INITIAL STUDY FOR THE PROJ-10.10.1202
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
FIRE STATION No. 227 PROJECT
APN: 015-428-101

Lead Agency:

County of San Bernardino
Project and Facilities
Management Department
620 South E Street, San Bernardino,
California 92415-0184

Applicant:

San Bernardino County
Fire Protection District

Prepared By:

WSP
862 E Hospitality Lane #350
San Bernardino, CA 92408

March 2025

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACROYNMS

AAQS	ambient air quality standards
AB	Assembly Bill
ACE	Areas of Conservation Emphasis
amsl	above mean sea level
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
bgs	below ground surface
BMP	best management practice
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
Cal Fire	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CALGreen	California Green Building Standards Code, Part 11 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH_4	methane
CHRIS	Cultural Historical Resources Information System
CIRP	Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
dBA	A-weighted Decibel
DOC	Department of Conservation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GHG	greenhouse gas
GHGRP	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
GWh	gigawatt-hours
H_2S	hydrogen sulfide
HCFC	hydro chlorofluorocarbon
IAFF	International Association of Fire Fighters
IRUWMP	Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan

kWh	kilowatt-hour
LED	Light-emitting diode
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
Leq	Equivalent Sound Level
LID	low-impact development
Lmax	maximum sound level
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MFR	Multiple Family Residential
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MM	mitigation measure
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MT	metric ton
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NFHL	National Flood Hazard Layer
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOX	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
O_3	ozone
Pb	lead
PF	Public Facilities
PM	particulate matter
$PM_{2.5}$	fine particulate matter
PM_{10}	respirable particulate matter
PP	Public Park
PPV	peak particle velocity
PQP	Public/Quasi-Public
PRC	Public Resources Code
RM	Residential Medium
ROG	reactive organic gas
RS	Residential Suburban
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SBCFPD	San Bernardino County Fire Protection District
SBCUSD	San Bernardino City Unified School District
SBMWD	City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department
SBWRP	City of San Bernardino Water Reclamation Plant
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SF	square feet
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SMARA	California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SO_X	sulfur oxides

SP	Special Purpose
SR	State Route
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SSC	species of special concern
SWP	State Water Project
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	toxic air contaminant
TIA	Traffic Impact Analysis
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VdB	vibration decibel
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VOC	volatile organic compound
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

This form and the descriptive information provided in the application package constitute the contents of the Initial Study pursuant to San Bernardino County (County) Guidelines under Ordinance 3040 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15063.

PROJECT LABEL

APNs:	015-428-101	***USGS Quad:***	7.5-minute San Bernardino, California
Applicants:	STK Architecture, Inc.	***T, R, Section:***	Section 00, Township 1 North, Range 4 West
Location:	The proposed Project is located on an approximately 1.21-acre site, occupying a portion of a 5.3-acre parcel at the south end of Arrowhead Elementary School property at 3825 N. Mountain View Avenue San Bernardino, CA, 92405. The approximate coordinates of the Project site are: 34.115872°, -116.345263°	***Thomas Bros:***	N/A
Project No:	PROJ-10.10.1202	***LUC:***	Public/Quasi-Public (PQP)
Rep:	3rd Supervisorial District	***Zone:***	Public Facilities (PF)
Proposal:	PROJECT APPROVAL	***Overlays:***	N/A

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead agency: San Bernardino County
Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

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Project Sponsor: Tony Finaldi
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBCFPD) is an all-risk/full-service fire district dedicated to providing the highest level of service in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. The SBCFPD provides premier fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to over 60 communities, ranging from rural towns to major cities, and all the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County (County). The SBCFPD operates 50 fire stations that provide services to 20,105 square miles throughout the County (SBCFPD 2025). Based on the latest available Fiscal Year 2023-2024 San Bernardino County Fire Statistics, SBCFPD has 1,166 county fire personnel and 712 fire suppression personnel (SBCFPD 2025). In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, SBCFPD responded to 6,619 fires, 3,442 investigation/alarms, 63,593 medical responses, and 5,424 traffic collisions (SBCFPD 2025).

Since 1953, the SBCFPD has operated the existing Fire Station No. 227, located at 282 W. 40th Street, San Bernardino, CA 92407. Fire Station No. 227 is staffed with one captain, one engineer, and one firefighter/paramedic and is equipped with one Type 1 medic engine and one Type 3 brush engine. According to the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 935, the medic engine at Fire Station No. 227 received 3,358 calls (an average of 9.2 calls per day) in 2021.

Fire Station No. 227, along with 17 other active SBCFPD fire stations, serve the Valley Region, which borders Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside counties and is generally defined as all the area south and west of the U.S. Forest Service boundaries. The Countywide Service Review for: Fire Protection/Emergency Medical Services/Dispatch (2020), prepared by the Local Area Formation Commission for San Bernardino County, showed that 70.6% of the Valley Region is covered within the 5-minute drive time area, and 93.6% of the Valley Region is covered within the 10-minute drive time area. A population analysis highlighted the anticipated population growth in the Valley Region, particularly in San Bernardino County, given the high cost of housing in the coastal areas of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties. This anticipated population increase, up to 25.3% in the Valley Region, would reduce the number of firefighters per person in the area and could reduce drive time.

The City of San Bernardino already has one of the highest call volumes in the nation. Therefore, the SBCFPD determined that a new fire station is essential to expand firefighting capacity and to ensure swift, efficient emergency responses. The proposed fire station would replace the existing Fire Station No. 277, which is more than 70 years old, and would include additional apparatus space and personnel to meet the fire, rescue, and emergency medical services needs for decades to come.

In May 2024, the San Bernardino City Unified School District announced the approval of a ground lease agreement with the SBCFPD to facilitate the construction of a new fire station on the southern portion of the existing Arrowhead Elementary School property, located at 3825 N. Mountain View Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92405. This area is designated for Public/Quasi-

Public (PQP) use per the City of San Bernardino General Plan and is currently characterized as a landscaped grass playfield. The lease includes provisions for a long-term commitment that could extend up to 99 years, reflecting a significant investment in community safety and infrastructure. As a result, the SBCFPD plans to relocate all firefighting and emergency services from Fire Station No. 227 to the new fire station, providing immediate fire protection services adjacent to the school site. The modernized, energy-efficient facility would include additional apparatus space and accommodate additional personnel.

Since the proposed Project is located within the County and is proposed by the San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department, the County will act as the Lead Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 15051 and will be responsible for approval of the proposed Project.

Project Description

As previously described, the County is proposing the development of a new fire station to replace the existing Fire Station No. 227. This new facility would be classified as an “essential services facility,” designed to provide critical emergency assistance to surrounding communities by enhancing emergency response capabilities within the region and ensuring that communities are well-prepared to manage emergencies effectively.

The proposed Project would include a total of approximately 12,564 square feet (SF) of development. Approximately 10,764 SF would serve as the Fire Station Building, approximately 400 SF will be provided for a separate Storage Building and approximately 1,400 SF will be used for a steel-roofed parking lot canopy, each of which would be one story or the equivalent of one-story tall. The site would also feature the installation of a 1,000-gallon fuel tank and a backup generator.

The design of the Fire Station Building includes essential amenities to support operational needs and public services. The building includes three apparatus bays capable of housing two Type 1 engines, one medic ambulance, and one future ladder truck in accordance with the County fire requirements. Living quarters for nine on-duty firefighters would include five single-use toilet/sink-shower combinations, a laundry facility, and storage areas for gear, equipment, and accessories. The building would also include data communications systems with emergency power backup. Common areas, such as a day room, dining area, kitchen, study, and gym would also improve the firefighters’ quality of life during their shifts. Further, the facility would include an administrative space and a public lobby with one unisex restroom.

The Project site would be paved with concrete to ensure long-term durability and ease of maintenance. Additionally, an existing landscaped strip would be established along the west property line. This proposed Project is designed to address the community's needs while adhering to all relevant safety and operational standards, including compliance with the County Development Code.

Proposed Site Design

The proposed San Bernardino County Fire Station No. 227 Project consists of development on approximately 1.21 acres (Figure 1, Site Plan) within San Bernardino City Unified School District property, designated PQP use per the City of San Bernardino General Plan. The site will be located along Genevieve Street north of West 38th Street, east of North Mountain View Avenue, and north of I-210 in the community of Arrowhead in San Bernardino, California. The project will be situated on the southern portion of one parcel with the following Assessor Parcel Number (APN): 015-428-101. Refer to the Site Plan provided as Figure 1, Site Plan. The complete Project site plans are provided as Appendix 1 in this Initial Study.

The Project proposes a new fire station that would be developed with a modern design, incorporating sustainable, energy-efficient building systems and features. The Project would be developed as follows:

- Fire Station Building (10,764 SF)
- Storage Building (400 SF)
- Steel Roofed Canopy (1,4000 SF)
- Backup Generator and 1,000-gallon Fuel Tank (318 SF)
- Trash Enclosure (160 SF)

In total, the San Bernardino County Fire Station No. 227 Project would use/install a total building area of 12,564 SF, excluding the 1,000-gallon fuel tank, backup generator, and trash enclosure.

The Fire Station Building will include the following features:

Staff Support Features

- Three Bay Apparatus for two Type 1 engines, one medic ambulance, and one future ladder truck, in accordance with the County and SBCFPD fire requirements
- Sleeping quarters for nine crew members
- Five single-use toilet/sink-shower combinations
- Communal living area and day room
- Dining area
- Laundry room
- Gym
- Work center
- Storage area for gear, equipment, and accessories

- Data communications room for emergency power
- Administration area

Public Area

- Lobby
- Public service counter
- Unisex restroom

Existing water, sanitation, and other public utilities are available on-site and have adequate capacities to support the proposed uses. Water services are provided by the City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department, electricity is supplied by Southern California Edison, and natural gas service is provided by the Southern California Gas Company. Various telecommunications companies offer local telephone and Internet service connections to the area.

Other improvements would include the construction of two commercial driveway approaches that would meet the specification of San Bernardino County Standard Drawing 1. The driveway nearest to N. Mountain View Avenue would orient in a north-south direction and wrap around the Fire Station Building to provide access to the proposed parking spaces. The second driveway nearest Genevieve Street would provide direct access to the three apparatus bays.

Construction

The construction of the proposed San Bernardino County Fire Station No. 227 Project is anticipated to be completed as described under the Proposed Site Design section above. Construction is expected to occur over a period of up to 16 months, beginning in the third quarter of 2025. Development of the site will require site preparation (clearing, grading, excavation), paving, and construction of buildings. The Project is anticipated to require minimal cut and fill, with any cut material being reused to balance the site through grading, thereby minimizing the import/export of soil material.

The development of the San Bernardino County Fire Station No. 227 Project will require the installation of pavement, curbs, handrails, and sidewalks throughout the site. Additionally, the Project will necessitate the installation of drainage inlets at several locations within the Project site, along with other water quality control measures as required by Project-specific plans.

Delivery of construction supplies and removal of any excavated materials, if necessary, will be accomplished using hauling trucks during normal working hours, with a maximum of 12 round trips per day. We anticipate that a maximum of 22 construction personnel will be required to support the construction of the Project each day. Grading activities will be conducted using traditional mechanized grading and compaction equipment, including but not limited to the following: front end loader, excavator, loader backhoe, dump truck, forklift, skid steer, mobile

crane, bulldozer, grader, roller, water wagon, asphalt compactors, telehandlers, and cement trucks.

Project Site location, Existing Site Land Uses, and Conditions

The Project site is located on an approximately 5.3-acre parcel at the northwest junction of 38th Street and Genevieve Street in San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, CA. The regional terrain consists of urban development interspersed with natural landscapes, including hills and valleys. The Project site itself is relatively flat and has been previously disturbed, making it suitable for construction activities (see Figure 3, Regional Project Location Overview and Figure 4, Project Location Overview). The entire parcel is already developed as part of the existing Arrowhead Elementary School.

According to a General Biological Resources Assessment prepared for this proposed Project by WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. (Appendix 3), the site is characterized by a landscaped grass playfield. The existing surrounding land uses include developed civic/public spaces adjacent to the north and east, multifamily residential spaces to the south, and a landscaped strip along the west property line, with additional single-family homes just beyond. There are few small undeveloped spaces in proximity to the site, primarily located along the hillside, a few parcels further west.

The San Bernardino County General Land Use designation for the Project site is PQP. The zoning classification is Public Facilities (PF). The land uses bordering the Project site are outlined in Table 1 below and illustrated in Figure 2, Existing and Surrounding Land Use. Photos of the Project site and the surrounding uses are provided in Figures 4a-h, below:

Table 1: Existing Land Use and Land Zoning Districts

Location	Existing Land Use	Land Use Category	Zoning District
Project Site	Southern portion of the existing Arrowhead Elementary School playfield	PQP	PF
North	The Arrowhead Elementary School playground and building are immediately north, while a variety of multifamily residential units are located further north. Adjacent to these units, at the corner of West Ralston Avenue, is a religious facility.	Multiple Family Residential (MFR)	Residential Medium (RM)
South	Residential apartment complex known as the Avalon Court Apartments	MFR	RM
East	Immediately to the east is the San Bernardino Fire Station Headquarters, along with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection lots. Further north is the Cal Fire Museum, and directly behind it is St. Sierra Park, a	Special Purpose (SP), Residential, Open Space	PF, Public Park (PP)

Location	Existing Land Use	Land Use Category	Zoning District
	1.13-acre vacant grassland park with a few trees dispersed that provide shade.		
West	Immediately west is a strip of ornamental landscaping that includes a few trees. On the other side of this landscaping are several single-family residential homes.	SP	Residential Suburban (RS)

Sources: San Bernardino County Parcel Viewer. https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=87e70bb9b6994559ba7512792588d57a.

ADDITIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRES BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

Federal: None.
State of California: State Water Resources Control Board
Regional: Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
County of San Bernardino: Land Use Services Department-Building and Safety, Environmental Health Services, Public Works, San Berardino County Air Pollution Control District

Figure 1: Site Plan

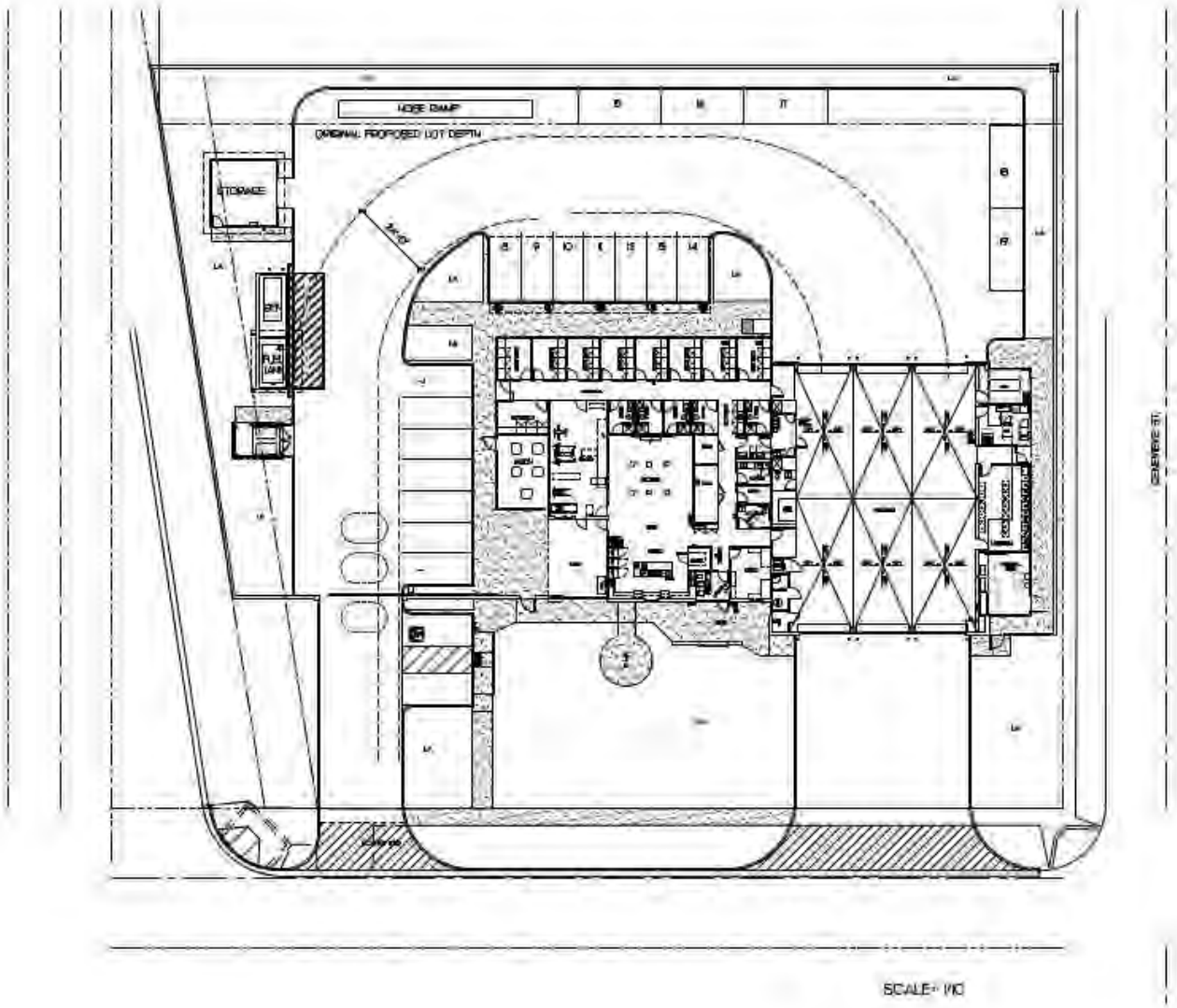

Figure 2: Existing Surrounding Land Use

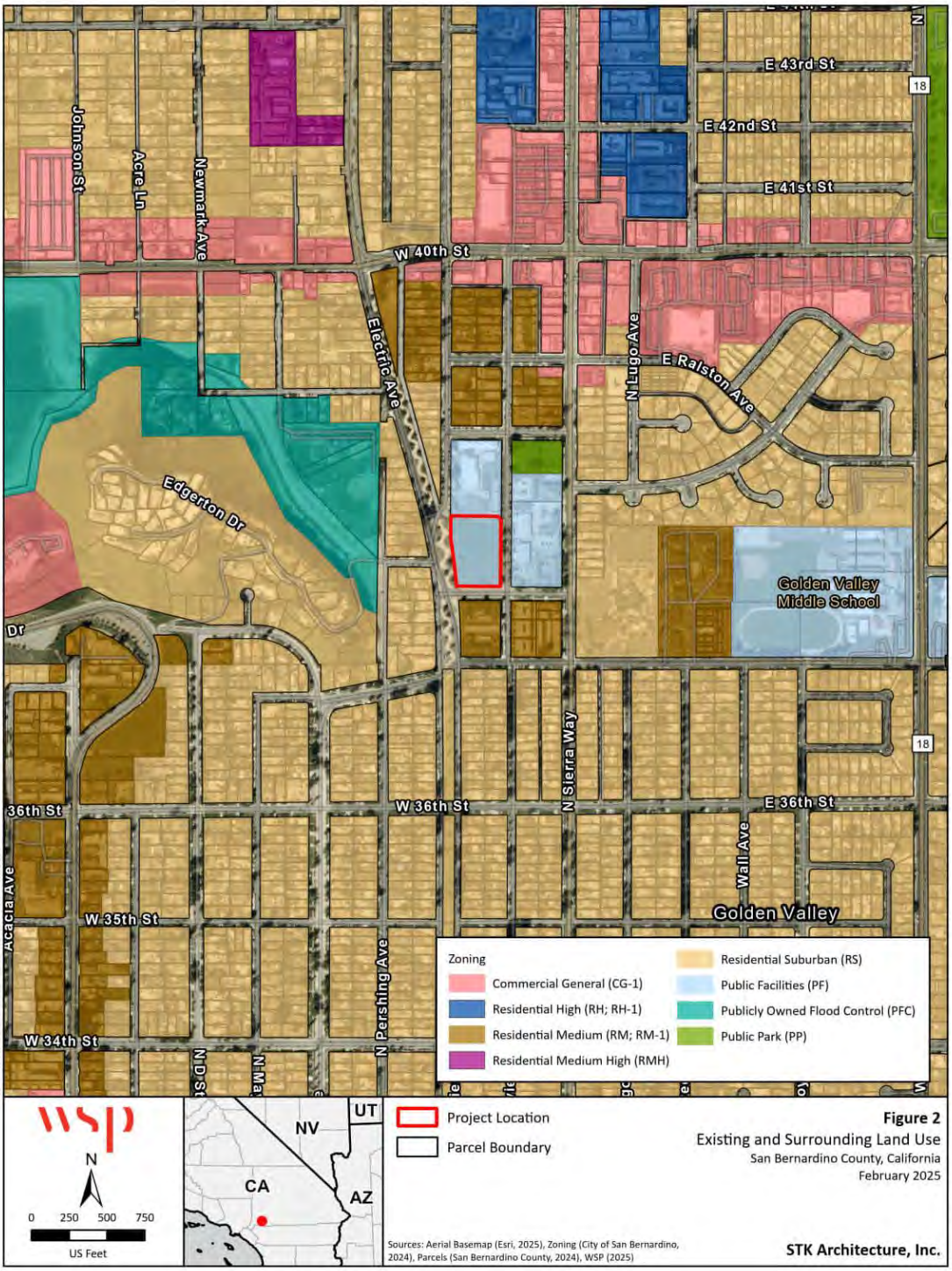

Figure 3: Regional Project Location Overview

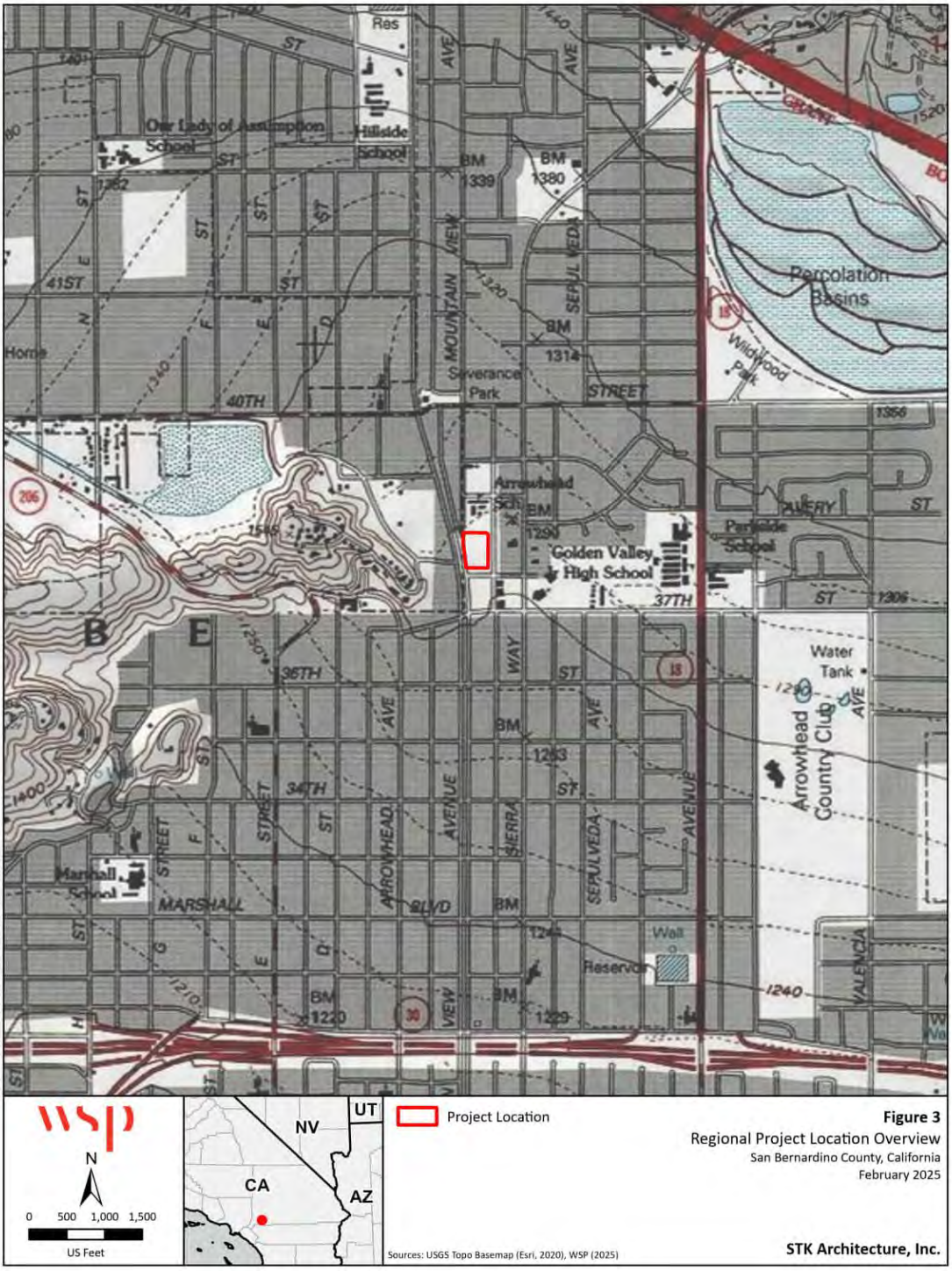

Figure 4: Project Location Overview

Figure 4a: Site Photographs

Photo 01. Facing southeast/south, exhibiting the view from the northwest corner of the Project site.

