

Appendix A

Notice of Preparation, Initial Study, and Scoping Comments

- A-1 Notice of Preparation
- A-2 Initial Study
- A-3 Scoping Comments

A-1 Notice of Preparation



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE OF NOTICE: December 14, 2023

TO: State Clearinghouse, Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: City of Irwindale

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT TITLE: City of Irwindale Housing Element and General Plan Update

REVIEW PERIOD: December 14, 2023 through January 13, 2024

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to notify agencies and interested parties that the City of Irwindale (City), as the Lead Agency, will prepare a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Housing Element and General Plan Update Project (Project). An Initial Study was prepared for the proposed Project and is available on the City's website for review at <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/570/Housing-Element-General-Plan-Update>. The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects of the project are included in this NOP.

The City requests your comments on the scope and content of the Draft PEIR. Comments must be submitted in writing pursuant to the directions below. If you represent an agency, the City is seeking comments as to the scope and content of the environmental information in the document that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Project. To the extent that your agency has authority to issue permits or take other actions related to the Project, your agency will need to use the Draft PEIR prepared by the City when considering your permitting decisions or other approval for the Project. In accordance with the time limits established by CEQA, the City requests comments be received by the 5:00 p.m. on January 13, 2023.

PROJECT LOCATION: The City of Irwindale is located within the easterly portion of Los Angeles County at the periphery of the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. The city, in its entirety, has a total land area of 6,080 acres or 9.5 square miles. The San Gabriel River delineates the northerly boundary of the city with the foothills of the nearby San Gabriel Mountains located further north. The city is centrally located within the San Gabriel Valley and is bisected by the San Gabriel River into an eastern section and a western section. The city is generally bounded on the north by Duarte, on the east by Azusa, on the south by Baldwin Park, and on the west by the cities of Monrovia, Arcadia, and Duarte. See Figure 1, City of Irwindale Regional and Local Location.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: In accordance with State law, the City is in the process of updating the Housing and Safety Elements of its current General Plan, as well as preparing a new Environmental Justice Element to be adopted as part of the current General Plan.

The overall purpose of the 2021-2029 Housing Element is to address the housing needs of all types of households and income levels for current and future Irwindale residents. For the 2021–2029 housing cycle, Irwindale has been assigned a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) allocation of 119 units, as established by the Southern California Association of Governments. The City has included a 25 percent buffer to ensure that if one or more of the identified housing sites are developed at lower densities than projected, or with non-housing uses, there is remaining capacity elsewhere in the city to provide an ongoing supply of sites for housing during the eight-year planning period/cycle of the Housing Element. With the buffer, up to 210 new residential units could be accommodated under the 2021-2029 Housing Element. The Draft 2021–2029 Housing Element was published for public review on November 9, 2022 and is provided on the City's website at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7932/Public-Review-Draft-Irwindale-HEU-11-9-22?bidId=>.

Consistent with Government Code Section 65302(c) and California Government Code Section 65580 et. seq., the Draft 2021–2029 Housing Element provides a plan to accommodate the City's RHNA allocation, including various housing policies and programs to guide the City in planning and decision-making to achieve the 6th cycle RHNA allocation. The housing policies are organized around six key themes and are ordered around a progression that first seeks to maintain the existing housing stock; then sets the stage for the private market to develop housing; generates resources for the City to partner with developers to make housing affordable; positions the City to affirmatively further fair housing and address special housing needs and, finally; promote long-term sustainability, energy efficiency, and a healthy community. Figure 2, Proposed Housing Site Locations Identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element, shows the proposed five housing sites throughout the city that have been identified as candidate properties that could accommodate the City's 6th cycle RHNA allocation.

The updated Safety Element (previously named the Public Safety Element) identifies the potential risks to life and property resulting from naturally occurring hazards, such as earthquakes and floods, and man-made hazards, such as air pollution and contamination of water quality as well as the appropriate public safety providers, such as law enforcement, emergency preparedness, and response teams. Specifically, the updated Safety Element identifies locations within the city that may be inappropriate for certain land uses due to potential risks and hazards as well as areas where hazards are present but can be mitigated through special design and site planning measures. The updated Safety Element also considers the economic and social dislocation resulting from natural and human-made hazards, including long-term costs to the City, such as maintenance, liability exposure, and emergency services, where high hazards exist. To address these hazards and risks, the City has established goals, policies, and implementation actions to guide the City's planning and decision-making processes for future projects within the city to ensure that various health and safety hazards are considered in planning the location, design, intensity, density, and type of land uses in a given area.

As the City is in the process of updating its General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element, the City is also required to adopt an Environmental Justice (EJ) Element at this time. The entire city of Irwindale meets the State-defined criteria for disadvantaged communities, where the EJ Element's purpose is to address the unique or compounded health risks throughout the city. The EJ Element includes policies, programs, and measures to reduce these health risks, such as improving air quality; promoting public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes; and physical activity. In addition, the EJ Element serves to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these communities. The EJ Element will aid the City in the planning and decision-making

process to ensure that the City is a safe and healthy place for everyone and focus on goals that improve communities and reduce inequities.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: The Initial Study prepared for the Project addresses potential environmental impacts that may result from implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element. As evaluated in the Initial Study, the following issues would result in no impact or less than significant impacts and will not require further analysis in the Draft PEIR: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, geology/soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, mineral resources, recreation, and wildfire.

The Draft PEIR will address the Project's potential effects for all other environmental resource areas as outlined in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, which includes the following:

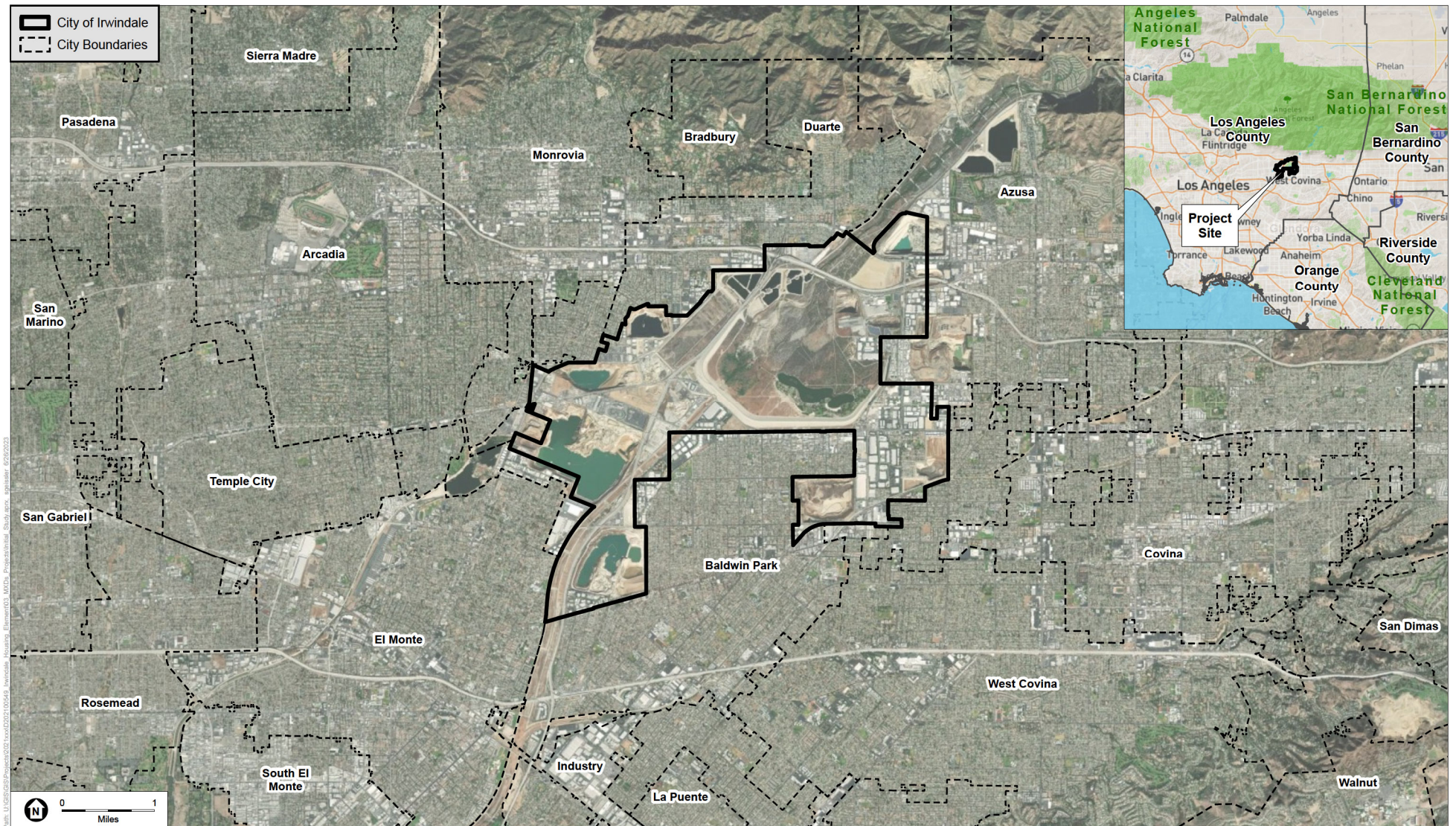
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems

In addition to these issues, the Draft EIR will provide an assessment of the CEQA-mandated topics such as cumulative impacts, growth inducement, and Project alternatives. The contents of the EIR will be subject to input received during the NOP comment period, including input at the Draft PEIR scoping meeting.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: The City is soliciting comments from responsible and trustee agencies as well as interested parties regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the PEIR. The PEIR will be used by the City when considering approval of the Project as well as any related discretionary approvals. The IS/NOP is being circulated for a 30-day public scoping period. All comments to the NOP are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 13, 2024. Please include the name, mailing address, and email address of the commenter. Written comments may be submitted via the following:

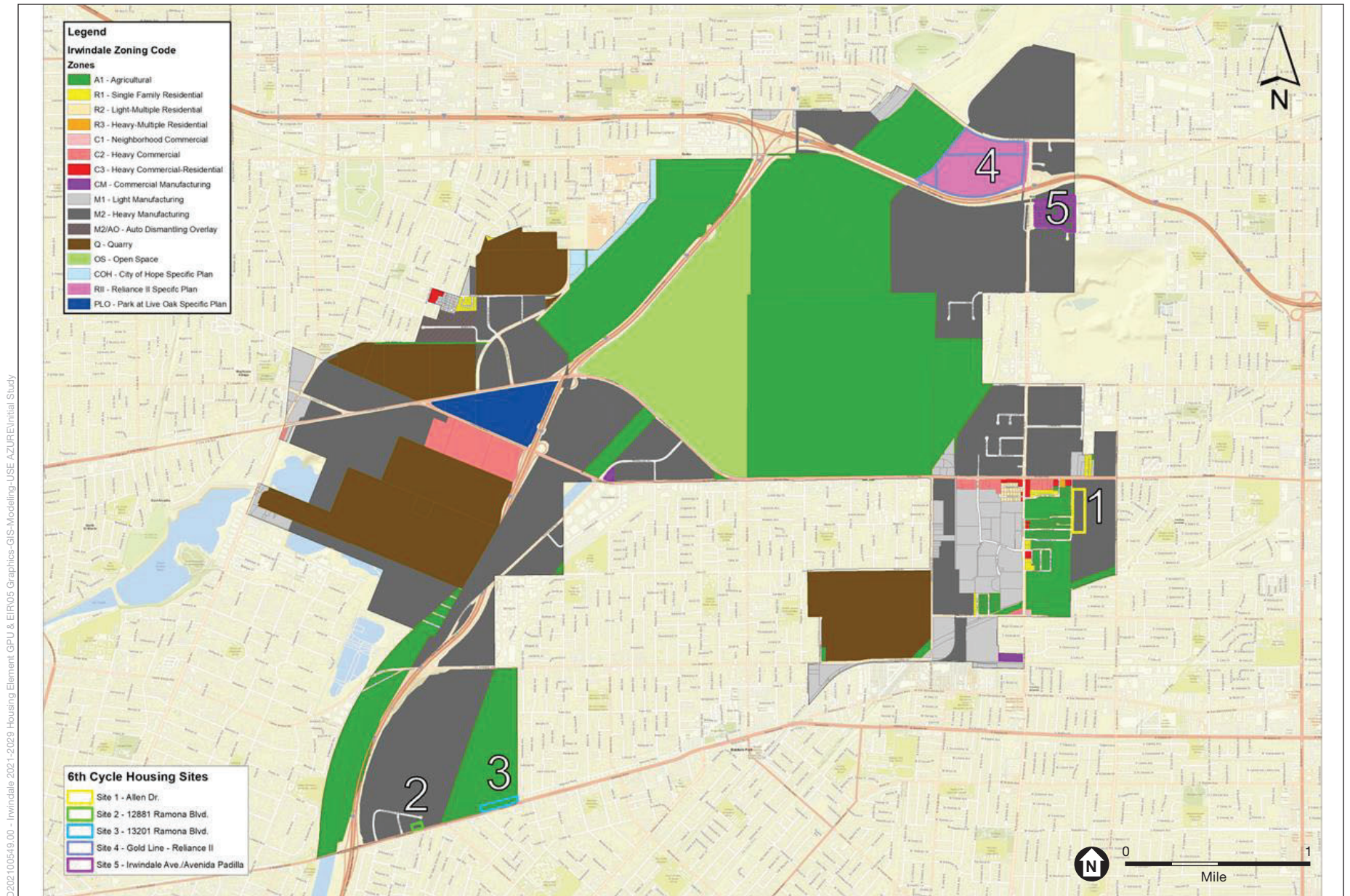
Mail to: Lisa Chou, AICP, Associate Planner
City of Irwindale, Community Development Department
Planning Division
5050 North Irwindale Avenue
Irwindale, CA 91706
Phone: (626) 430-2209
Email: Ichou@irwindaleca.gov

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The NOP and Initial Study are available online at the City's website at the following website: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/570/Housing-Element-General-Plan-Update>. A hardcopy of the NOP and Initial Study are available for review at the City Hall located at 5050 Irwindale Avenue, Irwindale, CA 91706, Community Development Department – Planning Division located at 16102 Arrow Highway, Irwindale, CA 91706, and the Irwindale Public Library located at 16053 Calle De Paseo, Irwindale, CA 91706, during normal business hours.



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Irwindale 2021-2029 Housing Element GPU and EIR
Figure 1
 City of Irwindale Regional and Local Location



SOURCE: City of Irwindale, 2023

Irwindale 2021-2029 Housing Element GPU and EIR

Figure 2
Proposed Housing Sites Inventory

A-2 Initial Study

CITY OF IRWINDALE HOUSING ELEMENT AND GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Initial Study

Prepared for
City of Irwindale

December 2023



CITY OF IRWINDALE HOUSING ELEMENT AND GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Initial Study

Prepared for
City of Irwindale

December 2023

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OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY | ESA helps a variety of public and private sector clients plan and prepare for climate change and emerging regulations that limit GHG emissions. ESA is a registered assessor with the California Climate Action Registry, a Climate Leader, and founding reporter for the Climate Registry. ESA is also a corporate member of the U.S. Green Building Council and the Business Council on Climate Change (BC3). Internally, ESA has adopted a Sustainability Vision and Policy Statement and a plan to reduce waste and energy within our operations. This document was produced using recycled paper.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Initial Study

1. **Project Title:** City of Irwindale Housing Element and General Plan Update
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** Community Development Department
5050 N. Irwindale Avenue
Irwindale, CA 91706
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Marilyn Simpson, AICP
Community Development Director
(626) 430-2209
4. **Project Location:** City of Irwindale
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Community Development Department
5050 N. Irwindale Avenue
Irwindale, CA 91706
6. **General Plan Designation(s):** The City of Irwindale has a variety of General Plan land use designations, including open space/easements, residential, commercial, regional commercial, commercial/recreation, commercial/industrial industrial/business park, public/institutional, parks and quarry overlay.
7. **Zoning:** The City of Irwindale has a variety of zoning districts, including agricultural, open space, residential (single family, light-multiple, heavy-multiple, heavy commercial-residential), commercial (neighborhood, heavy, manufacturing), manufacturing (light, heavy) and quarry, as well as an auto-dismantling overlay district and various specific plan areas.

