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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2025041115

Project Title: Kern Council of Governments 2026 Regional Transportation Plan

Lead Agency: Kern County Council of Governments

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Project Location: Kern County
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The 2026 RTP is a long-range regional planning document that establishes a vision for Kern County's future transportation system, land use patterns, and mobility needs through the planning horizon year. The Plan identifies regional transportation policies, strategies, and projects intended to improve mobility, enhance connectivity and safety, support economic development, and address regional environmental and infrastructure challenges. The 2026 RTP also evaluates how future transportation investments and land use patterns can support attainment of applicable federal air quality standards and state greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals. Kern COG's last RTP was adopted in 2022, and the 2026 RTP builds upon prior regional transportation plans as well as more recent federal, state, and regional policy direction related to sustainability, resilience, multimodal transportation, active transportation, goods movement, and equitable transportation planning. Pursuant to federal metropolitan transportation planning requirements, Kern COG is responsible for preparing and periodically updating the RTP to identify regional transportation needs, prioritize transportation improvements, and maintain eligibility for federal and state transportation funding programs.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Please see attached.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

After conducting a preliminary review in accordance with Section 15060 of the State CEQA Guidelines, Kern COG determined that a PEIR should be prepared to address the potential environmental impacts of the Plan. Following this determination, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was prepared and circulated between April 21, 2025, and May 21, 2025, for the required 30-day review period. Kern COG held an in-person scoping meeting on May 1, 2025, to solicit comments and to inform the public of the proposed EIR. One comment was received in response to the published NOP. The response was received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). CDFW identified Biological Resources as the environmental topic recommended for analysis in the Draft PEIR.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

N/A

Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
AESTHETICS		
Impact AES-1: Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. **Impact AES-2:** Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.	**MM AES-1:** Impacts to aesthetic resources shall be minimized through cooperation, information sharing regarding the locations of designated scenic vistas, and regional program development as part of Kern COG's ongoing regional planning efforts. **MM AES-2:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to identify and protect panoramic views and significant landscape features or landforms and implement project-specific mitigation as applicable. If it is determined that a project would significantly obstruct scenic views, implementing and local agencies should consider alternative designs that seek to avoid and/or minimize obstruction of scenic views to ensure compliance with Caltrans regulations for scenic vistas and the goals and policies with county and city general plans as applicable and feasible. Project-specific design measures may include reduction in height of improvements or width of improvements to reduce obstruction of views, or relocation of improvements to reduce obstruction of views. Additional measures may include the following, or other comparable measures identified by the Lead Agency: • Use a palette of colors, textures, building materials that are graffiti-resistant, and/or plant materials that complement the surrounding landscape and development. • Use contour grading to better match surrounding terrain. Contour edges of major cut-and-fill to provide a more natural looking finished profile. • Use alternating facades to "break up" large facades and provide visual interest. • Design new corridor landscaping to respect existing natural and man-made features and to complement the dominant landscaping of the surrounding areas. • Replace and renew landscaping along corridors with road widenings, interchange projects, and related improvements. • Retain or replace trees bordering highways, so that clear-cutting is not evident. • Provide new corridor landscaping that respects and provides appropriate transition to existing natural and man-made features and is complementary to the dominant landscaping or native habitats of surrounding areas. • Reduce the visibility of construction staging areas by fencing and screening these areas with low contrast materials consistent with the surrounding environment, and by revegetating graded slopes and exposed earth surfaces at the earliest opportunity. • Use see-through safety barrier designs (e.g., railings rather than walls). • Implement design guidelines, local policies, and programs aimed at protecting views of scenic corridors and avoiding visual intrusions in design of projects to minimize contrasts in scale and massing between the project and surrounding natural forms and developments. Avoid, if possible, large cuts and fills when the visual environment (natural or urban) would be substantially disrupted. Site or design of projects should	Significant at the regional level; less than significant at the TPA level.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	minimize their intrusion into important viewsheds and use contour grading to better match surrounding terrain. **MM AES-3:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to protect panoramic views and views of significant landscape features or landforms and implement project-specific mitigation as applicable. Kern COG will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to consider taking the following (or equivalent) actions: • require that the scale and massing of new development in higher-density areas provide appropriate transitions in building height and bulk that are sensitive to the physical and visual character of adjoining neighborhoods that have lower development intensities and building heights; ensure building heights stepped back from sensitive adjoining uses to maintain appropriate transitions in scale and to protect scenic views; • avoid siting electric towers, solar power facilities, wind power facilities, communication transmission facilities and/or above ground lines along scenic roadways and routes, to the maximum feasible extent.	
Impact AES-3: In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings; (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points). In an urbanized area, conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.	**MM AES-4:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to design projects to be visually compatible with surrounding areas that possess high aesthetic value. Implementing and local agencies should design projects to minimize contrasts in scale and massing between the project and surrounding natural forms and development. The design of projects should minimize intrusion into important viewsheds and use contour grading to better match surrounding terrain. To the extent feasible, landscaping should be designed to add significant natural elements and visual interest to soften hard edges. Projects should, to the extent feasible, avoid large cuts and fills when the visual environment (natural or urban) would be substantially disrupted. **MM AES-5**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to establish development standards for visually sensitive areas. Prior to approval of individual projects, Kern COG will encourage and facilitate implementing and local agencies to apply such development standards to maintain compatibility with surrounding natural areas, including site coverage, building height and massing, building materials and color, landscaping, site grading, etc. **MM AES-6:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to ensure that sites should be kept in a blight/nuisance-free condition. Any existing blight or nuisance should be abated within 60 to 90 days of approval, unless an earlier date is specified elsewhere.	Significant at the regional level; less than significant at the TPA level.

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Impact AES-4: Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.	**MM AES-7:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to design measures to reduce glare, light, and shadow. As part of planning, design, and engineering for projects, implementing and local agencies should ensure that projects proposed near light-sensitive uses avoid substantial spillover lighting. Design measures could include the following: • Use lighting fixtures that are adequately shielded to a point below the light bulb and reflector and that prevent unnecessary glare onto adjacent properties. • Restrict the operation of outdoor lighting for construction and operation activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. • Use high pressure sodium and/or cut-off fixtures instead of typical mercury-vapor fixtures for outdoor lighting. • Use unidirectional lighting to avoid light trespass onto adjacent properties. • Design exterior lighting to confine illumination to the project site, and/or to areas which do not include light-sensitive uses. • Provide structural and/or vegetative screening from light-sensitive uses. • Shield and direct all new street and pedestrian lighting away from light-sensitive off-site uses. • Use non-reflective glass or glass treated with a non-reflective coating for all exterior windows and glass used on building surfaces. • Architectural lighting shall be directed onto the building surfaces and have low reflectivity to minimize glare and limit light onto adjacent properties.	Significant at the regional level; less than significant at the TPA level.
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES		
Impact AG-1: 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.	**MM AG-1:** Kern GOG shall facilitate minimizing future impacts to Important Farmland resources through cooperation, information sharing, and regional program development as part of Kern COG's ongoing regional planning efforts, such as web-based planning tools for local government and other GIS tools and data services. Lead Agencies, such as county and city planning departments, shall be consulted during this update process. **MM AG-2:** Kern COG shall work with member agencies and the region's farmland interests to develop regional best practices information for buffering farmland from urban encroachment, resolving conflicts that prevent farming on hillsides and other designated areas, and closing loopholes that allow conversion of non-farm uses without a grading permit. **MM AG-3:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to establish preservation ratios to minimize loss of prime, unique, and statewide importance farmland, such as the preservation of 1 acre of unprotected agricultural land being permanently conserved for each acre of agricultural land developed on major projects affecting more than 100 acres of agricultural land, or as consistent with local agencies best practice.	Potentially significant at the regional level; less than significant at the TPA level.

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	MM AG-4: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to establish best practices for encouraging efficient use of water. **MM AG-5**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to encourage urban development, in place of development in rural and sensitive areas. Local jurisdictions should seek funding to prepare specific plans and related environmental documents to facilitate mixed-use development, and to allow these areas to serve as receiver sites for transfer of development rights away from environmentally sensitive lands and rural areas outside established spheres of influence and urban service district boundaries. **MM AG-6**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to identify and minimize impacts to agricultural resources through project design. Prior to the design approval of RTP transportation projects, the implementing agency should assess the project area for agricultural resources and constraints. For federally funded projects, implementing and local agencies are required to follow the rules and regulations of Farmland Protection Policy Act including determining the impact by completing the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form (AD-1006). For non-federally funded projects, implementing and local agencies should assess projects for the presence of important farmlands (prime farmland, unique farmland, farmland of statewide importance), and if present, perform a Land Assessment and Site Evaluation (LESA). If significant agricultural resources are identified within the limits of a project, implementing and local agencies should consider alternative designs that seek to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the agricultural resources. Design measures could include, but are not limited to, reducing the footprint of a roadway or development or relocating/realigning a project to avoid important and significant farmlands. If a project cannot be designed without complete avoidance of important or significant farmlands, implementing and local agencies should compensate for unavoidable conversion impacts in accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act and local and regional standards, which may include enrolling off-site agricultural lands under a Williamson Act contract or other conservation or agricultural easement, mitigation banks, or paying mitigation fees.	
Impact AG-2: Conflict with existing zoning or land use designation for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.	Implement **Mitigation Measures AG-1** through **AG-6.**	Potentially significant at the regional level; less than significant at the TPA level.