Photo 02. Facing east/southeast, exhibiting the view from the northwest corner of the Project site.

Figure 4b: Site Photographs

Photo 03. Facing southwest, exhibiting the view from the northeast corner of the Project site.

Photo 04. Facing south/southwest, exhibiting the view from the northeast corner of the Project site.

Figure 4c: Site Photographs

Photo 05. Facing northwest/north, exhibiting the view from the southeast corner of the Project site.

Photo 06. Facing west/northwest, exhibiting the view from the southeast corner of the Project site.

Figure 4d: Site Photographs

Photo 07. Facing northeast/east, exhibiting the view from the southwest corner of the Project site.

Photo 08. Facing north/northeast, exhibiting the view from the southwest corner of the Project site.

Figure 4e: Site Photographs

Photo 11. Facing south, exhibiting the surrounding area immediately adjacent to the west side of the Project site.

Photo 12. Facing northeast, exhibiting the surrounding area immediately adjacent to the southwest corner of the Project site.

Figure 4f: Site Photographs

Photo 11. Facing south, exhibiting the surrounding area immediately adjacent to the west side of the Project site.

Photo 12. Facing northeast, exhibiting the surrounding area immediately adjacent to the southwest corner of the Project site.

Figure 4g: Site Photographs

Photo 13. Facing east, exhibiting the surrounding area immediately adjacent to the south end of the Project site.

Photo 14. Facing west/northwest, exhibiting the surrounding area immediately adjacent to the south end and southeast corner of the Project site.

Figure 4h: Site Photographs

Photo 15. Facing northwest/north, exhibiting the surrounding area immediately adjacent to the southeast corner and east side of the Project site.

Photo 16. Facing southeast/south, exhibiting the surrounding area immediately adjacent to the east side of the Project site.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

- Consultation notices pursuant to AB 52 were sent by the County on November 15, 2024 to the following Native American Tribe Affiliations: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Pechanga Band of Indians, Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation, Ramona Band of Cahuilla, Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, Serrano Nation of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, and Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.

The Yuhaavitam of San Manuel Nation office requested government-to-government consultation under Assembly Bill (AB) 52 (California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1). Please see Section XVIII of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for a full analysis on Tribal Cultural Resources.

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify, and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code Section 21083.3.2). Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC's) Sacred Lands File (SLF), per Public Resources Code Section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code Section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

EVALUATION FORMAT

This Initial Study is prepared in compliance with CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the state CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq.). Specifically, the preparation of an Initial Study is guided by Section 15063 of the state CEQA Guidelines. This format of the study is presented as follows. The Project is evaluated based on its effect on 20 major categories of environmental factors. Each factor is reviewed by responding to a series of questions regarding the impact of the Project on each element of the overall factor. The Initial Study checklist provides a formatted analysis that provides a determination of the effect of the project on the factor and its elements. The effect of the project is categorized into one of the following four categories of possible determinations:

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

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

- **No Impact:** No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.
- **Less than Significant Impact:** No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.
- **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated, and the following mitigation measures are required as a condition of project approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significant. The required mitigation measures are: (List of mitigation measures).
- **Potentially Significant Impact:** Significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to evaluate these impacts, which are (List of the impacts requiring analysis within the EIR).

At the end of the analysis the required mitigation measures are restated and categorized as being either self- monitoring or as requiring a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

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

DETERMINATION

(To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

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

Signature (prepared by STK Architecture, Inc.)	Date
Signature (County Representative) San Bernardino County Project & Facilities Management	Date

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
I.	***AESTHETICS*** *– Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:*				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	In 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 a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

City of San Bernardino General Plan, 2005

San Bernardino County Code of Ordinances, 2007

San Bernardino County Countywide Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, 2019

San Bernardino County Countywide Plan, Natural Resources Element, 2020

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

Less than Significant. The Project site is located within the Valley Region of San Bernadino County. According to the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, the visual character of the Valley Region is primarily urban but becomes less and less dense closer to the foothills of the mountain ranges and low-lying hills to the north and east, which provide scenic vistas from various areas within the region.[1] The Project site and surrounding areas are flat. The San Bernardino Mountains are located approximately 1.13 miles north of the Project site. The Project site and surrounding areas do not contain significant scenic features, like scenic vistas or corridors.

The proposed Project would develop a new fire station to replace the existing Fire Station No. 227. The Project site covers approximately 1.21 acres, and the proposed Project would result in approximately 12,564 square feet (SF) of new building area; of which approximately 10,764 SF will serve as the Fire Station Building, approximately 400 SF will be provided for a separate Storage Building and approximately 1,400 SF will be used for a steel-roofed parking lot canopy. The site will also feature the installation of a 1,000-gallon fuel tank and a backup generator. The new fire station would be one story, with an approximate maximum height of 29 feet, which would not obstruct any existing views. Surrounding structures include one-and two-story buildings, so the proposed Project would be similar to the existing visual character.

Given the Project is located away from the San Bernardino Mountains and is comparable to the surrounding neighborhood, it would not be visible from the mountains. While the Project may be visible from public roads and elevated areas, it would not alter the visual character of the area, which is defined as urban and suburban developed land. The design and scale of the new fire station are in harmony with the existing built environment. Furthermore, the Project does not involve the removal of any significant scenic features or the obstruction of any scenic vistas. Development of the Project would maintain the overall aesthetic quality of the area and would not introduce any elements that detract from the visual appeal of the surroundings. Therefore, the Project would not have a significant impact on scenic vistas, and impacts would be **less than significant**.

[1] San Bernardino County, San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, accessed February 2025.

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

No Impact. The nearest state scenic highway to the Project site is State Route 330, located approximately 5.82 miles southeast of the Project site.[2] The nearest County Scenic Route is State Route 18, located approximately 4.42 miles north of the Project site. The Project site would not be visible from either of these scenic highways and would not significantly alter the scenic resources within these corridors.

The entire Project site is disturbed and landscaped with non-native grasses and a few native and non-native trees dispersed throughout, However, these trees are not considered significant scenic resources. Additionally, the Project site does not contain any other identified scenic resources, such as rock outcroppings or historic buildings, nor are any such resources located in the immediate surroundings of the Project site. Therefore, the implementation of the Project would result in no **impact** on scenic resources within a scenic highway, and no mitigation is required.

c) 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 a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Less than Significant. The proposed Project is located in the census-designated urban area of Riverside-San Bernardino. The Project site is designated for Public/Quasi-Public (PQP) use per the city of San Bernardino General Plan, which allows for public facilities, government institutions, transportation facilities, public schools (K-12), public or private colleges and universities, museums, and public libraries.[3] The proposed Project would be consistent with applicable requirements, such as setbacks, height, and density.

Construction. Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to commence in late 2025 and take approximately 16 months. Construction equipment would be located on-site and away from off-site sensitive receptors. During construction, the presence of construction vehicles and equipment could temporarily degrade the visual quality of the Project site due to the presence of construction activity. The current Project site is characterized as a landscaped grass playfield located adjacent to an existing elementary school. The presence of construction equipment would be temporary and cease once construction is complete. Therefore, construction of the Project would not substantially interfere with the view or visual character of the surrounding area. Due to the temporary

[2] San Bernardino County, San Bernardino Countywide Plan, Policy Map NR-3 Scenic Routes & Highways, accessed February 2025.
[3] City of San Bernardino, City of San Bernardino General Plan, accessed February 2025.

nature of construction activities and the existing visual character of the surrounding area, impacts would be **less than significant** during construction, and mitigation is not required.

Operation. As stated above, the Project site is located within the PQP overlay. The County's Development Review Committee would review the Project, and it would comply with all applicable design and development requirements. Operation of the proposed Project would not impact the visual character of the surrounding area and would not damage the scenic quality. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**, and mitigation is not required.

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

Less than Significant. The Project site is currently characterized by a landscaped grass playfield, located adjacent to an existing elementary school. The site is surrounded by single-family and multifamily residences in all directions. Light and glare from the elementary school is partially shielded by surrounding structures, such as fencing and vegetation. There are currently no light sources on the grass playfield. In the surrounding areas, sources of light and glare include streetlights, vehicle lights, and residential lights.

Development of the proposed Project would introduce new sources of light into the surrounding area, consistent with and expanding upon current light sources. New light sources would be introduced through the development of the fire station and would include exterior building lighting, parking lot lighting, and security lighting. Additionally, the Project would operate 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. Therefore, vehicles such as fire trucks accessing the Project site between sunset and sunrise would also introduce new sources of light and glare.

All lighting on the Project site would be installed in accordance with Chapter 83.07 (Glare and Outdoor Lighting) of the County Development Code,[4] which requires light shielding, functional and aesthetic design, and compatibility with surrounding uses. Additionally, as discussed above, the Project would be reviewed according to the County's Design Review process, ensuring compliance with applicable lighting requirements. The lighting requirements aim to minimize light pollution, glare, and spillover; conserve energy; and reduce adverse effects on the nighttime views in the Project vicinity.

Although the proposed Project includes new lighting, these light sources would be comparable to existing lighting conditions and would replace some of the lighting

[4] San Bernardino County, Code of Ordinances, Glare and Outdoor Lighting – Valley Region, accessed February 2025.

associated with the current uses on site. The Project would comply with development regulations outlined in Chapter 83.11: Parking and Loading Standards of the San Bernardino Development Code, which state that parking area lighting and glare shall reflect away from public throughfares and adjacent residences.[5] Landscaping and screening requirements set forth in Chapter 19.28 would also reduce impacts created by glare.[6] The proposed Project would include egress windows with overhangs to significantly reduce potential glare. Flashing lights on the station's fire apparatus would only be operated when responding to emergency calls or during routine vehicle inspections and would be visible from surrounding land uses for a very short duration during each instance. Therefore, the use of flashing lights would be limited and would not result in substantial light or glare affecting nighttime views.

The proposed Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the surrounding urban area. Impacts would be **less than significan**t, and mitigation is not required.

Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES *- In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:*				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

[5] San Bernardino County, Development Code, Parking and Loading Standards, accessed February 2025.
[6] San Bernardino County, Development Code, Landscaping Standards, accessed February 2025.

	Issues	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant*	*No Impact*
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program

California Department of Conservation Williamson Act Enrollment Finder

City of San Bernardino General Plan, 2005

Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey

San Bernardino County Countywide Plan, 2020

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

No Impact. The California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program identifies the Project site as "Urban and Built-Up Land" in its

California Important Farmland Finder.[7] Additionally, based on the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Policy Map, no prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance occurs at the Project site or within the immediate vicinity.[8] Therefore, the Project site is not located on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), and implementation of the proposed Project, therefore, would not convert farmland to nonagricultural use. **No impact** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. The Project site is zoned as Public Facilities (PF) and is not zoned for agricultural use. According to the Department of Conservation's California Williamson Act Enrollment Finder, the Project site is not under a Williamson Act contract.[9] Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. **No impact** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. As discussed above, the Project site is zoned as PF, and is not zoned as forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for forest or timberland resources. **No impact** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. There is no forest land within the Project site or the surrounding vicinity. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. **No impact** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

[7] California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program, accessed February 2025.
[8] San Bernardino County, San Bernardino Countywide Plan, Policy Map NR-5 Agricultural Resources, accessed February 2025.
[9] California Department of Conservation, Williamson Act Enrollment Finder, accessed February 2025.

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

No Impact. As discussed above, there is no farmland or forest land within the Project site or surrounding vicinity. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use or forest land to non-forest use. **No impact** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Issues		***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
III.	***AIR QUALITY*** - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district might be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

South Coast Air Basin National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) Attainment Status

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), 2022

SCAQMD California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook, 1993

SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds, 2011

The Project site is located within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). The Basin is currently designated *nonattainment* for 1- and 8-hour ozone (O_3) and particulate matter PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ under the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). It is designated *attainment* for carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), lead (Pb), hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), vinyl chloride, and sulfates.[10] The federal Clean Air Act and the California Clean Air Act regulate specific air pollutants. Under these acts, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Air Resources Board have established ambient air quality standards (AAQS) for specific pollutants to maintain air quality. The AAQS level for each pollutant defines the safe exposure level to avoid adverse health effects associated with each pollutant.

Regionally, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is responsible for developing and implementing the clean air plan for attainment and maintenance of the ambient air quality standards in the Basin. Under the SCAQMD, projects are considered significant if they exceed established significant emissions thresholds, as shown in **Table III.A**.

Table III.A: MDAQMD Significant Emissions Thresholds of Significance (lbs/day)

Emission Source	VOCs	NO_x	CO	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	SOx
Construction	75	100	550	150	55	150
Operation	55	55	550	150	55	150

Source: SCAQMD, SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds, accessed February 2025

CO = carbon monoxide PM_{10} = respirable particulate matter

NO_X = nitrogen oxides SOx = sulfur oxides

$PM_{2.5}$ = fine particulate matter VOC = volatile organic compound

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

Less than Significant. In general, a project would not interfere with an applicable air quality plan if (1) it was consistent with growth assumptions used to develop the plan;

[10] South Coast Air Basin, NAAQS and CAAQS Attainment Status, accessed February 2025.

and (2) if the project implements all reasonably available and feasible air quality control measures from the applicable air quality plan or planning document referenced or used in the plan. A project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan if the project is inconsistent with the underlying land use designation and zoning of the local applicable plan (a General Plan).

The SCAQMD adopted the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) in order to reduce emissions through rules and regulations aiming to achieve state and federal emissions and air quality standards.[11] The AQMP is a regional and multiagency effort, including the SCAQMD, CARB, the Southern California Association of Governments, and the USEPA.

The 2022 AQMP pollutant control strategies are based on the latest scientific and technical information and planning assumptions, such as the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, updated emission inventory methodologies for various source categories, and the Southern California Association of Governments' latest growth forecasts. The SCAQMD considers projects that are consistent with the AQMP, which is intended to bring the Basin into attainment for all criteria pollutants, to also have less than significant cumulative impacts. Therefore, project impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Less than Significant. As discussed above, the Basin is currently designated *nonattainment* for 1-hour and 8-hour O_3 and particulate matter PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ under the CAAQS, which can be attributed to development history in the region and current emission levels. Development of the region has caused cumulative adverse impacts to air quality as expansion occurs. While each project contributes to the nonattainment designation in the Basin, no single project is sufficient in size to result in nonattainment in the Basin. If a project's contribution to the cumulative impact is considerable, then the project's impact on air quality would be considered significant.

Construction. The proposed Project involves construction activities including demolition, grading, paving, and building construction. During construction, short-term impacts to air quality may occur due to the operation of heavy machinery and the release of particulate matter emissions from grading activities. Emissions would include CO, NO_X, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, and toxic air contaminants.

[11] SCAQMD, AQMP, accessed February 2025.

The Project would be constructed over 16 months. Exhaust emission factors for typical diesel-powered heavy equipment are based on the California Emissions Estimator Model version 2022.1 (CalEEMod) program defaults. Variables factored into estimating the total construction emissions include the level of activity, length of construction period, number of pieces and types of equipment in use, site characteristics, weather conditions, number of construction personnel, and the amount of materials to be transported on- or off-site. The analysis of daily construction emissions has been prepared utilizing CalEEMod and is shown below in **Table III.B**.

Table III.B: Maximum Daily Unmitigated Regional Construction Emissions

Construction Activity	Maximum Emissions (lbs/day)*					
	ROG	NO_X	CO	SO_2	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Demolition	1.4	13.4	15.4	<0.1	1.1	0.6
Site Preparation	1.3	11.7	12.0	<0.1	3.0	1.7
Grading	1.5	13.4	14.7	<0.1	3.6	1.9
Building Construction	1.0	8.6	10.2	<0.1	0.3	0.3
Paving	0.6	4.3	7.2	<0.1	0.3	0.2
Architectural Coating	4.0	0.8	1.2	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Maximum Daily Emissions	**4.0**	**13.4**	**15.4**	**<0.1**	**3.6**	**1.9**

Source: CalEEEMod

CO = carbon monoxide
NO_X = nitrogen oxides
$PM_{2.5}$ = fine particulate matter
PM_{10} = respirable particulate matter
ROG = reactive organic gas
SO_2 = sulfur dioxide

*Maximum daily emissions during summer or winter.

For each criteria pollutant, construction emissions would be below the pollutant's SCAQMD significance threshold. Therefore, the Project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Construction emissions would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

Operation. Long-term operation of the Project would generate air pollutant emissions. Operational emissions from the Project include those generated by vehicle trips (mobile emissions), the operation of equipment (energy emissions), use of consumer products and appliances, and the use of landscaping maintenance equipment (area source emissions). A summary of the estimated operational emissions modeled for the Project are presented in **Table III.C.**

Table III.C: Maximum Daily Unmitigated Regional Operational Emissions

Construction Activity	Maximum Emissions (lbs/day)					
	ROG	NO_X	CO	SO_2	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Mobile	1.0	0.9	8.3	<0.1	1.9	0.5
Energy	<0.1	0.3	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Area	0.4	<0.1	0.6	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Stationary	2.9	8.0	7.3	<0.1	0.4	0.4

Total	**4.3**	**9.3**	**16.5**	**<0.1**	**2.3**	**0.9**

Source: CalEEEMod
CO = carbon monoxide
NO_X = nitrogen oxides
$PM_{2.5}$ = fine particulate matter
PM_{10} = respirable particulate matter
ROG = reactive organic gas
SO_2 = sulfur dioxide

Operational emissions generated by the Project would not exceed adopted SCAMQD criteria pollutant thresholds. Given these low levels of emissions, operation of the Project would not cause or contribute to a violation of any adopted air quality standard. Therefore, the Project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than Significant. Sensitive receptors include schools, hospitals, residences, and other sensitive land uses. Land use conflicts can arise when sensitive receptors are located next to major sources of air pollutant emissions. The nearest off-site sensitive receptors include the Avalon Apartments multifamily residences, the Arrowhead Elementary School, a park, little league baseball fields, and a daycare facility. Sensitive receptors may be at risk of being affected by air emissions released from the construction and operation of the proposed Project.

Construction. Following SCAQMD guidance, only on-site construction emissions of NO_X, CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ should be considered in the localized construction emissions significance analysis. According to the CalEEMod analysis, the highest on-site emissions of all pollutants would occur during the site preparation and grading phases from off-road equipment. It was estimated that, as a worst case, the maximum daily disturbance for demolition and for new building construction would be 1.33 acre, which has been rounded up to 2 acres for the purposes of providing a conservative worst-case analysis. The nearest offsite sensitive receptors include the Avalon Apartments multifamily residences, the Arrowhead Elementary School, a park, little league baseball fields, and a daycare facility.

As shown in **Table III.B** above, construction emissions would be below the pollutant's SCAQMD significance threshold. Additionally, dust control measures would be put in place as necessary under Mitigation Measure HYD-1, reducing construction impacts. Therefore, localized construction air pollution impacts are **less than significant** without mitigation.

Operation. Long-term operation of the Project would generate air pollutant emissions. Operational emissions from the Project include those generated by vehicle trips (mobile emissions), the operation of equipment (energy emissions), use of consumer products and appliances, and the use of landscaping maintenance equipment (area source

emissions). As shown in **Table III.C** above, operational emissions would be below the pollutant's SCAQMD significance threshold. Therefore, the impact of operational emissions on nearby sensitive receptors would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant. According to the SCAQMD *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*, land uses associated with odor complaints typically include agricultural uses, wastewater treatment plants, food processing plants, chemical plants, composting, refineries, landfills, dairies, and fiberglass molding.[12] The proposed Project does not include any uses identified by the SCAQMD as being associated with odors.

Construction. Project construction would result in limited odors over the short term, primarily from the operation of heavy equipment, the painting of buildings and structures, and the installation of asphalt. However, the construction of the proposed Project would be temporary in nature and odors associated with construction would cease once construction is completed. Additionally, odors generated from construction would be restricted to the Project area and the immediate vicinity and would not adversely affect a substantial number of people. Therefore, construction of the Project would not result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

Operation. As discussed above, land uses associated with odor complaints generally include agricultural uses, wastewater treatment plants, food processing plants, chemical plants, composting, refineries, landfills, dairies, and fiberglass molding. The Project includes public facility uses that would not generate long-term odors. Therefore, operation of the Project would not result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

[12] SCAQMD, CEQA Air Quality Handbook, accessed February 2025.

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

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Biological Resources Assessment. *A Biological Resources Assessment was prepared for the Project by WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. biologists Melanie Bukovac and Melissa Bukovac. The report is titled "General Biological Resource and Habitat Suitability Assessment" is dated September 2024, and is provided as Appendix 3.*

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity

San Bernardino Countywide Plan, 2020

WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. prepared a Biological Resources Assessment, dated September 12, 2024, for the Project and is provided in **Appendix 3** in this Initial Study. WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. conducted a literature review and field survey to assess the likelihood of special-status plant and wildlife species and critical habitats to occur on the Project site. The investigation evaluated the biological resources on the Project site through a literature review, review of photographs, and field survey. Databases including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California, the CDFW Special Animals List, and other databases as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the Project site were used to determine the existence or potential occurrence of special-status plant and wildlife species and critical habitats on the Project site.