8. Description of Project:

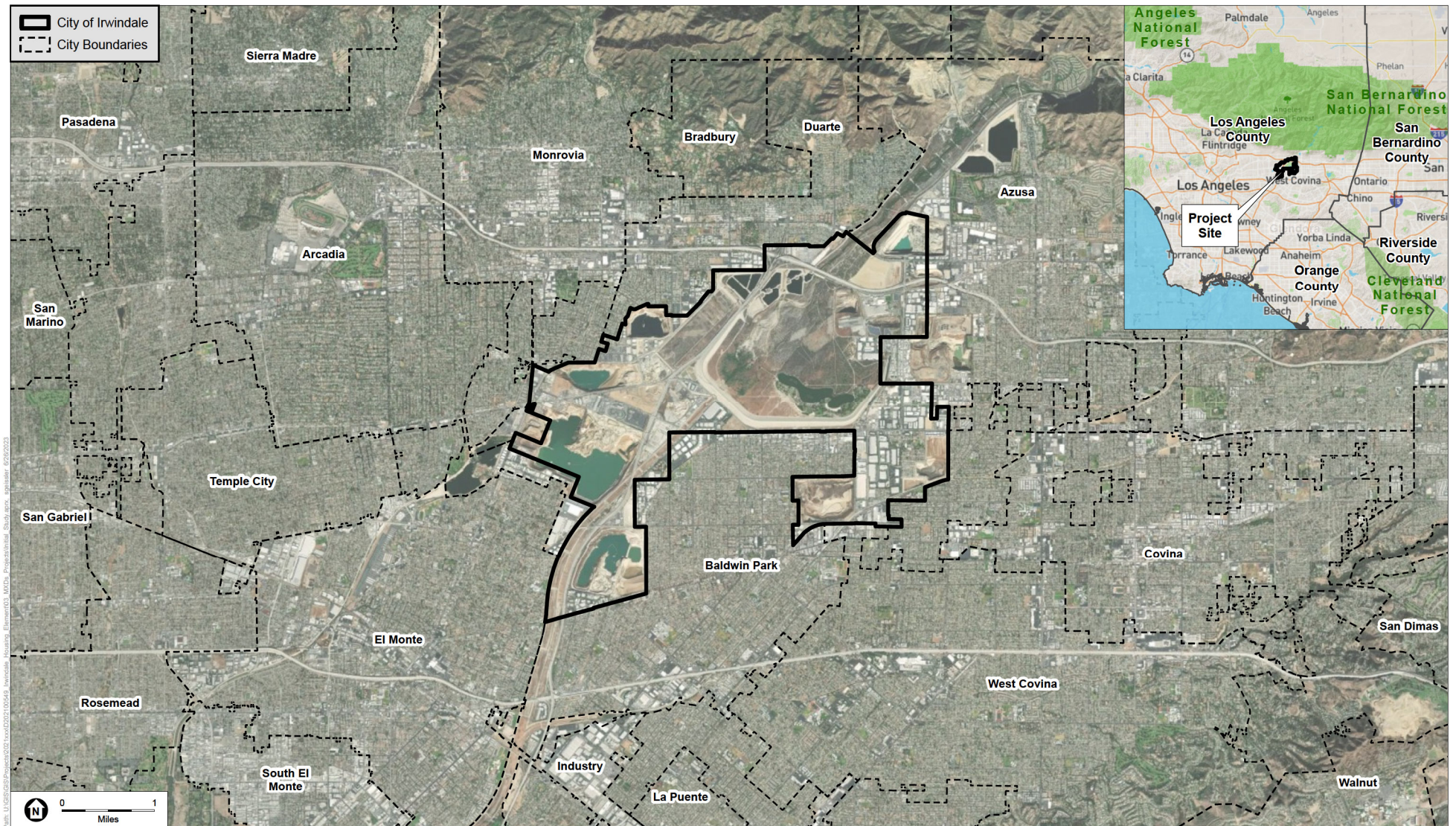
The city of Irwindale encompasses approximately 9.5 square miles and is located roughly 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles within the San Gabriel Valley area in the County of Los Angeles. State law requires every city and county in California to have an adopted comprehensive long-range general plan with specific contents in order to provide a vision for the jurisdiction's future and informs local decisions about land use and development. The City of Irwindale's (City) current General Plan was adopted in June 2008 and consists of six elements: Community Development Element, Housing Element, Infrastructure Element, Resource Management

Element, Public Safety Element, and the Implementation Element. State law (Government Code Section 65588) requires the City to update its Housing Element every eight years, unless otherwise specified, to implement the City's assigned Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for the next planning cycle. In accordance with State law, the City is in the process of updating the Housing and Safety Elements of its current General Plan, as well as preparing a new EJ Element to be adopted as part of the current General Plan (hereinafter referred to as the Project). A detailed description of each proposed element is provided below.

2021-2029 Housing Element

California Government Code Section 65302(c) mandates that each city within California includes a Housing Element in its General Plan. The timing for jurisdictions to update their Housing Elements is based on the update schedule established for regional transportation plans (RTPs) prepared by federally designated metropolitan planning organizations. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization representing all jurisdictions in Los Angeles County, including Irwindale. SCAG is required to update its Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) every 4 years, which puts all member jurisdictions on a schedule to update their Housing Elements every 8 years (SCAG, 2020). The SCAG Regional Council adopted the Connect SoCal plan (also referred to as the 2020–2045 RTP/SCS) on September 3, 2020. For SCAG member jurisdictions, the 6th Cycle Housing Element planning period extends from 2021 to 2029. As part of Connect SoCal, SCAG assigns a number of housing units that the County of Los Angeles (County) is required to plan for in the 8-year Housing Element cycle. That number of residential units is called the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), and it is broken down by income category, ensuring that all economic groups are accommodated. The County then assigns residential unit amounts to its jurisdictions based on a regional housing production target set by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). This assignment of residential units is referred to as each jurisdiction's RHNA.

The overall purpose of the 2021-2029 Housing Element is to address the housing needs of all types of households and income levels for current and future Irwindale residents. State law requires that the City's 2021-2029 Housing Element contain specific contents, including an inventory or list of housing sites at sufficient densities to accommodate a specific number of units at various levels of affordability assigned to the City by the County and SCAG. The Housing Element is required to identify and analyze existing and projected housing needs within the city and include statements of the City's goals, policies, quantified objectives, and scheduled programs to preserve, improve, and develop housing. In adopting its Housing Element, each city must consider economic, environmental, and fiscal factors, as well as community goals as set forth in the General Plan, in compliance with California Government Code Section 65580 et. seq. In compliance with Government Code Section 65580 et. seq., the City is updating its Housing Element for the planning period of 2021–2029 (hereafter referred to as the 2021–2029 Housing Element or the updated Housing Element). The Draft 2021–2029 Housing Element was published for public review on November 9, 2022, and is provided on the City's website at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7932/Public-Review-Draft-Irwindale-HEU-11-9-22?bidId=> .



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Irwindale 2021-2029 Housing Element GPU and EIR
Figure 1
 City of Irwindale Regional and Local Location

Consistent with Government Code Section 65302(c) and California Government Code Section 65580 et. seq., the Draft 2021–2029 Housing Element provides a plan to accommodate the City’s RHNA allocation. HCD consults with regional council of governments to allocate the RHNA across each region of the state. SCAG represents all jurisdictions in Los Angeles County, including Irwindale. **Figure 1, *Regional and Vicinity Map***, illustrates where Irwindale is located within Los Angeles County.

For the 2021–2029 housing cycle, Los Angeles County has been assigned a RHNA of 812,060 housing units, with Irwindale receiving an allocation of 119 units (SCAG, 2021). This allocation is higher than the number addressed in the City’s current Housing Element in part because the SCAG region’s overall allocation of 1,341,827 units from HCD is more than double the prior 5th cycle RHNA allocation, which was approximately 412,137 units. **Table 1, *6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation for Irwindale***, shows how the Irwindale 2021–2029 RHNA is allocated across four income levels (Very Low, Low, Moderate, and Above Moderate), the remaining unmet RHNA from the 5th planning cycle, the target capacity (6th Cycle RHNA plus a 25 percent buffer), and the capacity identified on candidate rezone sites.

TABLE 1
6TH CYCLE REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION FOR IRWINDALE

	Very Low Income Units (0-50% AMI) and Low Income Units (51-80% AMI)	Moderate Income Units (81-120% AMI)	Above Moderate Income Units (>120% AMI)	Total New Units
6th Cycle RHNA	47	17	55	119
- Production since July 1, 2021 ^(a)	7	-	-	7
- Vacant Single-Family Lots ^(b)	-	-	8	8
- ADU Production ^(c)	3	1	1	5
Remaining Unmet RHNA	37	16	46	99
+25% Buffer ^(d)	9	4	12	25
Target Capacity	46	20	58	124
Capacity Identified on Candidate Rezone Sites	53	48	109	210

NOTES:

(a) The City issued certificates of occupancy in December 2021 for seven lower-income units in the Mayans development.

(b) Number of existing vacant single-family lots within the city.

(c) The City issued permits for two accessory dwelling units in the last three years. For RHNA purposes, the City assumes this pace of ADU development will continue throughout the planning period. For purposes of allocating units to income categories, City of Irwindale assumes affordability consistent with SCAG ADU survey.

(d) Buffer is calculated on original 6th Cycle RHNA number.

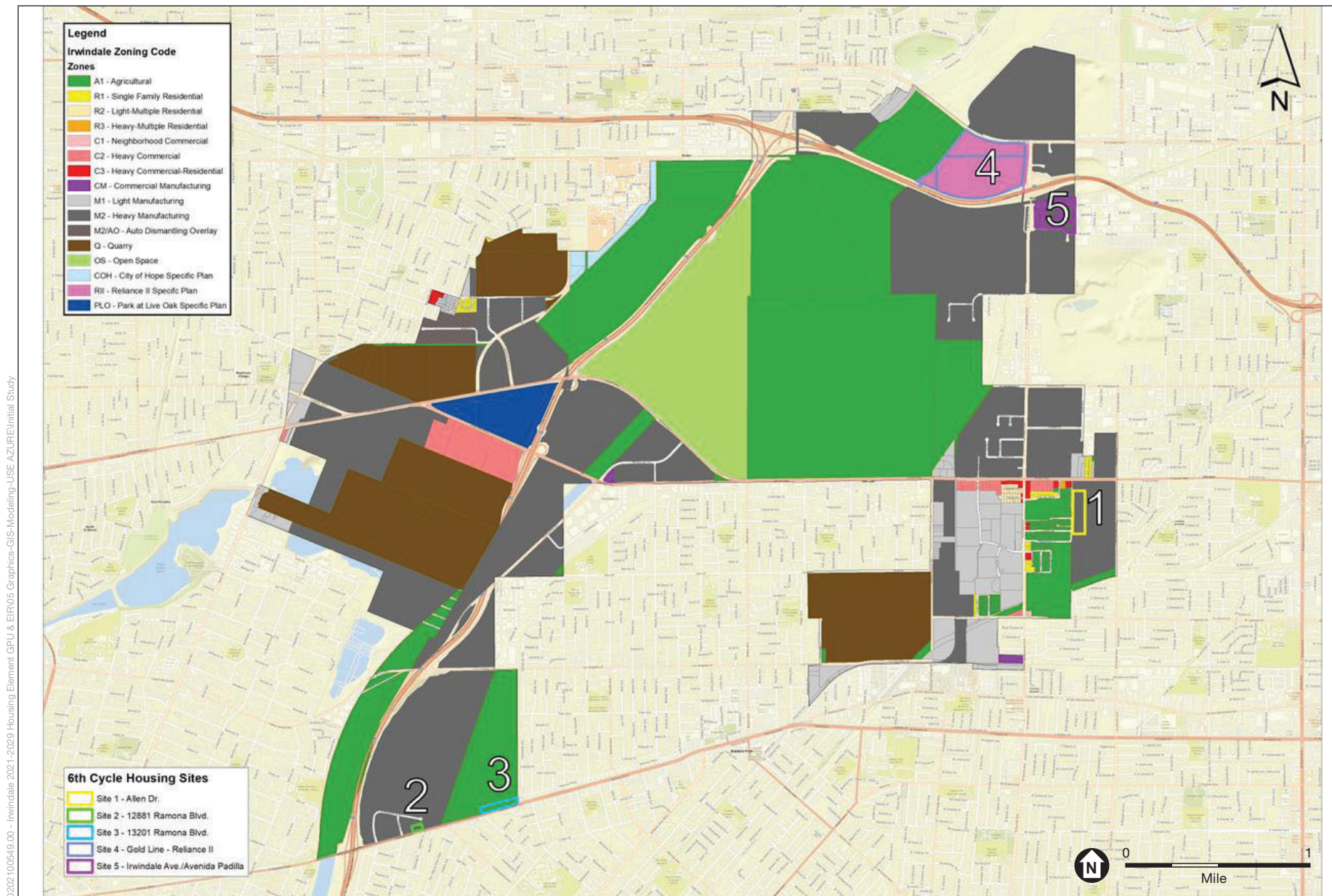
SOURCE: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), *SCAG 6TH CYCLE FINAL RHNA ALLOCATION PLAN (approved by HCD on 3/22/21 and modified on 7/1/21)* adopted March 2020. City of Irwindale, 2022.

When updating the Housing Element, State law requires the City to document its capacity to accommodate its allocated RHNA for the 6th cycle (2021–2029) planning period. The City must demonstrate that the land inventory (also referred to as the Housing Sites inventory) is adequate to accommodate the City’s share of the region’s projected housing needs.¹ As shown in Table 1, a 25 percent buffer is necessary to ensure that if one or more of the identified Housing Sites are developed at lower densities than projected, or with non-housing uses, there is remaining capacity elsewhere in the City to provide an ongoing supply of sites for housing during the eight-year planning period/cycle of the Housing Element. If there were no buffer and an identified housing site is developed with a non-housing project or developed at a density less than anticipated in the Housing Element, then the City could be obliged to identify new housing opportunity sites and amend the Housing Element prior to the end of the planning period/cycle.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element identifies that City’s housing policies that would help to achieve the City’s 6th cycle RHNA allocation by promoting housing production, rehabilitation, and conversion as well as the programs that would implement the goals of the 2021-2029 Housing Element. **Figure 2, *Proposed Housing Sites Inventory***, show the proposed five Housing Sites throughout the city that have been identified as candidate properties that could accommodate the City’s 6th cycle RHNA allocation. As shown in Table 1, the City would be able to meet its 6th cycle RHNA allocation through the housing production since the beginning of the RHNA projection period (July 1, 2021), available lots for single-family residential development, anticipated production of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and capacity identified on the five Housing Sites for rezoning to accommodate future residential development. In addition, depending on market conditions, the City may potentially provide an overall buffer of 112 percent, with buffers by income-category ranging from 43 percent (lower-income) to 200 percent (moderate-income). Since the City would not be able to fully accommodate its 6th cycle RHNA with the identified Housing Sites’ existing zoning, the Housing Element also includes a program to redesignate and rezone the five Housing Sites for residential development via new residential development overlay zones.²

The Draft 2021–2029 Housing Element including various housing policies and programs to guide the City in planning and decision-making to achieve the 6th cycle RHNA allocation. The housing policies are organized around six key themes and are ordered around a progression that first seeks to maintain the existing housing stock; then sets the stage for the private market to develop housing; generates resources for the City to partner with developers to make housing affordable; positions the City to affirmatively further fair housing and address special housing needs; and promote long-term sustainability, energy efficiency, and a healthy community. The 2021-2029 Housing Element housing policies are identified as the following:

- ¹ The purpose of the land inventory or housing sites inventory is to identify specific properties that are suitable for residential development in order for the City to meet its assigned RHNA.
- ² The City is in the process of preparing a comprehensive update to its Zoning Code, where all zoning changes necessary to implement the Housing Element will be evaluated as part of this Project and will be incorporated by reference into the comprehensive Zoning Code update.



SOURCE: City of Irwindale, 2023

Irwindale 2021-2029 Housing Element GPU and EIR

Figure 2
Proposed Housing Sites Inventory

- ***Policy 1 – Maintain Existing Housing Quality and Affordability:*** Maintain the quality of existing housing stock to provide residents with safe, sound, and affordable housing. (Housing Programs 1 and 2)
- ***Policy 2 – Remove Governmental Constraints:*** Remove governmental constraints to the production and maintenance of housing in Irwindale. (Housing Programs 3 through 7)
- ***Policy 3 – Provide Adequate Housing Sites:*** Ensure that the City maintains a supply of land, appropriately zoned, that is sufficient to accommodate the City’s Regional Housing Need Allocation for the 6th cycle. (Housing Programs 8 through 12)
- ***Policy 4 – Provide New Affordable Housing:*** Utilize existing resources, develop new resources, and leverage the resources of other agencies to provide new housing in Irwindale that addresses needs of households across the socio-economic spectrum. (Housing Programs 13 through 18)
- ***Policy 5 – Affirmatively Further Fair Housing and Address Special Housing Needs:*** Dedicate specific resources and take active steps to ensure housing opportunities for the community’s most vulnerable populations, including traditionally under-represented minority populations and other populations with special housing needs. (Housing Programs 19 and 26)
- ***Policy 6 – Promote Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, and a Healthy Community:*** Promote sustainability and energy efficiency in new housing development through community design and building design and provide residential program support for a healthy community. (Housing Programs 27 through 29)

Safety Element

The Safety Element is a State-mandated component of a General Plan and State law requires that it be updated as needed to address fire risk and climate adaptation and resiliency strategies (Government Code section 65302(g) and section 65302.15). The updated Safety Element (previously named the Public Safety Element) identifies the potential risks to life and property resulting from naturally occurring hazards, such as earthquakes and floods, and man-made hazards, such as air pollution and contamination of water quality. In addition, the updated Safety Element identifies the appropriate public safety providers, such as law enforcement, emergency preparedness, and response teams necessary to handle the different types of safety hazards and risks.