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Impact AG-3: Conflict with existing zoning or land use designation for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Pub. Resources Code, § 12220(G)), timberland (as defined by Pub. Resources Code, § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Gov. Code, § 51104(G)).	**MM AG-7**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to establish preservation ratios to minimize loss of forest land, and timberland, such as 1 acre of unprotected forest land and timber land to be permanently conserved for each acre of open space developed as a result of individual projects affecting more than 100 acres of forest land and timberland. **MM AG-8**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to implement design features in transportation projects to minimize impacts. Implementing agencies should consider corridor realignment, buffer zones and setbacks, and berms and fencing where feasible, to avoid forest lands and timberlands and to reduce conflicts between transportation uses and forest and timberlands. **MM AG-9**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to consider tree plantings at a minimum 1:1 ratio to mitigate impacts to forest lands.	Potentially significant at the regional level; less than significant at the TPA level.
Impact AG-4: Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. **Impact AG-5** Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland, to non-agricultural use.	Implement Mitigation **Measures AG-1** through **AG-5.**	Potentially significant at the regional level; less than significant at the TPA level.
AIR QUALITY		
Impact AIR-1: Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.
Impact AIR-2: Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.
Impact AIR-3: 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.	**MM AIR-1:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to require contractors to assemble a comprehensive inventory list (i.e., make, model, engine year, horsepower, emission rates) of all heavy-duty off-road (portable and mobile) equipment (50 horsepower and greater) that could be used an aggregate of 40 or more hours for the construction project and apply the following: • Prepare a plan for approval by the applicable air district demonstrating that the heavy-duty (equal to or greater than 50 horsepower) off-road equipment to be used in the construction project, including owned, leased and subcontractor vehicles, will achieve a project wide fleet-average 20 percent NOx reduction and 45 percent particulate reduction compared to the most recent CARB fleet average at time of construction. A Construction Mitigation Calculator (MS Excel) may be downloaded from the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) web site to perform the fleet average evaluation http://www.airquality.org/ceqa/index.shtml.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

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	Acceptable options for reducing emissions may include use of late model engines, low-emission diesel products, alternative fuels, engine retrofit technology (Carl Moyer Guidelines), after-treatment products, voluntary offsite mitigation projects, provide funds for air district off-site mitigation projects, and/or other options as they become available. The air district should be contacted to discuss alternative measures. • Ensure that all construction equipment is properly tuned and maintained. • Minimize idling time to 5 minutes – saves fuel and reduces emissions. • Provide an operational water truck on-site at all times. Apply water to control dust as needed to prevent dust impacts off-site. • Utilize existing power sources (e.g., power poles) or clean fuel generators rather than temporary power generators. • Develop a traffic plan to minimize traffic flow interference from construction activities. The plan may include advance public notice of routing, use of public transportation, and satellite parking areas with a shuttle service. Schedule operations affecting traffic for off-peak hours. Minimize obstruction of through-traffic lanes. Provide a flag person to guide traffic properly and ensure safety at construction sites. • As appropriate require that portable engines and portable engine-driven equipment units used at the project work site, with the exception of on-road and off-road motor vehicles, obtain California Air Resources Board (ARB) Portable Equipment Registration with the state or a local district permit. Arrange appropriate consultations with the ARB or the District to determine registration and permitting requirements prior to equipment operation at the site.	
Impact AIR-4: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations	**MM AIR-2**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to implement measures adopted by ARB designed to attain federal air quality standards for PM2.5. ARB's strategy includes the following elements: • Set technology forcing new engine standards; • Reduce emissions from the in-use fleet; • Require clean fuels, and reduce petroleum dependency; • Work with USEPA to reduce emissions from federal and state sources; and • Pursue long-term advanced technology measures. • Proposed new transportation–related SIP measures include: **On-road Sources** – Improvements and Enhancements to California's Smog Check Program – Expanded Passenger Vehicle Retirement – Modifications to Reformulated Gasoline Program – Cleaner In-Use Heavy-Duty Trucks – Ship Auxiliary Engine Cold Ironing and Other Clean Technology	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	– Cleaner Ship Main Engines and Fuel – Port Truck Modernization – Accelerated Introduction of Cleaner Line-Haul Locomotives – Clean Up Existing Commercial Harbor Craft **Off-road Sources** – Cleaner Construction and Other Equipment – Cleaner In-Use Off-Road Equipment – Agricultural Equipment Fleet Modernization – New Emission Standards for Recreational Boats – Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Expanded Emission Standards **MM AIR-3**: Kern COG shall pursue the following activities in reducing the impact associated with health risk within 500 feet of freeways and high-traffic volume roadways: • Participate in on-going statewide deliberations on health risks near freeways and high-traffic volume roadways. This involvement includes inputting to the statewide process by providing available data and information such as the current and projected locations of sensitive receptors relative to transportation infrastructure; • Work with air agencies including CARB and the air districts in the Kern COG region to support their work in monitoring the progress on reducing exposure to emissions of PM10 and PM2.5 for sensitive receptors, including schools and residents within 500 feet of high-traffic volume roadways; • Work with stakeholders to identify planning and development practices that are effective in reducing health impacts to sensitive receptors; and • Share information on all of the above efforts with stakeholders, member cities, counties and the public. **MM AIR-4:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to comply with the CARB recommendations to achieve an acceptable interior air quality level for sensitive receptors, project sponsors can and should identify appropriate measures, to be incorporated into project building design for residential, school and other sensitive uses located within 500 feet (or other appropriate distance as may be identified by CARB) of freeways, heavily travelled arterials, railways and other sources of Diesel particulate Matter and other known carcinogens. The measures should include one or more of the following methods as appropriate: a. The project sponsor should retain a qualified air quality consultant to prepare a health risk assessment (HRA) in accordance with the California Air Resources Board and the Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment requirements to determine the exposure of project residents/occupants/users to stationary air quality polluters prior to issuance of a demolition, grading, or building permit. The HRA should be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. The sponsor should implement the approved HRA recommendations,	

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	if any. If the HRA concludes that the air quality risks from nearby sources are at or below acceptable levels, then additional measures are not required. b. The project sponsor should implement the following features that have been found to reduce the air quality risk to sensitive receptors and should be included in the project construction plans. These should be submitted to the appropriate agency for review and approval prior to the issuance of a demolition, grading, or building permit and ongoing. i. Do not locate sensitive receptors near distribution center's entry and exit points. ii. Do not locate sensitive receptors in the same building as a perchloroleythene dry cleaning facility. iii. Maintain a 50-foot buffer from a typical gas dispensing facility (under 3.6 million gallons of gas per year). iv. Install, operate and maintain in good working order a central heating and ventilation (HV) system or other air take system in the building, or in each individual residential unit, that meets the efficiency standard of the MERV 13. The HV system should include the following features: Installation of a high efficiency filter and/or carbon filter-to-filter particulates and other chemical matter from entering the building. Either HEPA filters or ASHRAE 85 percent supply filters should be used. v. Retain a qualified HV consultant or HERS rater during the design phase of the project to locate the HV system based on exposure modeling from the mobile and/or stationary pollutant sources. vi. Maintain positive pressure within the building. vii. Achieve a performance standard of at least one air exchange per hour of fresh outside filtered air. viii. Achieve a performance standard of at least 4 air exchanges per hour of recirculation ix. Achieve a performance standard of 0.25 air exchanges per hour of in unfiltered infiltration if the building is not positively pressurized. c. Project sponsor should maintain, repair and/or replace HV system or prepare an Operation and Maintenance Manual for the HV system and the filter. The manual should include the operating instructions and maintenance and replacement schedule. This manual should be included in the CC&R's for residential projects and distributed to the building maintenance staff. In addition, the sponsor should prepare a separate Homeowners Manual. The manual should contain the operating instructions and maintenance and replacement schedule for the HV system and the filters. It should also include a disclosure to the buyers of the air quality analysis findings. d. To the maximum extent practicable the Lead Agency can and should ensure that private (individual and common) exterior open space, including playgrounds, patios, and decks, should either be shielded from stationary sources of air	

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	pollution by buildings or otherwise buffered to further reduce air pollution exposure for project occupants. **MM AIR-5:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies, as applicable and feasible, to investigate (using for example procedures and guidelines for PM hotspot analysis consistent with USEPA (2010) PM guidance) the relationship between 1) any increases in PM10 and PM2.5 within 500 feet of freeways in their jurisdiction, and 2) existing sensitive receptors in that area that do not have adequate air filtration to reduce such impacts to a less than significant level. To the extent that existing sensitive receptors are identified that do not have adequate air filtration, local jurisdictions may establish a program by which project sponsors can mitigate significant increases in PM10 and PM2.5 (e.g., by providing a retrofit program for older higher emitting vehicles, anti-idling requirements or policies, controlling fugitive dust, routing traffic away from populated zones, replacing older buses with cleaner buses, and paying in to a fund established to retrofit sensitive receptors with HEPA filters when sensitive receptors are located within 500 feet of freeways and high-traffic volume roadways that generate substantial diesel particulate emissions). **MM AIR-6:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies, as applicable and feasible, to plant appropriate vegetation to reduce PM10/PM2.5 when constructing a sensitive receptor within 500 feet of freeways and high-traffic volume roadways generating substantial diesel particulate emissions. **MM AIR-7:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies for major transportation projects (especially those that generate substantial diesel particulate emissions) in the region, if health risks are shown to increase significantly at sensitive receptors within 500 feet of a transportation facility, to consider applicable mitigation. Examples include planting appropriate vegetation and retrofitting existing sensitive uses with air filtration to reduce potential health risk impacts to a less than significant level.	
Impact AIR-5: Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES		
Impact BIO-1: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by CDFW or USFWS	**MM BIO-1:** Kern COG shall facilitate reducing future impacts to species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species and associated habitats through cooperation, information sharing, and program development. Kern COG shall consult with the resource agencies, such as the USFWS, NMFS, USACOE, USFS, BLM, and CDFW, as well as local jurisdictions including cities and counties, to incorporate designated critical habitat, federally protected wetlands, the protection of sensitive natural communities and riparian habitats, designated open space or protected wildlife habitat, local policies and tree preservation ordinances, applicable HCPs and NCCPs, or other related planning documents into Kern COG's ongoing regional planning efforts. Planning efforts shall be consistent with the approach outlined in the California Wildlife Action Plan.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

