Community & Economic Development Department **Planning Division**
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 | Phone: (951) 826-5371 | RiversideCA.gov

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

FROM LEAD AGENCY: Candice Assadzadeh, Senior Planner
City of Riverside
Community & Economic Development
Department Planning Division
3900 Main Street, 3rd floor
Riverside, California 92522

DATE: December 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Massachusetts Point Project

The City of Riverside will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed industrial project known as the Massachusetts Point Project (Project). The City is requesting input from you or your agency or organization as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency or organization's statutory responsibilities or interests in connection with the proposed Project.

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) identifies the Project applicant, contains the proposed Project description including Project setting and location, and identifies the potential environmental effects of the proposed Project. A vicinity map is included in this NOP.

Due to time limits mandated by State law, your response must be received at the earliest possible date, **but not later than 30 days** after receipt of this NOP. The public comment period for this NOP begins on December 12, 2024, and is set to close at 5:00 p.m. on January 20, 2025.

Please send written responses to Candice Assadzadeh at the address shown above or via e-mail at cassadzadeh@riversideca.gov. Please include the name and contact person in your agency.

PROJECT TITLE: PR-2024-001666 (Zoning Code Map/Text Amendment, Development Agreement, Design Review, and Environmental Impact Report)

PROJECT APPLICANT: Michael Kang, SCIND Massachusetts Point LLC

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project is located in the northern portion of the City of Riverside at 2626 Kansas Avenue, 2069 and 1989 Massachusetts Avenue. The project site is comprised of the following parcels: 210-130-015, 210-130-016, and 210-130-020.

PROJECT SETTING: The approximately 14.42-acre Project site is currently partially developed. APN 210-130-015 (2626 Kansas Avenue) is currently developed with an industrial business that manufactures concrete, polymer, and fiberglass products. There are two existing structures on APN 210-130-015 that total approximately 99,850 square feet (SF). APN 210-130-016 (2069 Massachusetts Avenue) is currently a vacant lot used for bus parking and storage. APN 210-130-020 (1989 Massachusetts Avenue) currently operates as a school bus storage yard and contains two buildings totaling approximately 11,000 SF.

The property to the north of the Project site, across Roberta Street, is developed with industrial and manufacturing uses and one single family residence. The property to the east consists of the City's Homeless Service Campus and manufacturing uses. The property to the south, across Massachusetts Avenue, is also developed with industrial and manufacturing uses. The property to the west, across Kansas Avenue, is developed with an industrial use.

PROJECT GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING DESIGNATIONS: The project site currently has a General Plan Land Use designation of I - Industrial and is zoned I-ID – General Industrial and Innovation District Overlay Zones. Within the ID Overlay Zone, the Project site is located within the Employment Emphasis (EE) and Housing Emphasis (HE) subdistricts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Project would demolish the existing 99,850 SF of structures on 2626 Kansas Avenue and redevelop 2626 Kansas Avenue and 2069 Massachusetts Avenue with two Class A Light Industrial buildings at 99,900 SF and 99,950 SF on approximately 10.21 acres. Building 1 is proposed to consist of 99,900 SF, inclusive of 93,900 SF of warehouse space and 6,000 SF of ground floor office space. Building 1 would have a footprint of 99,900 SF, resulting in a floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.45. Building 2 is proposed to consist of 99,950 SF, inclusive of 91,700 SF of warehouse space, 6,000 SF of ground floor office space, and 2,250 of mezzanine space to be used as office space. Building 2 would have a footprint of 97,700 SF, resulting in a FAR of 0.45. Additional improvements would include landscaping, sidewalks, utility connections, implementation of stormwater facilities, and pavement of parking areas and drive aisles. No development is proposed on APN 210-130-020 (1989 Massachusetts Avenue).

Access to Building 1 would be provided via three proposed driveways: two from Roberta Street and one from Kansas Avenue. The northwestern driveway on Roberta Street would be 26-feet-wide and limited to passenger vehicles while the northeastern driveway would be 37-feet and 6-inches wide and would provide both passenger vehicle and truck access. The driveway on Kansas Avenue would be a shared 50-feet-wide driveway and would provide access to both passenger vehicles and trucks.

Building 1 would include 17 dock doors located along the southern side of the building. Additionally, Building 1 would include 130 passenger vehicle spaces, inclusive of electric vehicle (EV) and accessible (ADA) spaces, for use by employees and visitors in surface lots to the north and east sides of the warehouse.

Access to Building 2 would be provided via three proposed driveways: two from Kansas Avenue and one from Massachusetts Avenue. The northernmost driveway on Kansas Avenue would be the shared 50-feet-wide driveway which would provide access to both passenger

vehicles and trucks. The southernmost driveway on Kansas Avenue would be 26-feet-wide and limited to passenger vehicles. The driveway on Massachusetts Avenue would be 35-feet-wide and would provide both passenger vehicle and truck access.

Building 2 would include 22 dock doors located along the northern side of the building. Additionally, Building 2 would include 131 passenger vehicle spaces, inclusive of EV and ADA spaces for use by employees and visitors in surface lots to the east and west sides of the warehouse.

Approvals required for the Project include a 1) Zoning Code (Map/Text) Amendment to change the Innovation District Overlay Zone subdistrict from EE – Employment Emphasis and HE – Housing Emphasis to IE – Industrial Emphasis subdistrict, to allow for the Warehousing and Distribution Facility use, and modify development standards of the IE – Industrial Emphasis subdistrict; 2) Development Agreement; 3) Design Review of project plans; and 4) Environmental Impact Report.

Project Alternatives: Identification of potential alternatives to the Massachusetts Point Project will be addressed as part of the EIR. Analysis of a "No Project" alternative is required by law. In addition to the "No Project" Alternative, at least two additional alternatives will be evaluated. The evaluation of alternatives will provide a comparative analysis of alternatives to the proposed development.

The EIR will identify the degree to which each alternative might reduce one or more of the impacts associated with the development of the Massachusetts Point Project, whether or not the alternative could result in other or increased impacts, the viability of the alternative, and the degree to which the alternative is consistent with the City and Applicant's goals and objectives.

Cumulative Impact Analysis: The EIR will include a discussion of the potentially significant cumulative impacts of the Massachusetts Point Project when considered with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area.