Specifically, the updated Safety Element identifies locations within the city that may be inappropriate for certain land uses due to potential risks and hazards as well as areas where hazards are present but can be mitigated through special design and site planning measures. The updated Safety Element also considers the economic and social dislocation resulting from natural and human-made hazards, including long-term costs to the City, such as maintenance, liability exposure, and emergency services, where high hazards exist. To address these hazards and risks, the City has established goals, policies, and implementation actions to guide the City’s planning and decision-making processes for future projects within the city to ensure that various

health and safety hazards are considered in planning the location, design, intensity, density, and type of land uses in a given area.

New Environmental Justice Element

California Government Code section 65302(h) requires jurisdictions to adopt an Environmental Justice (EJ) Element if it contains a defined “disadvantaged community” or “environmental justice community”. The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) defines a “disadvantaged community” or an “environmental justice community” as a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation (Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code). Adoption of an EJ Element can occur at any time but is required when the jurisdiction is adopting or revising two or more General Plan elements concurrently. Since the City is in the process of updating its General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element, the City is also required to adopt an EJ Element at this time.

The entire city of Irwindale meets the State-defined criteria for disadvantaged communities, where the EJ Element’s purpose is to address the unique or compounded health risks throughout the city. The EJ Element includes policies, programs, and measures to reduce these health risks, such as improving air quality; promoting public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes; and physical activity. In addition, the EJ Element serves to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these communities. The EJ Element will aid the City in the planning and decision-making process to ensure that the City is a safe and healthy place for everyone and focus on goals that improve communities and reduce inequities.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting.

The city of Irwindale is located within the easterly portion of Los Angeles County at the periphery of the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. The San Gabriel River delineates the northerly boundary of the city with the foothills of the nearby San Gabriel Mountains located further north. The city is centrally located within the San Gabriel Valley and is bisected by the San Gabriel River into an eastern section and a western section. The city is generally bounded on the north by Duarte, on the east by Azusa, on the south by Baldwin Park, and on the west by the cities of Monrovia, Arcadia, and Duarte. The city is developed with a variety of land uses, with the highest percentage of land use being occupied by the Santa Fe Dam (31.58%), active and inactive quarry (12.51% and 10.88% respectively), Roads (7.89%) and Yards (5.67%) (City of Irwindale, 2008).

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required.

In addition to the adoption and certification of the Project by the City, the following approvals are required as a part of this Project:

- A review of the 2021–2029 Housing Element must be conducted by HCD to determine compliance with State law. Based on its review, written findings will be provided to the City so the City may incorporate any additional requirements prior to adoption.

- The proposed Safety Element is subject to review by the California Geological Survey, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), and the Department of Conservation.

Following these reviews, adoption and implementation of the HEU would require a series of interrelated planning and regulatory approvals by the City of Irwindale, as Lead Agency. Specifically, the City would take the following approval actions, relying on the EIR after it has been certified:

- Certification of the EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
- Adoption of a resolution amending the General Plan to update the Housing Element, the Safety Element, the Land Use Element, and General Plan Land Use Designations map; adopt the EJ Element; and make any corresponding changes to other elements of the General Plan, as needed to maintain internal consistency; and
- Adoption of an ordinance amending the City's Zoning Ordinance (Irwindale Municipal Code Title 16) and the City's zoning map.

The proposed actions would require review and recommendation by the Planning Commission, followed by consideration and action by the City Council.

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.?

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 52 and Senate Bill (SB) 18, the City contacted four California Native Tribes who have previously requested to be informed by the City through formal notification of proposed projects within the geographic area in which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated. As of July 2023, only the Kizh Nation had responded to the City's request for consultation. The Kizh Nation expressed agreement with the Project and requested that the Tribe be notified for consultation for future projects within the City.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial study:

- ☐ 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.

Marilyn Simpson
Signature

12/13/2023
Date

Environmental Checklist

Aesthetics

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

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to aesthetics. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** According to the City's General Plan, there are no designated scenic vistas within the city (City of Irwindale, 2008). However, the San Gabriel Mountains located to the north of the Project site are scenic resources and an important part of the local scenery and contribute to the overall aesthetic setting of the region. Long-range views of the San Gabriel Mountains are provided throughout the city.

Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would encourage the development of residential uses on the identified Housing Sites shown in Figure 2. Since there are no designated scenic vistas in the city, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not impact locally-designated scenic vistas. While the building heights of the

proposed residential development would vary on a project-by-project basis limited by the parameters of the sites; underlying land use and zoning designations, building heights would be similar to existing development throughout the city and would not cause a substantial obstruction of long-range views of the San Gabriel Mountains. Long-range views of the San Gabriel Mountains would still be available throughout the city at various locations with the development of the proposed Housing Sites.

Furthermore, the city's visual landscape primarily consists of industrial and mining operations in combination with urban uses, where the development of the Housing Sites would be consistent with the existing visual landscape and would not change the quality of the visual landscape of the city. Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts to scenic vistas and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- b) **No Impact.** The California State Scenic Highway System Map indicates that no existing or proposed State scenic highways are located in Irwindale (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans], 2018). The nearest designated scenic highway is State Route (SR-) 2, located approximately 10.6 miles north of the city, and the nearest eligible scenic highway is SR-39, located approximately one mile east of the city. Therefore, future development allowed under the 2021-2029 would not result in substantial damage to scenic resources in a State scenic highway. No impact would occur and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.
- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would encourage development of new residential units within the city on the five identified Housing Sites (refer to Figure 2). Since the City would not be able to fully accommodate its 6th cycle RHNA with the identified Housing Sites' existing zoning, the Housing Element also includes a program to redesignate and rezone the five Housing Sites for residential development via new residential development overlay zones.

However, since the increase in densities would be achieved through a residential overlay zone, the base zoning for the five Housing Sites would remain the same as in existing conditions. Future residential development projects proposed for the five Housing Sites would be required to comply with the zoning requirements of the applicable residential development overlay zones, which would regulate visual qualities, such as height, bulking, mass, and setbacks, of future residential projects. In addition, future residential development projects would be undergo project-level planning review prior to project approval to ensure the project is consistent with the existing visual character and that conflicts in the visual landscape would be avoided. Therefore, compliance with the applicable residential development overlay zoning requirements would ensure that future residential development would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Impacts would be less than significant and as such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- d) **Less than Significant Impact.** Given the urbanized and industrial nature of the city, there are numerous existing sources of light and glare. Sources of glare in the City occur with the reflection of sunlight from polished surfaces, such as window glass or reflective materials, or potentially from broad expanses of light-colored surfaces on building windows and facades. Existing light-generating uses in the City include exterior and interior lighting of various residential and commercial buildings, streetlights, and signage lighting. Vehicles, particularly headlights, are also sources of light and glare.

The residential development encouraged under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would include new lighting sources associated with exterior lights, such as nighttime and security lighting, interior lights, and additional vehicle headlights. However, all development encouraged under the Housing Element would be required to comply with the lighting standards established in the Irwindale Municipal Code, which would require specific shielding, orientation, and installation measures to minimize offsite light pollution and spillover. Furthermore, the new light sources would be consistent in nature and design with the existing light sources throughout the city and as such, would not create more intensive light sources.

Potential new sources of glare associated with new residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would consist of glazing (i.e., windows) on the façades and other reflective materials used in the façade of the proposed structures. However, all development encouraged under the Housing Element would be required to comply with the glare and glazing standards established in the Irwindale Municipal Code, which would ensure that offsite glare would be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. Therefore, with compliance with the Irwindale Municipal Code, impacts related to light and glare associated with implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be less than significant and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

References

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), 2018. California State Scenic Highway System Map. Available at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>. Accessed June 2023.

City of Irwindale, 2008. General Plan Update. Available at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38/General-Plan?bidId=>. Accessed June 2023.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES —				
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to agriculture and forestry resources. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The city does not contain any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (California Department of Conservation [DOC], 2022a). According to the City's Zoning Map, Housing Site 3 identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element is zoned for agricultural uses (City of Irwindale, 2018).

However, Housing Site 3 is currently developed with commercial and industrial uses and does not contain any agricultural operations or uses. Furthermore, under the City's Zoning Code, residential uses are permitted on parcel designated as Agriculture (Interwest, 2020). Therefore, construction of residential development on Housing Site 3 would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use.

All other Housing Sites proposed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element are either currently vacant or developed with commercial or industrial uses and do not include any agricultural uses. Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use and impacts would be less than significant. No further analysis of this issue is warranted in the EIR.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** As stated above, Housing Site 3 under the 2021-2029 Housing Element is zoned for agricultural uses. However, Housing Site 3 is currently developed with commercial and industrial uses and does not contain any agricultural uses. In addition, under the 2021-2029 Housing Element, the City would apply a residential overlay to Housing Site 3 for mixed-use with residential development (MXD, 21 to 30 dwelling units per acre) to increase the allowable residential density onsite (City of Irwindale, 2023). Furthermore, no parcels within the city are enrolled under a Williamson Act contract (DOC, 2022b). Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract and impacts would be less than significant. No further analysis of this issue is warranted in the EIR.
- c) **No Impact.** There are no parcels zoned for forestland or timber within the city limits as the city is comprised primarily of industrial and commercial uses.. As such, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not conflict with existing zoning for forest land or timberland. No impact would occur and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.
- d) **No Impact.** As stated above, no forest land exists within the city. As such, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.
- e) **No Impact.** As discussed above under Thresholds a) through d), there would be less than significant impacts associated with agricultural lands and no impacts associated with forest lands. Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not involve other changes in the existing environment that could result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, no impact would occur, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

References

- California Department of Conservation (DOC), 2022a. California Important Farmland Finder. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed June 2023.
- California Department of Conservation (DOC), 2022b. The Williamson Act Status Report 2020-21. Available at: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wa/Pages/stats_reports.aspx. Accessed June 2023.
- City of Irwindale, 2018. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38/General-Plan?bidId=>. Accessed June 2023.
- City of Irwindale, 2023. 2021-2029 Housing Element. January 19, 2023.
- Interwest Consulting Group, Inc. (Interwest), 2020. City of Irwindale Zoning Code Assessment. Available at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8439/Irwindale-Code-Assessment-Draft---093020?bidId=>. Accessed July 2023.
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Air Quality

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
III. AIR QUALITY —				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to air quality. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a-c) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The city of Irwindale is located within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin), which is in nonattainment under federal and State air quality standards for several criteria air pollutants. The 2021-2029 Housing Element would plan for new residential development that would generate air pollutant emissions during construction and operation, which could conflict with an applicable air quality plan, exceed criteria pollutant thresholds, or expose sensitive receptors. Therefore, these issues will be analyzed further within the EIR.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Potential sources that may emit odors during construction activities include the use of architectural coatings and solvents. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1113 (Architectural Coatings) limits the amount of volatile organic compounds from architectural coatings and solvents. According to the SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook, construction equipment is not a typical source of odors. Complying with the California Air Resources Board Air Toxics

Control Measure (ATCM) would minimize odors from the combustion of diesel fuel. The ATCM was adopted in 2004 and limits diesel-fueled commercial vehicle idling to five minutes at any given location. New residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would also be required to comply with SCAQMD Rule 402 (Nuisance), which prohibits the emissions of nuisance air contaminants or odorous compounds. Construction activities and materials adhering with mandatory SCAQMD Rules and State measures would not result in other emissions that create objectionable odors. As such, new residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not generate emissions leading to nuisance odors that would adversely affect nearby sensitive receptors.

According to the SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook, land uses associated with odor complaints typically include agricultural uses, wastewater treatment plants, food processing plants, chemical plants, composting, refineries, landfills, dairies, and fiberglass molding. The Project includes new residential uses within the city that would not introduce any major odor-producing uses that would have the potential to affect a substantial number of people. Odors associated with Project operation would be limited to those typical activities associated with on-site waste generation and disposal (e.g., trash cans, dumpsters) and occasional minor odors generated during food preparation activities. Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not generate emissions leading to nuisance odors that would adversely affect nearby sensitive receptors during operation. Impacts related to odors would be less than significant, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

Biological Resources

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

Discussion

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety and EJ Elements are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impact related to biological resources within the city. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The City's Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area includes over 700 acres of developed and natural areas. The natural areas associated with the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area contain a relatively high diversity and density of wildlife, with alluvial scrub habitat functioning as a valuable wildlife habitat to a wide variety of

amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. Species and habitats identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as candidate, sensitive, or special status that may be present within the City include but are not limited to Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), Brand's Star Phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*), and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). Therefore, there is a potential for any of these species or their habitats to be affected by the construction of future projects encouraged under the 2021-2029 Housing Element.

Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would encourage development of new residential units within the city on the identified Housing Sites (refer to Figure 2). Future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be located on one of the five identified Housing Sites, where there is the potential for construction and/or operational activities to impact, either directly or indirectly, candidate, sensitive, or special-status species. Therefore, this issue will be analyzed further within the EIR.

b-c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** According to the National Wetlands Inventory Mapper, riparian and wetland areas within the City are limited to identified quarry sites and the Santa Fe Dam open space area (USFW, 2023). None of the five identified Housing Sites support riparian or wetland areas due to the urbanized, developed nature of the sites. While implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would encourage the construction and operation of residential development on the five Housing Sites, since none of the Housing Sites support riparian or wetland areas, impacts to riparian habitat or wetlands areas would be considered less than significant.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Wildlife corridors are features that exist as topographical or structural pinch points that, among other purposes, are utilized by wildlife for travel between one geographical area to the next. While these resources may support limited biological function and are perhaps utilized strictly for travel purposes, for example, a dry culvert under a roadway or bridge; more often, they contain natural vegetation and habitats that support foraging, roosting, and breeding activities, as well. Very often, particularly in the case of riparian corridors, aquatic species depend entirely on these features to persist.

Housing Sites 2 through 5 are located either located in the vicinity of open space or undeveloped quarry sites or are themselves undeveloped, vacant parcels, which could serve as migratory wildlife corridors. For these reasons, future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element could potentially interfere with the movement of any wildlife species or with established migratory wildlife corridors. Therefore, this issue will be analyzed further within the EIR.

e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would encourage new residential development on the five Housing Sites, some of which could contain existing protected trees. New residential development encouraged under the

- 2021-2029 Housing Element could have the potential to removal or damage of protected trees. However, any required removal of protected trees would occur in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 12.10 of the Irwindale Municipal Code, which would ensure future projects would minimize impacts to protected trees on a project-by-project basis. Therefore, compliance with the Irwindale Municipal Code would ensure impacts would be less than significant, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.
- f) **No Impact.** The City does not have any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan and no adopted local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans apply to any portion of the city (CDFW 2019). Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would have no impact to adopted biological plans and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

References

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), 2019. California Natural Community Conservation Plans Map. April 2019. Available at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=68626&inline>. Accessed April 2023.
- CDFW, 2023. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) – City of Irwindale. Available at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Maps-and-Data>. Accessed August 2023.
- City of Irwindale, 2008. General Plan Update. Available at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38/General-Plan?bidId=>. Accessed June 2023.
- United States Fish and Wildlife (USFW), 2023. National Wetlands Inventory Mapping Database. Available at: <https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>. Accessed August 2023.

Cultural Resources

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

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety and EJ Elements are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impact to cultural resources. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a-b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The new residential development encouraged with implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element could cause adverse changes to historical and archaeological resources within the city. Therefore, these issues will be analyzed in greater detail in the EIR.
- c) **Less than Significant Impact.** No known formal or informal cemeteries or other burial places are known to exist on any of the five Housing Sites identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element. The five Housing Sites identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element are either currently vacant or developed with industrial or commercial uses with associated asphalt surface parking lots, and vegetation. Construction of the proposed residential developments allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element have the potential to include ground-disturbing activities, which could result in the inadvertent discovery of unknown buried human remains. If human remains were discovered during construction activities, compliance with existing laws and regulations that protect buried human remains, including compliance with State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98, would be required.

Pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98 and Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, if human remains are encountered, the contractor would be required to halt work within 100 feet of the discovery and contact the Los Angeles County Coroner. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) would be notified. The NAHC will designate a Most Likely Descendent (MLD) for the remains per PRC Section 5097.98. Until the landowner has conferred with the MLD, the contractor would ensure that the immediate vicinity where the discovery occurred is not disturbed by further activity, is adequately protected according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, and that further activities take into account the possibility of multiple burials. Therefore, compliance with existing state laws and regulations would reduce impacts to unknown buried human remains to a less than significant level. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

Energy

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VI. ENERGY — Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to energy. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a-b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element could result in potentially significant wasteful energy consumption or conflict with an adopted energy plan. Therefore, these issues will be analyzed in greater detail in the EIR.

Geology and Soils

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS — Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to geology and soils. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

However, the Safety Element includes the goal and policies listed below to minimize the risks to lives and property due to seismic activities and geologic hazards, which are discussed in the following analysis as they relate to potential impacts associated with geologic and soil conditions.

Goal SAF10: A community protected from seismic and geologic hazards that ensures public health and safety as well as City infrastructure and services are maintained.