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	MM BIO-2: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to document Special-Status Plant Populations as follows: Retain a qualified botanist to document the presence or absence of special-status plants before project implementation. Implement the following steps to document special- status plants: • **Review Existing Information.** The botanist shall review the most current existing information to develop a list of special-status plants that have a potential to occur in the specific project area. Sources of information consulted shall include CDFW's CNDDB, previously prepared environmental documents, city and county general plans, HCPs and NCCPs, and the CNPS electronic inventory. • **Coordinate with Agencies.** The botanist shall coordinate with the appropriate agencies (CDFW, USFWS, Caltrans) to discuss botanical resource issues and determine the appropriate level of surveys necessary to document special-status plants. • **Conduct Field Studies.** The botanist shall evaluate existing habitat conditions for each project and determine what level of botanical surveys may be required. The type of botanical survey shall depend on species richness, habitat type and quality, and the probability of special-status species occurring in a particular habitat type. Depending on these factors and the proposed construction activity, one or a combination of the following levels of survey may be required: • **Habitat Assessment.** A habitat assessment will be conducted to determine whether suitable habitat is present. This type of assessment can be conducted at any time of year and is used to assess and characterize habitat conditions and determine whether return surveys are necessary. If no suitable habitat is present, no additional surveys shall be required. • **Species-Focused Surveys.** Species-focused surveys (or target species surveys) shall be conducted if suitable habitat is present for special-status plants. The surveys shall focus on special-status plants that could grow in the region and would be conducted during a period when the target species are evident and identifiable. • **Floristic Protocol-Level Surveys.** Floristic surveys that follow the CNPS Botanical Survey Guidelines shall be conducted in areas that are relatively undisturbed and/or have a moderate to high potential to support special-status plants. The CNPS Botanical Survey Guidelines require that all species be identified to the level necessary to determine whether they qualify as special-status plants or are plant species with unusual or significant range extensions. The guidelines also require that field surveys be conducted when special-status plants that could occur in the area are evident and identifiable. To account for different special-status plant identification periods, one or more series of field surveys may be required in spring and summer months. Special-status plant populations identified during the field surveys shall be mapped and documented as part of CEQA and NEPA process, as applicable. **MM BIO-3:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to avoid or	