Other Required Sections: The EIR will also include other information typically required for an EIR. These other sections include the following: 1) Introduction; 2) Project Description; 3) Effects Found Not to Be Significant; 4) Environmental Impact Analysis; 5) Growth-Inducing Impacts; 6) Significant Unavoidable Environmental Effects; 7) Significant Irreversible Changes; 8) Consistency with Regional Plans; 9) Discussion and Analysis of Energy Conservation based on Appendix F and G of CEQA Guidelines; 10) Mitigation Measures; 11) References; and 12) List of Preparers.

The following topics will be addressed in the forthcoming EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Agriculture & Forest Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources

- Energy
- Geology/ Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Noise
- Mineral Resources
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities/ Service Systems
- Wildfire

Relevant technical reports will be provided as EIR appendices.

SCOPING MEETING: A virtual scoping meeting will be held about this Project.

Meeting Information: Thursday, January 9, 2025
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time)
View the virtual meeting live webcast at:
https://epdsolutions.zoom.us/j/89489893553?pwd=FaH5rEhkxD9grEr3vExIlZU1BygL3u.1
Meeting ID: 894 8989 3553
Passcode: 016513

Note: No pre-registration is required. Entering the web address above will directly take you to the broadcast room sign-in. First name and email address are required to enter the broadcast room to keep track of attendees. Questions and comments will be received using the chat feature and addressed by the presenters.

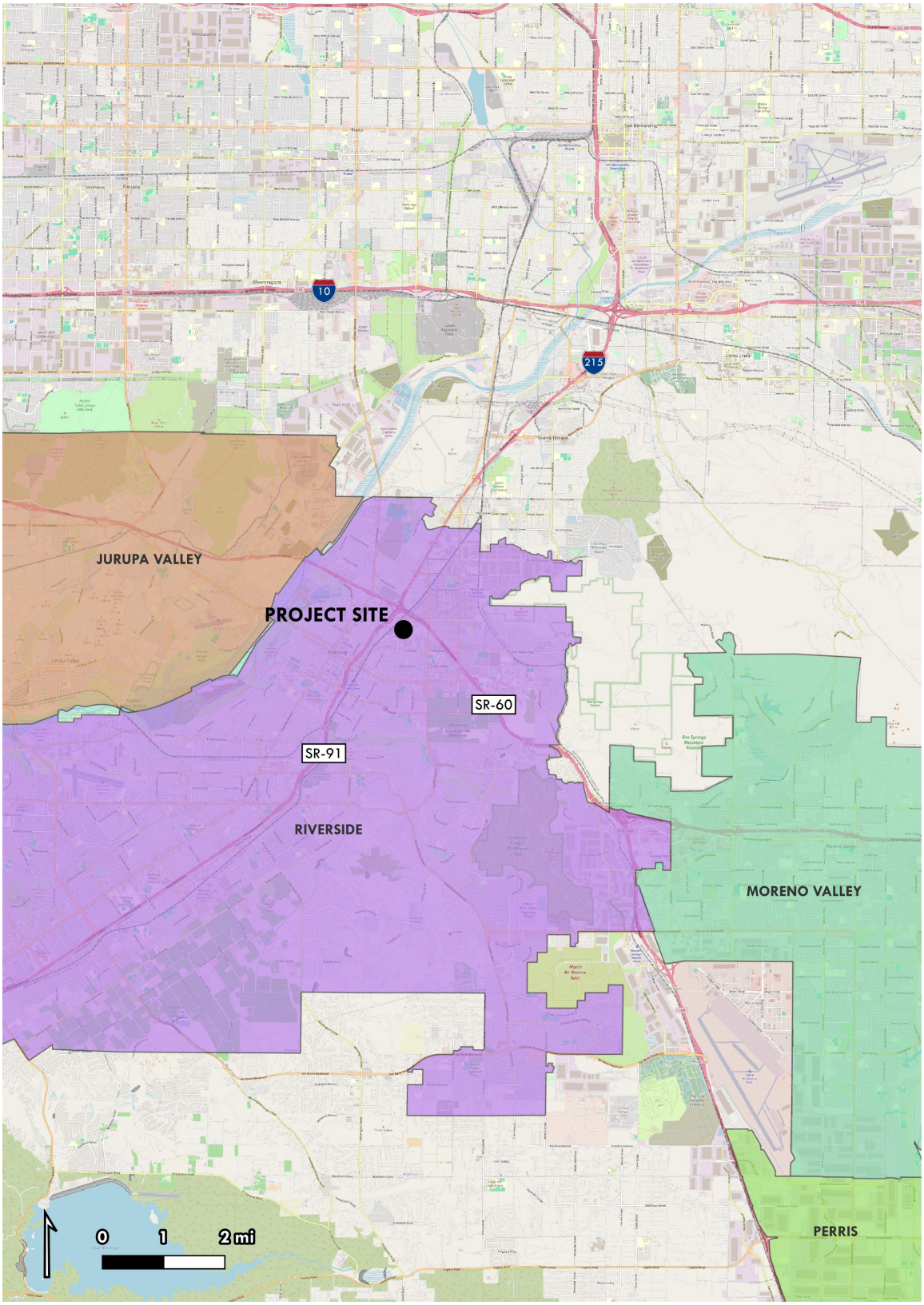
SIGNATURE: Candice Assadzadeh.

TITLE: Candice Assadzadeh, Senior Planner – City of Riverside

TELEPHONE: 951-826-5667

DATE: 12-12-2024

Regional Location



Massachusetts Point Project
City of Riverside

Figure 1

Aerial View

Massachusetts Point Project
City of Riverside

Figure 2

CARECA

01/20/2025

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Candice Assadzadeh, Senior Planner
City of Riverside
Community & Economic Development Department
Planning Division
3900 Main Street, 3rd floor
Riverside, CA 92522
cassadzadeh@riversideca.gov.

RE: NOP Comments for Massachusetts Point Project

Dear Ms. Assadzadeh,

On behalf of Californians Allied for a Responsible Economy ("CARE CA") thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Notice of Preparation ("NOP") for environmental review of the Massachusetts Point Project ("Project"). The proposed project includes the demolition of existing 99,850 square feet of structures and construction of two Class A Light Industrial buildings at 99,900 SF and 99,950 SF on approximately 10.21 acres.

The goal of an EIR is to provide decisionmakers and the public with detailed information about the effects of a proposed project on the environment, how significant impacts will be minimized and alternatives to the project (Pub. Res. Code § 21002.2). Ideally, the discussion should include sufficient detail to allow those who do not participate in the DEIR's preparation to understand and meaningfully deliberate the issues raised by the Project. We, therefore, respectfully request a complete analysis of all identified impacts, imposition of all feasible mitigation and study of a reasonable range of alternatives.