- SAF10.1 Building Codes.** Ensure that new and retrofitted buildings comply with the most recently adopted applicable City, county, and state building codes governing seismic safety to minimize the potential for damage from earthquakes.
- SAF10.2 Geotechnical Study.** Require detailed geologic, geotechnical, or soil investigations in areas of potential seismic or geologic hazards as part of the environmental and/or development review process.
- SAF10.3 Structural Hazards.** Mitigate structural hazards related to seismic events through appropriate methods such as excavating and refilling land with engineered fill, slope stabilization, and other appropriate mitigation.
- SAF10.4 Critical Facilities.** Ensure that police and fire stations, emergency operations centers, communications centers, reservoirs, medical facilities, and other essential structures and facilities located in geologic and seismic hazard areas remain safe and in a state of readiness for earthquakes.
- SAF10.5 SMARA Regulations.** Continue to enforce Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) regulations with regard to the mining pits in the City to ensure proper handling of slopes, mining depths, runoff, environmental impacts, and the filling and ultimate development of the site.

Goal SAF16: A City that responds with the maximum feasible speed and efficiency to disaster events so as to minimize injury, loss of life, property damage, and disruption to the social and economic life of the City.

- SAF16.1 Emergency Response Planning.** In cooperation with City emergency response providers, maintain and regularly update emergency plans for floods, earthquakes, fires, hazardous materials, and other disasters. Plans should be consistent with the California Standardized Emergency Management System protocol.
- SAF16.6 Community Capacity.** Involve volunteers, community groups, and civic organizations in emergency response activities, including planning and program development to prepare for disasters and disaster recovery. Individuals and businesses should have access to up-to-date information that allows them to engage with the City, regional agencies and community-based organizations to expand communications, coordinate hazard preparation and response, and be able to make informed decisions about potential safety hazards and the level of risk they are willing to accept.

- SAF16.7 Utilities.** Work with local gas, electric, cable, water, sewer, and other utility providers to maintain their facilities and ensure their ability to function (or be quickly restored) during and following a disaster.
- SAF16.8 Critical Facilities.** Ensure that critical public facilities and infrastructure that support community health and safety (such as police and fire stations, and water and sewer facilities) are designed to maximize their resilience and ability to function during and after a natural disaster.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a.i) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (Alquist-Priolo Act) prohibits the development of structures for human occupancy across Holocene-active fault traces. Under this Act, the California Geological Survey (CGS) has established “Zones of Required Investigation” on either side of an active fault that delimits areas susceptible to surface fault rupture. The zones are referred to as Earthquake Fault Zones (EFZs) and are shown on official maps published by the CGS (CGS 2023). Surface rupture occurs when the ground surface is broken due to a fault movement during an earthquake; typically, these types of hazards occur within 50 feet of an active fault.

The California Earthquake Hazards Zone Application (EQ Zapp) is an interactive map available on CGS’s website. The EQ Zapp allows users to view all available earthquake hazard zone data, including earthquake fault, liquefaction, and earthquake-induced landslide zones. According to the EQ Zapp, there are no identified Alquist-Priolo earthquake zones within the city (CGS 2023).

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would guide the development of residential units within the City throughout the 6th RHNA cycle. Future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be located on one of the five Housing Sites identified in Figure 2, *Proposed Housing Sites Inventory*. None of the proposed five Housing Sites are located within an identified Alquist-Priolo Zone or within 50 feet of a known earthquake fault. In addition, all development encouraged under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would also be required to be consistent with the goals and policies of the Safety Element related to geological and seismic hazards, as listed above. Therefore, impacts related to the risk of loss, injury, or death due to fault rupture would be considered less than significant. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- a.ii) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The city is located in a seismically active region of Southern California. Moderate to strong earthquakes can occur on numerous local faults. Southern California faults are classified as “active,” “potentially active,” or “inactive.” Faults from past geologic periods of mountain building that do not display any evidence of recent offset are considered “potentially active” or “inactive.” Faults that have historically produced earthquakes or show evidence of movement in the past 11,000 years (i.e., Holocene Age) are known as “active faults.”

A buried segment of the active Duarte Fault is located within the city and is known to traverse the southwestern corner of the Azusa Largo pit continuing along Foothill

Boulevard to the east. The Duarte fault is considered a component of the larger Sierra Madre fault zone that is located along the southern foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains (City of Irwindale, 2008). Other major faults within vicinity of the city include the Northridge Fault, Elysian Park Zone Fault, Sierra Madre Fault, San Andreas Fault, Newport-Inglewood Fault, Whittier-Elsinore Fault, Raymond Hill Fault, and Clamshell-Sawpit Fault as well as a substantial number of previously unknown blind-thrust faults are now suspected to traverse the Los Angeles region (City of Irwindale, 2008). The presence of these faults suggests that the city may be subject to strong seismic ground shaking in the event of an earthquake in the region.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would guide the development of residential units within the City throughout the 6th RHNA cycle. Future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be located on one of the five identified Housing Sites. Future projects encouraged by 2021-2029 Housing Element's goals, policies, strategies, and implementation actions would include residential structures, which could be affected by strong seismic ground shaking. However, all future construction of any new structures, and improvements to certain existing structures in California, is subject to the standards and requirements included in the most current version of the California Building Code (CBC) and the Irwindale Municipal Code, including the Building Code (which is derived from the CBC and the County of Los Angeles Building Code). In general, these building codes require that every newly constructed structure be subject to a geotechnical review (a preliminary and final review). Geotechnical design criteria are incorporated into every geotechnical review to ensure structures can withstand potential ground shaking from regional fault sources. Compliance with the applicable building codes would ensure that impacts related to strong ground shaking would be minimized to the greatest extent feasible.

In addition, future development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would also be required to comply with the goals and policies established in the of the Safety Element related to geological and seismic hazards. As listed above, the Safety Element also requires compliance with all applicable building codes as well as geotechnical investigation and review prior to obtaining a building permit. For these reasons, impacts related to strong ground shaking would be considered less than significant with implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- a.iii) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Liquefaction is a phenomenon in which unconsolidated, water-saturated sediments become unstable due to the effects of strong seismic shaking. During an earthquake, these sediments can behave like a liquid, potentially causing severe damage to overlying structures. Lateral spreading is a variety of a minor landslide that occurs when unconsolidated liquefiable material breaks and spreads due to the effects of gravity, usually down gentle slopes. Liquefaction-induced lateral spreading has been defined as the finite, lateral displacement of gently sloping ground as a result of pore-pressure buildup or liquefaction in a shallow underlying deposit during an earthquake. The occurrence of this phenomenon is dependent on many complex factors,

including the intensity and duration of ground shaking, particle-size distribution, and density of the soil. In general, a relatively high potential for liquefaction exists in loose, sandy soils that are within 50 feet of the ground surface and are saturated (below the groundwater table).

The potential damaging effects of liquefaction include differential settlement, loss of ground support for foundations, ground cracking, heaving and cracking of structure slabs due to sand boiling, and buckling of deep foundations due to ground settlement. Dynamic settlement (i.e., pronounced consolidation and settlement from seismic shaking) may also occur in loose, dry sands above the water table, resulting in settlement of and possible damage to overlying structures. Lateral spreading can move blocks of soil, placing strain on buried pipelines that can lead to leaks or pipe failure..

Within the city, the CGS identifies the northeastern and southwestern portions of the city, including proposed Housing Sites 2 and 3, as having liquefaction risk (CGS, 2023). However, new residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to comply with all applicable requirements and standards related to liquefaction and lateral spreading established in the CBC and Irwindale Municipal Code. The CBC and Irwindale Municipal Code require that specific engineering design recommendations be incorporated into grading plans and building specifications as a condition of construction permit approval to ensure that proposed structures would withstand the effects of seismic ground movement, including liquefaction, lateral spreading, and settlement. Compliance with the requirements of the CBC and Irwindale Municipal Code for structural safety would reduce hazards from seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and settlement, to a less than significant level.

In addition, future development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would also be required to comply with the goals and policies established in the of the Safety Element related to geological and seismic hazards. As listed above, the Safety Element also requires compliance with all applicable building codes as well as geotechnical and structural investigation and review prior to obtaining a building permit to ensure impacts related to geologic hazards, including liquefaction and lateral spreading, are minimized to the greatest extent feasible. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- a.iv) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Landslides are one of the various types of downslope movements (mass wasting) in which rock, soil, and other debris are displaced due to the effects of gravity. The potential for material to detach and move down slope depends on multiple factors including the type of material, water content, and steepness of terrain.

According to the CGS, areas identified as having risks of landslides include the boundaries of mines and adjacent areas within the city, including Housing Sites 1, 3, and 4 (CGS, 2023). Future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to comply with the CBC and the Irwindale Municipal Code, including the Building Code, which require that the design and construction of new

structures in these areas be engineered to minimize landslide risks and soil instability. In addition, future development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would also be required to comply with the goals and policies established in the of the Safety Element related to geological and seismic hazards. As listed above, the Safety Element also requires compliance with all applicable building codes as well as geotechnical and structural investigation and review prior to obtaining a building permit. As required by the Safety Element, any development identified with structural hazards caused by seismic activity, including risk of landslides and slope instability, would be required to mitigate through appropriate methods, such as excavating and refilling land with engineered fill, slope stabilization, and other appropriate mitigation.. Therefore, impacts related to landslides would be less than significant with implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Future development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element could include construction activities, such as excavation, grading, and other ground disturbing activities, that could result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

To address the potential increase in erosion and sedimentation caused by earth-moving activities, future developments that would disturb one or more acres would be subject to the provisions of the National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities Order 2022-0057-DWQ (Construction General Permit). Future projects that would disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, would also be regulated under this permit. Future projects that propose to disturb less than one acre would be regulated under the Los Angeles County Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit.

These state and County requirements were developed to ensure that erosion from construction sites is controlled and monitored. The Construction General Permit requires preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which requires implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control stormwater run-on and run-off from construction work sites. BMPs may include, but would not be limited to, physical barriers to prevent erosion and sedimentation, construction of sedimentation basins, limitations on work periods during storm events, use of infiltration swales, protection of stockpiled materials, and a variety of other goals and policies to be identified by a qualified SWPPP developer that would substantially reduce or prevent erosion from occurring during construction. Therefore, impacts related to erosion or loss of topsoil would be considered less than significant. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** As mentioned above, the CGS identifies the northeastern and southwestern portions of the city, including proposed Housing Sites 2 and 3, as having liquefaction risk (CGS, 2023). As discussed above, all future developments encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element are obligated by state and

local laws to comply with the CBC and City's Building Code. Compliance with the applicable building codes would ensure that each future development has undergone a project-specific geotechnical review prior to issuance of grading permits, whereby project-specific geotechnical hazards would be identified and the specific design criteria would be incorporated into individual project design plans. Geotechnical design criteria are incorporated into geotechnical reviews to verify the stability of nearby slopes and soils, and to provide recommendations to protect developments from causing or being affected by liquefaction, lateral spreading, landslides, and subsidence. Compliance with project-specific geotechnical design recommendations and all applicable building code standards and requirements would ensure that future projects do not cause substantial adverse effects, including loss, injury, or death involving on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. As such, impacts related to unstable geologic units would be considered less than significant. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Expansive soils are soils that possess a “shrink-swell” characteristic. Shrink-swell is the cyclic change in volume (expansion and contraction) that occurs in fine-grained clay sediments from the process of wetting and drying; the volume change is reported as a percent change for the whole soil.

Future development on the five proposed Housing Sites could be underlain by expansive soils, which could subject them to the damaging effects of expansive soils. However, there are existing laws, regulations, plans, and standards in place that would reduce the potential impact to less-than-significant levels. The CBC and Irwindale Municipal Code require geotechnical reviews to include soil testing, which identify the presence of a variety of geotechnical constraints related to soil quality, including the expansion potential of the soil. In addition, future development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would also be required to comply with the goals and policies established in the of the Safety Element related to geological and seismic hazards. As listed above, the Safety Element also requires compliance with all applicable building codes as well as geotechnical and structural investigation and review prior to obtaining a building permit. Therefore, compliance with state and local laws and the City's General Plan would ensure impacts related to expansive soils would be less than significant. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- e) **No Impact.** The city of Irwindale is served by existing municipal wastewater infrastructure. New residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would connect to existing mainlines and service lines, which are largely located in surrounding roadways. As such, future residential developments would not use septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impact would occur and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.
- f) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Construction of new residential development planned under the 2021-2029 Housing Element could involve excavation and grading in areas with moderate to high sensitivity for buried historic period archaeological resources.

However, in the event that paleontological resources or human remains are encountered during construction, compliance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, as amended, would be required, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, as amended, requires in the event of discovery of paleontological resources that all construction activity ceases until appropriate investigation and/or salvage measures have been established by the City.. Therefore, compliance with Resources Code Section 5097.98 would ensure impacts related to paleontological resources would be less than significant. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted..

References

- California Geological Survey (CGS), 2023. Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>. Accessed June 20, 2023.
- City of Irwindale, 2008. General Plan Update. Available at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38/General-Plan?bidId=>. Accessed June 19, 2023.
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Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to greenhouse gases emissions (GHGs). As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a-b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would guide the development of residential units within the City throughout the 6th RHNA cycle. Future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element Would include construction and operational activities, which could generate significant GHG emissions and potentially conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Therefore, these issues will be analyzed further in the EIR.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS — Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

However, the Safety Element includes the following goals and policies to minimize the risks to lives and property due to the use and storage of hazardous materials:

Goal SAF11: A safe and healthy community that minimizes public health risks and threats from hazardous materials and wastes.

- SAF11.1 Hazardous Materials Risk Reduction.** Continue coordination with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) to reduce the risk of hazardous materials accidents through conscientious land use planning.
- SAF11.2 Hazardous Materials Businesses.** Improve intentional and safe siting of businesses that use, store, or transport hazardous materials and waste near residential neighborhoods and sensitive areas and enforce mitigation measures to comply with LACFD standards.
- SAF11.3 Hazardous Materials Handlers.** Continue to require businesses, such as CleanTech Environmental, that store, generate, use, or transport large or toxic quantities of hazardous materials or wastes to comply with LACoFD standards.
- SAF11.4 Household Hazardous Waste.** Encourage the proper reduction of household hazardous waste and disposal through comprehensive public education, recycling efforts, and collection programs.
- SAF11.5 Transportation.** Work with governmental agencies, such as Caltrans and the San Gabriel Valley COG, to ensure that transporters of hazardous materials and wastes redesignate truck routes away from residential neighborhoods and sensitive areas where spills may occur.
- SAF11.6 Hazardous Waste Spills and Cleanup.** Continue to proactively contain and supervise the cleanup of spills on City streets, catch basins, storm drains, and storm channels, and work with property owners to reduce hazardous materials accidents.
- SAF11.7 Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Coordination.** Continue to work with the LACoFD to administer and enforce state and federal hazardous materials regulations.
- SAF11.8 Existing Mining Pits.** Identify and publicize the status of the mining pits in the City.

Goal SAF15: A City where residents and businesses are safe from wildfires and are prepared for the risks associated with wildfire spread.

- SAF15.1 Fire Prevention and Suppression Needs.** Coordinate with CAL FIRE and fire agencies in neighboring cities to plan for future fire prevention and suppression needs including identifying future water supply for fire suppression needs.
- SAF15.2 Emergency Evacuation Route Adequacy.** Coordinate with state agencies and local fire districts to ensure the maintenance and reliability of current evacuation routes that may be compromised by wildfire, and publicly disclose development locations without sufficient emergency route access or capacity.
- SAF15.3 Maintenance of Emergency Evacuation Routes.** Proactively manage vegetation along roadsides of emergency/evacuation routes to prevent wildfires.

- SAF15.4 Fire Codes.** Ensure that the latest versions of regional and state Fire Codes are adopted and enforced to build resiliency and minimize the potential for damage, personal injury, and loss from fire hazards.
- SAF15.5 Consistency with California Codes.** Ensure that all residential, commercial, and industrial construction and development maintain consistency with California Code of Regulations Title 14, Natural Resources, Division 1.5, Department of Forestry, Chapter 7, Fire Protection.
- SAF15.6 Existing Structures in VHFHSZ.** Support the retrofitting of existing structures in VHFHSZs built prior to modern fire safety codes or wildfire hazard mitigation guidance to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.
- SAF15.7 Development in the VHFHSZ.** Avoid or minimize new residential development in the VHFHSZ. If new development occurs within or near the VHFHSZ, ensure projects comply with all applicable state or local fire safety and defensible space regulations or standards, and any applicable fire protection or risk-reduction measures identified in locally adopted plans. Discourage land uses that could exacerbate the risk of ignitions in the VHFHSZ, such as outdoor storage of hazardous or highly flammable materials, automobile service stations, or gas stations.
- SAF15.8 New Development Fire Safety Standards.** Require that all new development prepare a fire protection plan that complies with established fire safety standards. Require that ingress and egress routes be constructed using the most current State Fire Safe Regulations, Fire Code, and or City Code that meets these minimum requirements. Fire protection plans shall be referred to the appropriate fire agency and other public agencies for comment as to:
- 1) Risk analysis
 - 2) Location of anticipated water supply.
 - 3) Adequacy of water supply for new development (i.e., maintenance and long-term integrity).
 - 4) Adequacy of fire flow (gallons per minute) to extinguish a fire at the proposed development.
 - 5) Fire response capabilities including site design for fire department access in and around structures.
 - 6) Ability for a safe and efficient fire department response.
 - 7) Traffic flow and ingress/egress for residents and emergency vehicles.
 - 8) Mitigation measures and design considerations for non-conforming fuel modification.
 - 9) Potential impacts to emergency services and fire department response.
 - 10) Wildfire education maintenance and limitations.

