023. As the Project does not involve site-specific development, specific information regarding tribal cultural resources was not provided; however the tribe requested the opportunity to review the Draft Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element and provide comments, as applicable.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Further, the proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact related to tribal cultural resources. Therefore, no impacts to tribal cultural resources would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, or wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				X
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				X
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

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

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. According to the Williams 2010 General Plan, the City provides potable water and wastewater services to residents and businesses in Williams, within a service area that generally corresponds to the developed portions of the City limits. The General Plan describes the City's water system as consisting of a 100,000-gallon elevated water storage tank together with three active and two standby groundwater wells. The General Plan describes the wastewater system as consisting of six- to 10-inch collection lines, with a 21-inch main line to the wastewater treatment plant located at 701 B Street.

The Williams 2010 General Plan describes storm drainage infrastructure in the City as primarily consisting of overland sheet flow from southwest to northeast, roadside ditches, valley gutters, siphons, and surface drainage in the streets. Newer developments may be served by underground storm drains. A number of detention basins store runoff in a manner that reduces peak flows.

According to the Williams 2010 General Plan, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) provides electricity and natural gas service within the City. Telecommunications services are provided by a variety of service providers.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Further, the proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not result in any impact to water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Therefore, no impacts to utilities and service systems would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.20 WILDFIRE

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

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

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

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

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

No Impact. The County of Colusa Emergency Operations Plan addresses the County's planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents and national security emergencies in or affecting the County of Colusa. The City works with the Colusa County Office of Emergency Services, the County's emergency management agency.

As discussed in Section 4.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, the Williams 2010 General Plan identifies the City to be located within a LRA that is unzoned as to its fire hazard severity zone. The General Plan identifies the City as being at low risk for wildland fires.

The Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Further, the proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. The proposed Project updates the Public Safety Element to include current information regarding Fire Hazard Severity Zones mapped by CAL FIRE, including the addition of Figure PS-3, which shows fire hazard severity zones in State Responsibility Areas and Local Responsibility Areas, as mapped by CAL FIRE. The fire hazards discussion was also updated to include current information related to the Colusa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, as well as updates to the fire facilities development fee. The proposed Public Safety Element includes a discussion of the Emergency Evacuation Assessment conducted in compliance with SB 99, which identifies residential developments in high hazard zones that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. Minor and substantive additions were made to policies and actions related to fire protection and emergency services. For example, proposed Policy 4.30 would require visible street signs and safe access for emergency response vehicles in new development; Policy 4.33 would direct City coordination with CAL FIRE and the Williams Fire Protection Authority (WFPA) to identify changes in regional fire hazard severity zones to further reduce fire hazards in the community; proposed Policy 4.35 would direct City coordination with the WFPA to disseminate educational programs for residents on fire hazard risks and fire safety measures, including evacuation routes, with a special focus on at-risk populations such as seniors; and Action 4.ff would mitigate, as feasible, existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, including road standards and vegetative hazards. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, or result in increases risks to persons or property due to wildfire. Therefore, no impacts associated with wildfire would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

4.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				X
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)?				X
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

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 Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element Project proposes policies and actions that would enhance public safety with regards to flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change,

and promote healthy and equitable outcomes within the City. The Project does not propose site-specific development, but is rather an update to a policy document to comply with new laws and reinforce existing policy direction. Further, the proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing land use and zoning designations. Adoption of the Public Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice Element would not result in any physical environmental changes, as defined by CEQA, and would not 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. The proposed Project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Proposed policies include, but are not limited to, measures to enhance public safety and promote environmental justice, which would be a positive benefit to the community. Therefore, the Project would have no impact in this regard.

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