Since the informational sufficiency of an EIR should be at the heart of its preparation, we ask the City to consider the following requests:

Industrial Uses: The City, as lead agency, must make certain assumptions regarding the type and mix of light industrial uses that would likely occupy the proposed buildings. The DEIR should reflect a good faith effort at full disclosure by including as much information on the nature of operations as can be reasonably obtained. If such information is

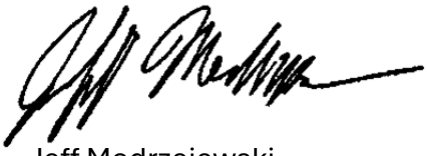
unavailable, the City should study a reasonable worst-case scenario (i.e., most impactful) so that a broad and diverse range of environmental impacts are included in the analysis.

Public Health: The DEIR should also make all efforts to minimize air quality effects and likely health consequences to the greatest extent possible. In addition, we urge the City to adopt quantitative thresholds that embody climate change's existential threat to humankind to determine the significance of the Project's GHG emissions.

Mitigation Measures: Finally, we encourage the City to incorporate modern technology in the mitigation measures and ensure that the measures are effective and enforceable. A Statement of Overriding Considerations should be considered only after ALL feasible mitigation measures are included in the MMRP.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit NOP comments. Again, CARE CA respectfully requests full analysis of the environmental impacts, feasible mitigation, and reasonable alternatives to the Project.

Sincerely,



Jeff Modrzejewski
Executive Director

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

RECEIVED
JAN 8 2025
Community & Economic Development Department

December 13, 2024

Candice Assadzadeh
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Riverside CA 92522

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NAHC.ca.gov

Re: 2024120391 Massachusetts Point Project, Riverside County

Dear Ms. Assadzadeh,

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

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

From: Mauricio Alvarez
To: Assadzadeh, Candice
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NOP EIR Massachusetts Point Project
Date: Thursday, January 2, 2025 8:38:18 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Riverside. It was not sent by any City official or staff. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

Good Morning Candice,

Thank you for including RTA in the review of the Massachusetts Point Project on Kansas & Massachusetts Avenues. After further review, there are no comments to submit for this particular project at this time.

Thank you,

Mauricio Alvarez, MBA
Planning Analyst
Riverside Transit Agency
p: 951.565.5260 | e: malvarez@riversidetransit.com
Website | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram
1825 Third Street, Riverside, CA 92507

Sierra Club – San Gorgonio Chapter – Box Springs Group
R-NOW – Riverside Neighbors Opposing Warehouses

SENT VIA EMAIL
January 17, 2025

Candice Assadzadeh – Senior Planner
Donesia Gause – City Clerk
City of Riverside
Email: cassadzadeh@riverside.ca.gov; city_clerk@riversideca.gov

RE: Public comment for the Massachusetts Point Project, SCH# 2024120391 - NOP

Dear City of Riverside Planning Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Massachusetts Point Project ('The Project'), SCH # 2024120391.

The Project aims to demolish an existing building to develop two ~99,900 sq.ft. warehouses on the property adjacent to Roberta Street and Kansas Avenue in the Hunter Industrial Park neighborhood of Riverside. The community census tract 06065030502 on which the project occurs is in the 99th percentile for cumulative impact score in CalEnviroScreen4.0- it is literally a top 1% Environmental Justice (EJ) neighborhood in the state.[1] The project is within in an industrial zone, adjacent to a Homeless Service Campus, and is within an employment emphasis and housing emphasis overlay subdistrict. The project requires an overlay zone change to industrial emphasis subdistrict, a development agreement, design review, and an EIR.

In our review, the Sierra Club Box Springs Group and R-NOW would like the EIR to address the following areas of concern.

1. Environmental Justice does not appear as a topic area to be analyzed as an environmental impact in the draft EIR, despite the community status as a 99th percentile community in CalEnviroScreen4.0 and similar designation in the General Plan EJ element. Please analyze the project with respect to the City of Riverside General Plan chapter 8 – EJ, specifically with respect to reducing pollution exposure, improving community health, providing safe housing, and community participation in the planning process. Additionally, please compare the project to the Office of the Attorney General's Warehouse Projects: Best Practices document[2]. Moreover, it is important to identify how the Homeless Services Shelter is treated for the Good Neighbor Guideline policy.

[1] https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40
[2] https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/warehouse-best-practices.pdf

2. The Cumulative Impacts project list should take a holistic view of warehouse land-uses both within the community and within the regional transportation corridor. Please include the following warehouse projects – Old 215 Business Park, Penske Sales, Leasing, and Maintenance Project, Sycamore Hills Distribution Center, Compass Danbe Centerpointe, Bay & Day Commerce Center, West Campus Upper Plateau, World Logistics Center, Stoneridge Commerce Center, Harvest Landing Retail Center, Beaumont Pointe, West Valley Logistics Center, Bloomington Business Park, Rio Vista Specific Plan, Rubidoux Commerce Park, The District at Jurupa Valley, Agua Mansa Logistics Center, Palmyrita Warehouses, Moreno Valley Building 5 Project, Santa Ana Truck Terminal Project, and Alliance California Gateway South Building 9 Project.
3. Assembly Bill 98 was approved in September 2024. Please ensure the project conforms to AB 98 requirements, most notably the location on approved truck routes. The City of Riverside currently has no truck route map, so it is not clear how this analysis can be performed until the City of Riverside adopts a truck route ordinance.
4. Please include a section on greenhouse gas emissions, including an analysis of emissions of construction materials including pouring of concrete pad and transport of demolished existing buildings. If the warehouses are speculative and not build-to-suit, please include a range of trip rates from the ITE handbook that include the possible uses most likely to fit the project.

Table 1 – ITE 11th edition total trip rates and truck rates for warehouse land use codes.

Warehouse category	**ITE land use code**	**Total Trip Rate per 1000 sf**	**Truck rates per 1,000 sf**
Warehousing*	150	1.71	0.6
High cube transloading	154	1.4	0.22
High-cube fulfilment (non-sort)	155	1.81	0.26
High-cube fulfilment (sort)	155	6.44	0.19
High-cube parcel	156	4.63	0.58
High-cube cold storage*	157	2.12	0.75

Summary

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on the Project. Please keep the Sierra Club Box Springs Group and R-NOW notified of all documents and meetings related to the Massachusetts Point Project.