- SAF15.9 Proper Addressing and Signage.** Implement proper addressing and signage for all streets and homes in compliance with LACFD to assist in fire emergencies.
- SAF15.10 Vegetation Maintenance Agreement.** Continue to require new development to enter into a long-term vegetation maintenance agreement with the City for defensible space and fuel modification.
- SAF15.11 Flammable Plant Species.** Reduce highly flammable plant species that have a low drought tolerance and easily spread.
- SAF15.12 Defensible Space.** Ensure that a defensible perimeter is maintained around residential located in high or very high wildfire hazards zones, as per LACFD guidelines.
- SAF15.13 Fire Prevention Techniques.** Preserve and maintain existing fire trails, defensible space and community fire breaks and maintain public and private road clearance.
- SAF15.14 Location of Public Facilities.** All essential public facilities shall be located outside high fire risk areas, where feasible.
- SAF15.15 Non-Conforming Development.** Mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazards, as feasible.

Goal SAF16: A City that responds with the maximum feasible speed and efficiency to disaster events so as to minimize injury, loss of life, property damage, and disruption to the social and economic life of the City.

- SAF16.1 Emergency Response Planning.** In cooperation with City emergency response providers, maintain and regularly update emergency plans for floods, earthquakes, fires, hazardous materials, and other disasters. Plans should be consistent with the California Standardized Emergency Management System protocol.
- SAF16.2 Interagency Coordination.** Cooperate with other public agencies, nearby cities, community groups, and private enterprises in developing comprehensive disaster preparedness, assistance, and post-disaster recovery plans in order to maximize mutual aid response. Participate in regularly scheduled disaster exercises and emergency response drills to better prepare Police, Fire, Public Works, and other City department employees for disaster response.
- SAF16.3 Private Sector Collaboration.** Engage the private sector (business community) in disaster response planning and coordination through planning outreach and engagement that fosters stronger connections with the business community, increases information sharing on emergency management, and facilitates public-private partnerships. Ensure input from the business community informs the planning process, emergency response strategies, and post-disaster recovery efforts, including short- and long-term restoration of services and operations, and economic recovery.
- SAF16.4 Assessment of Future Emergency Service Needs.** Prepare an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs as part of

the City's future General Plan Land Use Element Update and Master Fire Plan and ensure that future growth projections are coordinated with emergency and fire service capacity and delivery.

- SAF16.5 Post-Disaster Evaluation.** Following disasters, conduct an evaluation of the extent of damage and the need for redevelopment, particularly after large fires.
- SAF16.6 Community Capacity.** Involve volunteers, community groups, and civic organizations in emergency response activities, including planning and program development to prepare for disasters and disaster recovery. Individuals and businesses should have access to up-to-date information that allows them to engage with the City, regional agencies and community-based organizations to expand communications, coordinate hazard preparation and response, and be able to make informed decisions about potential safety hazards and the level of risk they are willing to accept.
- SAF16.7 Utilities.** Work with local gas, electric, cable, water, sewer, and other utility providers to maintain their facilities and ensure their ability to function (or be quickly restored) during and following a disaster.
- SAF16.8 Critical Facilities.** Ensure that critical public facilities and infrastructure that support community health and safety (such as police and fire stations, and water and sewer facilities) are designed to maximize their resilience and ability to function during and after a natural disaster.
- SAF16.9 Emergency Response Planning. Technology.** Support the use of communication technologies to transmit information to other agencies and the public during emergencies, including:
- CivicReady emergency alert system
 - Social media operated by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Irwindale Police Department, and other public safety agencies and municipalities
 - Other systems to provide outreach to residents without telephone or Internet service
- SAF16.10 Emergency Evacuation.** Ensure the transportation system provides adequate capacity for safe, efficient and quick evacuations in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Implementation of the 2021-2023 Housing Element would encourage future residential development on the five identified Housing Sites within the city (refer to Figure 2). Construction activity associated with future residential development could involve use of standard construction equipment, which would include the following commonly used hazardous materials and substances: fuel, oils and lubricants, hydraulic fluid, paints and thinners, and cleaning solvents to maintain vehicles and motorized equipment. Operational activities could also use hazardous materials, which would consist of typical cleaning solutions, landscaping fertilizer or other gardening materials, and fuels, oils, and other lubricants. Routine use of any of these

substances could pose a hazard to people or the environment if construction and/or operational activities are not regulated. Similarly, the transport, storage, or disposal of these commonly used hazardous materials during construction activities could cause a significant impact if they are exposed to people or the environment.

Future residential development projects facilitated under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations, such as the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the California Hazardous Material Management Act, and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22, as well as Policies SAF11.5 and SAF11.6 of the proposed Safety Element Update. Compliance with the applicable laws and regulations would ensure that risks associated with transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials would be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. For instance, contractors would be required to prepare and implement Hazardous Materials Business Plans (HMBPs) that requiring hazardous materials used for construction be used properly and stored in appropriate containers with secondary containment, as needed, to contain a potential release. HMBPs are also required for future developments that would include the use, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials on-site. The California Fire Code would also require measures for the safe storage and handling of hazardous materials during construction and operation of the Project.

Construction contractors would also be required to prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for construction activities according to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit requirements. The SWPPP would list the hazardous materials (including petroleum products) proposed for use during construction; describe spill prevention measures, equipment inspections, equipment and fuel storage; protocols for responding immediately to spills; and describe BMPs for controlling site run-on and runoff.

In addition, the transportation of hazardous materials would be regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Caltrans, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Together, federal and state agencies determine driver-training requirements, load labeling procedures, and container specifications designed to minimize the risk of a release of hazardous materials.

In the event of a hazardous materials spill or release at a future residential development on any of the Housing Sites, a coordinated response would occur at the federal, state, and local levels, including the County of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) is the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) and hazardous materials response team. In the event of a hazardous materials spill, the LACoFD would be notified and sent to the scene to respond to and assess the situation.

Therefore, compliance with the applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations would ensure that the risks associated with the transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials would be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. Thus, impacts

would be considered less than significant and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** As discussed above, construction and operation of future residential development on the Housing Sites would include the use of hazardous materials, which have the potential to create a significant risk to the public or environment through accidental releases or spills. However, compliance with all applicable laws and regulations related to release or spills of hazardous materials would ensure risks are minimized to the greatest extent feasible. As noted above, a HMBP and SWPPP would be required for the future residential development projects, which would include procedures that help prevent the accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. A standard HMBP includes BMPs, as well as spill control and spill response goals, policies, strategies, and implementation actions, to ensure any potential release is handled appropriately. Furthermore, the SWPPP would list the hazardous materials proposed for use during construction and operation; describe spill prevention measures, equipment inspections, equipment, and fuel storage; protocols for responding immediately to spills; and describe BMPs for controlling site run-on and runoff. In addition, the transportation of hazardous materials would be regulated by the USDOT, Caltrans, and CHP. Together, federal and state agencies determine driver-training requirements, load labeling procedures, and container specifications designed to minimize the risk of an accidental release.

Accidents or mechanical failure involving heavy equipment could result in the accidental release of fuel, lubricants, hydraulic fluid, or other hazardous substances. These types of spills on construction sites are typically in small quantities, localized, and cleaned up in a timely manner. Construction contractors are contractually responsible for their hazardous materials and are required under their contract to properly store and dispose of these materials in compliance with state and federal laws, including implementing a HMBP. While residential development doesn't typically require large quantities of hazardous materials, the LACoFD (the local CUPA) would be the agency that is responsible for responding to sites of accidental hazardous material release, if such event occurs. Response measures would include protocols for cleaning, removing, and containing any contamination, so that the public and/or environment would not be impacted.

As discussed, future residential development projects encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element could require coverage under the Construction General Permit (or related stormwater permit), and if so, would be subject to the protections included in a SWPPP, which outline BMPs to contain a potential release and prevent any such release from reaching an adjacent waterway or stormwater collection system (e.g., erosion control, sediment control, and waste management).

Therefore, compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations would ensure that any impact resulting from future residential projects encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be less than significant. Thus, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Some populations (e.g., children, elderly, sick or disabled persons) are more susceptible to health effects of hazardous materials than the general population. Hazardous materials used near schools, day care centers, senior living communities, hospitals, etc., must consider potential health effects to these populations, often referred to as “sensitive receptors.” Construction or redevelopment on contaminated properties that could potentially generate vapors or fugitive dust containing contaminants may potentially pose a health risk to these populations. In addition, commercial businesses in proximity to sensitive receptors may have hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials or wastes that could pose a health risk to these sensitive receptors.

There are various schools, hospitals, and other sensitive receptors located throughout the city which are located within an 0.25-mile radius of the five Housing Sites. However, while there are sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the Housing Sites, future residential development projects encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to comply with the applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations that regulate hazardous materials, including the policies of the proposed Safety Element Update. Compliance with the applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations related to the handling of hazardous materials or the release of hazardous emissions within one-quarter mile of a sensitive receptor would ensure any potential impacts to sensitive receptors from future residential projects are less than significant. Thus, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The provisions in Government Code Section 65962.5, commonly referred to as the “Cortese List,” require the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to compile and maintain a list of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites, including the State Water Resources Control Board’s (SWRCB) leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites, active Cease and Desist Orders (CDO) and Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAO), and certain solid waste disposal sites and hazardous waste facilities. According to DTSC’s EnviroStor Database, the five Housing Sites identified for future residential development are not listed as hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (DTSC, 2023). Furthermore, while the Housing Sites are not listed as hazardous materials sites, compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations, including the goals and policies of the proposed Safety Element Update, would further ensure risks associated with hazardous materials are reduced to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, impacts would be considered less than significant, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The city of Irwindale does not contain any airports and is not located within an airport land use plan. The nearest airport to the city is the San Gabriel Valley Airport, located approximately 1.8 miles to the west; however, the city is not located within the airport’s influence area. Future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not increase airport hazard risks at the San Gabriel Valley Airport. In addition, all air traffic within the city would be subject to

stringent Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Caltrans regulations to protect the public from potential aircraft hazards or other safety concerns. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- f) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would encourage the development of residential uses on the identified Housing Sites shown in Figure 2. According to the California Department of Finance (DOF), the city of Irwindale has an estimated population of 1,483 residents with an average household size of 3.4 persons for the year 2023 (DOF, 2023). The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would encourage development of residential units within the City throughout the 6th RHNA cycle and would allow residential development at greater densities and intensities than what is currently allowed. The 2021-2029 Housing Element could encourage the development of up to 210 additional residential units, which could accommodate approximately 714 residents based on the 2021 average household size of 3.4 persons per household. An increase of approximately 710 residents would account for a 48 percent population increase. However, it should be noted that some of the future residential units allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would also serve existing residents in addition to potentially new residents, where the 714 additional residents would be a conservative projection. As future residential development is constructed, the City's VMT could also increase, which could have a significant impact on an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. However, while implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element could increase the City's population and VMT, the Housing Sites are already served by existing roadways with close access to major regional roadways, which could be used during an emergency. In addition, limited to no road closures are expected to occur during construction of the future residential developments, and therefore, would not interfere with emergency response or access. Furthermore, the future residential projects would be subject to review and approval by all applicable City departments on a project-by-project basis to ensure compliance with City requirements related to emergency response. The major streets and highways within the city maintain minimum right-of-way widths and would continue to ensure that various evacuation routes are accessible to residents and businesses.

In addition, the City also prepared a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) in 2012 to update the prior 2007 HMP (City of Irwindale, 2012). The HMP assesses risk from natural disasters, including earthquakes, wildfire, and landslides, and includes strategies to mitigate these potential disasters (City of Irwindale, 2012). The primary objectives of the HMP are to provide a mitigation plan that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects on the city and to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements by addressing hazards, vulnerability, and risk. The City is also in the process of updating its LHMP, which will include an updated emergency access analysis and evacuation planning within the city for a range of natural disaster events. Future residential development projects would be required to comply with the City's current LHMP at the time of project approval.

Future residential development would also be required to comply with the goals and policies of the proposed Safety Element Update, which require compliance with

applicable fire and building codes, emergency evacuation plans, and with regulations related to handling hazardous materials as well as establishes procedures and inter-agency coordination protocols during emergencies. The proposed Safety Element Update, and the HMP therein, provide emergency response guidelines and planning for the City, including fire inspections and emergency response training regarding evacuation and traffic control.

Furthermore, LACoFD provides fire and emergency response services and assists in on-site emergency and command center management. LACoFD's established web platform offers additional opportunity to circulate adopted emergency response and evacuation plans (LACoFD, 2023). In addition, the City provides a public alert system to help circulate information to Irwindale residents in case of emergency (City of Irwindale, 2023). The City has also adopted the Los Angeles County Fire Code, which incorporates applicable provisions of the California Fire Code, as Chapter 15.12 of the Irwindale Municipal Code. New residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to comply with all applicable regulations addressing emergency access, including the County's Fire Code and CFC requirements.

Implementation of the City's HMP and other programs associated with emergency planning and response as well as compliance with the County's Fire Code, CFC, and the goals and policies of the Safety Element Update would ensure that new residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- g) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The northern portion of the city, including Housing Site 4 identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element, is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) as mapped by CAL FIRE (CAL FIRE, 2011). However, future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to be constructed according to the fire protection requirements of the County's Fire Code, California Fire Code, and Uniform Building Code (UBC) and would be subject to review and approval by LACoFD to ensure the risks of wildfire are minimized to the greatest extent feasible. In addition, Policies SAF15.1 through SAF15.15 of the proposed Safety Element Update would regulate development and reduce impacts relating to wildland fire risks. Therefore, future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not pose a substantial risk to people or structures due to wildland fires or exacerbate existing wildland fire hazards. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

References

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- City of Irwindale, 2023. Emergency Preparedness. Available at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/118/Emergency-Preparedness>. Accessed June 20, 2023.
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- Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD), 2023. Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Safety Tips. Available at: <https://fire.lacounty.gov/emergency-disaster-preparedness-safety-tips/>. Accessed June 20, 2023.
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Hydrology and Water Quality

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

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to hydrology and water quality. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

However, the Safety Element Update includes the following goals and policies to minimize the risks to lives and property due to flooding:

Goal SAF8: A community that is protected from flood hazards, with adequate safety protections in areas subject to potential inundations.

- SAF8.1 Annual Flood Hazard Mapping.** Maintain current floodplain mapping, data, and information throughout the City on a yearly basis, using the latest information available from FEMA.
- SAF8.2 Development within Flood Hazard Areas.** Require development within mapped flood hazard areas to be located, designed, and constructed to provide adequate defensibility and minimize the risk of structural loss and life loss resulting from flood hazards.
- SAF8.3 New Development.** Require new development to incorporate low-impact designs and nature-based solutions to minimize stormwater impacts on drainage and flood control facilities and promote groundwater recharge, where feasible.
- SAF8.4 Storm Drain Master Plan.** Prepare, evaluate, and implement the storm drain master plan study to look for and address deficiencies in the storm drain infrastructure.

Goal SAF9: Minimized personal injury and property damage losses resulting from dam failure.

- SAF9.1 Dam Failure Inundation Mapping.** Work with the US Army Corps of Engineers and Los Angeles County Flood Control District to maintain and expand dam failure inundation area mapping, as relevant to the City of Irwindale.
- SAF9.2 New Development in Dam Failure Inundation Areas.** Minimize development in areas at risk of dam inundation, to the extent possible, in order to protect public safety and reduce potential property damage due to dam-failure-induced flooding.
- SAF9.3 County Coordination.** Work with Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation to protect recreational uses around the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area from dam-failure-related flooding.
- SAF9.4 Interagency Cooperation for Flood Standards and Regulations.** Cooperate with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and US Army Corps of Engineers every 5 years in preparing and implementing flood standards and regulations.

Goal SAF16: A City that responds with the maximum feasible speed and efficiency to disaster events so as to minimize injury, loss of life, property damage, and disruption to the social and economic life of the City.

- SAF16.1 Emergency Response Planning.** In cooperation with City emergency response providers, maintain and regularly update emergency plans for floods, earthquakes, fires, hazardous materials, and other disasters. Plans should be consistent with the California Standardized Emergency Management System protocol.

- SAF16.7 Utilities.** Work with local gas, electric, cable, water, sewer, and other utility providers to maintain their facilities and ensure their ability to function (or be quickly restored) during and following a disaster.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The city of Irwindale is within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), which is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the water quality control plan for the Los Angeles Region. Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would encourage the development of residential uses on the five identified Housing Sites shown in Figure 2. While the 2021-2029 Housing Element itself does not include measures or actions that would degrade surface or groundwater quality or violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, future residential development projects encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would have the potential to include activities that could impact to surface or groundwater quality. Construction activities associated with future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element could include grading, excavation, and other types of earth-moving activities, which could increase erosion, sedimentation, and discharge from other construction-related pollutants can potentially impact water quality. Sedimentation and polluted construction run-off can enter stormwater or nearby water bodies and introduce polluted or contaminated water, which would adversely affect water quality. Operation of future residential developments could also include activities, such as using, storing, or disposing of hazardous materials, that may introduce contaminated discharge that could affect water quality.