No native plant communities were observed on or adjacent to the Project site. The entire Project site is disturbed and landscaped with non-native grasses and a few native and non-native trees, with surrounding areas also being disturbed and occupied by urban development and landscaping.

The review of the CNDDB, CNPS Online Inventory of Rare Plants, other biological reports from the vicinity, and consultation with other experienced biologists/naturalists resulted in the identification of 96 special-status biological resources known to occur in the vicinity (within an approximate 5-mile radius) of the Project site. These included 39 plants, five vegetation communities, nine invertebrates, 12 reptiles, four amphibians, 14 birds, and 13 mammals. Refer to **Appendix 3** for a full list of special-status biological resources.

Special-Status Plant Species

The entire Project site is disturbed and landscaped with non-native grasses and a few native and non-native trees, with surrounding areas also being disturbed and occupied by urban development and landscaping. As a result, suitable habitat is not present for any of the listed sensitive plant species in the Project area or adjacent areas. For these reasons, impacts to the above listed sensitive plant species are not anticipated to occur because of the Project's implementation. No further actions are expected to be required for any of these sensitive plants.

Special-Status Invertebrate Species

The only special status invertebrate species considered to have at least some potential of occurrence on-site is the monarch butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*). Monarch butterfly is not currently listed as Threatened or Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or CDFW. However, the monarch is currently a federal candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act and designated as S2 by the CDFW, meaning that it is considered to be "imperiled" by the CDFW. As a result, this species is considered to be at high to very high risk of extirpation in California due to "a suite of interrelated factors including habitat loss in breeding and overwintering sites, habitat degradation, disease, pesticide exposure, and climate change."

Although the monarch butterfly was not observed during the assessment, the proposed Project site falls within the geographic distribution area for this species, according to occurrence and observation records. However, although no suitable habitat, nectar sources, or larval host plants were found on site, there is a very low probability for this species to occur on-site as a fly-over/move-through occurrence only. Because this species is not currently state listed as Threatened or Endangered, and the Project is subject to CEQA compliance, impacts to monarch butterfly (if any) would not likely meet the threshold of significance under CEQA. For these reasons, focused surveys for monarch butterfly are not anticipated to be required.

Special-Status Reptile Species

The only special status reptile species that was considered to have at least some potential of occurrence on-site is the coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*). This species is known to occur in a variety of vegetation communities and is known from the vicinity. For these reasons, there is a very low potential for coast horned lizard to occur on-site, in the action area, and/or within adjacent areas. This species is not listed as Threatened or Endangered by either the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or CDFW. It is, however, designated as a species of special concern by CDFW. Although this species is declining, Project-related impacts to this species (if any) would be incremental and localized. As a result, impacts (if any) to this species would not likely be considered significant under the CEQA.

Special-Status Amphibian Species

There is no aquatic habitat on-site, within the action area or adjacent areas. As a result, suitable breeding habitat for federally Threatened California red-legged frog, federally and state Endangered southern mountain yellow-legged frog, and proposed federally Threatened and

state species of special concern western spadefoot is not present on-site, in the action area, or adjacent areas. The site is not within designated critical habitat for any of the above listed species. For these reasons, impacts to the above listed special status amphibian species are not anticipated to occur because of Project implementation. No further actions are recommended or expected to be required for the California red-legged frog, southern mountain yellow-legged frog, or western spadefoot.

Special-Status Bird Species

The entire Project site is disturbed and landscaped with non-native grasses and a few native and non-native trees, with surrounding areas also being disturbed and occupied by urban development and landscaping. As a result, suitable habitat is not present for any of the listed sensitive bird species in the Project area or adjacent areas. For these reasons, impacts to the above listed sensitive bird species are not anticipated to occur, or be of significance, because of the Project's implementation. Except for a general nesting bird preconstruction survey, as discussed below, no further actions are recommended or expected to be specifically required for federally and/or state listed bird species.

Additional Bird Species Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

In addition to the above listed sensitive and special status bird species, there are a variety of common bird species that are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). This includes virtually all native migratory and resident bird species, including birds already known to occur in the vicinity. Avoidance of impacts to these nesting migratory and resident birds is a requirement of the MBTA. To avoid impacting nesting birds, either an avoidance of Project-related disturbance during the nesting season (generally from approximately January 15 through August 31) or nesting bird surveys conducted by a qualified ornithologist or biologist immediately prior to on-site disturbance activities during the nesting season would be required. If nesting birds are found, of any native species, no work would be permitted near the nest until young have fledged.

Special-Status Mammal Species

Suitable scrub and/or grassland habitat for the federally and state listed Endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat and the federally and state listed Threatened Stephens' kangaroo rat is not present on-site, within the action area or within a 152 meters (500 foot) buffer zone. For these reasons, these species are considered to be absent from the Project site, action area and adjacent buffer zone areas. Therefore, no further actions regarding these species are recommended or anticipated to be required for the Project.

Nesting Birds

The Project site contains minimal suitable nesting habitat for a variety of birds protected under the federal MBTA. Impacts to nesting birds, both direct and indirect, can be avoided by conducting Project activities outside of the breeding season. Although nesting can occur year-round in southern California for some species, the typical avian breeding season is from

approximately January 15 through August 31, so it is recommended to schedule any required grading, vegetation clearance, and/or the initial earth work between September 1 through mid-January to avoid potentially impacting nesting birds. If activities that involve ground or vegetation disturbance must be done during the nesting season, the Project site and adjacent areas should be examined by a qualified biologist prior to disturbance, especially where there could be any direct impacts. If active nests are found, the nests should be avoided, and a no disturbance buffer zone established and observed until young have fledged. While there is no established protocol for nest avoidance and buffer zones, when consulted, the CDFW generally recommends avoidance buffers of 152 meters (500 feet) for raptors and listed species and 30-91 meters (100-300 feet) for other unlisted birds.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed above, no native plant communities were observed on or adjacent to the Project site. The entire site is disturbed and landscaped with non-native grasses and a few native and non-native trees, with surrounding areas also being disturbed and occupied by urban development and landscaping. Special-status vegetation and wildlife species have a low potential or are not expected to occur on the
Project site.

However, the Project site contains minimal suitable nesting habitat for a variety of birds protected under the federal MBTA. If construction occurs between January 15 and August 31, there is potential for adverse effects to nesting birds on-site or in the immediate vicinity. Impacts to nesting birds, both direct and indirect, can be avoided by conducting Project activities outside of the breeding season. Therefore, the Project would implement **Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (MM BIO-1)**, which would reduce potential impacts to nesting birds to less than significant.

***Mitigation Measures*.** The following mitigation measure is required to reduce potentially significant impacts to nesting birds to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 Although nesting can occur year-round in southern California for some species, the typical avian breeding season is from approximately January 15 through August 31. It is recommended to schedule any required grading, vegetation clearance, and/or the initial earth work between September 1 through mid-January to avoid potentially impacting nesting birds.

If activities that involve ground or vegetation disturbance must be done during the nesting season, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds within seven days of any vegetation removal or initial ground disturbing activities. This survey shall include the Project site, plus a 500-foot buffer surrounding the Project, if accessible. For those areas that are not accessible, such as private property, they should be scanned with binoculars.

If nesting birds and/or any nesting activities are identified during the pre-construction survey, construction activities shall avoid this nest. A construction-free perimeter (i.e., buffer zone) will be established and monitored at distances specified by the qualified biologist. While there is no established protocol for nest avoidance and buffer zones, when consulted, the CDFW generally recommends avoidance buffers of 152 meters (500 feet) for raptors and listed species and 30-91 meters (100–300 feet) for other unlisted birds. The qualified biological monitor may adjust the construction-free buffer zone based on the behavior of the nesting birds. The buffer areas will remain in place until the nestlings have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

Pre-construction surveys will take place for each discrete work area within seven days of the start of ground disturbance, or if ground disturbance work has lapsed for longer than 14 days.

Evidence of completion of the nesting bird survey and establishment of appropriate buffers shall be provided to the County prior to the final approval of any construction, grading, or vegetation removal permits. Additionally, this measure shall be implemented to the satisfaction of the County’s Land Use Services Department Director or designee.

Therefore, Project impacts would be less than significant with MM BIO-1 incorporated.

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

No Impact. As discussed above, no native plant communities were observed on or adjacent to the Project site. The entire Project site is disturbed and landscaped with non-native grasses and a few native and non-native trees, with surrounding areas also being disturbed and occupied by urban development and landscaping. Based on the evaluation of the Project site, there are no riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities present within the Project area. The literature review and field survey conducted by WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. confirmed the absence of such habitats. Therefore, there would be **no impact** on riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities, and no mitigation is required.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact. As discussed above, the entire site is disturbed and landscaped with non-native grasses and a few native and non-native trees, with surrounding areas also being disturbed and occupied by urban development and landscaping. The site does not contain any state or federally protected wetlands. Furthermore, the literature review and field survey conducted by WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. confirmed the absence of such wetlands within the Project area. Therefore, there would be **no impact** on state or federally protected wetlands, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Wildlife corridors and linkages are essential for the movement of wildlife between different habitats. Corridors typically support the movement of individual animals or local populations for activities such as seasonal migrations, permanent dispersals, or daily movements. Linkages facilitate the movement of multiple species and support ecological processes, such as pollination, often connecting larger conserved areas. Generally, wildlife tends to use linear features, such as canyons and rivers, that connect large blocks of habitat and provide links for dispersal and migration.

According to the CDFW Terrestrial Connectivity dataset, part of the Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) suite, the Project site is identified as an area with connectivity importance but has not been designated as a channelized area, species

corridor, or habitat linkage.[13] This designation may change with future changes in surrounding land use or regional specific information. The Project site is not within any wildlife corridors or linkages, as it is surrounded by urban development on all sides and lacks connectivity to natural habitats. Additionally, Project components will not transect preserve areas that could be used for wildlife movement.

There are no known wildlife nursery sites within the proposed Project area. The field survey conducted by WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. confirmed the absence of special-status natural resources, including suitable habitat for special-status fish, amphibians, and plants. Limited habitat for birds and mammals were observed during the field survey. Thus, the construction of the proposed Project may interfere with the movement of wildlife on a local scale but would not substantially impede the movement of migratory species, such as birds or large mammals. Specifically, the Project site contains minimal suitable nesting habitat for a variety of birds protected under the federal MBTA. If construction occurs between January 15 and August 31, there is potential for adverse effects to nesting birds on-site or in the immediate vicinity. Impacts to nesting birds, both direct and indirect, can be avoided by conducting Project activities outside of the breeding season. Therefore, the Project will implement **MM BIO-1**, which would reduce potential impacts to nesting birds to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

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

Less than Significant. The San Bernardino Plant Protection Ordinance (Development Code Section 88.01) requires land use application or development permits to include a Tree or Plant Removal Permit for the removal of regulated trees on a site, including native trees, palm trees, and oak trees. Additionally, the Ordinance prohibits the removal of vegetation within 200 feet of a stream.

The Project site is not located within 200 feet of a stream. However, there are several native and regulated trees on the Project site that would require a Tree or Plant Removal Permit for removal. This permit would be obtained to ensure compliance with applicable statutes. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

[13] CDFW, Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity, accessed February 2025.

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

No Impact. The Project site is not within an area with an area covered by an approved local, regional, or state conservation plan. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with any provisions of such plans. **No impact** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
V.	***CULTURAL RESOURCES*** – Would the project:				
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c)	Disturb any human remains, including those outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The following information is provided based on a Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report of the Project site. The report was conducted by WSP USA dated March 25, 2025, and is titled "Cultural Resources Assessment of San Bernardino Fire Station No. 227 Project" (Appendix 4). The following information is abstracted from this report. It provides an overview and findings regarding the cultural resources found within the Project area.

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

Less than Significant. Cultural resources are broadly defined as any physical manifestations of human activity that are at least 50 years of age and may include archaeological resources and historic-era buildings and structures. Archaeological resources include both precontact remains and remains dating to the historical period. Precontact (or Native American) archaeological resources are physical manifestations of human activities that predate written records and may include village sites, temporary camps, lithic (stone tool) scatters, rock art, roasting pits/hearths, milling features, rock

features, and burials. Historic archaeological resources can include refuse heaps, bottle dumps, ceramic scatters, privies, foundations, and burials and are generally associated in California with the Spanish Mission Period (1769 through 1833) through the mid-late 20th century (1970).

Archaeological resources that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), or a local register are considered historical resources pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.5. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 defines the term "historical resource" as follows:

1. A resource listed in or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources [California Register] (PRC Section 5024.1, Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR], Section 4850 et seq.).

    - A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.

    - Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC Section 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852) including the following:

    - Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.

    - Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.

    - Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possess high artistic values.

A "substantial adverse change" to a historical resource, according to PRC Section 5020.1(q), "means demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of a historical resource would be impaired."

A Cultural Resources Assessment, included in Appendix 4 in this Initial Study, was prepared for the Project and includes an archaeological and historical records search, a pedestrian survey of the project site, and additional research including but not limited to review of historical maps.

The records search of the Project was completed on August 19, 2024, at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) and included a one-mile radius to identify previous studies and recoded resources in the vicinity of the Project area. The records search identified 36 previously conducted cultural resources studies within one mile of the site, none of which affected the Project area. The records search did not identify any precontact or historical archaeological resources on the Project site. However, the records search identified 30. precontact and historical archaeological resources within one mile of the Project site.

Additional research included review of historical period maps and aerial photographs of the Project site. This research determined that the Project site previously contained two structures at the southern end of Arrowhead Elementary property along West 38th Street, which are no longer extant, as the area is currently used as a playfield for the elementary school. Additionally, several trees along the perimeter of the field appeared to have been planted and subsequently removed.

The pedestrian survey conducted on September 18, 2024, did not result in the identification of any historic or precontact archaeological resources on the Project site. The survey results indicated that the site consisted of turfgrass that appeared to be regularly maintained, completely obscured visibility of exposed soil. Accordingly, the construction and demolition of the previous two structures and changes to landscaping and turfgrass maintenance increase the likelihood that all soils within the Project area are thoroughly disturbed, thus, decreasing the potential that archaeological resources will be encountered as a result of project-related ground disturbance

Based on the results of the assessment, the Project does not contain any "historical resources" as defined under CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. Therefore, impacts to historical resources would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed above, an Archaeology Report, included in Appendix 4 of this Initial Study, was prepared for this Project and did not identify any archeological resources as defined under CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. It is unlikely that archaeological resources would be discovered during Project construction, as the entire Project area has been previously disturbed.

In the event that historic or archaeological resources are encountered during construction activities, the Applicant would adhere to CEQA Guidelines (CCR Title 14, Section 15064.5), which states that construction activities would cease in the affected area in the highly unlikely event an archaeological discovery is made. Once the discovery has been evaluated by a qualified archaeologist, (36 CFR §800.11.1 and CCR, Title 14, Section 15064.5[f]) and if the resource is found to not be significant, the work can resume. If the resource is found to be significant, it shall be avoided or shall be treated consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or State Historic Resource Preservation Officer Guidelines.

The Project would be required to implement **Mitigation Measure (MM) TCR-1**, **MM TCR-2**, **MM TCR-3**, **MM TCR-4**, and **MM TCR-5** as described in Section XVIII, Tribal Cultural Resources, which would ensure that ground-disturbing and/or construction activities would cease if tribal cultural resources or human remains are identified and would be managed in consultation with a qualified archaeologist, the Lead Agency, and the consulting Tribe[s]. These measures also would ensure further consultation with interested Native American Tribes for the appropriate treatment of tribal cultural resources. Therefore, impacts to archaeological resources would be reduced to **less than significant with the incorporation of TCR-1**, **MM TCR-2**, **MM TCR-3**, **MM TCR-4**, and **MM TCR-5**.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project site that would be impacted by grading, excavation, and other ground-disturbing activities associated with construction of the proposed Station No. 227 has been previously disturbed and is highly unlikely to contain human remains.

However, the Project would implement **MM TCR-5**, which would reduce impacts if human remains are discovered. In the event human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, construction personnel shall immediately stop all work within a 100-foot perimeter of the discovery. The San Bernardino County Coroner shall be contacted within 24 hours of discovery in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If human remains are determined to be pre-historic, the County Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of determination pursuant to subdivision (c) of HSC §7050.5 c. The Native American Heritage Commission shall immediately notify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours, upon being granted access to the Project site, to inspect the site of discovery and make recommendations for final treatment and disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the remains and all associated grave goods pursuant to PRC §5097.98. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant with the incorporation of MM TCR-5.**

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

California Energy Commission (CEC) Electricity Consumption by County, 2016

California Green Building Standards Code, Title 24, Part 11, 2022

CEC Gas Consumption by County, 2016

CEC Total System Electric Generation, 2023

San Bernardino County Countywide Plan, 2020

U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Electricity consumption totals and conditional intensities by building activity subcategories, 2012

U.S. EIA Natural gas consumption totals and conditional intensities by building activity subcategories, 2018

Electricity is a manmade resource. The production of electricity requires the consumption or conversion of energy resources (including water, wind, oil, gas, coal, solar, geothermal, and nuclear resources) into energy. Electricity is used for a variety of purposes (e.g., lighting, heating, cooling, and refrigeration, and for operating appliances, computers, electronics, machinery, and public transportation systems).

According to the most recent data available, in 2023, California's electricity was generated primarily by natural gas (36.56%), coal (1.77%), nongreenhouse gas and renewable sources (57.9%), including large hydroelectric (11.70%) and nuclear (9.34%). Total electric generation in

California in 2023 was approximately 281,140 gigawatt-hours (GWh), down approximately 2% from the 2022 total generation of 287,220 GWh.[14]

The Project site is located within the service territory of Southern California Edison, which provides electricity to 15 million people, including almost all of San Bernardino County. According to the California Energy Commission (CEC), residents of San Bernardino County consumed 16,629.6 GWh of electricity in 2022.[15] The natural gas provider for the Project site is the Southern California Gas Company, which provides natural as services to most of San Bernardino County. The CEC found that the residents of San Bernardino consumed approximately 562.1 million therms of natural gas in 2022.[16]

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

Less than Significant. The proposed Project would increase the demand for energy through day-to-day operations and fuel consumption associated with Project construction.

Construction. Construction of the proposed Project is expected to last approximately 16 months and would require energy for various activities, including the transportation of building materials, demolition, grading, and building construction. However, compliance with federal, state, and local regulations (e.g., California Air Resources Board's requirement to limit engine idling times) would reduce short-term energy demand during construction of the proposed Project to the maximum extent feasible.

The largest energy use during construction would come from transportation, including the transport and use of construction equipment, delivery vehicles, haul trucks, and construction worker vehicles, all of which would use petroleum fuels (e.g., diesel and gasoline). Fuel consumption depends on the type and number of trips, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), fuel efficiency, and travel mode.

Construction emissions were estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) Version 2022.1. The proposed Project would involve the demolition of existing structures and would not require imported fill material. Standard earthmoving equipment, such as large excavators and cranes, would be used.

Estimates of fuel consumption from construction equipment, trucks, and worker vehicles were based on default assumptions and trip estimates from CalEEMod, as well as fuel efficiencies calculated using the EMission FACtors (EMFAC2021) model. The Project would consume approximately 30,228.28 gallons of gasoline during construction. This

[14] CEC, 2023 Total System Electric Generation, accessed February 2025.
[15] CEC, Electricity Consumption by County, accessed February 2025.
[16] CEC, Gas Consumption by County, accessed February 2025.

represents a negligible percentage of the annual diesel and gasoline fuel usage in San Bernardino County. Therefore, construction would have a minimal effect on local and regional energy supplies. Impacts related to energy use during construction would be temporary and relatively small compared to San Bernardino's overall use of the state's energy resources. No unusual Project characteristics would necessitate the use of less energy-efficient equipment than at comparable construction sites.

As a result, fuel consumption during construction would not be any more inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary than other similar development projects of this nature, and impacts would be **less than significant.** No mitigation is required.

Operation. The operation of the proposed Project would result in direct and indirect sources of energy consumption. Operational energy use is typically associated with natural gas for heating, electricity for lighting, and fuel for vehicle trips. The proposed Project includes an approximately 10,764 square-foot, one-story fire station and associated improvements. The Project aims to replace the original Fire Station No. 227, located at 282 W 40th St, San Bernardino, CA 92407. Although the proposed Project would generate net new average daily trips in the immediate vicinity, total citywide vehicle trips would not increase as these trips are already occurring at the existing Fire Station No. 227 location. Therefore, the Project would not result in an increase in gasoline or diesel fuel consumption during operation. Energy use during operation would be associated with electricity and natural gas consumption. The Project would also require a diesel emergency backup generator, but diesel consumption is expected to be minimal.

Based on a review of the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) tables PBA4 and C32, the Project would consume approximately 11.8 kilowatt-hour (kWh) per square foot of electricity and approximately 38.1 cubic feet of natural gas per square foot per year.[17,18] Therefore, the Project would consume approximately 368,455 kWh of electricity and 1,189,673 cubic feet of natural gas per year. This would result in a 0.0022% increase of the county's typical energy consumption, and a 0.0022% increase of the county's typical gas consumption.

Although there would be a net increase in energy demand due to Project operation, the Project would be required to follow current California Green Building Standards Code, Part 11 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (CALGreen), which outline regulations to reduce negative environmental impacts during construction and encourage sustainable construction practices.[19] CALGreen includes regulations to

[17] U.S. EIA, Electricity consumption totals and conditional intensities by building activity subcategories, accessed February 2025.
[18] U.S. EIA, Natural gas consumption totals and conditional intensities by building activity subcategories, accessed February 2025.
[19] CALGreen, Building Standards Code, Title 24, Part 11, accessed February 2025.

maintain environmental quality, including energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resource efficiency. Compliance with applicable regulations would ensure that the Project conforms to established efficiency standards for construction and operation, optimizing energy use and minimizing unnecessary consumption. Additionally, the proposed Project would be designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification and would include the installation of 72 580-watt solar panels connected to a 30kW/81kWh battery energy storage system, which will offset a portion of the energy consumed by the Project. Other design features include low-flow plumbing fixtures, light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems supported by highly insulated roof and wall assemblies. These measures are intended to enhance the building's overall energy efficiency and sustainability.

The Project is anticipated to produce daily vehicle trips due to employees driving to and from the Project site. However, the proposed Project would be replacing an existing fire station and would not increase the number of employees. Therefore, increases to vehicle trips would be negligible. Additionally, as discussed above, the Project would follow CALGreen Code, which requires the inclusion of electric vehicle and bicycle parking spaces. This would encourage the use of alternative transportation methods of travel and reduce gas consumption.

Therefore, the Project would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of fuel or energy and would incorporate renewable energy and energy efficiency measures into building design, equipment uses, and transportation. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant. As discussed above, energy usage on the Project site during construction would be temporary in nature and would subside once construction is completed. Additionally, the energy usage associated with the operation of the proposed Project would be relatively small compared to the overall use in San Bernardino County, and the state's available energy resources. The proposed Project would replace the energy usage occurring at the existing station No. 227., resulting in negligible regional energy impacts.