Sincerely,

Michael McCarthy, PhD
Sierra Club - Box Springs Group - Co-Conservation Chair
R-NOW – Vice-Chair
Email: mikem@radicalresearch.llc

P.O. Box 1325
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December 18, 2024

Candice Assadzadeh Senior Planner
City of Riverside
3900 Main Street, 3rd Floor
Riverside, CA 92522

RE: Massachusetts Point Project, SCH # 2024120391

Dear Ms. Assadzadeh:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Notice of Preparation for the Massachusetts Point project. While the logistics industry is an important component of our modern economy, warehouses can bring various environmental impacts to the communities where they are located. For example, diesel trucks visiting warehouses emit nitrogen oxide (NO_x)—a primary precursor to smog formation and a significant factor in the development of respiratory problems like asthma, bronchitis, and lung irritation—and diesel particulate matter (a subset of fine particular matter that is smaller than 2.5 micrometers)—a contributor to cancer, heart disease, respiratory illnesses, and premature death.[1] Trucks and on-site loading activities can also be loud, bringing disruptive noise levels during 24/7 operation that can cause hearing damage after prolonged exposure.[2] The hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of daily truck and passenger car trips that warehouses generate can contribute to traffic jams, deterioration of road surfaces, traffic accidents, and unsafe conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists. Depending on the circumstances of an individual project, warehouses may also have other environmental impacts.

To help lead agencies avoid, analyze, and mitigate warehouses' environmental impacts, the Attorney General Office's Bureau of Environmental Justice has published a document containing best practices and mitigation measures for warehouse projects. We have attached a

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[1] California Air Resources Board, Nitrogen Dioxide & Health, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/nitrogen-dioxide-and-health (NOx); California Air Resources Board, Summary: Diesel Particular Matter Health Impacts, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/summary-diesel-particulate-matter-health-impacts; Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and American Lung Association of California, Health Effects of Diesel Exhaust, https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/indicators/diesel4-02.pdf (DPM).

[2] Noise Sources and Their Effects, https://www.chem.purdue.edu/chemsafety/Training/PPETrain/dblevels.htm (a diesel truck moving 40 miles per hour, 50 feet away, produces 84 decibels of sound).

copy of this document to this letter, and it is also available online.[3] We encourage you to consider the information in this document as you prepare the draft environmental impact report for this project.

Priority should be placed on avoiding land use conflicts between warehouses and sensitive receptors and on mitigating the impacts of any unavoidable land use conflicts. However, even projects located far from sensitive receptors may contribute to harmful regional air pollution, so you should consider measures to reduce emissions associated with the project to help the State meet its air quality goals. A distant warehouse may also impact sensitive receptors if trucks must pass near sensitive receptors to visit the warehouse.

The Bureau will continue to monitor proposed warehouse projects for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and other laws. We are available to discuss as you prepare the draft environmental impact report and consider how to guide warehouse development in your jurisdiction. Please do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Justice Bureau at ej@doj.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

CHRISTIE VOSBURG
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

For ROB BONTA
Attorney General

[3] https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/warehouse-best-practices.pdf.

ROB BONTA
Attorney General

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Warehouse Projects: Best Practices and Mitigation Measures to Comply with the California Environmental Quality Act

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In carrying out its duty to enforce laws across California, the California Attorney General's Bureau of Environmental Justice (Bureau)[1] regularly reviews proposed warehouse projects for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other laws. When necessary, the Bureau submits comment letters to lead agencies regarding warehouse projects, and in rare cases the Bureau has filed litigation to enforce CEQA.[2] This document builds upon the Bureau's work on warehouse projects, collecting information gained from the Bureau's review of hundreds of warehouse projects across the state.[3] It is meant to help lead agencies pursue CEQA compliance and promote environmentally-just development as they confront warehouse project proposals.[4] While CEQA analysis is necessarily project-specific, this document provides information on feasible best practices and mitigation measures, nearly all of which have been adapted from actual warehouse projects in California.

I. Background

In recent years, the proliferation of e-commerce and rising consumer expectations of rapid shipping have contributed to a boom in warehouse development.[5] California, with its ports, population centers, and transportation network, has found itself at the center of this trend. In 2020, the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland collectively accounted for over 34% of all United States international container trade.[6] The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach alone generate about 35,000 container truck trips every day.[7] Accordingly, the South Coast Air Basin now contains approximately 3,000 warehouses of over 100,000 square feet each, with a total warehouse capacity of approximately 700 million square feet, an increase of 20 percent over the last five years.[8] This trend has only accelerated, with e-commerce growing to

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[1] https://oag.ca.gov/environment/justice.

[2] https://oag.ca.gov/environment/ceqa; *People of the State of California v. City of Fontana* (Super. Ct. San Bernardino County, No. CIVSB2121829); *South Central Neighbors United et al. v. City of Fresno et al.* (Super. Ct. Fresno County, No. 18CECG00690).

[3] This September 2022 version revises and replaces the prior March 2021 version of this document.

[4] Anyone reviewing this document to determine CEQA compliance responsibilities should consult their own attorney for legal advice.

[5] As used in this document, "warehouse" or "logistics facility" is defined as a facility consisting of one or more buildings that stores cargo, goods, or products on a short- or long-term basis for later distribution to businesses and/or retail customers.

[6] Data from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Container TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) (2020), https://data.bts.gov/stories/s/Container-TEU/x3fb-aeda/ (Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland combined for 14.157 million TEUs, 34% of 41.24 million TEUs total nationwide) (last accessed September 18, 2022).

[7] U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, *FHWA Operations Support – Port Peak Pricing Program Evaluation* (2020), available at https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop09014/sect2.htm (last accessed September 18, 2022).

[8] South Coast Air Qual. Mgmt. Dist., *Final Socioeconomic Assessment for Proposed Rule 2305 – Warehouse Indirect Source Rule – Warehouse Actions and Investments to Reduce Emissions (WAIRE) Program and Proposed Rule 316 – Fees for Rule 2305*, at 7-8, 41 (May 2021).