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	minimize impacts on Special-Status Plant Populations by redesigning the Project, protecting special-status plant populations, and developing a transplantation plan (If necessary and approved by resource agencies) If special-status plants are identified in their project area, the proponents of specific projects included in the proposed RTP shall implement the following measures, as appropriate, to avoid and minimize impacts on special-status plants: • Redesign or modify their project to avoid direct and indirect impacts on special status plants, if feasible. • Protect special-status plants near their project site by installing environmentally sensitive area fencing (orange construction barrier fencing) around special-status plant populations. The environmentally sensitive area fencing shall be installed at least 20 feet from the edge of the population. The location of the fencing shall be marked in the field with stakes and flagging and shown on the construction drawings. The construction specifications shall contain clear language that prohibits construction-related activities, vehicle operation, material and equipment storage, and other surface-disturbing activities within the fenced environmentally sensitive area. • Coordinate with the appropriate resource agencies and local experts to determine whether transplantation is feasible. If the agencies concur that transplantation is a feasible mitigation measure, the botanist shall develop and implement a transplantation plan through coordination with the appropriate agencies. The special-status plant transplantation plan shall involve identifying a suitable transplant site; moving the plant material and seed bank to the transplant site; collecting seed material and propagating it in a nursery; and monitoring the transplant sites to document recruitment and survival rates. **MM BIO-4:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to document special-status wildlife species and their habitats as follows: Retain a qualified wildlife biologist to document the presence or absence of suitable habitat for special-status wildlife in the project study area. The following steps shall be implemented to document special-status wildlife and their habitats for each project: • **Review Existing Information.** The wildlife biologist shall review existing information to develop a list of special-status wildlife species that could occur in the project area. The following information shall be reviewed as part of this process: the USFWS special-status species list for the project region, CDFW's CNDDB, previously prepared environmental documents, city and county general plans, HCPs and NCCPs (if applicable), and USFWS issued biological opinions for previous projects. • **Coordinate with State and Federal Agencies.** The wildlife biologist shall coordinate with the appropriate agencies (CDFW, USFWS, and Caltrans) to discuss wildlife resource issues in the project region and determine the appropriate level of surveys necessary to document special-status wildlife and their habitats. • **Conduct Field Studies.** The wildlife biologist shall evaluate existing habitat conditions and determine what level of biological surveys may be required. The type of survey	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	required shall depend on species richness, habitat type and quality, and the probability of special-status species occurring in a particular habitat type. Depending on the existing conditions in the project area and the proposed construction activity, one or a combination of the following levels of survey may be required: • **Habitat Assessment.** A habitat assessment determines whether suitable habitat is present. This type of assessment can be conducted at any time of year and is used to assess and characterize habitat conditions and to determine whether return surveys are necessary. If no suitable habitat is present, no additional surveys shall be required. • **Species-Focused Surveys.** Species-focused surveys (or target species surveys) shall be conducted if suitable habitat is present for special-status wildlife and if it is necessary to determine the presence or absence of the species in the project area. The surveys shall focus on special-status wildlife species that have the potential to occur in the region. The surveys shall be conducted during a period when the target species are present and/or active. • **Protocol-Level Wildlife Surveys.** The project proponent shall comply with protocols and guidelines issued by responsible agencies for certain special-status species. USFWS and CDFW have issued survey protocols and guidelines for several special-status wildlife species that could occur in the project region, including (but not limited to) the California red-legged frog, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, desert tortoise and San Joaquin kit fox. The protocols and guidelines may require that surveys be conducted during a particular time of year and/or time of day when the species is present and active. Many survey protocols require that only a USFWS permitted or CDFW-approved biologist perform the surveys. The project proponent shall coordinate with the appropriate state or federal agency biologist before the initiation of protocol-level surveys to ensure that the survey results would be valid. Because some species can be difficult to detect or observe, multiple field techniques may be used during a survey period and additional surveys may be required in subsequent seasons or years as outlined in the protocol or guidelines for each species. Special-status wildlife or suitable habitat identified during the field surveys shall be mapped and documented as part of the CEQA and NEPA documentation, as applicable. **MM BIO-5:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to avoid and minimize impacts on Special-Status Wildlife Species by redesigning the project, protecting special-status wildlife habitat, and developing a mitigation monitoring plan (if necessary) This mitigation measure focuses on avoiding and minimizing all direct and indirect effects on special-status wildlife. Implement the following measures to avoid and minimize impacts on special-status wildlife and their habitats: • Redesign or modify the project to avoid direct and indirect impacts on special-status wildlife or their habitats, if feasible. • Protect special-status wildlife and their habitat near the project site by installing environmentally sensitive area fencing around habitat features, such as seasonal wetlands, burrows, and nest trees. The environmentally sensitive area fencing or staking shall be installed at a distance from the edge of the resource determined through	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	coordination with state and federal agency biologists (USFWS and CDFW). The location of the fencing shall be marked in the field with stakes and flagging and shown on the construction drawings. The construction specifications shall contain clear language that prohibits construction-related activities, vehicle operation, material and equipment storage, and other surface-disturbing activities within the fenced environmentally sensitive area. • Restrict construction-related activities to the non-breeding season for special-status wildlife species that could occur in the project area. Timing restrictions may vary depending on the species and could occur during any time of the year. Coordinate with the appropriate resource agencies to determine whether a monitoring plan for special-status wildlife is necessary as part of all highway projects. If a monitoring plan is required, it shall be developed and implemented in coordination with appropriate agencies and shall include: – a description of each of the protected wildlife species and any suitable habitat for special-status species that could occur at the project site; – the locations of known occurrences of special-status wildlife species within 1.0 mile of the project site; – the location and size of no-disturbance zones in and adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas for wildlife; – directions on the handling and relocating of special-status wildlife species found on the project site that are in immediate danger of being destroyed; and – notification and reporting requirements for special-status species that are identified on the project site.	
Impact BIO-2: Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS;	**MM BIO-6**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to identify and document riparian habitat as follows: • Retain a qualified biologist to document the location, type, extent, and habitat functions and values for riparian communities that occur in the site-specific project area and could be affected by their project. This information should be mapped and documented as part of CEQA and NEPA documentation, as applicable. • Consult with the USFWS and NMFS where such state-designated sensitive or riparian habitats provide potential or occupied habitat for federally listed rare, threatened, and endangered species afforded protection pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act. • Consult with the USFS where such state-designated sensitive or riparian habitats provide potential or occupied habitat for federally listed rare, threatened, and endangered species afforded protection pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act and any additional species afforded protection by an adopted Forest Land Management Plan or Resource Management Plan. • Consult with the CDFW where such state-designated sensitive or riparian habitats provide potential or occupied habitat for state-listed rare, threatened, and endangered	Significant at regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	species afforded protection pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act, or Fully-Protected Species afforded protection pursuant to the State Fish and Game Code. • Consult with the CDFW pursuant to the provisions of Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code as they relate to Lakes and Streambeds. • Consult with the USFWS, USFS, CDFW, and counties and cities in the Kern COG region, where state-designated sensitive or riparian habitats are occupied by birds afforded protection pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act during the breeding season. • Consult with the CDFW for state-designated sensitive or riparian habitats where fur-bearing mammals, afforded protection pursuant to the provisions of the State Fish and Game Code for fur-beaming mammals, are actively using the areas in conjunction with breeding activities. **MM BIO-7:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to avoid and minimize disturbance of riparian communities as follows: • If riparian communities are present in the project area, avoid or minimize impacts on riparian communities by implementing the following measures: • Redesign or modify the project to avoid direct and indirect impacts on riparian communities, if feasible. • Protect riparian communities near the project site by installing environmentally sensitive area fencing at least 20 feet from the edge of the riparian vegetation. Depending on site-specific conditions, this buffer may be narrower or wider than 20 feet. The location of the fencing should be marked in the field with stakes and flagging and shown on the construction drawings. The construction specifications should contain clear language that prohibits construction-related activities, vehicle operation, material and equipment storage, and other surface-disturbing activities within the fenced environmentally sensitive area. • Minimize the potential for long-term loss of riparian vegetation by trimming vegetation rather than removing the entire shrub. Shrub vegetation should be cut at least 1 foot above ground level to leave the root systems intact and allow for more rapid regeneration of the species. Cutting should be limited to a minimum area necessary within the construction zone. This type of removal should be allowed only for shrub species (all trees should be avoided) in areas that do not provide habitat for sensitive species (e.g., willow flycatcher). To protect migratory birds, no woody riparian vegetation should not be removed beginning March 15 through September 15, as required under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. **MM BIO-8:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to compensate for the Loss of Riparian Community as follows: • If riparian vegetation is removed as part of their project, compensate for the loss of riparian vegetation to ensure no net loss of habitat functions and values. Compensation ratios should be based on site-specific information and determined through coordination with state and federal agencies (including CDFW, USFWS, USACE, and	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]). Compensation should be provided at a minimum 1:1 ratio (1 acre restored or created for every 1 acre removed) and may be a combination of on-site restoration/creation, off-site restoration, or mitigation credits. Develop a restoration and monitoring plan that describes how riparian habitat should be enhanced or recreated and monitored over a minimum period of time, as determined by the appropriate state and federal agencies. Implement the restoration and monitoring plan.	
Impact BIO-3: Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by CWA Section 404 (including, but not limited to, marsh, and vernal pools) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.	**MM BIO-9:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to identify and Delineate Waters of the United States (including jurisdictional and isolated wetlands) Wetlands should be identified using both the USACE and USFWS/CDFW definitions of wetlands. USACE jurisdictional wetlands should be delineated using the methods outlined in the USACE 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Version 2.0), September 2008l. The jurisdictional boundary for other waters of the United States should be identified based on: • The shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding area (33 CFR 328.3[e]). This information should be mapped and documented as part of the CEQA and NEPA documentation, as applicable, and in wetland delineation reports. **MM BIO-10:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to avoid and minimize disturbance of waters of the United States, including wetland communities. Avoid and minimize impacts on wetlands and other waters of the United States (creeks, steams, and rivers) by implementing the following measures: • Redesign or modify the project to avoid direct and indirect impacts on wetland habitats. • Protect wetland habitats that occur near the project site by installing environmentally sensitive area fencing at least 20 feet from the edge of the wetland. Depending on site-specific conditions and permit requirements, this buffer may be wider than 20 feet (e.g., 250 feet for seasonal wetlands that are considered special-status shrimp habitat). The location of the fencing shall be marked in the field with stakes and flagging and shown on the construction drawings. The construction specifications shall contain clear language that prohibits construction-related activities, vehicle operation, material and equipment storage, and other surface-disturbing activities within the fenced environmentally sensitive area. • Avoid installation activities in saturated or ponded wetlands during the wet season (spring and winter) to the maximum extent possible. Where such activities are unavoidable, protective practices, such as use of padding or vehicles with balloon tires, shall be used.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	• Where determined necessary by resource specialists, use geotextile cushions and other materials (e.g., timber pads, prefabricated equipment pads, or geotextile fabric) in saturated conditions to minimize damage to the substrate and vegetation. • Stabilize exposed slopes and stream banks immediately on completion of installation activities. Other waters of the United States shall be restored in a manner that encourages vegetation to reestablish to its pre-project condition and reduces the effects of erosion on the drainage system. • In highly erodible stream systems, stabilize banks using a non-vegetative material that will bind the soil initially and break down within a few years. If the project engineers determine that more aggressive erosion control treatments are needed, use geotextile mats, excelsior blankets, or other soil stabilization products. • During construction, remove trees, shrubs, debris, or soils that are inadvertently deposited below the ordinary high-water mark of drainages in a manner that minimizes disturbance of the drainage bed and bank. These measures shall be incorporated into contract specifications and implemented by the construction contractor. In addition, the project proponent shall ensure that the contractor incorporates all state and federal permit conditions into construction specifications. **MM BIO-11:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to compensate for the loss of wetland habitat as follows: If wetlands are filled or disturbed as part of the highway project, compensate for the loss of wetland habitat to ensure no net loss of habitat functions and values. Compensation ratios shall be based on site-specific information and determined through coordination with state and federal agencies (including CDFW, USFWS, and USACE). The compensation shall be at a minimum 1:1 ratio (1 acre restored or created for every 1 acre filled) and may be a combination of on-site restoration/creation, off-site restoration, or mitigation credits. A restoration and monitoring plan shall be developed and implemented if on-site or off-site restoration or creation is chosen. The plan shall describe how wetlands shall be created and monitored over a minimum of five years (or as required by the regulatory agencies).	
Impact BIO-4: 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.	**MM BIO 12:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to incorporate Design Measures to Allow Animal Movement as follows: Prior to design approval of individual projects that contain movement habitat, the implementing agency should incorporate economically viable design measures, as applicable and necessary, to allow wildlife or fish to move through the transportation corridor, both during construction activities and post construction. Such measures may include appropriately spaced breaks in a center barrier, or other measures that are designed to allow wildlife to move through the transportation corridor. If the project cannot be designed with these design measures due to traffic safety, etc., the implementing agency should consider mitigation measures to minimize impacts on biological resources, including coordinating with the appropriate regulatory agency (i.e., USFWS, NMFS, CDFW) to obtain regulatory permits and implement alternative project-specific mitigation	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	prior to any construction activities Such measures include, but are not limited to, the following: • Consult with the USFWS, USFS, CDFW, and local agencies, where impacts to birds afforded protection pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act during the breeding season may occur. • Consult with local jurisdictions and other local organizations when impacts may occur to open space areas that have been designated as important for wildlife movement. • Prohibit construction activities within 500 feet of occupied breeding areas for wildlife afforded protection pursuant to Title 14 § 460 of the California Code of Regulations protecting fur-bearing mammals, during the breeding season. • Conduct a survey to identify active raptor and other migratory nongame bird nests by a qualified biologist at least two weeks before the start of construction at project sites from February 1 through August 31. • Install wildlife fencing where appropriate to minimize the probability of wildlife injury due to direct interaction between wildlife and roads or construction. • where avoidance is determined to be infeasible, design sufficient conservation measures through coordination with local agencies and the regulatory agency (i.e., USFWS or CDFW) and in accordance with the respective counties and cities general plans to establish plans to mitigate for the loss of fish and wildlife movement corridors and/or wildlife nursery sites. The consideration of conservation measures may include the following measures where applicable: – Wildlife movement buffer zones – Corridor realignment – Appropriately spaced breaks in center barriers – Stream rerouting – Culverts – Creation of artificial movement corridors such as freeway under- or overpasses – Other comparable measures Where the Lead Agency has identified that a RTP project, or other regionally significant project, has the potential to impact other open space or nursery site areas, seek comparable coverage for these areas in consultation with the USFWS, CDFW, NMFS, or other local jurisdictions.	
Impact BIO-5: Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. **Impact BIO-6:** Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan (HCP), natural communities conservation plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.	Implement **Mitigation Measures MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-12** **BIO-13:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to review Local City and County Policies, Ordinances, and Conservation Plans. Review of these documents and compliance with their requirements should be demonstrated in project-level environmental documentation. Where lead agencies have determined a significant impact would occur, lead agencies can and should consider mitigation measures to minimize impacts. Such measures include, but are not limited to, the following:	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	Design projects to avoid conflicts with local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources. Where avoidance is determined to be infeasible, sufficient conservation measures to fulfill the requirements of the applicable policy or ordinance shall be developed, such as to support issuance of a tree removal permit. The consideration of conservation measures may include: • Avoidance strategies • Contribution of in-lieu fees • Planting of replacement trees at a minimum ratio of 2:1 • Re-landscaping areas with native vegetation post-construction • Other comparable measures. **MM-BIO-14**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to review Local City and County Policies, Ordinances, and Conservation Plans. Review of these documents and compliance with their requirements should be demonstrated in project-level environmental documentation. Where lead agencies have determined a significant impact would occur, lead agencies can and should consider mitigation measures to minimize impacts. Such measures include, but are not limited to, the following: • Consult with the appropriate federal, state, and/or local agency responsible for the administration of HCPs or NCCPs. • Wherever practicable and feasible, the project shall be designed to avoid through project design lands preserved under the conditions of an HCP or NCCP. Where avoidance is determined to be infeasible, sufficient conservation measures to fulfill the requirements of the HCP and/or NCCP, which would include but not be limited to applicable authorization for incidental take pursuant to Section 7 or 10(a) of the federal Endangered Species Act or Section 2081 of the California Endangered Species Act, shall be developed to support issuance of an Incidental take permit or any other permissions required for development within the HCP/NCCP boundaries.	
CULTURAL RESOURCES		
Impact CR-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic structure that is a historical resource as defined in *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5.	**MM CR-1:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to require historical resource studies and to identify and implement project-specific mitigation. As part of planning, design, and engineering for projects, implementing and local agencies should ensure that historic resources are treated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. When a project has been identified as potentially affecting a historical resource, a historical resources inventory should be conducted by a qualified architectural historian. The study should comply with *State CEQA Guidelines* section 15064.5(b), and, if federal funding or permits are required, with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC Sec. 470 et seq.). As applicable, the study should consist of the following elements:	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	• a records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (California State University, Bakersfield); • contact with local historical societies, museums, or other interested parties as appropriate to help determine locations of known significant historical resources; • necessary background, archival and historic research; • a survey of built environment/architectural resources that are 50 years old or older that may be directly or indirectly impacted by project activities; and • recordation and evaluation of built environment/architectural resources that are 50 years old or older that may be directly or indirectly impacted by project activities; • buildings should be evaluated under CRHR and/or NRHP Criteria as appropriate and recorded on California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms. These elements should be compiled into a Historical Survey Report that should be submitted to the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (California State University, Bakersfield) and should also be used for SHPO consultation if the project is subject to NHPA section 106. If architectural resources are deemed as potentially eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources or the National Register of Historic Places, implementing and local agencies should consider avoidance through project redesign as feasible and appropriate. If avoidance is not feasible, implementing or local agencies should ensure that historical resources are formally documented through the use of large-format photography, measured drawings, written architectural descriptions, and historical narratives. The documentation should be entered into the Library of Congress and archived in the California Historical Resources Information System. In the event of building relocation, implementing and local agencies should ensure that any alterations to significant buildings or structures conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.	
Impact CR-2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5.	**MM CR-2:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to require consultation, surveys, and monitoring for archaeological resources. During environmental review of projects, implementing and local agencies should: • Consult with the Native American Heritage Commission to determine whether known sacred sites are in the project area and identify the Native American(s) to contact to obtain information about the project area. • Conduct a records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (California State University, Bakersfield) to determine whether the project area has been previously surveyed and whether resources were identified. In the event the records indicate that no previous survey has been conducted, the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (California State University, Bakersfield) will make a recommendation on whether a survey is warranted based on the archaeological sensitivity of the project area. If recommended, a qualified archaeologist should be retained to conduct archaeological surveys. The significance of any resources that are determined to be in the	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	project area should be assessed according to the applicable local, state, and federal significance criteria. Implementing and local agencies should devise treatment measures to ameliorate "substantial adverse changes" to significant archaeological resources, in consultation with qualified archaeologists and other concerned parties. Such treatment measures may include avoidance through project redesign, data recovery excavation, and public interpretation of the resource. Implementing and local agencies and the contractors performing the improvements should adhere to the following requirements: • If a project is located in an area rich with cultural materials, implementing and local agencies should retain a qualified archaeologist to monitor any subsurface operations, including but not limited to grading, excavation, trenching, or removal of existing features of the subject property. • If, during the course of construction cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric sites, historic sites, and isolated artifacts and features) are discovered work should be halted immediately within 50 meters (165 feet) of the discovery, implementing and local agencies should be notified, and a qualified archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology should be retained to determine the significance of the discovery. • Implementing and local agencies should consider mitigation recommendations presented by a professional archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology for any unanticipated discoveries and should carry out the measures deemed feasible and appropriate. Such measures may include avoidance, preservation in place, excavation, documentation, curation, data recovery, or other appropriate measures. The project proponent should be required to implement any mitigation necessary for the protection of cultural resources.	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
Impact CR-3: Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.	**MM CR-3:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to implement Stop-Work and Consultation Procedures Mandated by Public Resources Code 5097. In the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains during construction or excavation activities implementing and local agencies should cease further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the following steps are taken: • The Kern County Coroner has been informed and has determined that no investigation of the cause of death is required. • If the remains are of Native American origin, either of the following steps will be taken: – The coroner should contact the Native American Heritage Commission in order to ascertain the proper descendants from the deceased individual. The coroner should make a recommendation to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods, which may include obtaining a qualified archaeologist or team of archaeologists to properly excavate the human remains. – Implementing or local agencies or authorized representatives should retain a Native American monitor, and an archaeologist, if recommended by the Native American monitor, and rebury the Native American human remains and any associated grave goods, with appropriate dignity, on the property and in a location that is not subject to further subsurface disturbance when any of the following conditions occurs: • The Native American Heritage Commission is unable to identify a descendent. • The descendant identified fails to make a recommendation. • The implementing agency or its authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendant, and the mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact TCR-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 that is: a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section	Implement **Mitigation Measures MM CR-2** and **MM CR-4.** **MM TCR-1**: Kern COG through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to consult with the Native American Heritage Commission, as well as Native American tribes, to identify opportunities for early and effective consultation to identify tribal cultural resources to avoid such resources wherever practicable and feasible and reduce or mitigate for conflicts in compatible land use to the maximum extent practicable.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
5024.1.		
ENERGY		
Impact EN-1: Substantially increase the consumption of electricity, natural gas, gasoline, diesel, or other nonrenewable energy types.	**MM EN-1:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to implement energy saving policies and projects that 1) reduce wasteful, inefficient and unnecessary consumption of energy during construction, operation, and maintenance; 2) consider siting, orientation, and design to minimize energy consumption, including transportation energy; 3) consider options for reducing peak energy demand; 4) consider recycling efforts to reduce energy demand; and 5) incorporate renewable and alternative energy to the maximum extent feasible.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact EN-2: Use substantial amounts of electricity and natural gas, thereby requiring the construction of new facilities and new sources of energy or major improvements to local infrastructure.	**MM EN-2:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to streamline permitting and provide public information to facilitate accelerated construction of geothermal, solar and wind power generation facilities and transmission line improvements. **MM EN-3:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage utilities to increase capacity of existing transmission lines to meet forecast demand that supports sustainable growth, where feasible and appropriate in coordination with local planning agencies. **MM EN-4:** Kern COG shall continue to consider energy uncertainty impacts prior to the development of the next RTP. Topics that shall be considered include: • How the price and availability of transportation fuels affects revenues and demand; • How increases in fuel efficiency could affect revenues and emissions; • How the cost of commuting and personal travel affects mode choice and growth patterns; • How the cost of goods movement affects international trade and employment; or • How the escalation of fuel prices affects the cost of infrastructure construction, maintenance and operation.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
GEOLOGY AND SOILS		
Impact GEO-1: Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death, involving: (i) a 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; (ii) Strong seismic ground shaking; (iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
liquefaction; (iv) Landslides.		
Impact GEO-2: Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.	**MM GEO-1**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to require the development and implementation of detailed erosion control measures, consistent with the CBC and UBC regulations and guidelines and/or local NPDES, to address erosion control specific to the project site; revegetate sites to minimize soil loss and prevent significant soil erosion; avoid construction on unstable slopes and other areas subject to soil erosion where possible; require management techniques that minimize soil loss and erosion; manage grading to maximize the capture and retention of water runoff through ditches, trenches, siltation ponds, or similar measures; and minimize erosion through adopted protocols and standards in the industry. The implementing and local agencies should also require land use and transportation projects to comply with locally adopted grading, erosion, and/or sediment control ordinances beginning when any preconstruction or construction-related grading or soil storage first occurs, until all final improvements are completed.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact GEO-3: 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.	**MM GEO-2**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to conduct site-specific, design level geotechnical investigation for individual projects. Investigations should include an analysis of expected ground motions from known active faults. The analyses should be in accordance with applicable regulations and consistent with the most recent version of the California Building Code, which requires structural design that can accommodate ground accelerations expected from known active faults. In addition, investigations should determine final design parameters for walls, foundations, foundation slabs, and surrounding related improvements (utilities, roadways, parking lots and sidewalks). Investigations should be reviewed and approved by a registered geotechnical engineer. All recommendations by project engineers and geotechnical engineers should be included in final designs. Final seismic considerations should be submitted to and approved by the appropriate local jurisdiction prior to the commencement of a project.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact GEO-4: 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.	Implement Mitigation Measures GEO-2	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact GEO-5: 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.	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
Impact GEO-6: Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site.	**MM GEO-3:** Kern COG shall consult with resource agencies such as the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management to identify opportunities for early and effective consultation to identify unique paleontological resources and unique geological features to avoid such resources wherever practicable and feasible and reduce or mitigation for conflicts in compatible land use to the maximum extent practicable. **MM GEO-4:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing to ensure compliance with the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Antiquities Act, Section 5097.5 of the Public Resources Code (PRC), adopted county and city general plans, and other federal, state and local regulations, as applicable and feasible, by adhering to and incorporating the performance standards and practices from the 2010 Society for Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) standard procedures for the assessment and mitigation of adverse impacts to paleontological resources.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
GREENHOUSE GASES		
Impact GHG-1: Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment	**MM GHG-1:** Kern COG shall update future Regional Transportation Plans (including Sustainable Community Strategies) to incorporate policies and measures that build upon successful GHG reduction strategies from the 2026 RTP and lead to further reduced GHG emissions. Such policies and measures may be derived from the General Plans, local jurisdictions' Climate Action Plans (CAPs), and other adopted policies and plans of its member agencies that include GHG mitigation and adaptation measures or other sources. **MM GHG-2**: Kern COG shall, through its ongoing outreach and technical assistance programs, work with and encourage local governments to adopt policies and develop practices that lead to GHG emission reductions. These activities should include, but are not limited to, providing technical assistance and information sharing on developing local Climate Action Plans. **MM GHG-3:** Kern COG shall continue the Regional Energy Action Planning, as funding allows, and assist member agencies in adopting regional energy action plans and community climate action plans to advance regional climate strategies. These plans should assess the cost effectiveness of local jurisdictions' GHG reduction measures and prioritize strategies that have greatest overall benefit to the economy. **MM GHG-4:** Consistent with the CMP, Kern COG shall encourage and work with local governments to develop multimodal performance standards to determine how much traffic, during peak hours, is acceptable on state freeways, highways, and major streets within Kern County. Local jurisdictions should incorporate multimodal level of service standards in their circulation plans consistent with AB 1358 California Complete Streets Act of 2008 and as appropriate for each community facility type, place type, and corridor type, as recommended in the latest Highway Capacity Manual update. In addition, Kern COG will work with local agencies to identify frequency and routing of transit service, in order to assist in coordinating transit service provided by separate operators throughout Kern County. **MM GHG-5:** Kern COG will continue to promote GHG and criteria pollutant emission reductions through the VMT Reduction Progress Tracking & Assistance Program by providing local jurisdictions with regular progress reports on changes in observed VMT and	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	providing planning assistance and resources to make progress toward reduction goals. Other resources being provided to local planners include the San Joaquin Valley Planners Toolkit. **MM GHG-6:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to build on the work done for the Kern County GHG inventory. Implementing agencies and local agencies should also adopt and implement Climate Action Plans (CAPs, also known as Plans for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions as described in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15183.5 Tiering and Streamlining the Analysis of Greenhouse Gas Emissions) that do the following: a) Quantify GHG emissions, both existing and projected over a specified period, resulting from activities within each agency's jurisdiction; b) Establish a level, based on substantial evidence, below which the contribution to GHG emissions from activities covered by the plan would not be cumulatively considerable; c) Identify and analyze the GHG emissions resulting for specific actions or categories of actions anticipated within their respective jurisdictions; d) Specify measures or a group of measures, including performance standards, that substantial evidence demonstrates, if implemented on a project-by-project basis, would collectively achieve the specified emissions level; e) Establish a mechanism to monitor the plan's progress toward achieving that level and to require amendment if the plan is not achieving specified levels; and f) Be adopted in a public process following environmental review. **MM GHG-7:** In accordance with provisions of sections 15091(a)(2) and 15126.4(a)(1)(B) of the State CEQA Guidelines, a Lead Agency for a project can and should consider mitigation measures to reduce substantial adverse effects related to greenhouse gas emissions. Such measures may include the following or other comparable measures identified by the Lead Agency: a) Integrate green building measures consistent with CALGreen (California Building Code Title 24), local building codes and other applicable laws, into project design including: i. Use energy efficient materials in building design, construction, rehabilitation, and retrofit. ii. Install energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems (cogeneration); water heaters; appliances; equipment; and control systems. iii. Reduce lighting, heating, and cooling needs by taking advantage of light-colored roofs, trees for shade, and sunlight. iv. Incorporate passive environmental control systems that account for the characteristics of the natural environment. v. Use high-efficiency lighting and cooking devices. vi. Incorporate passive solar design. vii. Use high-reflectivity building materials and multiple glazing.	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	viii. Prohibit gas-powered landscape maintenance equipment. ix. Install electric vehicle charging stations. x. Reduce wood burning stoves or fireplaces. xi. Provide bike lanes accessibility and parking at residential developments. b) Reduce emissions resulting from projects through implementation of project features, project design, or other measures, such as those described in Appendix F of the State CEQA Guidelines. c) Include off-site measures to mitigate a project's emissions. d) Measures that consider incorporation of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) during design, construction and operation of projects to minimize GHG emissions, including but not limited to: i) Use energy and fuel-efficient vehicles and equipment; ii) Deployment of zero- and/or near zero emission technologies; iii) Use lighting systems that are energy efficient, such as LED technology; iv) Use the minimum feasible amount of GHG-emitting construction materials; v) Use cement blended with the maximum feasible amount of flash or other materials that reduce GHG emissions from cement production; vi) Incorporate design measures to reduce GHG emissions from solid waste management through encouraging solid waste recycling and reuse; vii) Incorporate design measures to reduce energy consumption and increase use of renewable energy; viii) Incorporate design measures to reduce water consumption; ix) Use lighter-colored pavement where feasible; x) Recycle construction debris to maximum extent feasible; xi) Plant shade trees in or near construction projects where feasible; and xii) Solicit bids that include concepts listed above. e) Measures that encourage transit use, carpooling, bike-share and car-share programs, active transportation, and parking strategies, including, but not limited to the following: i) Promote transit-active transportation coordinated strategies; ii) Increase bicycle carrying capacity on transit and rail vehicles; iii) Improve or increase access to transit; iv) Increase access to common goods and services, such as groceries, schools, and day care; v) Incorporate affordable housing into the project; vi) Incorporate the neighborhood electric vehicle network; vii) Orient the project toward transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; viii) Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service; ix) Provide traffic calming measures; x) Provide bicycle parking; xi) Limit or eliminate park supply;	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	xii) Unbundle parking costs; xiii) Provide parking cash-out programs; xiv) Implement or provide access to commute reduction program; f) Incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities into project designs, maintaining these facilities, and providing amenities incentivizing their use; and planning for and building local bicycle projects that connect with the regional network; g) Improving transit access to rail and bus routes by incentives for construction of transit facilities within developments, and/or providing dedicated shuttle service to transit stations; and h) Adopting employer trip reduction measures to reduce employee trips such as vanpool and carpool programs, providing end-of-trip facilities, and telecommuting programs including but not limited to measures that: i. Provide car-sharing, bike sharing, and ride-sharing programs; ii. Provide transit passes; iii. Shift single occupancy vehicle trips to carpooling or vanpooling, for example providing ride-matching services; iv. Provide incentives or subsidies that increase that use of modes other than single-occupancy vehicle; v. Provide on-site amenities at places of work, such as priority parking for carpools and vanpools, secure bike parking, and showers and locker rooms; vi. Provide employee transportation coordinators at employment sites; vii. Provide a guaranteed ride home service to users of non-auto modes. i) Designate a percentage of parking spaces for ride-sharing vehicles or high-occupancy vehicles, and provide adequate passenger loading and unloading for those vehicles j) Land use siting and design measures that reduce GHG emissions, including: i. Developing on infill and brownfields sites; ii. Building compact and mixed-use developments near transit; iii. Retaining on-site mature trees and vegetation, and planting new canopy trees; iv. Measures that increase vehicle efficiency, encourage use of zero and low emissions vehicles, or reduce the carbon content of fuels, including constructing or encouraging construction of electric vehicle charging stations or neighborhood electric vehicle networks, or charging for electric bicycles; and v. Measures to reduce GHG emissions from solid waste management through encouraging solid waste recycling and reuse.	
Impact GHG-2: Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.	**Implement** Mitigation Measures MM TR-3 **through** MM-TR-5, MM AIR-1 **and** MM AIR-2, **and** MM-GHG-1 **through** MM-GHG-4.	Significant at the regional and TPA level.
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS		