To address the potential impacts to water quality, future residential development projects encouraged under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to comply with the independently enforceable requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities Order 2022-0057-DWQ (Construction General Permit) and the Los Angeles County Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit (CAS004004, Order No. R4-2021-0105) (2021 MS4 Permit). The Construction General Permit and the County 2021 MS4 Permit are designed to regulate stormwater and non-stormwater discharges. The Construction General Permit requires the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP for projects disturbing 1.0 acre (or more) of land, which would include construction BMPs designed to control erosion, sediment release, and otherwise reduce the potential for discharge of pollutants in stormwater. Typical BMPs include proper handling and disposal of wastes, covering stockpiled soils, and installation of silt fences and erosion control blankets.

In addition, Chapter 8.28, *Stormwater and Urban Runoff Pollution*, of the Irwindale Municipal Code requires compliance with the applicable Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Program (SUSMP), which includes incorporation of low impact development (LID) structural and non-structural BMPs, source control BMPs, and source and non-source control BMPs for specific types of uses. Chapter 8.28 of the Irwindale Municipal Code also requires compliance with the City's Stormwater Management Program or the

Watershed Management Program (WMP), whichever is in effect at the time of project review, which also incorporates by reference the updated Los Angeles County BMP Guidebook, Los Angeles County SUSMP Guidance Manual, Los Angeles County LID Impact Design Manual, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Green Street Guidance Manual.

Compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit, 2021 MS4 Permit, project-specific SWPPP, and Irwindale Municipal Code would reduce impacts to water quality associated with the construction and operation of future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element to a less than significant level. Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Water supply is provide to the city by the San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Azusa Light and Water, California American Water, Golden State Water Company, Monrovia Water Division, and Valley County Water District. All of these water providers use groundwater as part of their water supplies. Therefore, future development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would utilize groundwater supplies during construction and operation, which has the potential to decrease groundwater supplies. However, the pumping and use of groundwater is highly regulated where each water provider is authorized to pump a specific amount of groundwater from their respective groundwater aquifers per year. In addition to groundwater supplies, water providers also complete their overall water supplies with other sources of surface water. Due to the highly regulated nature of water rights and water supply, none of the City's water providers could provide additional groundwater supplies beyond what they are currently authorized, which would ensure that groundwater supplies are not substantially depleted. For this reason, future development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies.

Under existing conditions, Housing Sites 2, 3, and 5 identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element are primarily developed with impervious surfaces while Housing Sites 1 and 4 are currently undeveloped, vacant parcels. Since Housing Sites 2, 3, and 5 are already developed with impervious surfaces, construction and operation of future residential development on these sites would not substantially change the amount impervious surfaces nor the amount of groundwater percolation and recharge allowed on these sites.

Housing Sites 1 and 4 are currently undeveloped, vacant parcels with limited amounts of impervious surfaces, which allows for groundwater percolation and recharge on these sites. While construction of future residential developments on these two sites would introduce impervious surfaces onsite, future residential developments would be required to comply with all applicable regulations related to incorporating pervious surfaces and allowing groundwater percolation onsite, including but not limited to NPDES requirements, City's LID standards and BMPs, and the Irwindale Municipal Code, which requires incorporates by reference the updated Los Angeles County BMP Guidebook,

Los Angeles County SUSMP Guidance Manual, and Los Angeles County LID Impact Design Manual. Compliance with these regulations and codes would minimize the effects of the additional impervious surfaces to ensure that groundwater percolation would still occur onsite with construction and operation of the future residential developments.

In addition, as future residential development projects are proposed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element, project applicants would be required to prepare hydromodification studies in accordance with the Irwindale Municipal Code Section 8.28.130 prior to project approval to demonstrate that no significant hydromodification changes would occur with implementation of the project and would require mitigation or project design features, if necessary. Therefore, compliance with the applicable requirements and regulations listed above would ensure that future residential development on any of the five Housing Sites would not interfere with groundwater recharge and impacts would be considered less than significant. As such, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

c.i-c.iv) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would encourage the development of residential uses on the five identified Housing Sites shown in Figure 2. While the 2021-2029 Housing Element itself does not include measures or actions that would alter drainage patterns resulting in erosion, on- or off-site flooding, or increased stormwater runoff, future residential development projects encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would have the potential to include activities that could result in alterations to existing drainage patterns.

According to FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), the city of Irwindale does not contain any flood hazard areas (FEMA, 2023). Even though there are no flood hazards areas within the city, new residential development encouraged under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would still be required to comply with Section 1612, *Flood Loads*, and Appendix G, *Flood-Resistant Construction*, of the CBC as well as Policy SAF8.3 of the Safety Element Update. Therefore, new residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not substantially alter drainage patterns to an extent that would redirect or impede flood flows.

As discussed above, construction activities associated with future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element could include grading, excavation, and other types of earth-moving activities, which could alter existing drainage patterns resulting in erosion, on- or off-site flooding, or increased stormwater runoff. However, as discussed under Threshold a) of this section, construction activities associated with future residential development would be required to comply with all applicable requirements and regulations related to altering drainage patterns, including but not limited to the NPDES General Construction Permit, preparation and implementation of a project-specific SWPPP, City's LID standards and BMPs, and the Irwindale Municipal Code, which requires incorporates by reference the updated Los Angeles County BMP Guidebook, Los Angeles County SUSMP Guidance Manual, and Los Angeles County LID Impact Design Manual. Compliance with the applicable requirements and

regulations would minimize the effects of altered drainage patterns by reducing polluted runoff by retaining, treating, or infiltrating polluted runoff onsite, and integrating post-construction BMPs into a site's overall drainage system. These construction and erosion control practices would reduce the potential for adverse effects during construction. Therefore, new residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not be anticipated to substantially alter drainage patterns or alter drainage patterns to an extent that would result in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding on- or off-site.

As new residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern and construction of these developments would be required to implement stormwater BMPs as well as comply with applicable State and local regulations, the Project would not generate a substantial increase in runoff that would result in substantial erosion, siltation, flooding on- or off-site, increased polluted runoff, or impede or redirect flood flows. Therefore, impacts related to drainage, runoff, and flooding would be less than significant. As such, further analysis of these issues in the EIR is not warranted.

- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Seiches are large waves generated by ground shaking effects within enclosed bodies of water. The Santa Fe Dam, which is located within the city, is a flood risk management dam located on the San Gabriel River that is owned and operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the Los Angeles District. The primary purpose of the Santa Fe Dam is to reduce the risk of flood damage for the densely populated area between the dam and Whitter Narrows Reservoir. According to Map 2-13 of the City's HMP, Housing Sites 2 and 3 identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element are located within the downstream inundation area of for the Santa Fe Dam (City of Irwindale, 2012).

A risk assessment of the Santa Fe Dam was completed by USACE in 2016. The risks identified during this study determined the dam to be a moderate risk due to the high population at risk immediately downstream of the dam and identified potential failure modes (USACE, 2023). The primary risk drivers for the Santa Fe Dam are internal erosion of the earthen embankment adjacent to the outlet conduit and impacts on the structure due to an earthquake event (USACE, 2023). As a result of the Santa Fe Dam's risk rating, USACE is implementing risk management measures to ensure public safety. These measures include conducting emergency exercises and incorporating any new information into USACE's Emergency Action Plan for the dam, working with local communities to help them understand how they can better prepare for a flood, regularly training dam safety staff to monitor and evaluate the condition of the dam based on key risk components, regularly inspecting and monitoring instruments to check the health of the dam, and regular maintenance and repairs to keep the dam functioning properly (USACE, 2023).

While the 2021-2029 Housing Element would introduce residential development within a known dam inundation area, future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be similar or improved in design, engineering, and

construction as existing structures within the flood inundation area. In addition, future residential development projects encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to comply with the goals and policies related to dam inundation preparedness and emergencies of the City's General Plan, including the proposed Safety Element Update, which would reduce impacts relating to dam failure. Therefore, exposure of the general public and structures to inundation hazards would remain the same relative to existing conditions. Therefore, impacts related to seiches would be less than significant.

Tsunamis are tidal waves generated by fault displacement or major ground movement. As Irwindale is landlocked and located over 23 miles from the Pacific Ocean, tsunamis are not considered a hazard for the city. Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not increase the risk of tsunami within the city and no impact would occur.

As discussed under Thresholds c.i-c.iv) above, no portion of the city lies in a flood hazard zone subject to 100-year and 500-year floods (FEMA, 2023). The five Housing Sites identified for future residential development in the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be concentrated on infill sites and would not substantially alter the overall development patterns in the city. The 2021-2029 Housing Element would increase development capacity, thereby potentially increasing the number of people and structures exposed to potential flooding. However, this condition already exists, and the Project would not exacerbate existing flood hazards. In addition, Policies SAF8.2 and SAF8.3 of the proposed Safety Element Update would regulate development and reduce impacts relating to flooding.

Furthermore, while there is the potential for flooding to impact portions of the city, as discussed in Section IX, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, future residential development facilitated under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not involve the storage or use of significant quantities of hazardous materials, and construction of new structures would be required to comply with CBC regulations related to flooding. Therefore, risks related to the release of hazardous materials due to inundation are minimal, and impacts would be less than significant. For these reasons, further analysis of these issues in the EIR is not warranted.

- e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Potential water quality and groundwater impacts associated with the 2021-2029 Housing Element are discussed under Thresholds a) and b) of this section. The 2021-2029 Housing Element would not contain any policies that would conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. In addition, new residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to comply with the existing regulations discussed under Thresholds a) and b) of this section, including during construction and operation, and would not otherwise substantially degrade water quality. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

References

City of Irwindale, 2012. 2012 Hazard Mitigation Plan. November 20, 2012. Available at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/50/Irwindale-Hazmit-Plan-11-20-12--Website?bidId=>. Accessed June 20, 2023.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 2023. National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer. Available at: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer>. Accessed June 21, 2023.

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 2023. National Inventories of Dams. Santa Fe Dam. Updated April 4, 2023. Available at: <https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/dams/system/CA10024/risk>. Accessed June 21, 2023.

Land Use and Planning

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING — Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to land use and planning. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would guide the development of residential units within the City throughout the 6th RHNA cycle. The 2021-2029 Housing Element has identified five Housing Sites throughout the city that can accommodate residential development or redevelopment, as shown in Figure 2. The five Housing Sites are parcels already established in the urban layout of the city with intersecting roadways and land uses, where future residential development would be considered infill development. In addition, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not include the development of a new roadway or infrastructure that would physically divide an established community. Therefore, impacts related to dividing an established community would be less than significant with implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element. As such, no further analysis of this issue is warranted in the EIR.
- b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would encourage development of new residential units within the city on the identified Housing Sites (refer to Figure 2). Since the City would not be able to fully accommodate its 6th cycle RHNA with the identified Housing Sites' existing zoning, the Housing Element also includes a program to redesignate and rezone the five Housing Sites for residential development via new residential development overlay zones. Due to the necessary zoning changes required for the 2021-2029 Housing Element, there could be

the potential for the 2021-2029 Housing Element to cause a significant environmental effect due to a conflict with land use plan, policy, or regulation. Therefore, this issue will be analyzed further in the EIR.

Mineral Resources

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to mineral resources. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a-b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Mining operations occupy approximately 39 percent of the city's total productive land area and range in size from 80 to 500 acres with permitted depths up to 440 feet. Of the 22 quarries located in Irwindale, six are actively being mined, five open pit mines have already been backfilled, and six open pit mines are in the process of being back filled (City of Irwindale, 2008). These mining operations also include four processing plants, each capable of producing approximately 1,000 tons of aggregate per hour. Approximately one-third of the aggregate produced in the San Gabriel Valley comes from quarries located in Irwindale, and a total of 320,000,000 tons of aggregate have been mined in the city since 1960 (City of Irwindale, 2008). Out of the five Housing Sites, Housing Site 3 is zoned as Quarry Overlay in the City's current General Plan (City of Irwindale, 2008).

Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element does not propose any mineral resources extraction activities within the city but rather would encourage the development of residential uses on the five identified Housing Sites. Therefore, adoption of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not 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.

In addition, as discussed in the Project Description, since the City would not be able to fully accommodate its 6th cycle RHNA with the identified Housing Sites' existing zoning, the 2021-2029 Housing Element also includes a program to redesignate and rezone the identified Housing Sites for residential development via new residential development overlay zones. Since the increase in densities would be achieved through a residential overlay zone, the base zoning for the five Housing Sites would remain the same as in existing conditions. Therefore, while residential uses would be able to be developed on the five identified Housing Sites, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not preclude the extraction of mineral resources on Housing Site 3 if the City decides to remove the residential overlay for that site in the future.

Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan. Impacts to mineral resources would be less than significant and as such, further analysis of these issues in the EIR is not warranted.

References

City of Irwindale, 2008. General Plan Update. Available at:
<https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38/General-Plan?bidId=>. Accessed June 19, 2023.

Noise

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIII. NOISE — Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to noise. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a-c) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would guide the development of residential units within the City throughout the 6th RHNA cycle. Future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element Would include construction and operational activities, which could generate temporary and permanent noise and vibration. Therefore, these issues will be analyzed further in the EIR.

Population and Housing

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

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to population and housing. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** According to the California Department of Finance (DOF), the city of Irwindale has an estimated population of 1,483 residents with an average household size of 3.4 persons for the year 2023 (DOF, 2023). The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would encourage development of residential units within the City throughout the 6th RHNA cycle and would allow residential development at greater densities and intensities than what is currently allowed. The 2021-2029 Housing Element could encourage the development of up to 210 additional residential units, which could accommodate approximately 714 residents based on the 2021 average household size of 3.4 persons per household. An increase of approximately 710 residents would account for a 48 percent population increase. However, it should be noted that some of the future residential units allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would also serve existing residents in addition to potentially new residents, where the 714 additional residents would be a conservative projection. Therefore, future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element could generate unplanned population growth within the city through the year 2029. Therefore, this issue will be analyzed further in the EIR.

- b) **No Impact.** The five Housing Sites identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element are either currently vacant or are developed with non-residential uses. Furthermore, future residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element on the five Housing Sites would occur on infill development. Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not displace people or housing that would necessitate developing housing elsewhere and impacts would be less than significant. As such, no further analysis of this issue is warranted in the EIR.
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Public Services

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES —				
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 following public services:				
i) Fire protection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to public services. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

a.i-a.v) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The 2021-2029 Housing Element could encourage the development of up to 210 additional residential units, which could accommodate approximately 781 residents based on the 2021 average household size of 3.61 persons per household. As stated in the 2021-2029 Housing Element, the City's total population in 2021 was 1,441 residents, where the additional 781 residents would account for a 54 percent population increase. However, it should be noted that some of the future residential units allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would also serve existing residents in addition to potentially new residents, resulting in the projected 781 additional residents as a conservative projection. Nevertheless, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element could result in unplanned population growth in the city, which in turn could increase demand on existing public services, including fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and other facilities. Therefore, these issues will be analyzed further in the EIR.

Recreation

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XVI. RECREATION —				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to recreation. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The city has nine different parks and open spaces totaling approximately 1,222 acres. The majority of park acreage comes from the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, located in the middle portion of the city, which provides various recreation amenities such as boating, swimming, hiking, camping, equestrian trails, concerts in the park, and volleyball courts (City of Irwindale, 2023). According to the California Department of Finance (DOF), the city of Irwindale has an estimated population of 1,483 residents with an average household size of 3.4 persons for the year 2023 (DOF, 2023). The Resource Management Element of the City's General Plan establishes a citywide parkland level of service goal of a minimum of one acre of parkland per 2,500 residents. As of 2023, the City was greatly exceeding the standard of 1 acre of parkland per 2,500 residents as the City provided 1,222 acres for 1,483 residents, which equates to roughly 0.82 acres of parkland per resident.

Future residential development encouraged under the 2021-2029 Housing Element could increase the use of existing City parks and open spaces by generating population growth. As shown in Table 1, the 2021-2029 Housing Element would accommodate up to 210 new residential units in the city. Based on an average household size of 3.4 persons, the 2021-2029 Housing Element could generate a population increase of up to 714 residents.

To be conservative, if the 2021-2029 Housing Element increased the population by 714 residents, the city's total population would be approximately 2,197 residents. Even with the potential population increase of 714 residents, the City would still be achieving its parkland standard of providing 1 acre per 2,500 residents as there would be 1,222 acres for 2,197 residents, which equates to approximately 0.56 acres of parkland per resident. Therefore, development under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in substantial deterioration of existing recreation facilities. Impacts to existing parks and recreational facilities would be less than significant, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Resource Management Element of the City's General Plan establishes a citywide parkland level of service goal of a minimum of one acre of parkland per 2,500 residents. New residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would increase the population of the city by an estimated 714 residents by 2029, resulting in a total population of approximately 2,197 residents. Even with implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element, the City would still provide 1,222 acres of parkland for 2,197 residents. This ratio would still meet the City's goal of a minimum of one acre of parkland per 2,500 residents and therefore, new or expanded park facilities would not be required. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

References

City of Irwindale, 2023. Environmental Justice Element. June 2023.