13% of all retail sales and 2021 being a second consecutive record year for new warehouse space leased.[9] The latest data and forecasts predict that the next wave of warehouse development will be in the Central Valley.[10]

When done properly, these activities can contribute to the economy and consumer welfare. However, imprudent warehouse development can harm local communities and the environment. Among other pollutants, diesel trucks visiting warehouses emit nitrogen oxide (NO_x)—a primary precursor to smog formation and a significant factor in the development of respiratory problems like asthma, bronchitis, and lung irritation—and diesel particulate matter (a subset of fine particular matter that is smaller than 2.5 micrometers)—a contributor to cancer, heart disease, respiratory illnesses, and premature death.[11] Trucks and on-site loading activities can also be loud, bringing disruptive noise levels during 24/7 operation that can cause hearing damage after prolonged exposure.[12] The hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of daily truck and passenger car trips that warehouses generate contribute to traffic jams, deterioration of road surfaces, and traffic accidents.

These environmental impacts also tend to be concentrated in neighborhoods already suffering from disproportionate health impacts and systemic vulnerability. For example, a comprehensive study by the South Coast Air Quality Management District found that communities located near large warehouses scored far higher on California's environmental justice screening tool, which measures overall pollution and demographic vulnerability.[13] That

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[9] U.S. Census Bureau News, Quarterly Retail E-Commerce Sales 4th Quarter 2021 (February 22, 2022), https://www.census.gov/retail/mrts/www/data/pdf/ec_current.pdf (last accessed September 18, 2022); CBRE Research, *2022 North America Industrial Big Box Report: Review and Outlook*, at 2-3 (March 2022), *available at* https://www.cbre.com/insights/reports/2022-north-america-industrial-big-box#download-report (last accessed September 18, 2022).
[10] CBRE Research, *supra note* 9, at 4, 36; New York Times, *Warehouses Are Headed to the Central Valley, Too* (Jul. 22, 2020), *available* at https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/22/us/coronavirus-ca-warehouse-workers.html.
[11] California Air Resources Board, Nitrogen Dioxide & Health, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/nitrogen-dioxide-and-health (last accessed September 18, 2022) (NOx); California Air Resources Board, Summary: Diesel Particular Matter Health Impacts, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/summary-diesel-particulate-matter-health-impacts (last accessed September 18, 2022); Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and American Lung Association of California, Health Effects of Diesel Exhaust, https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/indicators/diesel4-02.pdf (last accessed September 18, 2022) (DPM).
[12] Noise Sources and Their Effects, https://www.chem.purdue.edu/chemsafety/Training/PPETrain/dblevels.htm (last accessed September 18, 2022) (a diesel truck moving 40 miles per hour, 50 feet away, produces 84 decibels of sound).
[13] South Coast Air Quality Management District, "Final Socioeconomic Assessment for Proposed Rule 2305 – Warehouse Indirect Source Rule – Warehouse Actions and Investments to Reduce Emissions (WAIRE) Program and Proposed Rule 316 – Fees for Rule 2305" (May 2021), at 4-5.

study concluded that, compared to the South Coast Air Basin averages, communities in the South Coast Air Basin near large warehouses had a substantially higher proportion of people of color; were exposed to more diesel particulate matter; had higher rates of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and low birth weights; and had higher poverty and unemployment rates.[14] Each area has its own unique history, but many of these impacts and vulnerabilities reflect historic redlining practices in these communities, which devalued land and concentrated poverty, racial outgroups, and pollution into designated areas.[15]

II. Proactive Planning: General Plans, Local Ordinances, and Good Neighbor Policies

To systematically guide warehouse development, we encourage local governing bodies to proactively plan for logistics projects in their jurisdictions. Proactive planning allows jurisdictions to prevent land use conflicts before they materialize and direct sustainable development. Benefits also include providing a predictable business environment, protecting residents from environmental harm, and setting consistent expectations jurisdiction-wide.

Proactive planning can take many forms. Land use designation and zoning decisions should channel development into appropriate areas. For example, establishing industrial districts near major highway and rail corridors but away from sensitive receptors[16] can help attract investment while avoiding conflicts between warehouse facilities and residential communities. Transition zones with lighter industrial and commercial land uses may also help minimize conflicts between residential and industrial uses.

In addition, general plan policies, local ordinances, and good neighbor policies should set minimum standards for logistics projects. General plan policies can be incorporated into existing economic development, land use, circulation, or other related general plan elements. Many jurisdictions alternatively choose to consolidate policies in a separate environmental justice element. Adopting general plan policies to guide warehouse development may also help

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[14] *Id*. at 5-7.

[15] Beginning in the 1930s, federal housing policy directed investment away from Black, immigrant, and working-class communities by color-coding neighborhoods according to the purported "riskiness" of loaning to their residents. In California cities where such "redlining" maps were drawn, nearly all of the communities where warehouses are now concentrated were formerly coded "red," signifying the least desirable areas where investment was to be avoided. *See* University of Richmond Digital Scholarship Lab, Mapping Inequality, https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=12/33.748/-118.272&city=los-angeles-ca (Los Angeles), https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=13/32.685/-117.132&city=san-diego-ca (San Diego), https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=11/37.81/-122.38&city=oakland-ca (Oakland), https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=13/37.956/-121.326&city=stockton-ca (Stockton), https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=12/36.751/-119.86&city=fresno-ca (Fresno) (all last accessed September 18, 2022).

[16] In this document, "sensitive receptors" refers to residences, schools, public recreation facilities, health care facilities, places of worship, daycare facilities, community centers, or incarceration facilities.

jurisdictions comply with their obligations under SB 1000, which requires local government general plans to identify objectives and policies to reduce health risks in disadvantaged communities, promote civil engagement in the public decision making process, and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.[17]

Local ordinances and good neighbor policies that set development standards for all warehouses in the jurisdiction are a critical and increasingly common tool that serve several goals. When well-designed, these ordinances direct investment to local improvements, provide predictability for developers, conserve government resources by streamlining project review processes, and reduce the environmental impacts of industrial development. While many jurisdictions have adopted warehouse-specific development standards, an ordinance in the City of Fontana provides an example to review and build upon.[18] Good neighbor policies in Riverside County and by the Western Riverside Council of Government include additional measures worth consideration.[19]

The Bureau encourages jurisdictions to adopt their own local ordinances that combine the strongest policies from those models with measures discussed in the remainder of this document.