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
Impact HAZ-1: Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.	No feasible mitigation measures.	Significant and unavoidable
Impact HAZ-2: 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.	No feasible mitigation measures.	Significant and unavoidable
Impact HAZ-3: Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.	No mitigation is required	Less than significant
Impact HAZ-4: 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.	**MM HAZ-1:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to determine whether specific project sites are listed on government lists of hazardous materials and/or waste sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Implementing and local agencies should require preparation of a Phase I Environmental Site assessment (ESA) for any listed sites or sites with the potential for residual hazardous materials and/or waste as a result of location and/or prior uses. Implementing and local agencies should require that recommendations of the Phase I ESA be fully implemented. If a Phase I ESA indicates the presence or likely presence of contamination, the implementing agency should require a Phase II ESA, and recommendations of the Phase II ESA should be fully implemented.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact HAZ-5: 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.	**No mitigation is required.**	Less than significant.
Impact HAZ-6: Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant.
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY		
Impact W-1: Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality.	**MM W-1:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to undergo individual project review and comply with NPDES requirements and all applicable storm water regulations. Such measures include, but are not limited to: • Complete, and have approved, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prior to initiation of construction. • Implement Best Management Practices to reduce the peak stormwater runoff from the project site to the maximum extent practicable. • Comply with the Caltrans storm water discharge permit as applicable and implement Best Management Practices can and should be identified and implemented to manage	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	site erosion, wash water runoff, and spill control. • Complete, and have approved, a Standard Urban Stormwater Management Plan, prior to occupancy of residential or commercial structures. • Ensure adequate capacity of the surrounding stormwater system to support stormwater runoff from new or rehabilitated structures or buildings. • Prior to construction within the vicinity of a watercourse, the project sponsor can and should obtain all required permit approvals and certifications for construction within the vicinity of a watercourse: • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps): Section 404. Permit approval from the Corps should be obtained for the placement of dredge or fill material in Waters of the U.S., if any, within the interior of the project site, pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. • Regional Walter Quality Control Board (RWQCB): Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Certification that the project will not violate state water quality standards is required before the Corps can issue a 404 permit, above. • California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement. Work that will alter the bed or bank of a stream requires authorization from CDFW. • Where feasible, restore or expand riparian areas such that there is no net loss of impervious surface as a result of the project. • New facilities should install structural water quality control features such as drainage channels, detention basins, oil and grease traps, filter systems, and vegetated buffers to prevent pollution of adjacent water resources by polluted runoff where required by applicable urban storm water runoff discharge permits. • Structural storm water runoff treatment should be provided according to the applicable urban storm water runoff permit where facilities will be operated by a permitted municipality or county. Where Caltrans is the operator, the statewide permit applies. • Comply with applicable municipal separate storm sewer system discharge permits as well as Caltrans' storm water discharge permit including long-term sediment control and drainage of roadway runoff. • Incorporate as appropriate treatment and control features such as detention basins, infiltration strips, and porous paving, other features to control surface runoff and facilitate groundwater recharge into the design of new transportation projects early on in the process to ensure that adequate acreage and elevation contours are provided during the right-of-way acquisition process. • Design projects to maintain volume of runoff, where any downstream receiving water body has not been designed and maintained to accommodate the increase in flow velocity, rate, and volume without impacting the water's beneficial uses. Pre-project flow velocities, rates, and volumes must not be exceeded. This applies not only to increases in storm water runoff from the project site, but also to hydrologic changes induced by flood plain encroachment. Projects should not cause or contribute to conditions that degrade the physical integrity or ecological function of any downstream	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	receiving waters. • Provide culverts and facilities that do not increase the flow velocity, rate, or volume and/or acquiring sufficient storm drain easements that accommodate an appropriately vegetated earthen drainage channel. • Upgrade stormwater drainage facilities to accommodate any increased runoff volumes. These upgrades may include the construction of detention basins or structures that will delay peak flows and reduce flow velocities, including expansion and restoration of wetlands and riparian buffer areas. System designs should be completed to eliminate increases in peak flow rates from current levels. • Encourage Low Impact Development (LID) and incorporation of natural spaces that reduce, treat, infiltrate and manage stormwater runoff flows in all new developments, where practical and feasible. • •For sites that are less than one acre, project drawings submitted for a building permit (or other construction-related permit) shall contain a final site plan to be reviewed and approved by the appropriate local agency. The final site plan should incorporate appropriate site design measures to manage stormwater runoff and minimize impacts to water quality after the construction of the project.	
Impact W-2: Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	**MM W-2:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to ensure that projects requiring continual dewatering facilities implement monitoring systems and long-term administrative procedures to prevent degrading of surface water and minimize, to the greatest extent possible, adverse impacts on groundwater for the life of the project. Construction designs should comply with appropriate building codes and standard practices including the Uniform Building Code. **MM W-3:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to maximize, where practical and feasible, permeable surface area in existing urbanized areas to protect water quality, reduce flooding, allow for groundwater recharge, and preserve wildlife habitat. New impervious surfaces should be minimized to the greatest extent possible, including the use of in-lieu fees and off-site mitigation. **MM W-4:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to avoid development in groundwater recharge areas. Where feasible, transportation facilities should not be sited in groundwater recharge areas, to prevent conversion of those areas to impervious surface. **MM W-5:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to reduce hardscape to the extent feasible to facilitate groundwater recharge as appropriate.	Significant at the regional level; less than significant at the TPA level.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
Impact W-3: 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; ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or offsite; 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 iv) Impede or redirect flood flows.	**MM W-6:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to conduct or require project-specific hydrology studies for projects proposed to be constructed within floodplains to demonstrate compliance with applicable federal, state, and local agency flood-control regulations. These studies should identify project design features or mitigation measures that reduce impacts to either floodplains or flood flows such that the project is consistent with federal, state, and local regulations and laws related to development in the floodplain. **MM W-7:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to, the extent feasible and appropriate, to prevent development in flood hazard areas that do not have appropriate protection.	Significant at the regional level; less than significant at the TPA level.
Impact W-4: Result in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation.	See **MM W-6** and **MM W-7.**	Significant at the regional level; less than significant at the TPA level.
Impact W-5: Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.	See **MM W-1** and **MM W-3.**	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact W-6: Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably for seeable future development during normal dry and multiple dry years.	**MM W-8:** Kern COG will facilitate minimizing future impacts to water supply through cooperation, information sharing, and program development as part of the Kern COG's ongoing regional planning efforts, in-coordination with regional water agencies, and other stakeholders. **MM W-9:** Kern COG, in coordination with regional water agencies and other stakeholders, shall encourage regional coordination throughout California to develop and support sustainable policies in accommodating growth. **MM W-10 :**Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage regional water agencies to consider, to the extent feasible, potential climate change hydrology and attendant impacts on available water supplies and reliability in the process of creating or modifying systems to manage water resources for both year-round use and ecosystem health. As the methodology and base data for such decisions is still developing, agencies should use the best currently available science in decision-making. **MM W-11:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to reduce exterior uses of water in public areas, and promote reductions in private homes and businesses by shifting to drought-tolerant native landscape plantings, using weather-based irrigation systems, educating other public agencies about water use, and installing related water pricing incentives. Kern COG will also encourage local jurisdictions to work with local	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	water retailers to promote the availability of drought resistant landscaping options and provide information on where these can be purchased. Use of reclaimed water especially in median landscaping and hillside landscaping should be implemented where feasible. **MM W-12:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to coordinate with the local water provider to ensure that existing and/or planned water supply and water conveyance facilities are capable of meeting water demand/pressure requirements. In accordance with state law, a Water Supply Assessment should be required for projects that meet the size requirements specified in the regulations. In coordination with the local water provider, each project sponsor should identify specific on- and off-site improvements needed to ensure that impacts related to water supply and conveyance demand/pressure requirements are addressed prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy. Water supply and conveyance demand/pressure clearance from the local water provider will be required at the time that a water connection permit application is submitted. **MM W- 13:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to implement water conservation measures in new development that should include but not be limited to the following: • High efficiency toilets • Restroom faucets with automatic shut-off • High efficiency clothes washers • High efficiency dishwashers • Use of reclaimed water for appropriate uses • Water saving irrigation measures including: weather-based irrigation controller with rain shut-off. **MM W-14:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to consult with the local water provider to identify feasible and reasonable measures to reduce water consumption, including, but not limited to, systems to use reclaimed water for landscaping, drip irrigation, re-circulating hot water systems, water conserving landscape techniques (such as mulching, installation of drip irrigation systems, landscape design to group plants of similar water demand, soil moisture sensors, automatic irrigation systems, clustered landscaped areas to maximize the efficiency of the irrigation system), water conserving kitchen and bathroom fixtures and appliances, thermostatically controlled mixing valves for baths and showers, and insulated hot water lines. **MM W-15:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to comply with local drought measures as appropriate including prohibiting hose watering of driveways and associated walkways; requiring decorative fountains to use recycled water and repairing water leaks in a timely manner. **MM W-16:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to adopt and	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	implement a comprehensive strategy to increase water conservation and the use of recycled water that includes similar measures to the following: • Water Consumption Reduction Target: Regional water agencies should work together to set a target for to reduce per capita water consumption by 2020. • Water Conservation Plan: Regional water agencies should establish a water conservation plan that may include such policies and actions as: **MM W-8:** Kern COG will facilitate minimizing future impacts to water supply through cooperation, information sharing, and program development as part of the Kern COG's ongoing regional planning efforts, in-coordination with regional water agencies, and other stakeholders. **MM W-9**: Kern COG, in coordination with regional water agencies and other stakeholders, shall encourage regional coordination throughout California to develop and support sustainable policies in accommodating growth. **MM W-10:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage regional water agencies to consider, to the extent feasible, potential climate change hydrology and attendant impacts on available water supplies and reliability in the process of creating or modifying systems to manage water resources for both year-round use and ecosystem health. As the methodology and base data for such decisions is still developing, agencies should use the best currently available science in decision-making. **MM W-11:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to reduce exterior uses of water in public areas, and promote reductions in private homes and businesses by shifting to drought-tolerant native landscape plantings, using weather-based irrigation systems, educating other public agencies about water use, and installing related water pricing incentives. Kern COG will also encourage local jurisdictions to work with local water retailers to promote the availability of drought resistant landscaping options and provide information on where these can be purchased. Use of reclaimed water especially in median landscaping and hillside landscaping should be implemented where feasible. **MM W-12:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to coordinate with the local water provider to ensure that existing and/or planned water supply and water conveyance facilities are capable of meeting water demand/pressure requirements. In accordance with state law, a Water Supply Assessment should be required for projects that meet the size requirements specified in the regulations. In coordination with the local water provider, each project sponsor should identify specific on- and off-site improvements needed to ensure that impacts related to water supply and conveyance demand/pressure requirements are addressed prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy. Water supply and conveyance demand/pressure clearance from the local water provider will be required at the time that a water connection permit application is submitted. **MM W- 13:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to implement	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	water conservation measures in new development that should include but not be limited to the following: • High efficiency toilets • Restroom faucets with automatic shut-off • High efficiency clothes washers • High efficiency dishwashers • Use of reclaimed water for appropriate uses • Water saving irrigation measures including: weather-based irrigation controller with rain shut-off. **MM W-14:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to consult with the local water provider to identify feasible and reasonable measures to reduce water consumption, including, but not limited to, systems to use reclaimed water for landscaping, drip irrigation, re-circulating hot water systems, water conserving landscape techniques (such as mulching, installation of drip irrigation systems, landscape design to group plants of similar water demand, soil moisture sensors, automatic irrigation systems, clustered landscaped areas to maximize the efficiency of the irrigation system), water conserving kitchen and bathroom fixtures and appliances, thermostatically controlled mixing valves for baths and showers, and insulated hot water lines. **MM W-15:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to comply with local drought measures as appropriate including prohibiting hose watering of driveways and associated walkways; requiring decorative fountains to use recycled water and repairing water leaks in a timely manner. **MM W-16:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy to increase water conservation and the use of recycled water that includes similar measures to the following: • **Water Consumption Reduction Target:** Regional water agencies should work together to set a target for to reduce per capita water consumption by 2020. • **Water Conservation Plan:** Regional water agencies should establish a water conservation plan that may include such policies and actions as: – Tiered rate structures for water use; – Restrictions on time of use for landscape watering, and other demand management strategies; – Performance standards for irrigation equipment and water fixtures; – Requirements that increased demand from new construction are offset with reductions so that there is no net increase in water use. • **Recycled Water Use:** Local jurisdictions and regional water agencies should establish programs and policies to increase the use of recycled water, including:	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	– Create an inventory of non-potable water uses within the jurisdiction that could be served with recycled water; – Produce and promote the use of recycled water for agricultural, industrial, and irrigation purposes, including grey water systems for residential irrigation; – Produce and promote the use of treated, recycled water for potable uses where greenhouse gas emissions from producing such water are lower than from other potable sources. • **Water Conservation Outreach:** Local jurisdictions and regional water agencies should implement a public education and outreach campaign to promote water conservation, and highlights specific water-wasting activities to discourage, such as the watering of non-vegetated surfaces and using water to clean sidewalks and driveways. **MM W-17:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to establish building design guidelines and criteria to promote water-efficient building design, including minimizing the amount of non-roof impervious surfaces around the building(s) and menus and check-lists for developers and contractors to ensure water-efficient infrastructure and technology are used in new construction, including low-flow toilets and shower heads, moisture-sensing irrigation, and other such advances. **MM W-18:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to establish criteria and standards to permit the safe and effective use of gray water (on-site water recycling), and review and appropriately revise, without compromising health and safety, other building code requirements that might prevent the use of such systems. • Recycled Water Use: Local jurisdictions and regional water agencies should establish programs and policies to increase the use of recycled water, including: – Create an inventory of non-potable water uses within the jurisdiction that could be served with recycled water; – Produce and promote the use of recycled water for agricultural, industrial, and irrigation purposes, including grey water systems for residential irrigation; – Produce and promote the use of treated, recycled water for potable uses where greenhouse gas emissions from producing such water are lower than from other potable sources. • Water Conservation Outreach: Local jurisdictions and regional water agencies should implement a public education and outreach campaign to promote water conservation, and highlights specific water-wasting activities to discourage, such as the watering of non-vegetated surfaces and using water to clean sidewalks and driveways. **MM W-17:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to establish building design guidelines and criteria to promote water-efficient building design, including minimizing the amount of non-roof impervious surfaces around the building(s) and menus and check-lists for developers and contractors to ensure water-efficient infrastructure and	