California's energy conservation planning actions are conducted at a regional level. Given the minor total impact of the Proposed Project on regional energy supplies, it would not conflict with or obstruct California's energy conservation plans. The Project will be required to comply with Title 24 and CALGreen standards, which mandate the inclusion of energy-efficient windows, lighting, ventilation, and insulation. These

measures ensure compliance with the San Bernardino County General Plan Renewable Energy and Conservation Element.[20]

Therefore, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
VII.	***GEOLOGY AND SOILS*** – Would the project:				
a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map Issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
	ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	iv. Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or	☐	☐	☐	☒

[20] San Bernardino County, San Bernardino County General Plan, Renewable Energy and Conservation Element, accessed February 2025.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
	off site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐

California Building Code (CBC), 2022

California Department of Conservation, Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones

California Department of Conservation Fault Activity Map of California

California Department of Conservation Geological Survey, Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation

San Bernardino County Land Use Plan Geologic Hazard Overlays Map, 2010

San Bernardino Countywide Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Appendix F, 2019

San Bernardino Countywide Plan, Draft EIR, Geology and Soils, 2019

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Web Soil Survey

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

i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map Issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

No Impact. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (Alquist-Priolo Act), enacted in 1972, aims to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting to structures intended for human occupancy. The Project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the state geologist.[21] Additionally, there is no substantial evidence of any known faults or faulting activity on the Project site. Consequently, the risk of ground rupture due to fault displacement beneath the site is considered low. Therefore, the implementation of the Project would not result in any impact related to fault rupture, and no mitigation measures are required.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Ground shaking because of earthquakes is a potential hazard throughout Southern California. According to the Department of Conservation's Fault Activity Map of California, the nearest active fault is the Glen Helen Fault, located approximately 1 mile north of the Project site.[22]

Due to the Project's proximity to active faults, the site is expected to be subjected to occasional seismic ground shaking. The relative potential for damage from this hazard is dependent upon the type, magnitude, and location of an earthquake event. Therefore, as a structure used for human occupancy, the Project has potential to cause substantial adverse effects, such as risk of loss, injury, or death from seismic activity.

While the Project is in a seismically active area, all Project construction and development would comply with applicable requirements of the California Building Code (CBC). State law requires that new construction adheres to current CBC standards, which include measures for seismic activity.

Mitigation Measure (MM) GEO-1 shall be implemented to ensure that the Project is constructed in accordance with the current CBC, as well as the applicable standards of San Bernardino County and the City of San Bernardino. This measure includes adhering to recommendations identified in any necessary Project-specific Geotechnical

[21] California Department of Conservation, Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, accessed February 2025.
[22] California Department of Conservation, Fault Activity Map of California, accessed February 2025.

Engineering Reports. By doing so, the development will be safeguarded against the effects of seismic activity that may occur on-site. Therefore, with the incorporation of this mitigation measure, impacts from seismic ground shaking would be reduced to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Mitigation Measures. The following mitigation measure is required to reduce potentially significant impacts from seismic ground-shaking to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1 Prior to the issuance of grading and/or building permits, the Project Applicant shall provide evidence to the San Bernardino County that proposed structures, features, and facilities are designed and will be constructed in conformance with the applicable provisions of the most current California Building Code and relevant County and City of San Bernardino Standards. A site-specific geotechnical report shall be prepared as necessary, and its recommendations incorporated into Project plans. These recommendations may include removal of unsuitable materials, remedial earthwork, ground improvement, and protective measures for concrete and metal structures. Verification testing must confirm that compressible soils are sufficiently densified. This measure shall be implemented to the satisfaction of the San Bernardino County Building and Safety Division or its designee.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No Impact. Soil liquefaction typically occurs in loose, cohesion-less sands that are saturated due to a relatively high groundwater table (less than 50 feet below ground surface). According to the San Bernardino County Land Use Plan Geologic Hazard Overlays Map, the Project site is not located within a zone of suspected liquefaction susceptibility.[23] Based on the nature of on-site soils and substantial groundwater depth near the Project site, the likelihood of liquefaction occurring is low. Therefore, there would be **no impact** to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and no mitigation is required.

iv. Landslides?

No Impact. Slope failures, including landslides, can be influenced by factors like height, steepness, strength, and orientation of underlying geologic layers. According to the California Geological Survey Seismic Hazard Zone Map, the Project site is not located

[23] San Bernardino County Land Use Plan, Geologic Hazard Overlays Map, accessed February 2025.

within a zone identified as having seismic hazards, including seismically induced landslides.[24] As such, the absence of these hazards at the Project site indicates that the risk of landslides is minimal. Therefore, the implementation of the proposed Project would not result in any substantial adverse effects related to landslides. There would be **no impact** and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant. Refer to Section X, Hydrology and Water Quality, for further discussion on erosion impacts, including the implementation of **MM HYD-1** and **MM HYD-2** to mitigate erosion impacts. The development of the proposed Project would increase the impervious surface of undeveloped land in the Project area by approximately1.33 acres. Construction would involve ground disturbance activities (e.g., grading, excavation, trenching) for the construction of the proposed Project's structures including but not limited to the fire station building, apparatus bay, storage building, and the installation of associated utility lines, which would expose soils to the potential for erosion or loss of topsoil. Additionally, ground-disturbing activities would have the potential to expose soils to rainfall and wind, thereby potentially resulting in soil erosion.

Potential impacts resulting from construction activities would be reduced by the completion and implementation of standard erosion controls imposed during preparation and grading activities of each construction phase. Accordingly, the Project would be required to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with the Construction and Land Disturbance Activities Order No 2009-0009-DWQ (as amended by 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ), NPDES No. CAS000002 (or the latest approved Construction General Permit). Additionally, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and applicable best management practices would be required per the NPDES. Furthermore, the Project would be required to implement dust control practices in compliance with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 403 to reduce the potential impacts for wind-related erosion. Once the proposed Project is completed, the potential for soil erosion would be minimized due to the increased impervious surfaces of the Project site.

Therefore, adherence to the NPDES General Permit and compliance with a site-specific SWPPP, associated best management practices, and SCAQMD Rule 403 would reduce the Project's impacts related to soil erosion and topsoil loss. Therefore, impacts related to soil erosion and loss of topsoil would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

[24] California Geological Survey, Seismic Hazard Zone Map, accessed February 2025.

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

No Impact. As discussed above, the Project would not result in impacts related to unstable soils. **No impact** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. Based on a review of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Web Soil Survey, the Project site is located on Hanford course sandy loam, 2% to 9% slopes (HaC).[25] This soil is not classified as expansive. Additionally, the Project will implement MM GEO-1, as described above, which requires that building plans be reviewed to ensure the structural design conforms to the requirements of the Geotechnical Investigation Report and the City of San Bernardino Municipal Code. Therefore, there would be **no impact**, and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. The proposed Project is located in an urban area with existing wastewater infrastructure. No septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems would be required to be installed. Therefore, the Project would not result in impacts related to the ability of soils to support wastewater disposal systems or septic tanks. **No impact** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. According to the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft EIR, the Valley Region consists predominantly of alluvial fans and plains that range from 500 to 3,500 feet above mean sea level.[26] In general, the Valley Region is characterized by a broad valley floor deposit of Younger Alluvium (Q) that is likely too young to preserve fossil resources in the upper layers. Deeper layers and underlying sediments have higher paleontological sensitivity.

[25] U.S. Department of Agriculture, Web Soil Survey, accessed February 2025.
[26] San Bernardino County, San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft EIR, Geology and Soils, accessed February 2025.

Although the Project is in the Valley Region and on completely disturbed soil, discovery of previously unknown paleontological resources during Project activities may still occur. Therefore, the Project would implement **MM GEO-2**, shown below, which would reduce potential impacts to paleontological resources to less than significant. Additionally, the Project would implement **MM HYD-1** and **MM HYD-2**, as discussed in Section X, Hydrology and Water Quality, which would further reduce impacts. Therefore, impacts to unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

Mitigation Measures. The following mitigation measure is required to reduce potentially significant impacts related to paleontological resources to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure GEO-2 If paleontological resources are encountered during construction, all work within a 50-foot radius of the find shall halt until a qualified professional paleontologist is notified and retained to evaluate the discovery, in accordance with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 2010 guidelines. The retained paleontologist shall determine the significance of the discovery and whether additional mitigation or treatment is warranted. Development in discovery shall resume only when the discovered resource is properly documented, and authorization is given to resume construction work. Significant fossils will be recovered, prepared to the point of curation, identified by qualified experts, listed in a database to facilitate analysis, and deposited in a designated paleontological curation facility in accordance with the standards of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010) and Bureau of Land Management (2009). A repository will be identified, and a curatorial arrangement will be signed prior to the collection of the fossils. Although the San Bernardino County Museum is specified as the repository for fossils found in the county in the current General Plan, in such case, where the museum is not accepting new collections and does not have a paleontological staff, an accredited institution may serve as a repository until such time as the San Bernardino County Museum begins accepting new material. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County may serve as an alternative to the San Bernardino County Museum for fossil material collected in San Bernardino County.

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
VIII.	***GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS*** – Would the project:				
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

California Air Resources Board (CARB) Current California Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory Data, 2024

CARB Assembly Bill (AB) 32 Global Warming Solutions Act, 2018

County of San Bernardino Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GHGRP), 2021

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Greenhouse Gas California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Significance Thresholds, 2010

SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), 2022

Global climate change can be measured by changes in wind patterns, storms, precipitation, and temperature. Scientific consensus has identified human-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions above natural levels as a significant contributor to global climate change. GHGs are emissions that trap heat in the atmosphere and regulate the Earth's temperature, and include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), ground-level ozone, and fluorinated gases, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), and halons. The potential impacts of climate change include severe weather patterns, flooding, reduced quality and availability of water, sea level rise, and beach erosion. Primary activities associated with GHG emissions include transportation, operation of utilities (e.g., power generation and transport), industrial activities, manufacturing, agriculture, and residential uses. End-use sector sources of GHG emissions in California are as follows: transportation

(39%), industry (23%), electricity generation (16%), agriculture and forestry (8%), residential (8%), and commercial (6%).[27]

Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and Senate Bill 32 establish statewide goals to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, respectively.[28] The California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the AB 32 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality as a framework for achieving AB 32 goals. The latest 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality, which outlines a path to achieve the Senate Bill 32 target goal, outlines a series of technologically feasible and cost-effective measures to reduce statewide GHG emissions. The actions and outcomes in the plan will achieve significant reductions in fossil fuel combustion by deploying clean technologies and fuels, further reductions in short-lived climate pollutants, support for sustainable development, increased action on natural and working lands to reduce emissions and sequester carbon, and the capture and storage of carbon.

The County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a long-term programmatic plan that identifies strategies and measures to meet the county's targets to reduce GHG emissions within the unincorporated county, consistent with the state's legislative GHG reduction targets, and demonstrates progress towards the State's 2050 GHG reduction goal.[29]

The Project area is within jurisdiction for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD's 2022 AQMP is the applicable air quality plan for the proposed Project area.[30] In the County, consistency with the 2022 AQMP means that projects are consistent with the regional population, housing, and employment forecast identified by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Additionally, because SCAG's regional growth forecasts are based on, among other things, land uses designated in general plans, a project that is consistent with the land use designated in a general plan would also be consistent with the SCAG's regional forecast projections, and thus also with the AQMP growth projections.

Based on the information available, the SCAQMD has established a significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent per year (MT CO_2e/yr) for permitted stationary sources of GHG emissions. For development projects where SCAQMD is not the lead agency, a tiered approach for evaluating GHG emissions has been proposed:

- **Tier 1. Exemptions:** Projects exempt from CEQA are considered to have less than significant GHG emissions.

[27] CARB, Current California GHG Emission Inventory Data, accessed February 2025.
[28] CARB, AB 32 Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, accessed February 2025.
[29] County of San Bernardino, Regional GHGRP, accessed February 2025.
[30] SCAQMD, AQMP, accessed February 2025.

- **Tier 2. Consistency with GHG Reduction Plan:** Projects consistent with a locally adopted GHG reduction plan are considered to have less than significant GHG emissions.
- **Tier 3. Numerical Screening Threshold:** Projects with GHG emissions below the numerical screening threshold are considered to have less than significant GHG emissions. SCAQMD proposes a "bright-line" threshold of 3,000 MT CO_2e/yr for all land use types, or specific thresholds of 1,400 MT CO_2e for commercial projects, 3,500 MT CO_2e for residential projects, and 3,000 MT CO_2e for mixed-use projects.
- **Tier 4. Performance Standards:** If emissions exceed the numerical screening threshold, a more detailed review of the project's GHG emissions is warranted. SCAQMD has proposed an efficiency target for projects that exceed the bright-line threshold. The current recommended approach is per capita efficiency targets. SCAQMD proposes a 2020 efficiency target of 4.8 MT CO_2e per year per service population (MT CO_2e/yr/SP) for project-level analyses and 6.6 MT CO_2e/yr/SP for plan-level projects (e.g., program-level projects such as general plans). The GHG efficiency metric divides annualized GHG emissions by the service population, which is the sum of residents and employees.[31]

For projects that are not exempt or where no qualifying GHG reduction plans are directly applicable, SCAQMD requires an assessment of GHG emissions. Projects that do not exceed the bright-line threshold would have a nominal and therefore less than cumulatively considerable impact on GHG emissions.

The proposed Project will first be compared to the Tier 3 Numerical Screening Threshold of 3,000 MT CO_2e/yr. If the Project exceeds this threshold, it will then be compared to the efficiency-based threshold.

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

Less than Significant.

Construction. Construction activities would result in a temporary increase in GHG emissions. Construction emissions would be generated from worker vehicle trips to the site, heavy-haul trucks and materials delivery, and operation of heavy construction equipment and power tools during assembly of the arrays. Table VIII.A presents the total annual GHG emissions for construction of the proposed Project, estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod). It should be noted that the GHG emissions shown in Table VIII.A are based on construction equipment operating

[31] SCAQMD, Greenhouse Gas CEQA Significance Thresholds, accessed February 2025.

continuously throughout the workday. Construction equipment operates periodically or cyclically throughout the workday. Therefore, the GHG emissions shown reflect a conservative, worst-case estimate.

Table VIII.A: GHG Emissions from Construction

Year	GHGs (MT CO_2e/yr)
2026	285.7
2027	97.34
Total	383.0
Amortized over 30 years	**12.8**

Source: CalEEMod
CO_2e = carbon dioxide equivalent
MT = metric tons
GHG = greenhouse gas

Operation. Operational GHG emissions from the proposed Project would result from sources including annual vehicle trips for maintenance, the operation of heavy equipment, and the disposal of solid waste. Total annual GHG emissions for operation of the proposed Project were estimated using CalEEMod and are presented in Table VIII.B.

Table VIII.B: Combined Annual Operational GHG Emissions

Annual Emissions by Category	GHGs (MT CO_2e/yr)
Area	0.2
Energy	152.6
Mobile	244.3
Water and Wastewater	7.5
Solid Waste	3.6
Stationary (Emergency Generator)	1.3
Construction (Amortized)	12.8
Total	**421.0**

Source: CalEEMod
CO_2e = carbon dioxide equivalent
MT = metric tons
GHG = greenhouse gas

Total operational GHG emissions generated by the proposed Project would be approximately 409.6 MT CO_2e/year. Per current county methodology, the combination of amortized construction GHG emissions with operational GHG emissions would result in a combined total of approximately 421 MT CO_2e/year, which would be less than the screening level threshold of 3,000 MT CO_2e/year. Therefore, the Project would not generate GHG emissions at levels considered to have a significant impact on the environment, and impacts would be **less than significant** without mitigation.

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

Less than Significant. The county designed the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GHGRP) to implement GHG reduction efforts at the local level. Because the proposed Project would not exceed the county's screening threshold of 3,000 MT CO_2e/yr, it would be consistent with the county's GHGRP and would not conflict with the county's GHG reduction plan or policies. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant,** and no mitigation is required.

Issues		***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
IX.	***HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS*** - Would the project:				
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Issues	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant*	*No Impact*
	airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

California Air Resources Board (CARB) Identified Toxic Air Contaminants

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Cortese List

California DTSC Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List, 2025

San Bernardino County Ordinance Chapter 82.09, 2007

San Bernardino County Policy Map HZ-9 Airport Safety & Planning, 2020

City of San Bernardino General Plan, 2005

California Department of Forest and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map

Hazardous materials are chemicals that could potentially cause harm during an accidental release or mishap, and are defined as being toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, and an irritant or strong sensitizer. Hazardous substances include all chemicals regulated under the U.S. Department of Transportation “hazardous materials” regulations and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) “hazardous waste” regulations. Hazardous wastes require special handling and disposal because of their potential to damage public health and the environment. The probable frequency and severity of consequences from the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials is affected by the type of substance, the quantity used or managed, and the nature of the activities and operations.

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

Construction. **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Project construction would involve typical construction activities for development projects, including demolition, earthwork, and the building of structures. These activities would require the transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, such as oil and fuel for construction equipment and paints and adhesives for the building process. All potentially hazardous materials would be used and disposed of in accordance with manufacturer guidance, which would reduce the risk of hazardous material use. Additionally, any potentially hazardous materials would be used and disposed of following applicable federal, state, and local requirements concerning their transport, use, and disposal. Relevant agencies and laws include, but are not limited to, the California Hazardous Waste Control Law, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) regulations, federal and state Occupational Safety and Health Acts, and the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District. These regulations dictate how hazardous materials should be used, including amount used and method of use, and accident prevention techniques, including proper storage, disposal, and exposure protection.

To reduce impacts to less than significant, the Project would implement Mitigation Measure (MM) HAZ-1, which would 1 require the applicant develop and implement a Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan and Emergency Spill and Evacuation Training for those working onsite/in the field on the proposed Project. This plan would require training of construction crews in safe handling of hazardous materials prior to the initiation of construction activities and include the documentation of all relevant hazardous materials and waste management protocols and BMPs. **MM HAZ-1** would require the testing of any soils suspected of contamination.

***Mitigation Measures*.** The following mitigation measure is required to reduce potentially significant impacts from hazardous materials to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 Prior to construction, the applicant shall prepare a Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan, which shall be implemented during construction to prevent the release of hazardous materials and hazardous waste. The plan shall include the following requirements and procedures:

- The Worker Training Program would include training requirements for construction workers, such as appropriate work practices, spill prevention, and response measures. Additional training for those performing excavation activities shall be required and shall include training on types

of contamination and contaminants (e.g., petroleum hydrocarbons, asbestos, and hazardous materials as defined by the California Health and Safety Code) and identifying potentially hazardous contamination (e.g., stained or discolored soil and odor). Training would also entail safe evacuation, which could be required due to an unanticipated major spill or other emergencies, such as fires and/or natural disasters that could occur within the Project area. Training would describe how employees would safely vacate the affected work site and specified, approved evacuation route(s) in case of emergency.

- Containment of all hazardous materials at work sites and properly dispose of all such materials.
    - Hazardous materials shall be stored on pallets within fenced and secured areas and protected from exposure to weather and further contamination.
    - Fuels and lubricants shall be stored only at designated staging areas.
- Maintenance of hazardous material spill kits for small spills at all active work sites and staging areas. Thoroughly clean all spills as soon as they occur. If an accidental spill or fluid leak occurs at any time during Project construction, including in unanticipated circumstances, such as equipment malfunction, secondary containment strategies may be used to contain the spill.
- Storing sorbent and barrier materials at all construction staging areas, including staging areas used during activities for decommissioning. Sorbent and barrier materials will be used to contain runoff from contaminated areas and from accidental releases of oil or other potentially hazardous materials.
- Performing all routine equipment maintenance at a shop or at the staging area and recovering and disposing of wastes in an appropriate manner.

- Monitoring and removal of vehicles used for construction-related activities with chronic or continuous leaks from use and complete repairs before returning them to operation.
- Storing shovels and drums at the staging areas. If small quantities of soil become contaminated, use shovels to collect the soil and store in drums before proper off-site disposal. Large quantities of contaminated soil may be collected using heavy equipment and stored in drums or other suitable containers prior to disposal. Should contamination occur adjacent to staging areas because of runoff, shovels and/or heavy equipment shall be used to collect the contaminated material. Only trained construction workers shall handle hazardous, and potentially hazardous, materials.
- Transporting, shipping, and disposal procedures for hazardous waste.
- Identification of a qualified field environmental representative for the proposed Project for management of hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, contaminated soil, and contaminated groundwater.
- Procedures for notifying applicant and agency personnel in the event of discovery of contaminated soil and/or groundwater. Contact information for federal, regional, and local agencies; the applicant's field environmental representative and environmental coordinator(s) responsible for the cleanup of contaminated soil or groundwater; and licensed disposal facilities and haulers.

Therefore, impacts of Project construction would be reduced to **less than significant with the incorporation of MM HAZ-1.**

Operation. Less than Significant. Project operation would require various potential hazardous materials, such as household and commercial cleaning products and fuel for building maintenance. All potentially hazardous materials would be used and disposed of in accordance with manufacturer guidance, which would reduce the risk of hazardous material use. The Project would operate an emergency backup generator in the event of power loss. The generator would be operated in compliance with SCAQMD permit requirements, including

storage regulations and routine testing, maintenance, and reporting. Additionally, any potentially hazardous materials would be used and disposed of following applicable federal, state, and local requirements concerning their transport, use, and disposal. Therefore, Project operation would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As described above, the Project would transport, use, or dispose of hazardous materials and petroleum products in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. However, accidental releases or spills could still occur, representing a potential hazard to the public and environment during construction and could be a significant impact. Compliance with **MM HAZ-1,** described above, would reduce Project impacts. Therefore, Project impacts would be **less than significant with the incorporation of MM HAZ-1.**

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The Arrowhead Elementary School is located directly adjacent to the Project site. No other schools are located within one-quarter mile of the proposed Project. Because of their proximity, these schools could be exposed to potential toxic air contaminants (TACs) during Project construction. The main TAC emission that could be released from construction is diesel particulate matter, which was recently identified as a TAC and carcinogenic by CARB.[32] Diesel particular matter may be emitted from construction equipment and heavy-duty vehicles traveling to construction areas. According to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, human exposures greater than eight years are considered chronic exposures. Given that the construction of the proposed Project would be short term, impacts on students and staff at nearby schools would not result in substantial exposure to TACs. As discussed in Section III, Air Quality, all other emissions would be negligible.