III. Community Engagement

Early and consistent community engagement is central to establishing good relationships between communities, lead agencies, and warehouse developers and tenants. Robust community engagement can give lead agencies access to community residents' on-the-ground knowledge and information about their concerns, build community support for projects, and develop creative solutions to ensure new logistics facilities are mutually beneficial. Examples of best practices for community engagement include:

- Holding a series of community meetings at times and locations convenient to members of the affected community and incorporating suggestions into the project design.
- Posting information in hard copy in public gathering spaces and on a website about the project. The information should include a complete, accurate project description, maps and drawings of the project design, and information about how the public can provide input and be involved in the project approval process. The

[17] For more information about SB 1000, *see* https://oag.ca.gov/environment/sb1000.
[18] https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/Final%20Signed%20Fontana%20Ordinance.pdf (last accessed September 18, 2022).
[19] For example, the Riverside County policy requires community benefits agreements and supplemental funding contributions toward additional pollution offsets, and the Western Riverside Council of Governments policy sets a minimum buffer zone of 300 meters between warehouses and sensitive receptors. https://www.rivcocob.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Good-Neighbor-Policy-F-3-Final-Adopted.pdf (last accessed September 18, 2022) (Riverside County); http://www.wrcog.cog.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/318/Good-Neighbor-Guidelines-for-Siting-Warehouse-Distribution-Facilities-PDF?bidId= (last accessed September 18, 2022) (Western Riverside Council of Governments).

information should be in a format that is easy to navigate and understand for members of the affected community.

- Providing notice by mail to residents and schools within a certain radius of the project and along transportation corridors to be used by vehicles visiting the project, and by posting a prominent sign on the project site. The notice should include a brief project description and directions for accessing complete information about the project and for providing input on the project.
- Providing translation or interpretation in residents' native language, where appropriate.
- For public meetings broadcast online or otherwise held remotely, providing for access and public comment by telephone and supplying instructions for access and public comment with ample lead time prior to the meeting.
- Partnering with local community-based organizations to solicit feedback, leverage local networks, co-host meetings, and build support.
- Considering adoption of a community benefits agreement, negotiated with input from affected residents and businesses, by which the developer provides benefits to the affected community.
- Creating a community advisory board made up of local residents to review and provide feedback on project proposals in early planning stages.
- Identifying a person to act as a community liaison concerning on-site construction activity and operations, and providing contact information for the community liaison to the surrounding community.
- Requiring signage in public view at warehouse facilities with contact information for a local designated representative for the facility operator who can receive community complaints, and requiring any complaints to be answered by the facility operator within 48 hours of receipt.

IV. Warehouse Siting and Design Considerations

The most important consideration when planning a logistics facility is its location. Warehouses located in residential neighborhoods or near sensitive receptors expose community residents and those using or visiting sensitive receptor sites to the air pollution, noise, traffic, and other environmental impacts they generate. Therefore, placing facilities away from sensitive receptors significantly reduces their environmental and quality of life harms on local communities. The suggested best practices for siting and design of warehouse facilities does not relieve lead agencies' responsibility under CEQA to conduct a project-specific analysis of the project's impacts and evaluation of feasible mitigation measures and alternatives; lead agencies' incorporation of the best practices must be part of the impact, mitigation and alternatives analyses to meet the requirements of CEQA. Examples of best practices when siting and designing warehouse facilities include:

- Per California Air Resources Board (CARB) guidance, siting warehouse facilities so that their property lines are at least 1,000 feet from the property lines of the nearest sensitive receptors.[20]
- Providing adequate amounts of on-site parking to prevent trucks and other vehicles from parking or idling on public streets and to reduce demand for off-site truck yards.
- Establishing setbacks from the property line of the nearest sensitive receptor to warehouse dock doors, loading areas, and truck drive aisles, and locating warehouse dock doors, loading areas, and truck drive aisles on the opposite side of the building from the nearest sensitive receptors—e.g., placing dock doors on the north side of the facility if sensitive receptors are near the south side of the facility.
- Placing facility entry and exit points from the public street away from sensitive receptors—e.g., placing these points on the north side of the facility if sensitive receptors are adjacent to the south side of the facility.
- Ensuring heavy duty trucks abide by the on-site circulation plans by constructing physical barriers to block those trucks from using areas of the project site restricted to light duty vehicles or emergency vehicles only.
- Preventing truck queuing spillover onto surrounding streets by positioning entry gates after a minimum of 140 feet of space for queuing, and increasing the distance by 70 feet for every 20 loading docks beyond 50 docks.
- Locating facility entry and exit points on streets of higher commercial classification that are designed to accommodate heavy duty truck usage.
- Screening the warehouse site perimeter and onsite areas with significant truck traffic (e.g., dock doors and drive aisles) by creating physical, structural, and/or vegetative buffers that prevent or substantially reduce pollutant and noise dispersion from the facility to sensitive receptors.
- Planting exclusively 36-inch box evergreen trees to ensure faster maturity and four-season foliage.
- Requiring all property owners and successors in interest to maintain onsite trees and vegetation for the duration of ownership, including replacing any dead or unhealthy trees and vegetation.
- Posting signs clearly showing the designated entry and exit points from the public street for trucks and service vehicles.
- Including signs and drive aisle pavement markings that clearly identify onsite circulation patterns to minimize unnecessary onsite vehicle travel.
- Posting signs indicating that all parking and maintenance of trucks must be conducted within designated on-site areas and not within the surrounding community or public streets.

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[20] CARB, Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective (April 2005), at ES-1. CARB staff has released draft updates to this siting and design guidance which suggests a greater distance may be warranted in some scenarios. CARB, Concept Paper for the Freight Handbook (December 2019), *available at* https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/2019.12.12%20-%20Concept%20Paper%20for%20the%20Freight%20Handbook_1.pdf (last accessed September 18, 2022).

V. Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis and Mitigation

Emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases are often among the most substantial environmental impacts from new warehouse facilities. CEQA compliance demands a proper accounting of the full air quality and greenhouse gas impacts of logistics facilities and adoption of all feasible mitigation of significant impacts. Although efforts by CARB and other authorities to regulate the heavy-duty truck and off-road diesel fleets have made excellent progress in reducing the air quality impacts of logistics facilities, the opportunity remains for local jurisdictions to further mitigate these impacts at the project level. Lead agencies and developers should also consider designing projects with their long-term viability in mind. Constructing the necessary infrastructure to prepare for the zero-emission future of goods movement not only reduces a facility's emissions and local impact now, but it can also save money as demand for zero-emission infrastructure grows. In planning new logistics facilities, the Bureau strongly encourages developers to consider the local, statewide, and global impacts of their projects' emissions.