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	technology are used in new construction, including low-flow toilets and shower heads, moisture-sensing irrigation, and other such advances. **MM W-18:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to establish criteria and standards to permit the safe and effective use of gray water (on-site water recycling), and review and appropriately revise, without compromising health and safety, other building code requirements that might prevent the use of such systems.	
LAND USE AND PLANNING		
Impact LU-1: Physically divide an established community.	**MM LU-1:** Kern COG shall continue to coordinate with local County Transportation Commissions, Caltrans, and other local jurisdictions when siting new facilities in residential areas to facilitate minimizing future impacts on established communities through cooperation, information sharing, and regional program development as part of Kern COG's ongoing regional planning efforts to promote best planning practices. See also **MM POP-1.**	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact LU-2: 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.	See **Mitigation Measures LU-1** and **POP-1.** **MM LU-2:** Kern COG shall work with the County and other member agencies on the Regional Planning Advisory Committee to ensure that RTP transportation projects and growth are consistent with the RTP and general plans and associated local government planning assumptions. **MM LU-3:** Kern COG shall provide technical assistance and regional leadership to implement the RTP goals and strategies, integrate growth and land use planning with the existing and planned transportation network, and in determining consistency with the SCS. **MM LU-4**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to reflect RTP policies and strategies in their general plan updates. Kern COG will work to build consensus on how to address inconsistencies between general plans and RTP policies.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
MINERAL RESOURCES		
Impact MIN-1: Potential to result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.	No mitigation required.	Less than significant.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
IMPACT MIN-2: Potential to 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.	**MM MIN-1**: Kern COG through its intergovernmental review process, shall coordinate with the Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey to ensure that transportation projects avoid MRZs and areas identified through the General Plan to contain natural resources, and access to recoverable mineral and fuel resources is sustained through construction, operation and maintenance of projects. Efforts will be made to maintain portions of MRZ-2 areas in open space or other general plan land use categories and zoning that allow for mining of mineral resources. Where avoidance is infeasible, design transportation network improvements in a manner that does not preclude adjacent or nearby extraction of known mineral and aggregate resources following completion of the improvement and during long-term operations, such as buffer zones or screening. maintaining portions of MRZ-2 areas in open space or other general plan land use categories and zoning that allow for mining of mineral resources.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
NOISE		