Department of Finance (DOF), 2023. E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State — January 1, 2021-2023. Available at: <https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates/e-5-population-and-housing-estimates-for-cities-counties-and-the-state-2020-2023/>. Accessed June 21, 2023.

Transportation

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

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to transportation. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a-d) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element could encourage the development of up to 210 additional residential units, which could increase the City's population by approximately 714 residents based on the 2021 average household size of 3.4 persons per household, which would represent a 48 percent population increase from existing conditions. As future residential development is constructed, the City's VMT could also increase citywide and could result in hazardous design features or inadequate emergency access. As such, these issues will be further analyzed in the EIR.

Tribal Cultural Resources

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES —				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to tribal cultural resources. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

a.i-a.ii) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Assembly Bill (AB) 52 requires that after July 1, 2015, and prior to release of an EIR for a project, the lead agency shall consult with Native American Tribes to identify, evaluate, and mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources if a Tribe has formally requested consultation. Furthermore, Senate Bill (SB) 18 requires local governments to contact, refer plans to, and consult with tribal organizations prior to making a decision to adopt or amend a general or specific plan. As such, to allow for compliance with AB 52 and SB 18, which mandate Native American consultation, if requested, this issue will be included in the EIR.

Utilities and Service Systems

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

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to utilities and service systems. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a-e) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would guide the development of residential units within the City throughout the 6th RHNA cycle and would allow for greater residential densities than what is currently allowed. Future residential development encouraged by the 2021-2029 Housing Element would increase the residential population within the city and subsequently, would increase the demand for utilities and service systems within the city, which could be considered significant. Therefore, these issues will be analyzed further in the EIR.

Wildfire

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

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to wildfire. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

The Safety Element Update includes the following goal and policies to minimize the risks to lives and property due to fire hazards:

Goal SAF15: A City where residents and businesses are safe from wildfires and are prepared for the risks associated with wildfire spread.

SAF15.1 Fire Prevention and Suppression Needs. Coordinate with CAL FIRE and fire agencies in neighboring cities to plan for future fire prevention and suppression needs including identifying future water supply for fire suppression needs.

SAF15.2 Emergency Evacuation Route Adequacy. Coordinate with state agencies and local fire districts to ensure the maintenance and reliability of current evacuation routes that may be compromised by wildfire, and

publicly disclose development locations without sufficient emergency route access or capacity.

- SAF15.3 Maintenance of Emergency Evacuation Routes.** Proactively manage vegetation along roadsides of emergency/evacuation routes to prevent wildfires.
- SAF15.4 Fire Codes.** Ensure that the latest versions of regional and state Fire Codes are adopted and enforced to build resiliency and minimize the potential for damage, personal injury, and loss from fire hazards.
- SAF15.5 Consistency with California Codes.** Ensure that all residential, commercial, and industrial construction and development maintain consistency with California Code of Regulations Title 14, Natural Resources, Division 1.5, Department of Forestry, Chapter 7, Fire Protection.
- SAF15.6 Existing Structures in VHFHSZ.** Support the retrofitting of existing structures in VHFHSZs built prior to modern fire safety codes or wildfire hazard mitigation guidance to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.
- SAF15.7 Development in the VHFHSZ.** Avoid or minimize new residential development in the VHFHSZ. If new development occurs within or near the VHFHSZ, ensure projects comply with all applicable state or local fire safety and defensible space regulations or standards, and any applicable fire protection or risk-reduction measures identified in locally adopted plans. Discourage land uses that could exacerbate the risk of ignitions in the VHFHSZ, such as outdoor storage of hazardous or highly flammable materials, automobile service stations, or gas stations.
- SAF15.8 New Development Fire Safety Standards.** Require that all new development prepare a fire protection plan that complies with established fire safety standards. Require that ingress and egress routes be constructed using the most current State Fire Safe Regulations, Fire Code, and or City Code that meets these minimum requirements. Fire protection plans shall be referred to the appropriate fire agency and other public agencies for comment as to:
- 1) Risk analysis
 - 2) Location of anticipated water supply.
 - 3) Adequacy of water supply for new development (i.e., maintenance and long-term integrity).
 - 4) Adequacy of fire flow (gallons per minute) to extinguish a fire at the proposed development.
 - 5) Fire response capabilities including site design for fire department access in and around structures.
 - 6) Ability for a safe and efficient fire department response.
 - 7) Traffic flow and ingress/egress for residents and emergency vehicles.

- 8) Mitigation measures and design considerations for non-conforming fuel modification.
- 9) Potential impacts to emergency services and fire department response.
- 10) Wildfire education maintenance and limitations.

- SAF15.9 Proper Addressing and Signage.** Implement proper addressing and signage for all streets and homes in compliance with LACFD to assist in fire emergencies.
- SAF15.10 Vegetation Maintenance Agreement.** Continue to require new development to enter into a long-term vegetation maintenance agreement with the City for defensible space and fuel modification.
- SAF15.11 Flammable Plant Species.** Reduce highly flammable plant species that have a low drought tolerance and easily spread.
- SAF15.12 Defensible Space.** Ensure that a defensible perimeter is maintained around residential located in high or very high wildfire hazards zones, as per LACFD guidelines.
- SAF15.13 Fire Prevention Techniques.** Preserve and maintain existing fire trails, defensible space and community fire breaks and maintain public and private road clearance.
- SAF15.14 Location of Public Facilities.** All essential public facilities shall be located outside high fire risk areas, where feasible.
- SAF15.15 Non-Conforming Development.** Mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazards, as feasible.

Goal SAF16: A City that responds with the maximum feasible speed and efficiency to disaster events so as to minimize injury, loss of life, property damage, and disruption to the social and economic life of the City.

- SAF16.1 Emergency Response Planning.** In cooperation with City emergency response providers, maintain and regularly update emergency plans for floods, earthquakes, fires, hazardous materials, and other disasters. Plans should be consistent with the California Standardized Emergency Management System protocol.
- SAF16.2 Interagency Coordination.** Cooperate with other public agencies, nearby cities, community groups, and private enterprises in developing comprehensive disaster preparedness, assistance, and post-disaster recovery plans in order to maximize mutual aid response. Participate in regularly scheduled disaster exercises and emergency response drills to better prepare Police, Fire, Public Works, and other City department employees for disaster response.
- SAF16.3 Private Sector Collaboration.** Engage the private sector (business community) in disaster response planning and coordination through planning outreach and engagement that fosters stronger connections with the business community, increases information sharing on emergency

management, and facilitates public-private partnerships. Ensure input from the business community informs the planning process, emergency response strategies, and post-disaster recovery efforts, including short- and long-term restoration of services and operations, and economic recovery.

- SAF16.4 Assessment of Future Emergency Service Needs.** Prepare an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs as part of the City's future General Plan Land Use Element Update and Master Fire Plan and ensure that future growth projections are coordinated with emergency and fire service capacity and delivery.
- SAF16.5 Post-Disaster Evaluation.** Following disasters, conduct an evaluation of the extent of damage and the need for redevelopment, particularly after large fires.
- SAF16.6 Community Capacity.** Involve volunteers, community groups, and civic organizations in emergency response activities, including planning and program development to prepare for disasters and disaster recovery. Individuals and businesses should have access to up-to-date information that allows them to engage with the City, regional agencies and community-based organizations to expand communications, coordinate hazard preparation and response, and be able to make informed decisions about potential safety hazards and the level of risk they are willing to accept.
- SAF16.7 Utilities.** Work with local gas, electric, cable, water, sewer, and other utility providers to maintain their facilities and ensure their ability to function (or be quickly restored) during and following a disaster.
- SAF16.8 Critical Facilities.** Ensure that critical public facilities and infrastructure that support community health and safety (such as police and fire stations, and water and sewer facilities) are designed to maximize their resilience and ability to function during and after a natural disaster.
- SAF16.9 Emergency Response Planning. Technology.** Support the use of communication technologies to transmit information to other agencies and the public during emergencies, including:
- CivicReady emergency alert system
 - Social media operated by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Irwindale Police Department, and other public safety agencies and municipalities
 - Other systems to provide outreach to residents without telephone or Internet service
- SAF16.10 Emergency Evacuation.** Ensure the transportation system provides adequate capacity for safe, efficient and quick evacuations in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The northern portion of the city, including Housing Site 4 proposed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element, is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) as mapped by CAL FIRE (CAL FIRE, 2011). According to the California Department of Finance (DOF), the city of Irwindale has an estimated population of 1,483 residents with an average household size of 3.4 persons for the year 2023 (DOF, 2023). The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would encourage development of residential units within the City throughout the 6th RHNA cycle and would allow residential development at greater densities and intensities than what is currently allowed. The 2021-2029 Housing Element could encourage the development of up to 210 additional residential units, which could accommodate approximately 714 residents based on the 2021 average household size of 3.4 persons per household. As future residential development is constructed, the City's VMT could also increase, which could have a significant impact on an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

As discussed in Section IX, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, additional traffic created by future residential development encouraged under the General Plan Update would not interfere with an evacuation plan as future residential development projects would be required to comply with the City's General Plan Safety Element and LHMP policies and strategies, including Policies SAF15.2 and SAF16.2 of the Safety Element Update, to ensure effective and coordinated response to disasters within the city and to further strengthen the City's preventative measures. In addition, the five identified Housing Sites are already served by existing roadways with close access to major regional roadways, which could be used during an emergency, and all of the Housing Sites are provided access to the local and regional transportation systems via two or more access points. Furthermore, while limited to no road closures are expected to occur during construction of the future residential developments, the future residential projects would be subject to review and approval by all applicable City departments on a project-by-project basis to ensure compliance with City requirements related to emergency response. The major streets and highways within the city maintain minimum right-of-way widths and would continue to ensure that various evacuation routes are accessible to residents and businesses.

In the event of a wildfire, implementation of Los Angeles County's Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP) would coordinate all County facilities and personnel, along with jurisdictional resources of the cities and special districts within the county, into an efficient organization capable of managing emergency evacuation for affected areas. LACoFD would be responsible for ensuring that future residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element does not impair adopted emergency response or evacuation plans. As part of standard development procedures, future residential development plans would be submitted for review and approval to ensure that the developments have adequate emergency access and escape routes in compliance with existing City regulations.

Lastly, the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not introduce features or policies that would preclude implementation of or alter these policies or procedures, and Policies SAF15.1 through SAF15.12 and SAF16.1 through SAF16.10 of the Safety Element Update would improve policies and regulations associated with emergency response or evacuation plans, including those for wildland fires. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- b, d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** As discussed above, the northern portion of the city, including Housing Site 4 proposed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element, is located in a VHFHSZ. Properties located within a VHFHSZ, as mapped by CAL FIRE, are required to comply with requirements of Government Code Section 51175 et seq., including the minimization of fire risks during the high fire season through vegetation clearance and the maintenance of landscape vegetation to minimize fuel supply that would spread the intensity of a fire (County of Los Angeles, 2023).

The 2021-2029 Housing Element would incentivize residential development on infill sites within the city, including near high quality public transit. All development would be subject to applicable Emergency response plans and would be required to comply with all existing City and County regulations. In the event of a wildfire, the County's OAERP would coordinate all the facilities and personnel, along with the jurisdictional resources of the surrounding cities, into an efficient organization capable of managing emergency evacuation for affected areas. Furthermore, site-specific project development would be required to be constructed according to the County's Fire Code, CFC, and UBC requirements for fire-protection and would be subject to review and approval by LACoFD. LACoFD provides several fire developments services to the City related to enforcing codes concerning new construction and remodeling, including individual project plan checks. In addition, future residential development projects would be required to demonstrate consistency with Policies SAF15.1 through SAF15.15 of the Safety Element Update, which specifically aim at reducing wildfire risks.

As new residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to comply with fire safety provisions established by the City's General Plan and Irwindale Municipal Code as well as is the County's Code of Ordinances, residential development under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not pose a substantial risk to people or structures due to wildland fires. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and further analysis of these issues in the EIR is not warranted.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The 2021-2029 Housing Element would prioritize new residential development in urban areas within the city. As such, new residential development would occur in areas that are well-served by existing roadways and utilities infrastructure. In addition, as discussed above, site-specific project development would be required to be constructed according to the City and County's Fire Code, CFC, and UBC requirements for fire-protection and would be subject to review and approval by LACoFD. Therefore, new residential development allowed under the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not require additional roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power

lines or other utilities that would exacerbate fire risk. Impacts would be less than significant, and further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

References

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)., 2011. Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA. Irwindale. Available at:
<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/5823/irwindale.pdf>. Accessed June 20, 2023.

County of Los Angeles, 2023. Code of Ordinances. Section 4907.1 - General. Available at:
https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TI_T32FICO_4907.1GE. Accessed June 21, 2023.

Mandatory Findings of Significance

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE —				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

The Project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the 2021-2029 Housing Element and conform with recent State legislation and guidelines. The Project also includes the addition of an EJ Element, which would address the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, serve to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element Update and EJ Element are policy documents that do not include any physical development and as such, would not affect the environment. Therefore, implementation of the Safety and EJ Elements would have no impacts related to mandatory findings of significance. As such, no further analysis of the Safety and EJ Elements related to this topic is warranted in the EIR.

2021-2029 Housing Element

- a-c) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would guide the development of residential units within the City throughout the 6th RHNA cycle and would allow for greater residential densities than what is currently allowed. Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would have the potential to affect the environment and/or humans, which could be potentially significant on both a project- and cumulative-level. Therefore, these issues will be analyzed further in the EIR.

References

- City of Irwindale, 2008. City of Irwindale General Plan Update. Available at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38/General-Plan?bidId=>. Accessed February 10, 2023.
- City of Irwindale, 2022. Public Review Draft 2021-2029 Housing Element. Available at: <https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7932/Public-Review-Draft-Irwindale-HEU-11-9-22?bidId=>. Accessed February 10, 2023.
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), 2020. Connect SoCal 2020. Available at: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/0903fconnectsocial-plan_0.pdf?1606001176. Accessed February 10, 2023.
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), 2021. SCAG 6th Cycle Final RHNA Allocation Plan. Available at: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/6th_cycle_final_rhna_allocation_plan_070121.pdf?1646938785. Accessed February 10, 2023.

A-3 Scoping Comments



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

December 19, 2023

Marilyn Simpson
City of Irwindale, Community Development Department
5050 North Irwindale Avenue
Irwindale, CA 91706

CITY OF IRWINDALE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

JAN 03 2024

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VICE-CHAIRPERSON
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Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

SECRETARY
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Re: 2023120387, City of Irwindale Housing Element and General Plan Update Project, Los Angeles County

Dear Ms. Simpson:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has received the Notice of Preparation (NOP), Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) or Early Consultation for the project referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code §21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code §21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit.14, §15064.5 (b) (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 (b)). If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) shall be prepared. (Pub. Resources Code §21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 5064 subd.(a)(1) (CEQA Guidelines §15064 (a)(1)). In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources within the area of potential effect (APE).

CEQA was amended significantly in 2014. Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) (AB 52) amended CEQA to create a separate category of cultural resources, "tribal cultural resources" (Pub. Resources Code §21074) and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code §21084.2). Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)). **AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation, a notice of negative declaration, or a mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015.** If your project involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space, on or after March 1, 2005, it may also be subject to Senate Bill 18 (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (SB 18). **Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements.** If your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. §800 et seq.) may also apply.

The NAHC recommends consultation with California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources. Below is a brief summary of portions of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC's recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments.

Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.

AB 52 has added to CEQA the additional requirements listed below, along with many other requirements:

- 1. Fourteen Day Period to Provide Notice of Completion of an Application/Decision to Undertake a Project:** Within fourteen (14) days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, a lead agency shall provide formal notification to a designated contact of, or tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, to be accomplished by at least one written notice that includes:

 - a. A brief description of the project.
 - b. The lead agency contact information.
 - c. Notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1 (d)).
 - d. A "California Native American tribe" is defined as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of Statutes of 2004 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code §21073).
- 2. Begin Consultation Within 30 Days of Receiving a Tribe's Request for Consultation and Before Releasing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report:** A lead agency shall begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a request for consultation from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1, subds. (d) and (e)) and prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration or Environmental Impact Report. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1(b)).