Project operation would require various potential hazardous materials, such as household and commercial cleaning products and fuel for building maintenance. During Project operation, all potentially hazardous materials would be used and disposed of in accordance with manufacturer guidance, which would reduce the risk of hazardous material use. However, accidental releases or spills could still occur, representing a

[32] CARB, CARB Identified Toxic Air Contaminants, accessed February 2025.

potential hazard to the public and environment during construction and could be a significant impact. Compliance with **MM HAZ-1,** described above, would reduce Project impacts. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant with the incorporation of MM HAZ-1**, and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. Government Code Section 65962.5, commonly referred to as the "Cortese List," requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to compile and update a list of hazardous materials sites at least annually. This list includes sites where hazardous materials have been released or pose a potential threat to the public.[33]

Therefore, the Project site has been reviewed against the Cortese List, which includes databases such as the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database, the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database, and other relevant sources. The Project site is not included on any list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not occur on a hazardous materials site that could create a risk to the public or the environment. **No impact** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The Project site is located approximately 4.62 miles northwest of the San Bernardino International Airport. Additionally, the Project site is not located within a San Bernardino County Airport Safety Review Area.[34] The Airport Safety Review Areas are established to provide greater safety to aviators and the public by ensuring land use compatibility within designated areas near public use airports or heliports.[35]

Since the Project site is located outside the designated Airport Safety Review Areas, it is not subject to the specific safety regulations and land use compatibility reviews that apply to areas within closer proximity to the airport. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in any safety hazards related to airport operations for people residing or working in the Project area. Additionally, the San Bernardino International Airport is

[33] DTSC, Cortese List, accessed February 2025.
[34] San Bernardino County, San Bernardino Countywide Plan Policy Map HZ-9 Airport Safety & Planning, accessed February 2025.
[35] San Bernardino County, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 82.09, accessed February 2025.

located more than two miles away from the Project site, and the Project site is not within the airport's noise impact zones, and therefore, would not be subject to excessive noise levels from airport operations. Given the distance of the Project site from the San Bernardino International Airport and its location outside the designated Airport Safety Review Areas and noise impact zones, the proposed Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area. Therefore, there would be **no impact**, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed Project involves the construction of a new fire station to replace the existing Fire Station No. 227. This new facility would be classified as an “essential services facility,” designed to provide critical emergency assistance to surrounding communities by enhancing emergency response capabilities within the region and ensuring that communities are well-prepared to manage emergencies effectively. The nearest emergency evacuation routes include Interstate 210 (1.2 miles south) and Interstate 215 (2.3 miles west).

The proposed Project site is strategically located to ensure that emergency response times are optimized. The proximity to major evacuation routes, such as Interstate 210 and Interstate 215, ensures that emergency vehicles can quickly access and navigate through the area. The new Fire Station No. 227 will enhance the overall emergency response infrastructure, thereby improving the community’s ability to manage emergencies.

As discussed in section XVII, Transportation, the Project would implement **MM TRA-2**, which would require the development of a Traffic Control Plan. MM TRA-2 would ensure that emergency vehicles would be able to navigate through any traffic congestion due to construction activities by requiring that lane restrictions on W 38th Street and Genevieve Street be limited to off-peak hours, to the extent feasible. With implementation of Compliance Measure TRA-2, potential impacts related to San Bernardino Fire Department’s ability to implement an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation access during construction would be less than significant.

The proposed Project does not include any permanent changes to public or private roadways that would physically impair or otherwise conflict with the City of San Bernardino Emergency Operations Plan or another adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.[36] The new fire station will enhance emergency response capabilities and ensure that the community is better prepared to manage emergencies.

[36] City of San Bernardino, City of San Bernardino Emergency Operations Plan, accessed February 2025.

Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant with the implementation of MM TRA-2**.

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

No Impact. As discussed in Section XX, Wildfires, the Project site is located outside of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones for both State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs).[37] The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) designates these zones based on factors such as vegetation, topography, weather, and fire history to identify areas at higher risk of wildfires.

Additionally, the Project site is located outside of fire hazard areas identified in the city's General Plan.[38] The General Plan includes policies and measures to reduce wildfire risks and protect communities from fire hazards. The Project aligns with these policies by being situated in a low-risk area. The construction of the proposed fire station would be designed to meet all applicable fire safety standards and building codes, further reducing any potential fire hazards. The fire station itself would enhance the community's ability to respond to and manage fire emergencies, thereby contributing to overall fire safety in the region.

Given that the Project site is located outside of designated Fire Hazard Severity Zones and fire hazard areas identified in the city's General Plan, the Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Therefore, there would be **no impact,** and no mitigation is required.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
X.	***HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY*** – Would the project:				
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐

[37] Cal Fire, Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, accessed February 2025.
[38] City of San Bernardino, City of San Bernardino General Plan, accessed February 2025.

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☒	☐
	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 off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

California Department of Water Resources, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), 2014

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), What is a seiche?

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Water Quality Control Plan, 2014

State of Washington Department of Ecology, Low Impact Development (LID) Guidance

California Department of Water Resources SGMA Data Viewer

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Water Dashboard

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Potential impacts to hydrology and water quality could result from inadequate containment of sediment from grading and other construction activities and from fuels associated with construction equipment, such as from leaks or during maintenance and fueling. In addition, equipment storage areas and trash receptacles could pose potential significant impacts to water quality if they are not properly managed and maintained.

Construction. Project construction would take place on 1.21 acres and is expected to last approximately 16 months. Because construction would cause more than 1 acre of soil disturbance, the Project would need to comply with the requirements of the statewide general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Stormwater Runoff Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities. To comply with the permit, the applicant must file a Notice of Intent to comply with the Statewide General Construction Permit with the State Water Resources Control Board. Compliance requires that, prior to any grading or construction, the Notice of Intent is submitted, and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is prepared and available on-site. The SWPPP shall include a description of best management practices (BMPs) that will be implemented during construction, a monitoring program to ensure implementation of the BMPs, a list of responsible parties and contacts, and other details of construction activities. The SWPPP is a dynamic document that is updated and modified throughout construction to detail any changes in implementation of BMPs, any noncompliance, and resolution thereof. Additionally, check berms and desilting basins may be developed during construction to prevent off-site sediment transport. A typical BMP stormwater pollution interception system may include a temporary detention/sedimentation basin and a filter or clarifier device to remove pollutants from runoff before release from the property.

To further ensure that potential impacts are minimized, the Project will implement **Mitigation Measure HYD-1 (MM HYD-1)**, which will reduce the potential impacts to hydrology and water quality to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

Operation. During Project operation, activities could result in potential stormwater pollution due to the use of maintenance supplies, such as household and commercial cleaners, oil and grease, fertilizers, and paints. To reduce potential impacts of Project operation, the Project would comply with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board's Municipal Stormwater (MS4) Permit. Under this permit, the Project is required to implement low-impact development (LID) BMPs to reduce potential discharge of pollutants to receiving waters. LID BMPs mimic the natural hydrologic conditions of a site by emphasizing conservation, use of on-site natural features, site planning, and BMP integration (rain gardens, permeable pavements, vegetated roofs, rainwater harvesting).[39] Additionally, the Project must comply with the San Bernardino County Water Quality Management Plan requirements, which include the development and implementation of structural and nonstructural BMPs on a post-construction basis, and a maintenance agreement to ensure the proper performance of BMPs.

Therefore, the Project will implement **Mitigation Measure HYD-2 (MM HYD-2)**, which will reduce potential operational impacts to hydrology and water quality to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

***Mitigation Measures*.** The following mitigation measures are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to hydrology and water quality to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure HYD-1 Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the City of San Bernardino's Director of Development Services, or designee, shall confirm that best management practices (BMPs) associated with construction activities have been developed to ensure that the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation is minimized and to reduce pollutant discharges to the City MS4 as a result of construction activities. These BMPs shall be included in the Project plan specifications and implemented by the Project contractor. A short list of possible BMPs that may be used during construction includes:

- Temporary soil stabilization: Silt fencing, gravel bag berms, sandbag barriers, straw bale barriers,

[39] State of Washington Department of Ecology, LID Guidance, accessed February 2025.

sediment traps, soil binders, straw mulch, and fiber rolls.
- Wind erosion control: Portable water, dust control, and erosion control.
- Tracking control: Street sweeping and entrance/outlet tire washing.
- Waste management and material pollution control: Vehicle and equipment cleaning, stockpile management, proper material delivery and storage, solid waste management, concrete waste management, and contaminated soil management.

Mitigation Measure HYD-2 Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the City of San Bernardino's Director of Development Services, or designee, shall confirm that structural and nonstructural BMPs have been developed to be implemented on a post-construction basis along with an associated maintenance agreement in compliance with the requirements of the San Bernardino County Water Quality Management Plan. In addition, the City's Director of Development Services, or designee, shall confirm that a Low-Impact Development (LID) Plan has been prepared. The LID Plan shall specify the BMPs to be incorporated into the Project design to target pollutants of concern in stormwater runoff from the Project site in compliance with the San Bernardino County LID requirements.

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

Less than Significant. The Project site is located above the Upper Santa Ana River Valley Groundwater Basin – San Bernardino Sub-Basin. The San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District manages groundwater activity for the Upper Santa River Valley Groundwater Basin.

Project construction would include excavation and grading activities on the Project site that could potentially degrade surface or groundwater quality. However, the excavation depth during construction would be consistent with the depths of surrounding land developments. Historically, groundwater has been encountered at depths below 70 feet below ground surface. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), groundwater is

approximately 170 feet below the land surface at the nearest USGS monitoring site.[40] Given that the construction grading and utility trenching activities are not expected to extend more than 3 to 5 feet below ground surface, direct impacts to groundwater supplies are not anticipated.

Additionally, the Project would result in an increase in impervious surfaces on the Project site, which could decrease groundwater supply or interfere with groundwater recharge. However, as discussed above, the Project will adhere to the MS4 permit and the NPDES permit. The Project will implement all applicable BMPs that would collect and infiltrate runoff from impervious areas. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

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

i-iv. ***Less than Significant.*** *The proposed Project could result in minor soil erosion during excavation, grading, and construction. However, as discussed above, the site would need to comply with the requirements of the statewide general NPDES Permit Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Stormwater Runoff Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities, which requires the development of a SWPPP. The SWPPP would include specific BMPs, such as:*

- Temporary soil stabilization: silt fencing, gravel bag berms, sandbag barriers, straw bale barriers, sediment traps, soil binders, and straw mulch, and fiber rolls.
- Wind erosion control: portable water, dust and erosion control.
- Tracking control: street sweeping and entrance/outlet tire washing.
- Waste management and material pollution control: vehicle and equipment cleaning, stockpile management, proper material delivery and storage, solid waste management, concrete waste management, and contaminated soil management.

Currently, the Project site is a fully pervious playfield, and stormwater flows and exists the area via the south side of the parcel. The development of the proposed Project would increase the impervious surface of undeveloped land in the Project area by approximately 1.21 acres. Construction would involve ground disturbance activities (e.g., grading, excavation, trenching) for the construction of the proposed Project's structures including but not limited to the fire station building, apparatus

[40] USGS, National Water Dashboard, accessed February 2025.

bay, storage building, and the installation of associated utility lines, which would expose soils to the potential for erosion or loss of topsoil. Additionally, ground-disturbing activities would have the potential to expose soils to rainfall and wind, thereby potentially resulting in soil erosion. However, as discussed above, Project construction would comply with the NPDES permit and develop a SWPPP. The SWPPP would include Project-specific construction and operation BMPs to control and direct on-site surface runoff and ensure that runoff would not be polluted or exceed stormwater drainage capacities.

The Project site is located within FEMA flood Zone X, 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard.[41] This area is classified as Other Areas of Flood Hazard and is not a Special Flood Hazard Area. Therefore, the Project has a low flood hazard risk and would be in accordance with the NPDES rermit and apply BMPs related to erosion and soil stabilization.

Therefore, with adherence to the applicable NPDES and MS4 Permits and the implementation of a SWPPP and associated BMPs, the Project would not result in substantial erosion or siltation, substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off-site, create or contribute runoff water exceeding the capacity of existing systems, or impede or redirect flood flows. Project impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant. As discussed above, the Project site is located within FEMA flood Zone X, 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard. This area is classified as Other Areas of Flood Hazard and is not a Special Flood Hazard Area. Therefore, the Project has a low flood hazard risk.

Furthermore, the Project site is located approximately 55 miles inland and is not considered to be within a tsunami hazard zone. Given the Project's location, it would not risk release of pollutants due to inundation from a flood or tsunami.

According to NOAA, a seiche is a standing wave that oscillates in a body of water, such as a lake or bay.[42] The nearest major water feature to the Project site is Lake Gregory, located approximately 5 miles north. Given the distance between the Project site and the lake, there would be no risk of release of pollutants due to Project inundation from a

[41] FEMA, National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer, accessed February 2025.
[42] NOAA, What is a seiche?, accessed February 2025.

seiche. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant. The Project site is within the jurisdiction of the Santa Ana RWQCB. The Santa Ana RWQCB adopted a Water Quality Control Plan that establishes water quality objectives, beneficial uses, and anti-degradation policies for the region.[43] The Project would comply with the applicable NPDES and MS4 Permits, which require the preparation of a SWPPP and the implementation of applicable BMPs. Therefore, the Project would not obstruct the Santa Ana RWQCB's Water Quality Control Plan.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), passed in 2014, establishes a framework to protect groundwater resources over the long term.[44] The SGMA requires governments and water agencies of high- and medium-priority basins to halt overdraft of groundwater basins, form local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, and adopt groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs). As discussed above, the Project site is located in the Upper Santa Ana River Valley Basin, which is classified as a very low priority basin. Therefore, the development of a GSP is not required. The Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XI.	***LAND USE AND PLANNING*** – Would the project:				
a)	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

[43] Santa Ana RWQCB, Water Quality Control Plan, accessed February 2025.
[44] California Department of Water Resources, SGMA, accessed February 2025.

City of San Bernardino Development Code, Chapter 19.10

City of San Bernardino General Plan, 2005

The approximately 1.21-acre site is located at 3825 N. Mountain View Avenue, San Bernardino, CA, 92405, at the south end of Arrowhead Elementary School property. It is surrounded by developed civic/public spaces to the north and east, multifamily residential spaces to the south, and a landscaped strip along the west property line, with additional single-family homes just beyond. Local access is provided by 38th Street and Genevieve Street. The area is currently characterized by a landscaped grass playfield.

The site is comprised of a single parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 0140-143-01-0000) that carries a zoning designation of Public Facilities (PF) and a General Land Use designation of Public/Quasi-Public (PQP).[45] The proposed development would maintain these designations, as the new fire station is consistent with the existing zoning and land use designations.

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The physical division of an established community typically refers to the construction of a linear feature (such as a major highway or railroad tracks), or a removal of a means of access (such as a local road or bridge), which would impair mobility within an existing community or between communities. As previously discussed, the entire Project site is predisturbed and developed as part of the existing Arrowhead Elementary School. The proposed Project is designated for PQP use per the City of San Bernardino General Plan and is zoned for PF. The site is bounded by residential uses to the north, west, and south, and public uses to the east. The proposed development would be contained within the parcel and there would be no changes to the existing roadways that would conflict with existing land uses or divide an established community. Therefore, construction and implementation of the Project would not result in the physical division of an established community. There would be **no impact**, and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. As discussed above, the City of San Bernardino's land use designation for the Project site is PF, which includes public facilities, governmental institutions, transportation facilities, public schools (K-12), public or private colleges and universities,

[45] City of San Bernardino, City of San Bernardino General Plan, accessed February 2025.

museums, and public libraries. The Project proposes the construction of a fire station, which would be considered a public facility.

According to Chapter 19.10 of the City of San Bernardino's Development Code, the purpose of the PF zone is to "provide for the continuation of existing and development of new schools, government administrative, police, fire, libraries, social service, and other public facilities."[46] The Proposed facility is a fire station and would therefore fall within the guidelines for the PF zone. Additionally, the proposed Project would be designed and developed in accordance with any applicable standards, including setbacks and height. The proposed Project would not conflict with existing land use designations and zoning. Therefore, **no impacts** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XII.	***MINERAL RESOURCES*** – Would the project:				
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

City of San Bernardino General Plan, 2005

California Department of Conservation Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975

[46] City of San Bernardino, City of San Bernardino Development Code, Chapter 19.10, accessed February 2025.

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

Less than Significant. The California Department of Conservation (DOC) classifies the regional significance of mineral resources in accordance with SMARA.[47] SMARA provides guidelines for the classification and designation of mineral lands based on geologic factors without regard to existing land use and ownership. The DOC designates Mineral Resources Zones (MRZs) that have regionally significant mineral deposits, and the areas are categorized into four MRZs:

MRZ-1 An area where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.

MRZ-2 An area where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that a high likelihood exists for their presence.

MRZ-3 An area containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated.

MRZ-4 An area where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ zone.

According to the City of San Bernardino General Plan, the majority of the city is located within MRZ-1 or MRZ-2.[48] Of the four MRZs, lands classified as MRZ-2 are generally considered of greatest importance, containing significant mineral deposits. However, the Project site is not located within MRZ-1 or MRZ-2. Therefore, the probability that the Project site contains significant mineral resources is low. Additionally, the Project would be built on an existing site that is already disturbed and does not include mining activities. As previously discussed in Section XI, Land Use and Planning, the Project site is zoned as Public Facilities (PF), and mining is not compatible with the established zoning and land use designations. The existing and surrounding land uses in the Project vicinity include commercial buildings, retail buildings, and single-family and multifamily residences. Given that the Project site is not within MRZ-1 or MTZ-2, is already disturbed and landscaped, and is zoned for PF use, the likelihood of impacting significant mineral resources is minimal. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant,** and no mitigation is required.

[47] California Department of Conservation, SMARA, accessed February 2025.
[48] City of San Bernardino, City of San Bernardino General Plan, accessed February 2025.

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

Less than Significant. As discussed above, the Project is not located in an MRZ. Additionally, the Project site is in an urban area that is not conducive to mining activities. Therefore, the Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other use plan. Impacts would be **less than significant,** and no mitigation is required.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XIII.	***NOISE*** – Would the project result in:				
a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b)	Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, 2013

Caltrans Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual, 2020

City of San Bernardino General Plan, 2005

City of San Bernardino Municipal Code Section 8.54 Noise Control

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Highway Construction Noise Handbook, 2006

Other information utilized in this section was obtained from the technical study "San Bernardino County Fire Station No. 227 Project Noise Analysis Report" prepared by WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. dated February 26, 2025, and provided as Appendix 5 to this document.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Noise is defined as a sound, typically associated with being loud or undesirable. Noise may prompt the feeling of annoyance depending on the magnitude, duration, and time of the noise event. Sound is transmitted by pressure waves that travel through the air. Sound pressure level is the most common descriptor used to characterize ambient noise and is measured in decibels, a logarithmic unit that quantifies sound intensity. Equivalent Sound Level (Leq) and Community Noise Equivalent Level are also used as noise level descriptors. The A-weighted Decibel (dBA) scale is commonly used to measure noise levels as it closely represents the range of human hearing by to emphasize frequencies most audible to the human ear. Noise level increases of 3 dBA are barely perceptible to most people, while a 5-dBA increase is readily noticeable, and a 10 dBA increase is perceived as doubling of loudness. Everyday sounds typically range from 30 dBA (very quiet) to 100 dBA (very loud).

According to noise standards adopted in the Noise Element of the General Plan for City of San Bernardino, acceptable noise levels for residential and public land uses are 45 dBA for interior noise levels and 65 dBA for exterior noise levels.[49] Additionally, Section 8.54.020 of the City of San Bernardino Municipal Code prohibits the creation of excessive noise adjacent to any school, church, court, or library, hospital or care facility, which unreasonably interferes with the workings of such institution, or which disturbs or unduly annoys patients in the hospital, provided conspicuous signs are displayed in such

[49] City of San Bernardino, General Plan, Noise Element, accessed February 2025.

streets indicating the presence of a school, institution of learning, church, court, or hospital.[50] However, per Section 8.54.060, construction of public services and facilities or construction activities which provide for noise mitigation measures are exempt from these prohibitions. City of San Bernardino Municipal Code Section 8.54.070 also prohibits construction work outside of the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Project site is located in a suburban area with existing residential and commercial developments. Noise sources in the Project area include vehicular traffic along Genevieve Street and Mountain View Avenue, as well as the intercom/bell system at Arrowhead Elementary School. These noise sources represent a single-event noise occurrence, short-term, or long-term/continuous noise and are typical of suburban environments.

Noise Sensitive Receptors. Noise-sensitive land uses are land uses where prolonged noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals or distract from their intended purpose. Noise-sensitive land uses include residences, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, day care facilities, churches, cemeteries, hotels, and libraries. The closest sensitive receptors to the Project site are single-family residences to the west, multifamily residences to the south, and Arrowhead Elementary School located immediately north.

Construction. Construction-related noise under the proposed Project would be generated by heavy equipment such as excavators, backhoes, graders, rollers, cranes, and haul trucks. Construction noise levels are listed in Table 1. Consistent with Federal Transit Administration guidance, the composite noise level of construction projects is calculated using the two loudest pieces of equipment. Once composite noise levels are calculated, reference noise levels can then be adjusted for distance. Based on equipment listed in Table XIII.A, noise levels during Project construction would reach a maximum of 85 dBA Leq at a distance of 50 feet from the construction area. The maximum noise level during construction at the nearest noise-sensitive use (the multifamily residences approximately 60 feet south of the edge of the Project site) would be 83 dBA Leq. Single-family residences located approximately 155 feet west of the Project site would experience a maximum noise level of 75 dBA Leq. Construction noise levels experienced at the elementary school playground, approximately 160 feet north of the edge of Project site, would be 76 dBA Leq. Elementary school classrooms located 300 feet north of the Project site would experience noise levels of 69 dBA Leq.

[50] City of San Bernardino, Municipal Code, accessed February 2025.

Table XIII.A: Maximum Noise Levels Generated by Construction Equipment

Noise Standards for Stationary Sources		
Affected Land Uses (Receiving Noise)	**Lmax @ 50 feet**	**Acoustical Usage Factor**
Front End Loader	80	40
Excavator	85	40
Backhoe	80	40
Dump Truck	84	40
Crane	85	16
Grader	85	40
Roller	85	20

Source: FHWA 2006
Lmax = maximum sound level

All construction activities will be carried out in compliance with the applicable noise limits of the City of San Bernardino County Noise Ordinances. Although the City's Municipal Code does not identify maximum noise levels for construction, noise level thresholds for different land uses are specified in the Noise Element of the General Plan and the Municipal Code. For residential areas, the acceptable exterior noise level is 65 dBA. As such, in the event that construction noise could expose sensitive receptors to noise levels greater than 65 dBA at 50 feet from residential parcel lines, the applicant shall adhere to the timeframes established by local ordinances to limit noise events permitted times for construction activity as identified in **MM NOI--1**, below. It is noted that on this site as on others, crews would not operate noisy equipment for entire workdays uninterrupted. Noise levels represent maximum levels from intermittent noise events from various noise-producing sources that are then averaged over 8 hours. Although construction noise would be temporary and intermittent, **MM NOI-2** is identified to address receptors nearer to construction noise sources. As noted in the measure, sensitive receptors shall be notified at least 30 days prior to commencement of construction in order to provide opportunity to avoid construction noise when work is scheduled nearest the affected party. Moreover, according to the applicant, work in the proximity of any single location would be temporary and last between a few hours to a few days to one week when installing building materials or a new conductor (that is, utility connections). As a means of further reducing construction noise exposure to sensitive receptors, the applicant shall implement **MM NOI--3**.

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated

***Mitigation Measures*.** The following mitigation measures are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to noise to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1 Hours of operation of all construction equipment shall be limited to the following days and times as permitted by the noise ordinances in the City of San Bernardino:

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday (no construction on Sundays and federal holidays).