Impact NOISE-1: 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	**MM NOISE-1:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to assess and mitigate to the extent feasible short- and long-term noise impacts in accordance with applicable regulations and to implement site-specific noise reduction measures, including the following as applicable: • Equipment and trucks used for project construction can and should use the best available noise control techniques (e.g., improved mufflers, equipment redesign, use of intake silencers, ducts, engine enclosures, and acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, wherever feasible). • Tools (e.g., jack hammers, pavement breakers, and rock drills) used for project construction can and should be hydraulically or electrically powered to avoid noise associated with compressed air exhaust from pneumatically powered tools. However, where use of pneumatic tools is unavoidable, an exhaust muffler on the compressed air exhaust should be used; this muffler can lower noise levels from the exhaust by up to about 10 dB(A). External jackets on the tools themselves should be used, if such jackets are commercially available and this could achieve a reduction of 5 dB(A). Quieter procedures should be used, such as drills rather than impact equipment, whenever such procedures are available and consistent with construction procedures. • Stationary noise sources can and should be located as far from adjacent sensitive receptors as possible and they should be muffled and enclosed within temporary sheds, incorporate insulation barriers, or use other measures as determined by the Lead Agency (or other appropriate government agency) to provide equivalent noise reduction. • A procedure and phone numbers for notifying the Lead Agency staff and local Police Department; (during regular construction hours and off-hours). • A sign posted on-site pertaining with permitted construction days and hours and complaint procedures and who to notify in the event of a problem. The sign should also include a listing of both the Lead Agency and construction contractor's telephone numbers (during regular construction hours and off-hours). • The designation of an on-site construction complaint and enforcement manager for the project. • Notification of neighbors and occupants within 300 feet of the project construction area at least 30 days in advance of extreme noise generating activities about the estimated duration of the activity. • A preconstruction meeting can and should be held with the job inspectors and the general contractor/on-site project manager to confirm that noise measures and practices (including construction hours, neighborhood notification, posted signs, etc.) are completed. • Use of portable barriers in the vicinity of sensitive receptors during construction. • Projects that require pile driving or other construction noise above 90 dB(A) in proximity to sensitive receptors, should reduce potential pier drilling, pile driving and/or other extreme noise generating construction impacts greater than 90 dB(A), a set	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	of site-specific noise attenuation measures should be completed under the supervision of a qualified acoustical consultant. • Implement noise control at the receivers by temporarily improving the noise reduction capability of adjacent buildings (for instance by the use of sound blankets), and implement if such measures are feasible and would noticeably reduce noise impacts. • Monitor the effectiveness of noise attenuation measures by taking noise measurements. • Maximize the distance between noise-sensitive land uses and new roadway lanes, roadways, rail lines, transit centers, park-and-ride lots, and other new noise-generating facilities. • Construct sound reducing barriers between noise sources and noise-sensitive land uses. **MM NOISE 2**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to assess and mitigate to the extent feasible short- and long-term noise impacts in accordance with applicable regulations and to implement site-specific noise reduction measures, including the following as applicable: Such measures include, but are not limited to, the following: • Stationary noise sources can and should be located as far from adjacent sensitive receptors as possible and they should be muffled and enclosed within temporary sheds, incorporate insulation barriers, or use other measures as determined by the Lead Agency (or other appropriate government agency) to provide equivalent noise reduction. • Implement, to the extent feasible and practicable, speed limits and limits on hours of operation of rail and transit systems, where such limits may reduce noise impacts. • Use techniques such as grade separation, buffer zones, landscaped berms, dense plantings, sound walls, reduced-noise paving materials, and traffic calming measures. • Maximize the distance of new route alignments from sensitive receptors. • Locate transit-related passenger stations, central maintenance facilities, decentralized maintenance facilities, and electric substations away from sensitive receptors to the maximum extent feasible. • Use land use measures such as zoning, site design, and buffers to ensure that future development is noise compatible with adjacent transportation facilities and land uses.	
Impact NOISE-2: Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.	Implement **Mitigation Measure MM NOISE-1** and **MM NOISE-2.**	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact NOISE-3: For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels**.**	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.
POPULATION, HOUSING, AND EMPLOYMENT		