 - a. For purposes of AB 52, "consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in Gov. Code §65352.4 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1 (b)).
- 3. Mandatory Topics of Consultation If Requested by a Tribe:** The following topics of consultation, if a tribe requests to discuss them, are mandatory topics of consultation:

 - a. Alternatives to the project.
 - b. Recommended mitigation measures.
 - c. Significant effects. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (a)).
- 4. Discretionary Topics of Consultation:** The following topics are discretionary topics of consultation:

 - a. Type of environmental review necessary.
 - b. Significance of the tribal cultural resources.
 - c. Significance of the project's impacts on tribal cultural resources.
 - d. If necessary, project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (a)).
- 5. Confidentiality of Information Submitted by a Tribe During the Environmental Review Process:** With some exceptions, any information, including but not limited to, the location, description, and use of tribal cultural resources submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with Government Code §6254 (r) and §6254.10. Any information submitted by a California Native American tribe during the consultation or environmental review process shall be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the tribe that provided the information consents, in writing, to the disclosure of some or all of the information to the public. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (c)(1)).
- 6. Discussion of Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources in the Environmental Document:** If a project may have a significant impact on a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency's environmental document shall discuss both of the following:

 - a. Whether the proposed project has a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource.
 - b. Whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures, including those measures that may be agreed to pursuant to Public Resources Code §21082.3, subdivision (a), avoid or substantially lessen the impact on the identified tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (b)).

7. Conclusion of Consultation: Consultation with a tribe shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs:

- a.** The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or
- b.** A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (b)).

8. Recommending Mitigation Measures Agreed Upon in Consultation in the Environmental Document: Any mitigation measures agreed upon in the consultation conducted pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.2 shall be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and in an adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, if determined to avoid or lessen the impact pursuant to Public Resources Code §21082.3, subdivision (b), paragraph 2, and shall be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (a)).

9. Required Consideration of Feasible Mitigation: If mitigation measures recommended by the staff of the lead agency as a result of the consultation process are not included in the environmental document or if there are no agreed upon mitigation measures at the conclusion of consultation, or if consultation does not occur, and if substantial evidence demonstrates that a project will cause a significant effect to a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency shall consider feasible mitigation pursuant to Public Resources Code §21084.3 (b). (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (e)).

10. Examples of Mitigation Measures That, If Feasible, May Be Considered to Avoid or Minimize Significant Adverse Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources:

- a.** Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, including, but not limited to:
 - i.** Planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context.
 - ii.** Planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.
- b.** Treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i.** Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.
 - ii.** Protecting the traditional use of the resource.
 - iii.** Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.
- c.** Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.
- d.** Protecting the resource. (Pub. Resource Code §21084.3 (b)).
- e.** Please note that a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a non-federally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC to protect a California prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place may acquire and hold conservation easements if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. (Civ. Code §815.3 (c)).
- f.** Please note that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated. (Pub. Resources Code §5097.991).

11. Prerequisites for Certifying an Environmental Impact Report or Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration with a Significant Impact on an Identified Tribal Cultural Resource: An Environmental Impact Report may not be certified, nor may a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration be adopted unless one of the following occurs:

- a.** The consultation process between the tribes and the lead agency has occurred as provided in Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 and §21080.3.2 and concluded pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.2.
- b.** The tribe that requested consultation failed to provide comments to the lead agency or otherwise failed to engage in the consultation process.
- c.** The lead agency provided notice of the project to the tribe in compliance with Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 (d) and the tribe failed to request consultation within 30 days. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (d)).

The NAHC's PowerPoint presentation titled, "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices" may be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf

SB 18

SB 18 applies to local governments and requires local governments to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space. (Gov. Code §65352.3). Local governments should consult the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's "Tribal Consultation Guidelines," which can be found online at: https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09_14_05_Updated_Guidelines_922.pdf.

Some of SB 18's provisions include:

1. **Tribal Consultation:** If a local government considers a proposal to adopt or amend a general plan or a specific plan, or to designate open space it is required to contact the appropriate tribes identified by the NAHC by requesting a "Tribal Consultation List." If a tribe, once contacted, requests consultation the local government must consult with the tribe on the plan proposal. **A tribe has 90 days from the date of receipt of notification to request consultation unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by the tribe.** (Gov. Code §65352.3 (a)(2)).
2. **No Statutory Time Limit on SB 18 Tribal Consultation.** There is no statutory time limit on SB 18 tribal consultation.
3. **Confidentiality:** Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Gov. Code §65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of the information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of places, features and objects described in Public Resources Code §5097.9 and §5097.993 that are within the city's or county's jurisdiction. (Gov. Code §65352.3 (b)).
4. **Conclusion of SB 18 Tribal Consultation:** Consultation should be concluded at the point in which:
 - a. The parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
 - b. Either the local government or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation. (Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (2005) at p. 18).

Agencies should be aware that neither AB 52 nor SB 18 precludes agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52 and SB 18. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Contact Lists and "Sacred Lands File" searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: <http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/>.

NAHC Recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments

To adequately assess the existence and significance of tribal cultural resources and plan for avoidance, preservation in place, or barring both, mitigation of project-related impacts to tribal cultural resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

1. Contact the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center (https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30331) for an archaeological records search. The records search will determine:
 - a. If part or all of the APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
 - b. If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
 - c. If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - d. If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
 - a. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum and not be made available for public disclosure.
 - b. The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional CHRIS center.

3. Contact the NAHC for:
 - a. A Sacred Lands File search. Remember that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the Sacred Lands File, nor are they required to do so. A Sacred Lands File search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project's APE.
 - b. A Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in planning for avoidance, preservation in place, or, failing both, mitigation measures.
4. Remember that the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources (including tribal cultural resources) does not preclude their subsurface existence.
 - a. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of inadvertently discovered archaeological resources per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064.5(f) (CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5(f)). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
 - b. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
 - c. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. Health and Safety Code § 7050.5, Public Resources Code § 5097.98, and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064.5, subdivisions (d) and (e) (CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5, subds. (d) and (e)) address the processes to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery of any Native American human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address:
Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

cc: State Clearinghouse

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the subject of the study. It discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research. It also provides a brief overview of the methodology used in the study.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the study. It includes a description of the sample, the data collection methods, and the analysis techniques used. It also discusses the results of the study and the conclusions drawn from the data.

3. The third part of the report is a discussion of the findings of the study. It discusses the implications of the findings and the limitations of the study.

4. The fourth part of the report is a conclusion. It summarizes the main findings of the study and provides a final statement on the importance of the research.

References
Bibliography
Appendix
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Marlie Long

From: Marilyn Simpson <msimpson@IrwindaleCA.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 10:07 AM
To: Shannon Wages; Marlie Long
Cc: Brandi Jones
Subject: FW: City of Irwindale General Plan Update

Good morning,

FYI. This is the only correspondence we have received regarding the Housing Element/General Plan update.

Thank you,
Marilyn Simpson

From: Raether, Constantin@CalOES <Constantin.Raether@CalOES.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 9:06 AM
To: Marilyn Simpson <msimpson@IrwindaleCA.gov>
Cc: LaMar-Haas, Victoria@CalOES <Victoria.LaMar-Haas@CalOES.ca.gov>; Boemecke, Wendy@CalOES <Wendy.Boemecke@CalOES.ca.gov>; CalOES Mitigation Planning <mitigationplanning@caloes.ca.gov>
Subject: City of Irwindale General Plan Update

Good morning,

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team has taken the time to review the proposed updates/changes to your General Plan. Government Code 65302(g)(8) states "before preparing or revising its Safety Element, each city and county shall consult.... the Office of Emergency Services for the purpose of including information known by and available to the department."

The Cal OES Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team reviews and compares your current Safety Element hazards against those listed in the most recent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved City of Irwindale Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

Our office has reviewed your proposed Safety Element and found no substantive changes to your hazard profiles when compared against the most recent FEMA approved City of Irwindale LHMP. Our office has no further comments at this time.

Should you need further assistance or have questions please email our team at mitigationplanning@caloes.ca.gov.

Regards

Constantin Raether, Associate Environmental Planner
Local Mitigation Planning | Recovery Directorate
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services



Office: (916) 328-7778

Cell: (916) 715-9408

www.caloes.ca.gov/HMGP



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 9, 2024

Marilyn Simpson
Community Development Director
City of Irwindale
5050 North Irwindale Avenue
Irwindale, CA 91706
msimpson@IrwindaleCA.gov

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT EIR (DEIR) FOR THE CITY OF IRWINDALE HOUSING ELEMENT AND GENERAL PLAN UPDATE, DATED DECEMBER 14, 2023 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # [2023120387](#)

Dear Marilyn Simpson,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a NOP of a DEIR for the City of Irwindale Housing Element and General Plan Update. In accordance with State law, the City is in the process of updating the Housing and Safety Elements of its current General Plan, as well as preparing a new Environmental Justice (EJ) Element to be adopted as part of the current General Plan. The Housing Element Update provides a plan to accommodate the City's 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and includes various housing policies and programs to guide the City in planning and decision-making to achieve its RHNA allocation. The updated Safety Element (previously named the Public Safety Element) identifies the potential risks to life and property resulting from naturally occurring hazards, such as earthquakes and floods, and man-made hazards, such as air pollution and

contamination of water quality as well as the appropriate public safety providers, such as law enforcement, emergency preparedness, and response teams. Additionally, the EJ Element addresses the unique or compounded health risks throughout the city and includes policies, programs, and measures to reduce these health risks, such as improving air quality; promoting public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes; and physical activity.

DTSC has identified that this project may affect multiple active and nonactive mitigation and clean-up sites within the project boundaries therefore, based on our project review, we request the consideration of the following comments:

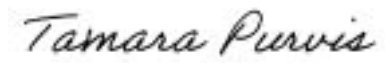
1. The proposed project encompasses multiple active and nonactive mitigation and clean-up sites where DTSC has conducted oversight that may be impacted as a result of this project. This may restrict what construction activities are permissible in the proposed project areas in order to avoid any impacts to human health and the environment.
2. Due to the broad scope of the project, DTSC is unable to determine all of the locations of the proposed project site, whether they are listed as having documented contamination, land use restrictions, or whether there is the potential for the project site to be included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. DTSC recommends providing further information on the project site and areas that may fall under DTSC's oversight within the DEIR. Please review the [City of Irwindale project area](#) in [Envirostor](#); DTSC's public-facing database.

DTSC believes the City of Irwindale must address these comments to determine if any significant impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will occur and, if necessary, avoid significant impacts under CEQA. DTSC recommends the department connect with our unit if any hazardous waste projects managed or overseen by DTSC are discovered.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the City of Irwindale Housing Element

and General Plan Update. Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances. If you have any questions or would like any clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via [email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tamara Purvis".

Tamara Purvis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov

cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning and
Research State Clearinghouse
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Dave Kereazis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP – Permitting Division - CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov

Scott Wiley
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
HWMP – Permitting Division - CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

SENT VIA E-MAIL:

January 11, 2024

lc Zhou@irwindaleca.gov

Lisa Chou, AICP, Associate Planner
City of Irwindale
5050 North Irwindale Avenue
Irwindale, CA 91706

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Irwindale Housing Element and General Plan Update (Proposed Project)

South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) staff appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. Our comments are recommendations on the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the Proposed Project that should be included in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Please send a copy of the Draft Program EIR upon its completion and public release directly to South Coast AQMD as copies of the Draft Program EIR submitted to the State Clearinghouse are not forwarded. **In addition, please send all appendices and technical documents related to the air quality, health risk, and greenhouse gas analyses (electronic versions of all emission calculation spreadsheets, air quality modeling, and health risk assessment input and output files, not PDF files). Any delays in providing all supporting documentation for our review will require additional review time beyond the end of the comment period.**

CEQA Air Quality Analysis

Staff recommends that the Lead Agency use South Coast AQMD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook and website¹ as guidance when preparing the air quality and greenhouse gas analyses. It is also recommended that the Lead Agency use the CalEEMod² land use emissions software, which can estimate pollutant emissions from typical land use development and is the only software model maintained by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association.

South Coast AQMD has developed both regional and localized significance thresholds. South Coast AQMD staff recommends that the Lead Agency quantify criteria pollutant emissions and compare the emissions to South Coast AQMD's CEQA regional pollutant emissions significance thresholds³ and localized significance thresholds (LSTs)⁴ to determine the Proposed Project's air quality impacts. The localized analysis can be conducted by either using the LST screening tables or performing dispersion modeling.

The Lead Agency should identify any potential adverse air quality impacts that could occur from all phases of the Proposed Project and all air pollutant sources related to the Proposed Project. Air quality impacts from both construction (including demolition, if any) and operations should be calculated. Construction-related air quality impacts typically include, but are not limited to, emissions from the use of heavy-duty equipment from grading, earth-loading/unloading, paving, architectural coatings, off-road

¹ South Coast AQMD's CEQA Handbook and other resources for preparing air quality analyses can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook>.

² CalEEMod is available free of charge at: www.caleemod.com.

³ South Coast AQMD's CEQA regional pollutant emissions significance thresholds can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/scaqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf>.

⁴ South Coast AQMD's guidance for performing a localized air quality analysis can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/localized-significance-thresholds>.

mobile sources (e.g., heavy-duty construction equipment) and on-road mobile sources (e.g., construction worker vehicle trips, material transport trips, and hauling trips). Operation-related air quality impacts may include, but are not limited to, emissions from stationary sources (e.g., boilers and air pollution control devices), area sources (e.g., solvents and coatings), and vehicular trips (e.g., on- and off-road tailpipe emissions and entrained dust). Air quality impacts from indirect sources, such as sources that generate or attract vehicular trips, should be included in the analysis. Furthermore, emissions from the overlapping construction and operational activities should be combined and compared to South Coast AQMD's regional air quality CEQA *operational* thresholds to determine the level of significance.

In the event that implementation of the Proposed Project requires a permit from South Coast AQMD, South Coast AQMD should be identified as a Responsible Agency for the Proposed Project in the Draft Program EIR. The assumptions in the air quality analysis in the EIR will be the basis for evaluating the permit under CEQA and imposing permit conditions and limits. Questions on permits should be directed to South Coast AQMD's Engineering and Permitting staff at (909) 396-3385.

The California Air Resources Board's (CARB) *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*⁵ is a general reference guide for evaluating and reducing air pollution impacts associated with new projects that go through the land use decision-making process with additional guidance on strategies to reduce air pollution exposure near high-volume roadways available in CARB's technical advisory⁶.

The South Coast AQMD's *Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning*⁷ includes suggested policies that local governments can use in their General Plans or through local planning to prevent or reduce potential air pollution impacts and protect public health. It is recommended that the Lead Agency review this Guidance Document as a tool when making local planning and land use decisions.

Mitigation Measures

In the event that the Proposed Project results in significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by law be utilized to minimize these impacts. Any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must also be analyzed. Several resources to assist the Lead Agency with identifying potential mitigation measures for the Proposed Project include South Coast AQMD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook,⁸ South Coast AQMD's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan,⁹ and Southern California Association of Government's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.¹⁰

Health Risk Reduction Strategies

Many strategies are available to reduce exposures, including, but are not limited to, building filtration systems with MERV 13 or better, or in some cases, MERV 15 or better is recommended; building design, orientation, location; vegetation barriers or landscaping screening, etc. Enhanced filtration units are

⁵ CARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* can be found at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf>.

⁶ CARB's technical advisory can be found at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/landuse.htm>.

⁷ South Coast AQMD. 2005. *Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning*. Available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/air-quality-guidance/complete-guidance-document.pdf>.

⁸ <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook>

⁹ South Coast AQMD's 2022 Air Quality Management Plan can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan> (Chapter 4 - Control Strategy and Implementation).

¹⁰ Southern California Association of Governments' 2020-2045 RTP/SCS can be found at:

https://www.connectsocial.org/Documents/PEIR/certified/Exhibit-A_ConnectSoCal_PEIR.pdf.

capable of reducing exposures. However, enhanced filtration systems have limitations. For example, in a study that South Coast AQMD conducted to investigate filters¹¹, a cost burden is expected to be within the range of \$120 to \$240 per year to replace each filter panel. The initial start-up cost could substantially increase if an HVAC system needs to be installed and if standalone filter units are required. Installation costs may vary and include costs for conducting site assessments and obtaining permits and approvals before filters can be installed. Other costs may include filter life monitoring, annual maintenance, and training for conducting maintenance and reporting. In addition, because the filters would not have any effectiveness unless the HVAC system is running, there may be increased energy consumption that the Lead Agency should evaluate in the Draft Program EIR. It is typically assumed that the filters operate 100 percent of the time while residents are indoors, and the environmental analysis does not generally account for the times when the residents have their windows or doors open or are in common space areas of the project. These filters have no ability to filter out any toxic gases. Furthermore, when used filters are replaced, replacement has the potential to result in emissions from the transportation of used filters at disposal sites and generate solid waste that the Lead Agency should evaluate in the Draft Program EIR. Therefore, the presumed effectiveness and feasibility of any filtration units should be carefully evaluated in more detail prior to assuming that they will sufficiently alleviate exposures to diesel particulate matter emissions.

South Coast AQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to ensure that air quality, greenhouse gas, and health risk impacts from the Proposed Project are accurately evaluated and mitigated where feasible. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at swang1@aqmd.gov.

Sincerely,

Sam Wang

Sam Wang
Program Supervisor, CEQA IGR
Planning, Rule Development & Implementation

SW
LAC231219-03
Control Number

¹¹ This study evaluated filters rated MERV 13 or better. Accessed at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/aqmdpilotstudyfinalreport.pdf>. Also see 2012 Peer Review Journal article by South Coast AQMD: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ina.12013>.