In the event that Project scheduling necessitates work outside of the hours permitted under local noise ordinances, the applicant would meet and confer with the City of San Bernardino, as needed, for guidance on scheduling and managing such construction noise in compliance with the City of San Bernardino Municipal Code.

It is not likely that any one piece of machinery would operate continuously or fully throttled. Noise events would be punctuated by periods during which no equipment would operate, and noise levels at work sites would be near ambient levels. The characteristics related to a particular tool's use (duration, intensity, and location) factor into developing average sound levels assigned to each piece of equipment over a typical 8-hour day.

Mitigation Measure NOI-2 The applicant shall notify all sensitive receptors, including residences, within 50 feet of all Project components at least 30 days prior to construction activities occurring in that area to provide an opportunity to avoid the noise. The notice shall include dates, times, and a description of construction activities. The applicant shall provide documentation of the notice and coordination to the County of San Bernardino at least 20 days prior to construction.

Mitigation Measure NOI-3 The applicant shall include measures to ensure that the Project would not increase excess ambient noise levels. Per the Project's Noise Analysis study, the measures shall be selected based on the specific equipment used, activity conducted in specific locations, and proximity to sensitive noise receptors and efficacy to reduce, avoid, or eliminate sources of Project-generated noise in excess of acceptable standards. Specific measures may include the following:

- Limiting heavy equipment activity adjacent to residences or other sensitive receptors to the

shortest possible period required to complete the work activity.

- Ensuring that proper mufflers, intake silencers, and other noise reduction equipment are in place and in good working condition.
- Maintaining construction equipment according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Minimizing unnecessary construction equipment idling.
- Reducing noise from back-up alarms (that is, alarms that signal vehicle travel in reverse) in construction vehicles and equipment by providing a layout of construction sites that minimize the need for back-up alarms. Use flagmen to minimize the time needed to back up vehicles.
- When possible, using construction equipment specifically designed for low noise emissions, such as equipment that is powered by electric or natural gas engines instead of diesel or gasoline reciprocating engines.
- Where practical, locating stationary equipment such as compressors and generators away from sensitive receptors.

Operation.

Roadway Noise

Operation of the proposed fire station would result in vehicle use on adjacent roadways and new vehicle trips to the currently undeveloped site, thereby increasing vehicular noise in the vicinity of existing and proposed land uses. As determined by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, a doubling in roadway traffic volumes is required to generate any noticeable increase in roadway noise levels.[51] However, the proposed Project would replace the existing Station No. 227 with a new, in-kind structure, located on the neighbouring block from the existing station. As such, traffic volumes and vehicle noise generated by the new station would not differ substantially from the existing noise

[51] Caltrans, Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, accessed February 2025.

environment. Trip generation from the operation of the proposed Project would not double existing traffic volumes along nearby roadways. Any increase in traffic noise along local roadways would be imperceptible. Therefore, traffic noise impacts would be minimal and less than significant.

Emergency Vehicle Noise

Operation of the proposed fire station would occasionally require the use of sirens on emergency response vehicles. Siren use would be sporadic and, when needed, typically emit noise at a magnitude of approximately 100 dBA at 100 feet. Therefore, during a response requiring sirens, Arrowhead Elementary School and residences along West 38th Street and Genevieve Street would experience short-duration exterior noise levels up to 108 dBA. Because emergency vehicle response is rapid by nature, the duration of exposure to these peak noise levels is estimated to last for a maximum of 10 seconds, depending on traffic. Because the proposed Project would replace the existing Station No. 227 with a new, in-kind station within the same neighborhood, emergency vehicle noises associated with the operation of the proposed station would not substantially differ from existing conditions. Thus, given the infrequent and short duration of emergency sirens, as well as existing noise conditions, noise impacts from emergency vehicles would be both negligible and less than significant.

Stationary Noise

Stationary noise sources associated with the proposed Project would include mechanical equipment, commuter parking, and operation of back-up generators. These noise sources are typically intermittent, short in duration. The back-up generators, in particular, would only be used for up to a few hours at a time under emergencies. As such, noise generated by the backup- generators is not further considered in this operational noise analysis. Remaining stationary noise sources associated with operation of the proposed Project are typical of the noise contour of residential neighborhoods and are not anticipated to exceed the acceptable noise level for residential and public land uses outlined in the City of San Bernardino Municipal Code (45 dBA for interior noise levels and 65 dBA for exterior noise levels). Therefore, the nearest sensitive receptors would not be directly exposed to substantial noise from on-site noise sources. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?

Less than Significant. Vibration is the physical effect of sound radiated through the ground. Most perceptible indoor vibration is caused by sources within buildings such as the operation of mechanical equipment, movement of people, or slamming of doors. Typical outdoor sources of perceptible ground-borne vibration are construction equipment, railroads, large trucks, and traffic on interstates and state routes. If a roadway is smooth or newly repaved, the ground-borne vibration from traffic is rarely

perceptible. Ground-borne vibration is generally perceptible only inside buildings and not outdoors. Human-made vibration issues are usually confined to short distances from the source (for example, 50 feet).

The ground motion caused by vibration can be measured as particle velocity in inches per second (in/sec); in the United States, this is referenced as vibration decibels (VdB; Caltrans 2020). The vibration level at which continuous vibration is strongly perceptible is 0.1 in/sec. For incidental ground-borne vibration, 0.035 in/sec is barely perceptible while 2.0 in/sec is felt severely. Caltrans and the Federal Transit Administration have developed vibration criteria based on building use, such as workshops, offices, residences, and institutions with primarily daytime use. The maximum criteria for frequent or consistent vibration at sensitive noise receptors (for example, residences) is approximately 72 to 75 VdB.[52]

Construction. Construction activities would generate ground borne vibration and noise during use of construction equipment, power tools, and heavy equipment. Project construction may be accomplished with the use of graders, excavators, backhoes, bulldozers, loaders and trucks to deliver materials. Ground borne vibration generated by this equipment is listed in Table 2. Table 2 identifies the peak particle velocity (PPV) values at 25 feet from the construction vibration source. Bulldozers are anticipated to generate the greatest level of vibration during construction of the proposed Project.

Table 2: Vibration Source Amplitudes for Construction Equipment

Equipment	Reference PPV at 25 feet (in/sec)
Large Bulldozer	0.089
Small Bulldozer	0.003
Loaded Trucks	0.076

Source: Caltrans 2020
in/sec = inches per second
PPV = peak particle velocity

The closest building to the proposed construction site is a multifamily residence structure located approximately 60 feet south of the Project site. Sensitive receptors in vicinity of the Project site include multifamily residences located approximately 60 feet south, single-family residences located approximately 130 feet west, and Arrowhead Elementary School, located approximately 160 feet north from the proposed construction area. Based on the Caltrans vibration annoyance guidelines provided in the Caltrans Vibration Guidance Manual, vibration is “distinctly perceptible” when greater than or equal to 0.25 PPV in/sec and is used as a threshold for a potentially significant vibration impact for human annoyance in this analysis. Vibration levels created by construction activities associated with the proposed Project would approach 0.03 PPV in/sec at a

[52] Caltrans, Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual, accessed February 2025.

distance of 60 feet. Nearby receptors, including sensitive receptors, would not experience vibration exceeding 0.2 in/sec PPV. Additionally, in accordance with **MM NOI-3**, the applicant would use low-vibration construction equipment where feasible, such as electric or hydraulic equipment instead of diesel-powered equipment, to minimize ground-borne vibration. Therefore, construction vibration impacts would be **less than significant**.

Operation. No Impact. No operational or maintenance activities associated with the new fire station would create a source of ground borne vibration or noise. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

c) *For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?*

Less than Significant. The nearest public airport, San Bernardino International Airport, is located approximately 4.5 miles from the Project site area. The Project site is not located within 2 miles of the airport. Additionally, the Project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or related facilities. Therefore, Project implementation would not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels associated with aircraft. As such, the impacts would be **less than significant**.

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

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007

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

Less than Significant. The proposed Project involves the construction of a new Fire Station No. 227, which is intended to enhance emergency services and response capabilities in the surrounding communities. The Project does not include any residential land uses and is not anticipated to affect the population or housing availability in the City of San Bernardino. The fire station will provide living quarters for nine on-duty firefighters to be used during work shifts, but these quarters will not serve as permanent residences. The primary purpose of these living quarters is to accommodate firefighters during their shifts, ensuring they are readily available to respond to emergencies.

The workforce required for Project construction and operation of the fire station is expected to be sourced locally, from the existing regional workforce. The Project is anticipated to employ approximately 22 workers at peak, with employees either being local residents or commuting from nearby areas within the region. As such, the Project is unlikely to attract workers from outside the area or induce significant population growth.

Additionally, the Project does not propose the installation of new infrastructure, roads, or homes that could indirectly induce population growth. The fire station's operations are focused on providing emergency services and do not include elements that would facilitate or encourage residential or commercial development.

Given that the Project does not introduce new residential or commercial uses, does not extend infrastructure that could support additional development, and relies on the existing regional workforce, it is not expected to induce substantial unplanned population growth. Therefore, the impacts related to population growth would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. The Project site is currently vacant grass playfield owned by the San Bernardino City Unified School District and used by Arrowhead Elementary School. There are no residential structures or housing units on the Project site.

The proposed Project involves the construction of a new Fire Station No. 227 and does not include the demolition or removal of any existing housing. As such, the Project will not displace any existing residents or housing units. Consequently, there will be no need for construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Given that the Project site is vacant

and does not contain any housing, and the Project does not propose any activities that would displace existing people or housing, **no impact** would occur, and no mitigation is required.

	Issues	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant*	*No Impact*
XV.	***PUBLIC SERVICES***				
a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
	Fire Protection?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	Police Protection?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	Schools?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	Other Public Facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

City of San Bernardino Parks and Recreation, Sierra Park

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, SBCo Fire Stations and Division Areas

San Bernardino County Regional Parks, Find a Park

The proposed Project involves the construction of a new Fire Station No. 277 designed to enhance emergency response capabilities within the region and ensure that communities are well-prepared to manage emergencies effectively. Emergency fire protection within the City of San Bernardino is provided by San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBCFPD). The Project site is located within Division 2 of the SBCFPD and is not located within a fire hazard severity zone.[53]

Police protection services for the Project site and surrounding area are provided by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, which serves all unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County (the County). The nearest police department to the Project site is located at

[53] San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, SBCo Fire Stations and Division Areas, accessed February 2025

710 N D St, San Bernardino, CA 92401. Currently, there are no plans for additional stations in the area.

The San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD) primarily serves the Project site. There are three schools within a one-mile radius of the Project site: Marshall Elementary School, Hillside Elementary School, and Arrowhead Elementary School. The proposed Project would be situated on an adjacent playfield to Arrowhead Elementary School, which is owned and maintained by the SBCUSD.

San Bernardino County operates 11 parks, trails, and preserves totaling more than 8,000 acres. The nearest regional park to the Project site is the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway, located approximately 6 miles to the south.[54] Additionally, the City of San Bernardino Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department offers 38 parks, 31 playground areas, and several park locations with walking trails. The nearest city operated park to the Project site is Sierra Park, located approximately 0.10 mile northeast.[55]

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed Project involves the construction of a new Fire Station No. 277, designed to bolster emergency response capabilities within the region and ensure that communities are well-prepared to manage emergencies effectively. Emergency fire protection within the City of San Bernardino is provided by the SBCFPD. Although the Project would enhance emergency response in the long term, impacts may still occur. Therefore, the Project would implement **Mitigation Measure (MM) PS-1**, shown below, which would reduce potential impacts to public services to less than significant. Therefore, impacts to public services would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

***Mitigation Measures*.** The following mitigation measures are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to public services to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure PS-1 No less than 60 days prior to beginning construction, the applicant shall coordinate with Arrowhead Elementary School, located within 250 feet of proposed Project activities. The applicant and the school will determine the best time to conduct construction

[54] San Bernardino County Regional Parks, Find a Park, accessed February 2025.
[55] City of San Bernardino Parks and Recreation, Sierra Park, accessed February 2025.

activities that have the potential to impact the school in an effort to avoid major school events and to minimize any disruption to learning. Where feasible, construction activities will be conducted outside of the scheduled school year, during seasonal breaks, outside of peak drop-off and pick-up hours for the standard school day, at night, or during weekends to reduce potential impacts to the school.

Fire Protection?

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed above, the proposed Project would develop a new fire station to provide critical emergency assistance to surrounding communities and would enhance emergency response in the long term. The new fire station will improve response times and service ratios, ensuring that the community is better protected against fire hazards and emergencies. The implementation of **MM TRA-2**, as described in Section XVII, Transportation**,** would ensure that any temporary impacts during construction are minimized, and maintained acceptable emergency response times. The Project site is located within Division 2 of the SBCFPD, which is responsible for providing fire protection, emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness to the area. The Project is not located within a designated fire hazard severity zone, further reducing potential risks. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

Police Protection?

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed above, the proposed Project would establish a new fire station to provide critical emergency assistance to surrounding communities. The Project would include sleeping quarters for nine crew members to be used during work shifts. While the Project could produce a small increase in demand for police protection due to an increase in structures in the Project area. San Bernardino County monitors police staffing levels and response times annually to ensure adequate police protection for any new development projects. The continual monitoring of staffing levels by the County would minimize service ratio or response time impacts. Additionally, the implementation of **MM TRA-2**, as described in Section XVII, Transportation, will ensure that any temporary impacts during construction are minimized, maintaining acceptable police response times. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

Schools?

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed Project would establish a new fire station to provide critical emergency assistance to the surrounding area. Employee relocation is unlikely because employees are anticipated to be drawn from the existing regional workforce. Additionally, the Project would be required to pay,

as necessary, established school impact fees at the time of development to ensure compliance with Senate Bill 50, which would mitigate impacts to school services. Schools in the Project area are primarily served by the San SBCUSD, with three schools within a mile of the proposed site: Marshall Elementary School, Hillside Elementary School, and Arrowhead Elementary School. The Project is situated on Arrowhead Elementary School's grass playfield, adjacent to the school's playground, and approximately 200 feet from the school's main building, The implementation of **MM PS-1** will ensure that any temporary impacts to Arrowhead Elementary School during construction are minimized, reducing potential impacts to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**. Additionally, **MM TRA-1** and **MM TRA-2** from Section XVII, Transportation, will further reduce impacts by managing construction-related traffic and ensuring safe access to the school.

Parks?

Less than Significant. As discussed above, the proposed Project would establish a new fire station to provide critical emergency assistance to the surrounding area. Fire station employees are expected to be sourced from the existing regional workforce and not increase the usage of regional parks. Any impact to existing parks in the vicinity would be negligible and within the normal expected usage of such parks. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant,** and no mitigation is required.

Other Public Facilities?

Less than Significant. The type of use proposed by the Project would not generate substantial unplanned population growth in the County that would result in an increase in access to other public facilities, such as libraries. As discussed above, the Project is not expected to result in the construction or expansion of existing public facilities and would not exacerbate such facilities. The Project is designed to enhance emergency response capabilities without significantly altering the demand for other public services. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant,** and no mitigation is required.

Issues		***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XVI.	***RECREATION***				
a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical	☐	☐	☒	☐

	Issues	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant*	*No Impact*
	deterioration of the facility will occur or be accelerated?				
b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

San Bernardino Countywide Plan, 2020

a) *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility will occur or be accelerated?*

Less than Significant. As discussed in Section XV, Public Services, the nearest regional park to the proposed Project site is the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway, located approximately 6 miles south. The primary function of the proposed new Fire Station No. 227 is to provide critical emergency services to the surrounding area. Fire station employees are expected to be drawn from the existing regional workforce, and the development is not anticipated to significantly increase the local population or the use of neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities.

The current site is a large vacant grass playfield, part of Arrowhead Elementary School property, owned and maintained by the San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD). The playfield is completely fenced off on all sides and not accessible to the general public. Inside the playfield, there are three softball chain link backstops, two small benches, and a few trees dispersed throughout. This area is designated as Public Facilities (PF) and not Public Park (PP). The SBCUSD approved a ground lease agreement with the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District to facilitate the construction of the new Fire Station No. 227. The lease includes provisions for a long-term commitment that could extend up to 99 years, reflecting a significant investment in community safety and infrastructure.

Additionally, there is a grassed public park, St. Sierra Park, located approximately 0.10 mile (528 feet) northeast of the proposed Project site. The development of the fire station will not significantly impact the usage of this or other nearby recreational facilities. The fire station's operations are not recreational in nature and will not attract additional

visitors to the area. Any potential impact on these facilities would be minimal and within the normal expected usage patterns. Therefore, impacts to existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities would be **less than significant** and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. The proposed fire station development does not include the construction of new recreational facilities or the expansion of existing ones. As described above, the primary purpose of the new fire station is to provide emergency services to the surrounding area. The new Fire Station No. 227 will have living quarters for firefighters on duty, similar to the existing Fire Station No. 227 located at 282 W 40th St, San Bernardino, CA 92407, approximately 0.3 mile north of the proposed Project site.

While the current site is a landscaped grass playfield for recreational purposes, the area is part of the Arrowhead Elementary School's property and designated for PF and not PP. The development of the fire station will not necessitate the construction or expansion of other recreational facilities.

Employees are expected to be drawn from the existing regional workforce, and the development is not expected to increase the demand for parks or recreational facilities to the extent that would necessitate their expansion. Given that the Project will not introduce new recreational facilities or require the expansion of existing ones, there would be **no impact** on the environment related to recreational facilities and no mitigation is required.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XVII.	***TRANSPORTATION*** – Would the project:				
a)	Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b)	Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g.,	☐	☒	☐	☐

	Issues	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant*	*No Impact*
	sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				
d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☒	☐	☐

City of San Bernardino General Plan, 2005

City of San Bernardino Active Transportation Plan, 2022

San Bernardino County Transportation Authority Vehicle Miles Traveled Screening Tool, 2020

City of San Bernardino Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines, 2005

a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

Construction. Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The City of San Bernardino General Plan outlines the city's [56]roadway planning. Roadways surrounding the Project site are classified as local streets, defined as two-lane streets designed to serve neighborhoods within residential areas. At the time of the General Plan's preparation, none of the roadways surrounding or in the immediate proximity of the Project site were identified as operating below acceptable levels of service. The General Plan also identifies Genevieve Street as a designated school route.

The city's Active Transportation Plan promotes a walkable and bikeable future for the City of San Bernardino.[57] The plan establishes goals and recommendations to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, providing a roadmap for implementing active transportation facilities, programs, and policy changes. According to the Active Transportation Plan, Mountainview Avenue is the only existing Class II bikeway in the immediate proximity (within 70 feet) of the Project site. A Class I bikeway is planned 200 feet northwest of the Project site along Palm Drive. A Class II bikeway is also planned to be constructed on 40th Street, approximately 1,570 feet north of the Project site.

[56] City of San Bernardino, City of San Bernardino General Plan, accessed February 2025.
[57] City of San Bernardino, Active Transportation Plan, accessed February 2025.

Development of the proposed Project would generate construction-related traffic associated with workers traveling to and from the Project site, removal of excavated material, and delivery of construction materials. Heavy haul trucks for demolition debris removal and construction material delivery would regionally access the site via State Route (SR) 210 or SR 18 and locally via 38th Street or Genevieve Street. During the 16-month construction period a maximum of 11 construction vehicles (e.g., heavy haul trucks, light duty construction vehicles) would access the Project site per day, resulting in an incremental increase in traffic levels on the roads surrounding Arrowhead Elementary School. School routes (for example, Genevieve Avenue) would experience greater traffic volumes from construction-related vehicles, potentially congesting or delaying student drop-off and pick-up. However, these traffic increases would be temporary and intermittent in nature. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure (MM) TRA-1** would ensure construction-related traffic avoids peak congestion times around Arrowhead Elementary School. Additionally, **MM PS-1**, as described in Section XV, Public Services, will require that the applicant coordinates with Arrowhead Elementary School to schedule construction activities in a manner that minimizes disruption to the school. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated** and the proposed Project would not conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Operation. No Impact. The proposed Project would not result in any changes to the public circulation system, including transit or bicycle facilities. Pedestrian facilities would be improved with the installation of new sidewalks, curbs, and gutters immediately surrounding the Project site. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with any program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system. The proposed Project would result in **no impacts** during its operations and no mitigation measures would be required.

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?

Less than Significant. The City of San Bernardino Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines were consulted to determine whether a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) analysis would be required for the proposed Project.[58] The TIA Guidelines were created to provide general instructions for analyzing potential transportation impacts of proposed development projects. The TIA Guidelines outline three screening steps to determine if projects may be exempt from project-level assessment. Only one screening step needs to be met for a project to be considered to have a less than significant VMT impact.

[58] City of San Bernardino, City of San Bernardino TIA Guidelines, accessed February 2025.

Based on the screening criteria from the City of San Bernardino TIA Guidelines and evaluation using the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority VMT Screening Tool, the Project would screen out of a VMT analysis as it would be located within a low VMT-generating area. A low VMT area is defined as an individual traffic analysis zone where total daily Origin/Destination VMT per service population is lower than the city average total daily Origin/Destination VMT per service population. According to the City's guidelines, projects located in a low VMT-generating area may be presumed to have a less than significant impact. Therefore, impacts related to VMT would be **less than significant**; and the Project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b).

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

Construction. Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Construction of the proposed San Bernardino Fire Station No. 227 will include the installation of curbs, gutters, driveways, sidewalks, and asphalt within the Project site boundaries. These features would be confined to the Project site and would not extend into or alter public roadways. Consequently, construction activities would not change the design of existing traffic-related infrastructure or introduce incompatible uses to existing roadways.

However, safety hazards to pedestrians may arise due to increased traffic volumes associated with construction vehicle trips in close proximity to Arrowhead Elementary School. Implementation of **MM TRA-1** would require construction traffic avoid peak congestion periods during Arrowhead Elementary School days. This measure would help prevent potential pedestrian-vehicle safety conflicts. Additionally, **MM PS-1**, as described in Section XV, Public Services, will require that the applicant coordinates with Arrowhead Elementary School to schedule construction activities in a manner that minimizes disruption to the school. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Operation. No Impact. Development of the proposed San Bernardino Fire Station No. 227 would involve the installation of curbs, gutters, driveways, sidewalks, and asphalt around and throughout the Project site. As such, implementation of the proposed Project would create improvements to the existing pedestrian circulation system and site access. New access points and driveways would be designed and constructed to adequate widths for public safety and emergency access pursuant to the California Fire Code requirements. Operation of the proposed Project would not alter public roadways or change the design of existing traffic-related infrastructure or introduce incompatible uses to existing roadways. Therefore, **no impact** would occur, and mitigation is not required.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Construction. Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Construction activities under the proposed Project would increase truck trips to the Project site for the delivery of construction supplies, removal of excavated materials, and arrival of construction personnel. Construction is expected to generate a maximum of 16 round trips per day. The increase in daily truck trips may create additional congestion and traffic delays. However, **MM TRA-2** would require the implementation of a Traffic Control Plan that would involve advanced coordination between the City of San Bernardino and emergency service providers to avoid restricting the movements of emergency vehicles, ensure that emergency vehicle access is maintained, and minimize impacts on traffic flow. With this mitigation, the proposed Project would not result in traffic delays that could substantially increase emergency response times or reduce emergency vehicle access. The proposed Project would result in **less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated**.