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
Impact POP-1: Induce substantial population growth to areas of the region either directly (by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (by extending roads and other infrastructure)	**MM POP-1:** Kern COG, will work with its member agencies to implement growth strategies to create an urban form designed to focus development in TPAs in accordance with the policies, strategies and investments contained in the 2026 RTP, enhancing mobility and reducing land consumption, providing urban infrastructure to support growth and ensuring a jobs-housing balance that supports decreases in greenhouse gas emissions.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact POP-2: Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.	**MM POP-2:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to evaluate alternate route alignments and transportation facilities that minimize the displacement of homes and businesses. An iterative design and impact analysis would help where impacts to homes or businesses are involved. Potential impacts should be minimized to the extent feasible. If possible, existing rights-of-way should be used. **MM POP-3:** Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to mitigate impacts to affordable housing as feasible through construction of affordable units (deed restricted to remain affordable for an appropriate period of time) or payment of any fee established to address loss of affordable housing.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
FIRE SERVICES		
Impact FIRE-1: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times.	No mitigation is required	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.
POLICE SERVICES		
Impact POLICE-1: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police facilities the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times.	No mitigation is required	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.
SCHOOLS		
Impact EDU-1: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other educational performance factors.	No mitigation is required	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.
LIBRARY		

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
Impact LIB-1: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered library facilities the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios.	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA levels.
RECREATION		
Impact REC-1: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial deterioration of the facilities could occur.	**MM REC-1:** Kern COG shall facilitate reducing future impacts as a result of increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other facilities from population growth through cooperation with member agencies, information sharing, and program development in order to ensure consistency with planning for expansion of new neighborhood parks within or in nearby accessible locations to TPAs in funding opportunities and programs administered by Kern COG. **MM REC-2**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process shall encourage member jurisdictions to explore multiple use spaces and redevelopment in areas where it will provide more opportunities for recreational uses and access to natural areas close to the urban core. **MM REC-3**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process shall encourage member jurisdictions to work as partners to address regional outdoor recreation needs and to acquire the necessary funding for the implementation of their plans and programs. This should be done, in part, by consulting with agencies and organizations that have active open space work plans.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact REC-2: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered parks and recreational facilities the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios.	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.
TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC		
Impact TR-1: Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.	No mitigation is required	Less than significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
: Impact TR-2 Conflict or be inconsistent with *CEQA Guidelines* section 15064.3(b).	**MM TR-1:** Consistent with the CMP, Kern COG shall encourage and work with local governments to develop multimodal performance standards to determine how much traffic, during peak hours, is acceptable on state freeways, highways, and major streets within Kern County. Local jurisdictions should incorporate multimodal level of service standards in their circulation plans consistent with AB 1358 California Complete Streets Act of 2008 and as appropriate for each community facility type, place type and corridor type as recommended in the latest Highway Capacity Manual update. In addition, Kern COG will work with local agencies to identify frequency and routing of transit service, in order to assist in coordinating transit service provided by separate operators throughout Kern County. **MM TR-2:** In addition to the current Tier 1 and Tier 2 RTP projects, Kern COG shall continue to explore potential measures to reduce vehicular travel. Such measures as land-use strategies, car-sharing programs, additional car- and vanpool programs, additional bicycle programs, and implementation of a universal transit booking and fare collection smart phone application should be considered. **MM TR-3:** Kern COG will continue to encourage and facilitate transportation projects that maximize efficiency of the transportation system and include VMT reduction. **MM TR-4**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to evaluate VMT as part of project specific review and identify and implement measures that reduce VMT including mixed use, alternative transportation facilities (bike racks, transit stops, and pedestrian amenities) as appropriate for each local agency.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact TR-3: Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.
Impact TR-4: Result in inadequate emergency access.	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA level.
WASTEWATER		
Impact WW-1: 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. **Impact WW-2:** Result in the determination by a wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant at the regional and TPA levels.
SOLID WASTE		

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
Impact SW-1: 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. **Impact SW-2:** Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.	**MM SW-1:** Kern COG through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage diversion of solid waste such as recycling and composting programs. **MM SW-2:** Kern COG through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage local jurisdictions to require project sponsors to integrate green building measures consistent with CALGreen (California Building Code Title 24) into project design which could include the following: • Reuse and minimization of construction and demolition (C&D) debris and diversion of C&D waste from landfills to recycling facilities. • The inclusion of a waste management plan that promotes maximum C&D diversion. • Source reduction through (1) use of materials that are more durable and easier to repair and maintain, (2) design to generate less scrap material through dimensional planning, (3) increased recycled content, (4) use of reclaimed materials, and (5) use of structural materials in a dual role as finish material (e.g., stained concrete flooring, unfinished ceilings, etc.). • Reuse of existing structure and shell in renovation projects. • Design for deconstruction without compromising safety. • Design for flexibility through the use of moveable walls, raised floors, modular furniture, moveable task lighting, and other reusable building components. • **Development of indoor recycling program and space.** **MM SW-3:** Kern COG through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage local jurisdictions and waste management agencies to discourage the siting of new landfills unless all other waste reduction and prevention actions have been fully explored. If landfill siting or expansion is necessary, landfills should be sited with an adequate landfill-owned, undeveloped land buffer to minimize the potential adverse impacts of the landfill in neighboring communities.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
WILDFIRE		
Impact WF-1: Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including whether wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.	**MM WF-1**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to avoid siting new development in wildfire zones. **MM WF-2**: Kern COG, through its Environmental Review Program/Intergovernmental Review process will facilitate and encourage implementing and local agencies to ensure that in the event that new development occurs in wildfire zones, the projects comply with safety measures as specified by CAL FIRE.	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact WF-2: If located in or near state responsibility areas of lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project: Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or	See **MM WF-1** and **MM WF-2**	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.

Significance Threshold and Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.		
Impact WF-3: 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 risks or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.	See **MM WF-1** and **MM WF-2**	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.
Impact WF-4: Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope stability, or drainage changes.	See **MM WF-1** and **MM WF-2**	Significant at the regional and TPA levels.