Examples of best practices when studying air quality and greenhouse gas impacts include:

- Fully analyzing all reasonably foreseeable project impacts, including cumulative impacts. In general, new warehouse developments are not ministerial under CEQA because they involve public officials' personal judgment as to the wisdom or manner of carrying out the project, even when warehouses are permitted by a site's applicable zoning and/or general plan land use designation.[21]
- When analyzing cumulative impacts, thoroughly considering the project's incremental impact in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, even if the project's individual impacts alone do not exceed the applicable significance thresholds.
- Preparing a quantitative air quality study in accordance with local air district guidelines.
- Preparing a quantitative health risk assessment in accordance with California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and local air district guidelines.
- Refraining from labeling compliance with CARB or air district regulations as a mitigation measure—compliance with applicable regulations is required regardless of CEQA.
- Disclosing air pollution from the entire expected length of truck trips. CEQA requires full public disclosure of a project's anticipated truck trips, which entails calculating truck trip length based on likely truck trip destinations, rather than the distance from the facility to the edge of the air basin, local jurisdiction, or other truncated endpoint. All air pollution associated with the project must be considered, regardless of where those impacts occur.

[21] CEQA Guidelines § 15369.

- Accounting for all reasonably foreseeable greenhouse gas emissions from the project, without discounting projected emissions based on participation in California's Cap-and-Trade Program.

Examples of measures to mitigate air quality and greenhouse gas impacts from construction are below. To ensure mitigation measures are enforceable and effective, they should be imposed as permit conditions on the project where applicable.

- Requiring off-road construction equipment to be hybrid electric-diesel or zero-emission, where available, and all diesel-fueled off-road construction equipment to be equipped with CARB Tier IV-compliant engines or better, and including this requirement in applicable bid documents, purchase orders, and contracts, with successful contractors demonstrating the ability to supply the compliant construction equipment for use prior to any ground-disturbing and construction activities.
- Prohibiting off-road diesel-powered equipment from being in the "on" position for more than 10 hours per day.
- Using electric-powered hand tools, forklifts, and pressure washers, and providing electrical hook ups to the power grid rather than use of diesel-fueled generators to supply their power.
- Designating an area in the construction site where electric-powered construction vehicles and equipment can charge.
- Limiting the amount of daily grading disturbance area.
- Prohibiting grading on days with an Air Quality Index forecast of greater than 100 for particulates or ozone for the project area.
- Forbidding idling of heavy equipment for more than three minutes.
- Keeping onsite and furnishing to the lead agency or other regulators upon request, all equipment maintenance records and data sheets, including design specifications and emission control tier classifications.
- Conducting an on-site inspection to verify compliance with construction mitigation and to identify other opportunities to further reduce construction impacts.
- Using paints, architectural coatings, and industrial maintenance coatings that have volatile organic compound levels of less than 10 g/L.
- Providing information on transit and ridesharing programs and services to construction employees.
- Providing meal options onsite or shuttles between the facility and nearby meal destinations for construction employees.

Examples of measures to mitigate air quality and greenhouse gas impacts from operation include:

- Requiring all heavy-duty vehicles engaged in drayage[22] to or from the project site to be zero-emission beginning in 2030.

[22] "Drayage" refers generally to transport of cargo to or from a seaport or intermodal railyard.

- Requiring all on-site motorized operational equipment, such as forklifts and yard trucks, to be zero-emission with the necessary charging or fueling stations provided.
- Requiring tenants to use zero-emission light- and medium-duty vehicles as part of business operations.
- Forbidding trucks from idling for more than three minutes and requiring operators to turn off engines when not in use.
- Posting both interior- and exterior-facing signs, including signs directed at all dock and delivery areas, identifying idling restrictions and contact information to report violations to CARB, the local air district, and the building manager.
- Installing solar photovoltaic systems on the project site of a specified electrical generation capacity that is equal to or greater than the building's projected energy needs, including all electrical chargers.
- Designing all project building roofs to accommodate the maximum future coverage of solar panels and installing the maximum solar power generation capacity feasible.
- Constructing zero-emission truck charging/fueling stations proportional to the number of dock doors at the project.
- Running conduit to designated locations for future electric truck charging stations.
- Unless the owner of the facility records a covenant on the title of the underlying property ensuring that the property cannot be used to provide refrigerated warehouse space, constructing electric plugs for electric transport refrigeration units at every dock door and requiring truck operators with transport refrigeration units to use the electric plugs when at loading docks.
- Oversizing electrical rooms by 25 percent or providing a secondary electrical room to accommodate future expansion of electric vehicle charging capability.
- Constructing and maintaining electric light-duty vehicle charging stations proportional to the number of employee parking spaces (for example, requiring at least 10% of all employee parking spaces to be equipped with electric vehicle charging stations of at least Level 2 charging performance)
- Running conduit to an additional proportion of employee parking spaces for a future increase in the number of electric light-duty charging stations.
- Installing and maintaining, at the manufacturer's recommended maintenance intervals, air filtration systems at sensitive receptors within a certain radius of facility for the life of the project.
- Installing and maintaining, at the manufacturer's recommended maintenance intervals, an air monitoring station proximate to sensitive receptors and the facility for the life of the project, and making the resulting data publicly available in real time. While air monitoring does not mitigate the air quality or greenhouse gas impacts of a facility, it nonetheless benefits the affected community by providing information that can be used to improve air quality or avoid exposure to unhealthy air.
- Requiring all stand-by emergency generators to be powered by a non-diesel fuel.
- Requiring facility operators to train managers and employees on efficient scheduling and load management to eliminate unnecessary queuing and idling of

trucks.

- Requiring operators to establish and promote a rideshare program that discourages single-occupancy vehicle trips and provides financial incentives for alternate modes of transportation, including carpooling, public transit, and biking.
- Meeting CalGreen Tier 2 green building standards, including all provisions related to designated parking for clean air vehicles, electric vehicle charging, and bicycle parking.
- Designing to LEED green building certification standards.
- Providing meal options onsite or shuttles between the facility and nearby meal destinations.
- Posting signs at every truck exit driveway providing directional information to the truck route.
- Improving and maintaining vegetation and tree canopy for residents in and around the project area.
- Requiring that every tenant train its staff in charge of keeping vehicle records in diesel technologies and compliance with CARB regulations, by attending CARB-approved courses. Also require facility operators to maintain records on-site demonstrating compliance and make records available for inspection by the local jurisdiction, air district, and state upon request.
- Requiring tenants to enroll in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's SmartWay program, and requiring tenants who own, operate, or hire trucking carriers with more than 100 trucks to use carriers that are SmartWay carriers.
- Providing tenants with information on incentive programs, such as the Carl Moyer Program and Voucher Incentive Program, to upgrade their fleets.