Operation. Less than Significant. Operation of the proposed Fire Station No. 227 would increase the number of vehicles and trucks accessing the site and increase the amount and volume of traffic on 38th Street and Genevieve Street. However, traffic associated with operation of the proposed Project would be redirected from the existing station and would not generate substantial new volumes in the area compared to existing conditions. The proposed Project would include improvements to curbs, gutters, driveways, sidewalks, and asphalt. Site access points, and driveways would be designed and constructed to adequate widths for public safety and emergency access pursuant to the California Fire Code requirements. The proposed Project would not conflict with an emergency response plan and would not impair or otherwise interfere with emergency access to local roads. Operation of the proposed Project would not result in traffic delays that could substantially increase emergency response times or reduce emergency vehicle access. The proposed Project would result in **less than significant** impacts and no mitigation measures would be required.

***Mitigation Measures*.** The following mitigation measures are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to transportation to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure TRA-1 Construction-generated traffic associated with construction of the proposed Station No. 227 would avoid the start and ending time for the Arrowhead Elementary School. Workers shall avoid travelling along Genevieve Street between 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on days when Arrowhead Elementary School is in session. These times may be modified as necessary over the duration of the Project. Deliveries to the Project site shall be scheduled to avoid 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to

reduce trips during the most congested periods of the day.

Mitigation Measure TRA-2

At least 30 days prior to commencing construction work, the applicant shall submit a Traffic Control Plan for the Project to City of San Bernardino for their review. The applicant shall incorporate any recommendations from this review related to bikeways, pedestrian facilities, bus routes, and traffic flow prior to commencing work. The applicant shall provide a copy of the final Traffic Control Plan to the City of San Bernardino and San Bernardino City Unified School District prior to commencing work. Contents of the Traffic Control Plan would include and implement the following restrictions:

- If lane closures along Genevieve Street, 38th Street, 39th Street, and Mountain View Avenue are required, lane closures shall only be implemented on days when Arrowhead Elementary School is not in session.
- If lane closures are required, the applicant shall coordinate at least 30 days in advance with emergency service providers, including the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and the nearest San Bernardino Police Department (located at 710 N D St, San Bernardino, CA 92401) to inform them of the lane closures and avoid restricting movements of emergency vehicles, ensure that emergency vehicle access is maintained, and minimize impacts on traffic flow.
- The traffic control plan shall be developed in coordination with the City of San Bernardino. Prior to completion, the traffic control plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City of San Bernardino.
- The traffic control plan shall be communicated to the public at least 48 hours prior to implementation of traffic control measures.
- The traffic control plan shall be provided to the San Bernardino Unified School District for approval prior to construction implementation.

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

San Bernardino Countywide Plan

Cultural Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), South Central Coast Information Center

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As As described in Section V, *Cultural Resources*, the Project site that would be impacted by grading, excavation, and other ground-disturbing activities associated with construction of the proposed Fire Station No. 227 has been previously disturbed and is highly unlikely to contain buried pre-historic or historic archaeological resources.

A Cultural Resources Assessment, included in Appendix 4 in this Initial Study, was prepared for the Project and includes an archaeological and historical records search, a pedestrian survey of the project site, and additional research including but not limited to review of historical maps.

The records search of the Project was completed on August 19, 2024, at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) and included a one-mile radius to identify previous studies and recoded resources in the vicinity of the Project area. The records search identified 36 previously conducted cultural resources studies within one mile of the site, none of which affected the Project area. The records search did not identify any precontact or historical archaeological resources on the Project site. However, the records search identified 30. precontact and historical archaeological resources within one mile of the Project site.

Additional research included review of historical period maps and aerial photographs of the Project site. This research determined that the Project site previously contained two structures at the southern end of Arrowhead Elementary property along West 38th Street, which are no longer extant, as the area is currently used as a playfield for the elementary school. Additionally, several trees along the perimeter of the field appeared to have been planted and subsequently removed.

The pedestrian survey conducted on September 18, 2024, did not result in the identification of any historic or precontact archaeological resources on the Project site. The survey results indicated that the site consisted of turfgrass that appeared to be regularly maintained, completely obscured visibility of exposed soil. Accordingly, the construction and demolition of the previous two structures and changes to landscaping and turfgrass maintenance increase the likelihood that all soils within the Project area are thoroughly disturbed, thus, decreasing the potential that archaeological resources will be encountered as a result of project-related ground disturbance

In the event that historic or archaeological resources are encountered during construction activities, the Applicant would adhere to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 15064.5), which state that construction activities would cease in the affected area in the highly unlikely event an archaeological discovery is made. Once the discovery has been evaluated by a qualified archaeologist, (36 Code of Federal Regulations §800.11.1 and CCR, Title 14, Section 15064.5[f]) and if the resource is found to not be significant, the work can resume. If the resource is found to be significant, it shall be avoided or shall be treated consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or State Historic Resource Preservation Officer Guidelines.

Native American consultation was conducted by the County in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 52. On November 15, 2024, the County sent letters for the purposes of AB 52 consultation to Native American tribal contacts provided by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as well as local Native American tribal representatives that previously requested to be notified of future projects proposed by the County. Furthermore, on February 26, 2025, follow-up phone calls were made to those who had not yet responded. From the initial correspondence, the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians responded via email on November 20, 2024, with questions about the proposed ground disturbance taking place on pre-disturbed soils. A response was sent to the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians on November 2, 2024, confirming that the ground disturbance was pre-disturbed and that there have been no previous studies within the project area.

On November 21, 2024, a response was received from Yuhaavitam of San Manuel Nation stating that the tribe wishes to engage in formal consultation under AB-52 with the County regarding the proposed Project. Even though the project-specific Cultural Resources Assessment concluded the potential to encounter subsurface archaeological resources during construction is low, the Yuhaavitam of San Manuel Nation informed the project team that known tribal cultural resources have the potential to occur even in disturbed context. Accordingly, due to the sensitivity of the area and the request for government-to-government consultation between the County and Yuhaavitam of San Manuel Nation, the Cultural Resources Assessment findings recommend that all project-related ground disturbance activities be monitored by a qualified Native American monitor representing the geographically affiliated Native American tribe and a qualified archaeologist be retained.

Compliance with Mitigation Measure (**MM) TCR-1**, **MM TCR-2**, **MM TCR-3**, **MM TCR-4**, **and MM TCR-5** would ensure ground-disturbing and/or construction activities would cease if tribal cultural resources or human remains are identified and would be managed in consultation with a qualified archaeologist, the lead agency, and the consulting Tribe[s]. These measures also would ensure further consultation with interested Native American Tribes for the appropriate treatment of tribal cultural resources. Impacts to tribal cultural resources that are (1) listed or eligible for listing in the Cultural Historical

Resources Information System or a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k) and/or (2) determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1 would be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of **TCR-1**, **MM TCR-2**, **MM TCR-3**, **MM TCR-4**, **and MM TCR-5**.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As described in Response XVIII(a)(i), previous records searches and on-site pedestrian surveys have not identified any archaeological resources within the Project site. However, as mentioned above, due to the sensitivity of the area, implementation of **MM TCR-1**, **MM TCR-2**, **MM TCR-3**, **MM TCR-4**, **and MM TCR-5** would reduce potential for a significant impact and no additional mitigation measures would be required.

***Mitigation Measures*.** The following mitigation measures are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to tribal cultural resources to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure TCR-1 Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the applicant shall enter into a Tribal Monitoring Agreement with the qualified Native American monitor representing the geographically affiliated Native American tribe(s) as necessary for the Project. The Tribal Monitor shall be on site during all ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind). The Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbing activities to allow for the identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources.

Mitigation Measure TCR-2 Prior to any ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post replacement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), and prior to the issuance of grading permits, the Applicant shall retain a qualified archaeologist who meets the United States Secretary of the Interior

Standards (SOI). The archaeologist shall be present during all ground-disturbing activities to identify any known or suspected archaeological and/or cultural resources. The archaeologist will conduct a Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training, in conjunction with the Tribe(s) Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and/or designated Tribal Representative. The training session will focus on the archaeological and tribal cultural resources that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities, as well as the procedures to be followed in such an event.

Mitigation Measure TCR-3 Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, the project archaeologist shall develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and/or Archaeological Monitoring and Treatment Plan (AMTP) to address the details, timing, and responsibilities of all archaeological and cultural resource activities that occur on the project site. This plan shall be written in consultation with the consulting Tribe(s) and shall include the following: approved mitigation measures/Conditions of Approval (COAs), contact information for all pertinent parties, parties' responsibilities, procedures for each mitigation measure or COA, and an overview of the project schedule. Additionally, the retained qualified archaeologist and Consulting Tribe(s) representative shall attend the pre-grade meetings with the grading contractors to explain and coordinate the requirements of the monitoring plan.

Mitigation Measure TCR-4 In the event that previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction, the Qualified Archaeologist and the Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert and/or temporarily halt ground-disturbance operations in the area of discovery to allow for the evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. Isolates and clearly non-significant deposits shall be minimally documented in the field and collected so the monitored grading can proceed.

If a potentially significant cultural resource(s) is discovered, work shall stop within a 60-foot perimeter of the discovery and an Environmentally Sensitive Area

(ESA) physical demarcation/barrier constructed. All work shall be diverted away from the vicinity of the find, so that the find can be evaluated by the Qualified Archaeologist and Tribal Monitor[s]. The Archaeologist shall notify the Lead Agency and consulting Tribe[s] of said discovery. The Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the Lead Agency, the consulting Tribe[s], and the Tribal Monitor, shall determine the significance of the discovered resource. A recommendation for the treatment and disposition of the Tribal Cultural Resource shall be made by the Qualified Archaeologist in consultation with the Tribe[s] and the Tribal Monitor[s] and be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. Below are the possible treatments and dispositions of significant cultural resources in order of CEQA preference:

a. Full avoidance.

b. If avoidance is not feasible, preservation in place.

c. If preservation in place is not feasible, all items shall be reburied in an area away from any future impacts and reside in a permanent conservation easement or deed restriction.

d. If all other options are proven to be infeasible, data recovery shall be conducted through excavation, followed by curation of the items in a curation facility that meets the Federal Curation Standards (CFR Section 79.1).

Mitigation Measure TCR-5 In the event human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, construction personnel shall immediately stop all work within a 100-foot perimeter of the discovery. The San Bernardino County Coroner shall be contacted within 24 hours of discovery in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If human remains are determined to be pre-historic, the county coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of determination pursuant to subdivision (c) of HSC §7050.5 c. The Native American Heritage Commission shall immediately notify the person or persons it believes to

be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours, upon being granted access to the Project site, to inspect the site of discovery and make recommendations for final treatment and disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the remains and all associated grave goods pursuant to Public Resources Code §5097.98.

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

Issues	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant*	*No Impact*
and regulations related to solid waste?				

CalRecycle New Statewide Mandatory Organic Waste Collection, 2022

CalRecycle Pennsylvania Street Landfill, 2025

City of San Bernardino Municipal Code, 2024

City of San Bernardino National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

City of San Bernardino Water Department Upper Santa Ana Watershed Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan (IRUWMP), 2020

City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department (SBMWD) Wastewater Reclamation Plan Facilities Assessment and Master Plan, 2020

County of San Bernardino Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, 2018

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

Less than Significant. SBMWD provides potable water service to the surrounding service area that includes the City of San Bernardino and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County. The City of San Bernardino's Water Reclamation Plant (SBWRP) provides wastewater treatment services for the cities of San Bernardino, Loma Linda, and unincorporated San Bernardino County. Wastewater services at the Project site are provided by the SBMWD. Electrical power and utility connections at the Project site are supplied by Southern California Edison. Natural gas service at the Project site is provided by the Southern California Gas Company. Various telecommunications companies offer local telephone and Internet service connections to the area. There are a total of 84 active solid waste facilities currently operate in San Bernardino County, 10 of which are landfills. The Pennsylvania Street Inert Landfill is the nearest landfill, located at 1955 West 9th Street, San Bernardino, approximately 4.2 miles from the Project site.

The proposed Project would develop a new fire station providing living quarters for nine on-duty firefighters, along with a bathroom, a shower, and laundry amenities. As such,

the proposed Project would require the expansion of utilities to the currently vacant lot. However, the proposed Project would connect to existing utility infrastructure that is already established in the surrounding neighborhood, including water, sewer, natural gas, and electricity service .

Water. Uses under the proposed Project (for example, bathrooms, laundry) would increase existing water demand at the Project site. The proposed Project would include connections to existing water infrastructure to provide potable water to the site. However, it should be noted that water demand at the proposed fire station would be similar to that transferred from the existing Station No. 227. As such, construction and operation of the proposed Project would not generate new increased demand for water services within the utility providers' service areas. The proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of new water or facilities, or expansion of existing facilities. As further analyzed in criteria (b) and (c) below, the water service providers would have adequate water supply and capacity to serve the proposed Project. As such, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation is not required.

Wastewater

The proposed uses on the Project site (for example, bathrooms, laundry) would nominally contribute to the SBWRP demand. The SBWRP has a treatment capacity of 33 million gallons per day (SBMWD 2020). As such, the SBWRP has adequate treatment capacity to serve wastewater generated by the proposed Project. The proposed Project includes installation of sewer service lateral which would connect to the existing wastewater infrastructure. However, implementation of the proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment or collection facilities, or expansion of existing facilities. As further analyzed in criteria (b) and (c) below, the wastewater service providers would have adequate wastewater capacity to serve the proposed Project. As such, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation is not required.

Stormwater

The proposed Project would include the installation of the on-site storm drain systems, including water quality infrastructure. However, changes to site drainage would be nominal and would not result in any physical environmental effects that require expansion. Accordingly, implementation of mitigation measure hydrology-1 (MM HYD-1) and MM HYD-2, which require adherence to the City's MS4 Permit and San Bernardino Municipal Code Chapter 8.80, would ensure potential impacts to stormwater and drainage facilities remain less than significant.[59] Since the proposed Project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new stormwater drainage

[59] City of San Bernardino, NPDES, accessed February 2025.

infrastructure that would cause significant environmental effects, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation is not required.

Electricity, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications

The proposed Project includes the installation of interior utility infrastructure. The proposed on-site utilities would connect to the existing electricity and natural gas infrastructure along Genevieve Street and Mountain View Ave, respectively. The increase in electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications demand from the Project would represent an insignificant percentage of the overall demand in Southern California Edison's, Southern California Gas Company, and telecommunication service providers' service area. The increased demand is expected to be sufficiently served by the existing facilities. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

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

Less than Significant. The SBMWD provides potable water service to approximately 200,000 persons in the City of San Bernardino and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County. The SBMWD's water supply is sourced primarily from groundwater extracted from the Bunker Hill Basin. Additionally, SBMWD imports water from the State Water Project and utilizes these supplies to recharge local groundwater basins.

The 2020 Upper Santa Ana River Watershed IRUWMP evaluates current and projected water supplies within the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed region, which includes the City of San Bernardino, through 2045. This evaluation is based on the projected population growth rates provided by the Southern California Association of Governments for the periods 2020 to 2035 and 2035 to 2045. The IRUWMP also assesses water supply reliability for average, single dry, and five consecutive dry years. According to the IRUWMP, total projected water demands for all retail water agencies within the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Region, including SBMWD, are expected to reach nearly 400,000 acre-feet per year by 2045.[60]

The IRUWMP indicates that normal year water supplies will meet or exceed regional demands incorporating a 15% reliability factor to account for uncertainties, such as population growth, per capita water use, climate change impacts, and future water projects. SBMWD also participates in several ongoing water conservation programs aimed at reducing water demand. Additionally, SBMWD has a water shortage

[60] City of San Bernardino, Upper Santa Ana Watershed IRUWMP, accessed February 2025.

contingency plan to address unforeseen water shortages. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation measures are required.

Construction

The short-term water demand during the construction phase of the proposed Project would be minimal. Water services would be provided by the SBMWD. Given the future water supply and demand projections in the IRUWMP, SBMWD's participation in water conservation programs, and existing water shortage contingency plans, SBMWD would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the proposed Project during construction. Therefore, impacts on water supplies during construction would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Operation

The proposed Project involves the construction of a new fire station, which would include living quarters for nine on-duty firefighters, along with a bathroom, a shower, and laundry amenities. This would create a new water demand at the Project site. However, based on future water supply and demand projections in the IRUWMP, SBMWD would have sufficient water supplies to serve the proposed Project during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. Therefore, impacts on water supply during the operational phase would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant. SBMWD operates the sewer collection system that would serve the proposed Project. Wastewater treatment services would be provided by the SBWRP, which has a treatment capacity of 33 million gallons per day.[61]

Construction. Construction activities for the proposed Project would not result in increased wastewater generation compared to existing conditions. The development of the fire station would not necessitate the construction of new wastewater conveyance facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, impacts on wastewater treatment capacity during construction would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

Operation. As mentioned, the new fire station would include living quarters for nine on-duty firefighters, along with a bathroom, a shower, and laundry amenities. The facility would connect to the existing sewer collection system operated by SBMWD.

[61] SBMWD, Wastewater Reclamation Plan Facilities Assessment and Master Plan, accessed February 2025.

Assuming a residential wastewater generation rate of 70 gallons per person per day, the proposed Project is estimated to generate approximately 630 gallons of wastewater per day (70 gallons/person/day x 9 persons) This represents a nominal increase in wastewater generation.

The SBWRP, with its capacity of 33 million gallons per day, has sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional wastewater generated by the fire station. The Project increase in wastewater demand is minimal compared to the overall treatment capacity of the SBWRP. Therefore, the existing wastewater treatment provider has adequate capacity to serve the new demand in addition to its existing commitment and impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation measures are required.

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

Less than Significant. The proposed Project must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including the City's Solid Waste Containment, Removal, Disposal, Processing, and Recycling Ordinance set forth in Municipal Code Section 8.24.

Construction. Construction activities would either be reused on-site or transported to a locally permitted landfill as needed. The amount of debris and other solid wastes generated would be minor and within the existing capacity of regional landfills. For example, the Pennsylvania Street Inert Landfill, located approximately 4 miles southwest of the site, has a remaining capacity of 1,000,000 cubic [62] All waste generated during construction would be handled and disposed of in compliance with applicable regulations. Therefore, construction would not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or exceed the capacity of local infrastructure, nor impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation measures are required.

Operation. During operation, the fire station would provide living quarters and amenities for nine on-duty firefighters, generating solid waste from kitchen, laundry, and bathroom facilities. Based on a waste generation rate of 6.7 pounds per person per day, the fire station is anticipated to generate approximately 60.3 pounds (6.7 pounds/person/day x 9 persons), or less than 0.4 cubic yards, of solid waste daily.

Furthermore, the facility would comply with all applicable solid waste generations, ensuring proper containment, removal, disposal, processing, and recycling. Nearby landfills, including the Pennsylvania Street Inert Landfill, have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional waste generated. Therefore, the operation of the proposed

[62] CalRecycle, Pennsylvania Street Inert Landfill, accessed February 2025.

fire station would not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or exceed the capacity of local infrastructure, nor impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation measures are required.

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

Less than Significant. The proposed fire station must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste management and reduction. This includes compliance with Assembly Bill 939 (Integrated Waste Management Act) and Senate Bill 1383 (Statewide Mandatory Organic Waste Collection).

Construction. As previously mentioned, construction activities would generate waste associated with grading and ground disturbance. Excavated soils would either be reused on-site or transported to a local permitted landfill as needed. The amount of debris and other solid wastes generated would be minor and within the existing capacity of regional landfills. All waste generated during construction would be handled and disposed of in compliance with applicable regulations. Therefore, construction would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste and diversion from landfills. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation measures would be required.

Operation. As described previously, the new fire station would provide living quarters and amenities for nine on-duty firefighters, generating various types of household solid waste, including organic and biodegradable food waste, recyclable waste, and electronic waste. Based on a waste generation rate of 6.7 pounds per person per day, the fire station is anticipated to generate approximately 60.3 pounds (6.7 pounds/person/day x 9 persons), or less than 0.4 cubic yards, of solid waste daily.

The facility would comply with applicable solid waste regulations, including the following:

- **Assembly Bill 939:** Requires jurisdictions to divert at least 50% of their waste stream away from landfills through waste reduction, recycling, or other means.[63]
- **Senate Bill 1383:** Establishes statewide methane emissions reduction targets and mandates organic waste collection and diversion.[64]

[63] County of San Bernardino, Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, accessed February 2025.
[64] CalRecycle, New Statewide Mandatory Organic Waste Collection, accessed February 2025.

Therefore, the proposed Project would adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste and diversion from landfills. Impacts would be **less than significant,** and no mitigation measures would be required.

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

CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer, 2024

City of San Bernadino General Plan, 2005

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center, 2008

San Bernardino County EZ Online Permitting

San Bernardino County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2022

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

Emergency evacuation routes and supply transportation routes within San Bernadino County are coordinated with The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), California's Office of Emergency Services, and other local fire districts. San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Critical Route Planning Committee is in the process of developing countywide routes and alternate routes for use in evacuating residents from a disaster area while simultaneously allowing first responders' access into a disaster area without congestion and gridlock. The Critical Route Planning effort is being coordinated with surrounding counties to prevent congestion and gridlock at the county boundaries. According to the County of San Bernadino Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, interstates would serve as major emergency response and evacuation routes.[65]

Construction. Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The nearest evacuation routes to the Project site, including Interstate 215 (2.1 miles to the southwest), Interstate 210 (1 mile to the south), and State Route 18 (0.4 miles to the east), are not located in the near vicinity of the Project site and would not be affected by construction activities. Construction vehicles and equipment associated with the proposed Project would access the Project site via State Routes 18 and 218 and local roadways. During the 16-month construction period, a maximum of 11 construction vehicles (e.g., heavy haul trucks, light duty construction vehicles) would access the Project site per day, resulting in an incremental increase in traffic levels on the roads surrounding Arrowhead Elementary School. However, such increases in traffic volume would not result in substantial congestion to interstates or state routes that would serve as evacuation routes. Construction activities and equipment would be staged within the existing undeveloped southern portion of Arrowhead Elementary School and would not occupy public roadways. Therefore, construction associated with the proposed Project would not create a hazard or block emergency access. The proposed Project would not

[65] San Bernardino County, San Bernardino County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, accessed February 2025.

conflict with an emergency response plan and would not impair or otherwise interfere with emergency access to local roads. Additionally, as described in Section XVII, Transportation, Mitigation Measure (**MM) TRA-2** would require the implementation of a Traffic Control Plan that would involve advanced coordination between the City of San Bernardino and emergency service providers to avoid restricting the movements of emergency vehicles, ensure that emergency vehicle access is maintained, and minimize impacts on traffic flow. Therefore, the Project would not result in traffic delays that could substantially increase emergency response times or reduce emergency vehicle access, with implementation of **MM TRA-2**. Therefore, the proposed Project would result in **less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated**.

Operation. No Impact. The proposed Project would construct a new Fire Station No. 227 at the existing Arrowhead Elementary School. The proposed Project would not include any changes to existing roadways. The proposed Project would not conflict with an emergency response plan and would not impair or otherwise interfere with emergency access to local roads. The proposed Project would not result in traffic delays that could substantially increase emergency response times or reduce emergency vehicle access. The proposed Project would result in **no impacts** and no mitigation measures would be required.

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

The topography of the Project site is relatively flat and surrounded by built and landscaped civic/public spaces and multifamily residences. The Project site is located approximately 1.4 miles south of the foothills of the San Bernadino Mountain and 0.6 miles west of the Shadin Hills. The Project site is located outside of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones for both State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs).[66] The Project site is also located outside of fire hazard areas identified in the city's General Plan.[67]

Construction. No Impact. The Project site is located outside of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones for both SRAs and LRAs. Construction of the proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby would not create impacts related to exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildfire. The construction activities would be confined to the existing developed and landscaped areas, minimizing any potential wildfire risks. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to occur, and no mitigation measures would be required.

[66] CAL FIRE, Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer, accessed February 2025.
[67] City of San Bernardino, City of San Bernardino General Plan, accessed February 2025.

Operation. No Impact. The proposed Project would replace the existing Station No. 227 by constructing a new station on the southern portion of the Arrowhead Elementary School. Staff support features of the proposed Project would include sleeping quarters for San Bernardino Fire crew members to be used during shifts. However, the Project site is not located within a Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and the surrounding area is characterized by urban development and landscaped spaces, which further reduces the risk of wildfire. Therefore, operation of the proposed Project would have no impacts related to exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. No impacts are anticipated to occur, and no mitigation measures would be required.

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

Construction. Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Construction under the proposed Project would introduce heavy equipment and fuels (i.e., gasoline and diesel) to the currently undeveloped grass field where project activities would occur. However, as described above, the Project site is not located within a fire hazard severity zone. Construction activities and associated equipment would not substantially exacerbate fire risk. As detailed in **MM HAZ-1** in Section IX, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, the construction site will be managed to ensure that all flammable materials are handled and stored properly, and fire safety protocols will be in place to prevent any accidental ignition, thereby minimizing potential impacts to less than significant. Additionally, the proposed Project requires the installation of utility connections to meet the final design of the Project, but these would be designed and installed to code with approval from the San Bernardino County Building and Safety Division.[68] Therefore, the potential for wildfire risk would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Operation. Less Than Significant. Potential combustible sources associated with operation of the proposed Station No. 227 will include a 1,000-gallon fuel tank, back-up generator, and electric utility lines. The Project site is not located within a fire hazard severity zone. The installation and operation of the 1,000-gallon fuel tank, back-up generator, and electric utility lines would be installed in compliance with all applicable fire safety regulations and standards. Regular maintenance and inspections will ensure that these components do not pose a fire risk. The potential for wildfire risk during operation would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation measures would be required.

[68] San Bernardino County, EZ Online Permitting, accessed February 2025.

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

Construction. No Impact. As previously described above, the proposed Project is not located within a moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone. Additionally, the Project site and surrounding properties exhibit relatively flat topography with no significant elevation changes that would predispose the area to risks associated with downslope or downstream flooding or landslides. Since the Project is not located in a wildland fire hazard severity zone or downslope of any hillsides, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to significant risks. Therefore, construction of the proposed Project would have **no impact.**

Operation. No Impact. The Project site is located 1.4 miles south of the San Bernadino Mountains foothills and 0.6 miles west of the Shadin Hills. The Project site is separated from the Shadin Hills by existing development and roadways. The Project site and surrounding properties are characterized by flat terrain with no significant topographic relief that would expose structures or people to significant risks due to downslope or downstream flooding or landslides. Additionally, the Project site is not located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency Special Flood Hazard Area or in area where previously landslides or unstable soils have been identified.[69] Given that the proposed Project is not located in a wildland fire hazard severity zone, special flood hazard areas, on unstable soils, or downslope of any hillsides, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to significant risks. Therefore, operation of the proposed Fire Station No. 227 would have **no impact**.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XXI.	***MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE***				
a)	Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to	☐	☒	☐	☐

[69] FEMA, Flood Map Service Center, accessed February 2025.

	Issues	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant*	*No Impact*
	eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				
b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Does the project have environmental effects, which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed in Section IV, Biological Resources, the entire project site is disturbed and landscaped with non-native grasses and a few native and non-native trees, with surrounding areas also being disturbed and occupied by urban development and landscaping. However, the Project site contains minimal suitable nesting habitat for a variety of birds protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If construction occurs between January 15 and August 31, there is potential for adverse effects to nesting birds on-site or in the immediate vicinity. Impacts to nesting birds, both direct and indirect, can be avoided by conducting

project activities outside of the breeding season. Therefore, the Project would implement **Mitigation Measure (MM) BIO-1**, which would reduce potential impacts to nesting birds to less than significant. Therefore, the Project does not have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal.

As discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources, and Section XVIII, Tribal Cultural Resources, the Project site that would be temporarily impacted by grading, excavation, and other ground-disturbing activities associated with construction of the proposed Project has been previously disturbed and is highly unlikely to contain buried pre-historic or historic archaeological resources. In an unanticipated event that historic or archeological resources are encountered during construction activities, the Applicant would adhere to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 15064.5), which states that construction activities would cease in the affected area in the event an archaeological discovery is made. Once the discovery has been evaluated by a qualified archaeologist, (36 Code of Federal Regulations §800.11.1 and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15064.5[f]) and if the resource is found to not be significant, the work can resume. If the resource is found to be significant, it shall be avoided or shall be treated consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or State Historic Resource Preservation Officer Guidelines. Additionally, compliance with **MM TCR-1** through **MM TCR-5** would ensure ground-disturbing and/or construction activities would cease if tribal cultural resources or human remains are identified and would be managed in consultation with a qualified archaeologist, the Lead Agency, and the consulting Tribe[s]. Therefore, impacts related to archeological resources would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

As discussed in Section VII, Geology and Soils, although the Project is located in the Valley Region and on completely disturbed soil, discovery of previously unknown paleontological resources during Project activities may still occur. Therefore, the Project would implement **MM GEO-2**, which would reduce potential impacts to paleontological resources to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?*

Less than Significant. A significant cumulative impact may occur if a project, in conjunction with related projects, would result in impacts that are less than significant when viewed individually but would be cumulatively significant when viewed together. The Project does not include residential or commercial components. While the Project

would generate new short-term construction jobs and long-term/permanent jobs during operations, it is expected that most workers would be provided by the existing regional workforce. Additionally, the Project would be replacing an existing fire station and would not increase the footprint of the existing fire station. Therefore, the Project is not expected to induce any growth in the region. In addition, as described throughout, the proposed Project would not result in any significant or unmitigable impacts in any environmental categories. The Project would be consistent with regional plans and statutes that address environmental factors such as air quality, energy, greenhouse gases, hydrology and water quality, transportation, utilities, and other applicable regulations that have been adopted by public agencies. Additionally, in many cases, the impacts associated with the Project are either localized to the Project site or are of such a negligible degree that they would not result in a considerable contribution to any significant cumulative impacts. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be **less than significant**, and the Project would not result in a mandatory finding of significance.

c) *Does the project have environmental effects, which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

Less than Significant. All potential impacts have been thoroughly evaluated and have been deemed to be neither individually significant nor cumulatively considerable in terms of any adverse effects upon the region, the local community, or their inhabitants. As evaluated in the technical sections above, the Project would not exacerbate any environmental hazards (e.g., flooding, geologic/seismic hazards, toxic or explosive hazards, hazardous material contamination or exposure), would not generate significant quantities or concentrations of air or water pollution, and would not generate excessive noise. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**, and the Project would result in a mandatory finding of significance.

XXII. MITIGATION MEASURES

Biological Resources

Mitigation Measure BIO-1

Although nesting can occur year-round in southern California for some species, the typical avian breeding season is from approximately January 15 through August 31. It is recommended to schedule any required grading, vegetation clearance, and/or the initial earth work between September 1 through mid-January to avoid potentially impacting nesting birds.

If activities that involve ground or vegetation disturbance must be done during the nesting season, a qualified

biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds within seven days of any vegetation removal or initial ground disturbing activities. This survey shall include the Project site, plus a 500-foot buffer surrounding the Project, if accessible. For those areas that are not accessible, such as private property, they should be scanned with binoculars.

If nesting birds and/or any nesting activities are identified during the pre-construction survey, construction activities shall avoid this nest. A construction-free perimeter (i.e., buffer zone) will be established and monitored at distances specified by the qualified biologist. While there is no established protocol for nest avoidance and buffer zones, when consulted, the CDFW generally recommends avoidance buffers of 152 meters (500 feet) for raptors and listed species and 30-91 meters (100–300 feet) for other unlisted birds. The qualified biological monitor may adjust the construction-free buffer zone based on the behavior of the nesting birds. The buffer areas will remain in place until the nestlings have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

Pre-construction surveys will take place for each discrete work area within seven days of the start of ground disturbance, or if ground disturbance work has lapsed for longer than 14 days.

Evidence of completion of the nesting bird survey and establishment of appropriate buffers shall be provided to the County prior to the final approval of any construction, grading, or vegetation removal permits. Additionally, this measure shall be implemented to the satisfaction of the County's Land Use Services Department Director or designee.

Cultural Resources

Refer to **Mitigation Measures TCR-1** through **TCR-5**

Geology and Soils

Mitigation Measure GEO-1 Prior to the issuance of grading and/or building permits, the Project Applicant shall provide evidence to the San Bernardino County that proposed structures, features, and facilities are designed and will be constructed in

	conformance with the applicable provisions of the most current California Building Code and relevant County and City of San Bernardino Standards. A site-specific geotechnical report shall be prepared as necessary, and its recommendations incorporated into Project plans. These recommendations may include removal of unsuitable materials, remedial earthwork, ground improvement, and protective measures for concrete and metal structures. Verification testing must confirm that compressible soils are sufficiently densified. This measure shall be implemented to the satisfaction of the San Bernardino County Building and Safety Division or its designee.
Mitigation Measure GEO-2	If paleontological resources are encountered during construction, all work within a 50-foot radius of the find shall halt until a qualified professional paleontologist is notified and retained to evaluate the discovery, in accordance with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 2010 guidelines. The retained paleontologist shall determine the significance of the discovery and whether additional mitigation or treatment is warranted. Development in discovery shall resume only when the discovered resource is properly documented, and authorization is given to resume construction work. Significant fossils will be recovered, prepared to the point of curation, identified by qualified experts, listed in a database to facilitate analysis, and deposited in a designated paleontological curation facility in accordance with the standards of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010) and Bureau of Land Management (2009). A repository will be identified, and a curatorial arrangement will be signed prior to the collection of the fossils. Although the San Bernardino County Museum is specified as the repository for fossils found in the county in the current General Plan, in such case, where the museum is not accepting new collections and does not have a paleontological staff, an accredited institution may serve as a repository until such time as the San Bernardino County Museum begins accepting new material. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County may serve as an alternative to the San Bernardino County Museum for fossil material collected in San Bernardino County.

Also refer to **Mitigation Measure TRA-2**.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 Prior to construction, the applicant shall prepare a Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan, which shall be implemented during construction to prevent the release of hazardous materials and hazardous waste. The plan shall include the following requirements and procedures:

- The Worker Training Program would include training requirements for construction workers, such as appropriate work practices, spill prevention, and response measures. Additional training for those performing excavation activities shall be required and shall include training on types of contamination and contaminants (e.g., petroleum hydrocarbons, asbestos, and hazardous materials as defined by the California Health and Safety Code) and identifying potentially hazardous contamination (e.g., stained or discolored soil and odor). Training would also entail safe evacuation, which could be required due to an unanticipated major spill or other emergencies, such as fires and/or natural disasters that could occur within the Project area. Training would describe how employees would safely vacate the affected work site and specified, approved evacuation route(s) in case of emergency.
- Containment of all hazardous materials at work sites and properly dispose of all such materials.
    - Hazardous materials shall be stored on pallets within fenced and secured areas and protected from exposure to weather and further contamination.
    - Fuels and lubricants shall be stored only at designated staging areas.
- Maintenance of hazardous material spill kits for small spills at all active work sites and staging areas. Thoroughly clean all spills as soon as they occur. If an accidental spill or fluid leak occurs at any time during

Project construction, including in unanticipated circumstances, such as equipment malfunction, secondary containment strategies may be used to contain the spill.

- Storing sorbent and barrier materials at all construction staging areas, including staging areas used during activities for decommissioning. Sorbent and barrier materials will be used to contain runoff from contaminated areas and from accidental releases of oil or other potentially hazardous materials.
- Performing all routine equipment maintenance at a shop or at the staging area and recovering and disposing of wastes in an appropriate manner.
- Monitoring and removal of vehicles used for construction-related activities with chronic or continuous leaks from use and complete repairs before returning them to operation.
- Storing shovels and drums at the staging areas. If small quantities of soil become contaminated, use shovels to collect the soil and store in drums before proper off-site disposal. Large quantities of contaminated soil may be collected using heavy equipment and stored in drums or other suitable containers prior to disposal. Should contamination occur adjacent to staging areas because of runoff, shovels and/or heavy equipment shall be used to collect the contaminated material. Only trained construction workers shall handle hazardous, and potentially hazardous, materials.
- Transporting, shipping, and disposal procedures for hazardous waste.
- Identification of a qualified field environmental representative for the proposed Project for management of hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, contaminated soil, and contaminated groundwater.
- Procedures for notifying applicant and agency personnel in the event of discovery of contaminated

soil and/or groundwater. Contact information for federal, regional, and local agencies; the applicant's field environmental representative and environmental coordinator(s) responsible for the cleanup of contaminated soil or groundwater; and licensed disposal facilities and haulers.

Also refer to **Mitigation Measures HYD-1 and HYD-2**

Hydrology and Water Quality

Mitigation Measure HYD-1 Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the City of San Bernardino's Director of Development Services, or designee, shall confirm that best management practices (BMPs) associated with construction activities have been developed to ensure that the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation is minimized and to reduce pollutant discharges to the City MS4 as a result of construction activities. These BMPs shall be included in the Project plan specifications and implemented by the Project contractor. A short list of possible BMPs that may be used during construction includes:

- Temporary soil stabilization: Silt fencing, gravel bag berms, sandbag barriers, straw bale barriers, sediment traps, soil binders, straw mulch, and fiber rolls.
- Wind erosion control: Portable water, dust control, and erosion control.
- Tracking control: Street sweeping and entrance/outlet tire washing.
- Waste management and material pollution control: Vehicle and equipment cleaning, stockpile management, proper material delivery and storage, solid waste management, concrete waste management, and contaminated soil management.

Mitigation Measure HYD-2 Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the City of San Bernardino's Director of Development Services, or designee, shall confirm that structural and nonstructural BMPs have been developed to be implemented on a post-construction basis along with an associated maintenance agreement in compliance with the requirements of the San

	Bernardino County Water Quality Management Plan. In addition, the City's Director of Development Services, or designee, shall confirm that a Low-Impact Development (LID) Plan has been prepared. The LID Plan shall specify the BMPs to be incorporated into the Project design to target pollutants of concern in stormwater runoff from the Project site in compliance with the San Bernardino County LID requirements.

Noise

Mitigation Measure NOI-1	Hours of operation of all construction equipment shall be limited to the following days and times as permitted by the noise ordinances in the City of San Bernardino: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday (no construction on Sundays and federal holidays). In the event that Project scheduling necessitates work outside of the hours permitted under local noise ordinances, the applicant would meet and confer with the City of San Bernardino, as needed, for guidance on scheduling and managing such construction noise in compliance with the City of San Bernardino Municipal Code. It is not likely that any one piece of machinery would operate continuously or fully throttled. Noise events would be punctuated by periods during which no equipment would operate, and noise levels at work sites would be near ambient levels. The characteristics related to a particular tool's use (duration, intensity, and location) factor into developing average sound levels assigned to each piece of equipment over a typical 8-hour day.
Mitigation Measure NOI-2	The applicant shall notify all sensitive receptors, including residences, within 50 feet of all Project components at least 30 days prior to construction activities occurring in that area to provide an opportunity to avoid the noise. The notice shall include dates, times, and a description of construction activities. The applicant shall provide documentation of the notice and coordination to the County of San Bernardino at least 20 days prior to construction.

Mitigation Measure NOI-3

The applicant shall include measures to ensure that the Project would not increase excess ambient noise levels. Per the Project's Noise Analysis study, the measures shall be selected based on the specific equipment used, activity conducted in specific locations, and proximity to sensitive noise receptors and efficacy to reduce, avoid, or eliminate sources of Project-generated noise in excess of acceptable standards. Specific measures may include the following:

- Limiting heavy equipment activity adjacent to residences or other sensitive receptors to the shortest possible period required to complete the work activity.
- Ensuring that proper mufflers, intake silencers, and other noise reduction equipment are in place and in good working condition.
- Maintaining construction equipment according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Minimizing unnecessary construction equipment idling.
- Reducing noise from back-up alarms (that is, alarms that signal vehicle travel in reverse) in construction vehicles and equipment by providing a layout of construction sites that minimize the need for back-up alarms. Use flagmen to minimize the time needed to back up vehicles.
- When possible, using construction equipment specifically designed for low noise emissions, such as equipment that is powered by electric or natural gas engines instead of diesel or gasoline reciprocating engines.
- Where practical, locating stationary equipment such as compressors and generators away from sensitive receptors.

Public Services

Mitigation Measure PS-1

No less than 60 days prior to beginning construction, the applicant shall coordinate with Arrowhead Elementary School, located within 250 feet of proposed Project activities. The applicant and the school will determine the best time to conduct construction activities that have the potential to impact the school in an effort to avoid major school events and to minimize any disruption to learning. Where feasible, construction activities will be conducted outside of the scheduled school year, during seasonal breaks, outside of peak drop-off and pick-up hours for the standard school day, at night, or during weekends to reduce potential impacts to the school.

Transportation

Mitigation Measure TRA-1

Construction-generated traffic associated with construction of the proposed Station No. 227 would avoid the start and ending time for the Arrowhead Elementary School. Workers shall avoid travelling along Genevieve Street between 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on days when Arrowhead Elementary School is in session. These times may be modified as necessary over the duration of the Project. Deliveries to the Project site shall be scheduled to avoid 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to reduce trips during the most congested periods of the day.

Mitigation Measure TRA-2

At least 30 days prior to commencing construction work, the applicant shall submit a Traffic Control Plan for the Project to City of San Bernardino for their review. The applicant shall incorporate any recommendations from this review related to bikeways, pedestrian facilities, bus routes, and traffic flow prior to commencing work. The applicant shall provide a copy of the final Traffic Control Plan to the City of San Bernardino and San Bernardino City Unified School District prior to commencing work. Contents of the Traffic Control Plan would include and implement the following restrictions:

- If lane closures along Genevieve Street, 38th Street, 39th Street, and Mountain View Avenue are required, lane closures shall only be implemented on days when Arrowhead Elementary School is not in session.

- If lane closures are required, the applicant shall coordinate at least 30 days in advance with emergency service providers, including the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and the nearest San Bernardino Police Department (located at 710 N D St, San Bernardino, CA 92401) to inform them of the lane closures and avoid restricting movements of emergency vehicles, ensure that emergency vehicle access is maintained, and minimize impacts on traffic flow.
- The traffic control plan shall be developed in coordination with the City of San Bernardino. Prior to completion, the traffic control plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City of San Bernardino.
- The traffic control plan shall be communicated to the public at least 48 hours prior to implementation of traffic control measures.
- The traffic control plan shall be provided to the San Bernardino Unified School District for approval prior to construction implementation.

Tribal Cultural Resources

Mitigation Measure TCR-1 Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the applicant shall enter into a Tribal Monitoring Agreement with the qualified Native American monitor representing the geographically affiliated Native American tribe(s) as necessary for the Project. The Tribal Monitor shall be on site during all ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind). The Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbing activities to allow for the identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources.

Mitigation Measure TCR-2 Prior to any ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post replacement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), and

	prior to the issuance of grading permits, the Applicant shall retain a qualified archaeologist who meets the United States Secretary of the Interior Standards (SOI). The archaeologist shall be present during all ground-disturbing activities to identify any known or suspected archaeological and/or cultural resources. The archaeologist will conduct a Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training, in conjunction with the Tribe(s) Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and/or designated Tribal Representative. The training session will focus on the archaeological and tribal cultural resources that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities, as well as the procedures to be followed in such an event.
Mitigation Measure TCR-3	Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, the project archaeologist shall develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and/or Archaeological Monitoring and Treatment Plan (AMTP) to address the details, timing, and responsibilities of all archaeological and cultural resource activities that occur on the project site. This plan shall be written in consultation with the consulting Tribe(s) and shall include the following: approved mitigation measures/Conditions of Approval (COAs), contact information for all pertinent parties, parties' responsibilities, procedures for each mitigation measure or COA, and an overview of the project schedule. Additionally, the retained qualified archaeologist and Consulting Tribe(s) representative shall attend the pre-grade meetings with the grading contractors to explain and coordinate the requirements of the monitoring plan.
Mitigation Measure TCR-4	In the event that previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction, the Qualified Archaeologist and the Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert and/or temporarily halt ground-disturbance operations in the area of discovery to allow for the evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. Isolates and clearly non-significant deposits shall be minimally documented in the field and collected so the monitored grading can proceed. If a potentially significant cultural resource(s) is discovered, work shall stop within a 60-foot perimeter of the discovery and an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) physical

demarcation/barrier constructed. All work shall be diverted away from the vicinity of the find, so that the find can be evaluated by the Qualified Archaeologist and Tribal Monitor[s]. The Archaeologist shall notify the Lead Agency and consulting Tribe[s] of said discovery. The Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the Lead Agency, the consulting Tribe[s], and the Tribal Monitor, shall determine the significance of the discovered resource. A recommendation for the treatment and disposition of the Tribal Cultural Resource shall be made by the Qualified Archaeologist in consultation with the Tribe[s] and the Tribal Monitor[s] and be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. Below are the possible treatments and dispositions of significant cultural resources in order of CEQA preference:

a. Full avoidance.

b. If avoidance is not feasible, preservation in place.

c. If preservation in place is not feasible, all items shall be reburied in an area away from any future impacts and reside in a permanent conservation easement or deed restriction.

d. If all other options are proven to be infeasible, data recovery shall be conducted through excavation, followed by curation of the items in a curation facility that meets the Federal Curation Standards (CFR Section 79.1).

Mitigation Measure TCR-5

In the event human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, construction personnel shall immediately stop all work within a 100-foot perimeter of the discovery. The San Bernardino County Coroner shall be contacted within 24 hours of discovery in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If human remains are determined to be pre-historic, the county coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of determination pursuant to subdivision (c) of HSC §7050.5 c. The Native American Heritage Commission shall immediately notify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours, upon being granted access to the Project site, to

inspect the site of discovery and make recommendations for final treatment and disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the remains and all associated grave goods pursuant to Public Resources Code §5097.98.

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