VI. Noise Impacts Analysis and Mitigation

The noise associated with logistics facilities can be among their most intrusive impacts to nearby sensitive receptors. Various sources, such as unloading activity, diesel truck movement, and rooftop air conditioning units, can contribute substantial noise pollution. These impacts are exacerbated by logistics facilities' typical 24-hour, seven-days-per-week operation. Construction noise is often even greater than operational noise, so if a project site is near sensitive receptors, developers and lead agencies should adopt measures to reduce the noise generated by both construction and operation activities.

Examples of best practices when studying noise impacts include:

- Preparing a noise impact analysis that considers all reasonably foreseeable project noise impacts, including to nearby sensitive receptors. All reasonably foreseeable project noise impacts encompasses noise from both construction and operations, including stationary, on-site, and off-site noise sources.
- Adopting a lower significance threshold for incremental noise increases when baseline noise already exceeds total noise significance thresholds, to account for the cumulative impact of additional noise and the fact that, as noise moves up the decibel scale, each decibel increase is a progressively greater increase in sound

pressure than the last. For example, 70 dBA is ten times more sound pressure than 60 dBA.

- Disclosing and considering the significance of short-term noise levels associated with all aspects of project operation (i.e. both on-site noise generation and off-site truck noise). Considering only average noise levels may mask noise impacts sensitive receptors would consider significant—for example, the repeated but short-lived passing of individual trucks or loading activities at night.

Examples of measures to mitigate noise impacts include:

- Constructing physical, structural, or vegetative noise barriers on and/or off the project site.
- Planning and enforcing truck routes that avoid passing sensitive receptors.
- Locating or parking all stationary construction equipment as far from sensitive receptors as possible, and directing emitted noise away from sensitive receptors.
- Verifying that construction equipment has properly operating and maintained mufflers.
- Requiring all combustion-powered construction equipment to be surrounded by a noise protection barrier
- Limiting operation hours to daytime hours on weekdays.
- Paving roads where truck traffic is anticipated with low noise asphalt.
- Orienting any public address systems onsite away from sensitive receptors and setting system volume at a level not readily audible past the property line.

VII. Traffic Impacts Analysis and Mitigation

Warehouse facilities inevitably bring truck and passenger car traffic. Truck traffic can present substantial safety issues. Collisions with heavy-duty trucks are especially dangerous for passenger cars, motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians. These concerns can be even greater if truck traffic passes through residential areas, school zones, or other places where pedestrians are common and extra caution is warranted.

Examples of measures to mitigate traffic impacts include:

- Designing, clearly marking, and enforcing truck routes that keep trucks out of residential neighborhoods and away from other sensitive receptors.
- Installing signs in residential areas noting that truck and employee parking is prohibited.
- Requiring preparation and approval of a truck routing plan describing the facility's hours of operation, types of items to be stored, and truck routing to and from the facility to designated truck routes that avoids passing sensitive receptors. The plan should include measures for preventing truck queuing, circling, stopping, and parking on public streets, such as signage, pavement markings, and queuing analysis and enforcement. The plan should hold facility operators responsible for violations of the truck routing plan, and a revised plan should be required from any new tenant that occupies the property before a business license

is issued. The approving agency should retain discretion to determine if changes to the plan are necessary, including any additional measures to alleviate truck routing and parking issues that may arise during the life of the facility.

- Constructing new or improved transit stops, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and crosswalks, with special attention to ensuring safe routes to schools.
- Consulting with the local public transit agency and securing increased public transit service to the project area.
- Designating areas for employee pickup and drop-off.
- Implementing traffic control and safety measures, such as speed bumps, speed limits, or new traffic signs or signals.
- Placing facility entry and exit points on major streets that do not have adjacent sensitive receptors.
- Restricting the turns trucks can make entering and exiting the facility to route trucks away from sensitive receptors.
- Constructing roadway improvements to improve traffic flow.
- Preparing a construction traffic control plan prior to grading, detailing the locations of equipment staging areas, material stockpiles, proposed road closures, and hours of construction operations, and designing the plan to minimize impacts to roads frequented by passenger cars, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-truck traffic.

VIII. Other Significant Environmental Impacts Analysis and Mitigation

Warehouse projects may result in significant environmental impacts to other resources, such as to aesthetics, cultural resources, energy, geology, or hazardous materials. All significant adverse environmental impacts must be evaluated, disclosed and mitigated to the extent feasible under CEQA. Examples of best practices and mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts that do not fall under any of the above categories include:

- Appointing a compliance officer who is responsible for implementing all mitigation measures, and providing contact information for the compliance officer to the lead agency, to be updated annually.
- Creating a fund to mitigate impacts on affected residents, schools, places of worship, and other community institutions by retrofitting their property. For example, retaining a contractor to retrofit/install HVAC and/or air filtration systems, doors, dual-paned windows, and sound- and vibration-deadening insulation and curtains.
- Sweeping surrounding streets on a daily basis during construction to remove any construction-related debris and dirt.
- Directing all lighting at the facility into the interior of the site.
- Using full cut-off light shields and/or anti-glare lighting.
- Requiring submission of a property maintenance program for agency review and approval providing for the regular maintenance of all building structures, landscaping, and paved surfaces.
- Using cool pavement to reduce heat island effects.

- Planting trees in parking areas to provide at least 35% shade cover of parking areas within fifteen years to reduce heat island impacts.
- Using light colored roofing materials with a solar reflective index of 78 or greater.
- Including on-site amenities, such as a truck operator lounge with restrooms, vending machines, and air conditioning, to reduce the need for truck operators to idle or travel offsite.
- Designing skylights to provide natural light to interior worker areas.
- Installing climate control and air filtration in the warehouse facility to promote worker well-being.

IX. Conclusion

California's world-class economy, ports, and transportation network position it at the center of the e-commerce and logistics industry boom. At the same time, California is a global leader in environmental protection and environmentally just development. The guidance in this document furthers these dual strengths, ensuring that all can access the benefits of economic development. The Bureau will continue to monitor proposed projects for compliance with CEQA and other laws. Lead agencies, developers, community advocates, and other interested parties should feel free to reach out to us as they consider how to guide warehouse development in their area.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Justice Bureau at ej@doj.ca.gov if you have any questions.