



Armet Major Grading Permit (GRAD2022-00120 / CEQA2022-00177)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The proposed project could have a "Potentially Significant Impact" for environmental factors checked below. Please refer to the attached pages for discussion on mitigation measures or project revisions to either reduce these impacts to less than significant levels or require further study.

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

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the Environmental Coordinator finds that:

- The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- 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.

Andy Knighton		Planner	06/25/2025
Prepared by (Print)	Signature		Date
Nicole Ellis		Supervising Planner	08/01/2025
Reviewed by (Print)	Signature		Date

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Project Environmental Analysis

The County's environmental review process incorporates all of the requirements for completing the Initial Study as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Initial Study includes staff's on-site inspection of the project site and surroundings and a detailed review of the information in the file for the project. In addition, available background information is reviewed for each project. Relevant information regarding soil types and characteristics, geologic information, significant vegetation and/or wildlife resources, water availability, wastewater disposal services, existing land uses and surrounding land use categories and other information relevant to the environmental review process are evaluated for each project. Exhibit A includes the references used, as well as the agencies or groups that were contacted as a part of the Initial Study. The County Planning Department uses the checklist to summarize the results of the research accomplished during the initial environmental review of the project.

Persons, agencies or organizations interested in obtaining more information regarding the environmental review process for a project should contact the County of San Luis Obispo Planning Department, 976 Osos Street, Rm. 200, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5600.

A. Project

DESCRIPTION: A request by **Rick Armet** for a Major Grading Permit to authorize the grading for the construction of a new 4,853 square-foot single-family residence, 1,299 square-foot attached 4-car garage, 1,191 square-foot accessory dwelling unit, as-built 2,925 square-foot AG shop and as-built access driveway that crosses an unnamed, mapped National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) blue line drainage. The project will result in the disturbance of approximately 97,170 square-feet, including 2,181 cubic yards of cut and 1,925 cubic yards of fill on the 76.65 acre lot. The maximum depth at which grading occurs is 14 feet. The proposed project is located within the Agricultural land use category at 625 Templeton Road (APN 034-131-060), approximately 500 feet west of the community of Templeton and approximately 1,000 feet north of the City of Atascadero. The project site is in the El Pomar-Estrella Sub Area of the North County Planning Area.

The grading for the new development will be done on a northern facing hillside with a maximum 24% slope that descends from the southern side portion of the lot. The as-built driveway is also on this slope and branches off from the existing driveway, which starts at Templeton Road and serves the existing single-family residence. As-built grading for an AG shop pad is also included in the scope of work for this project.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

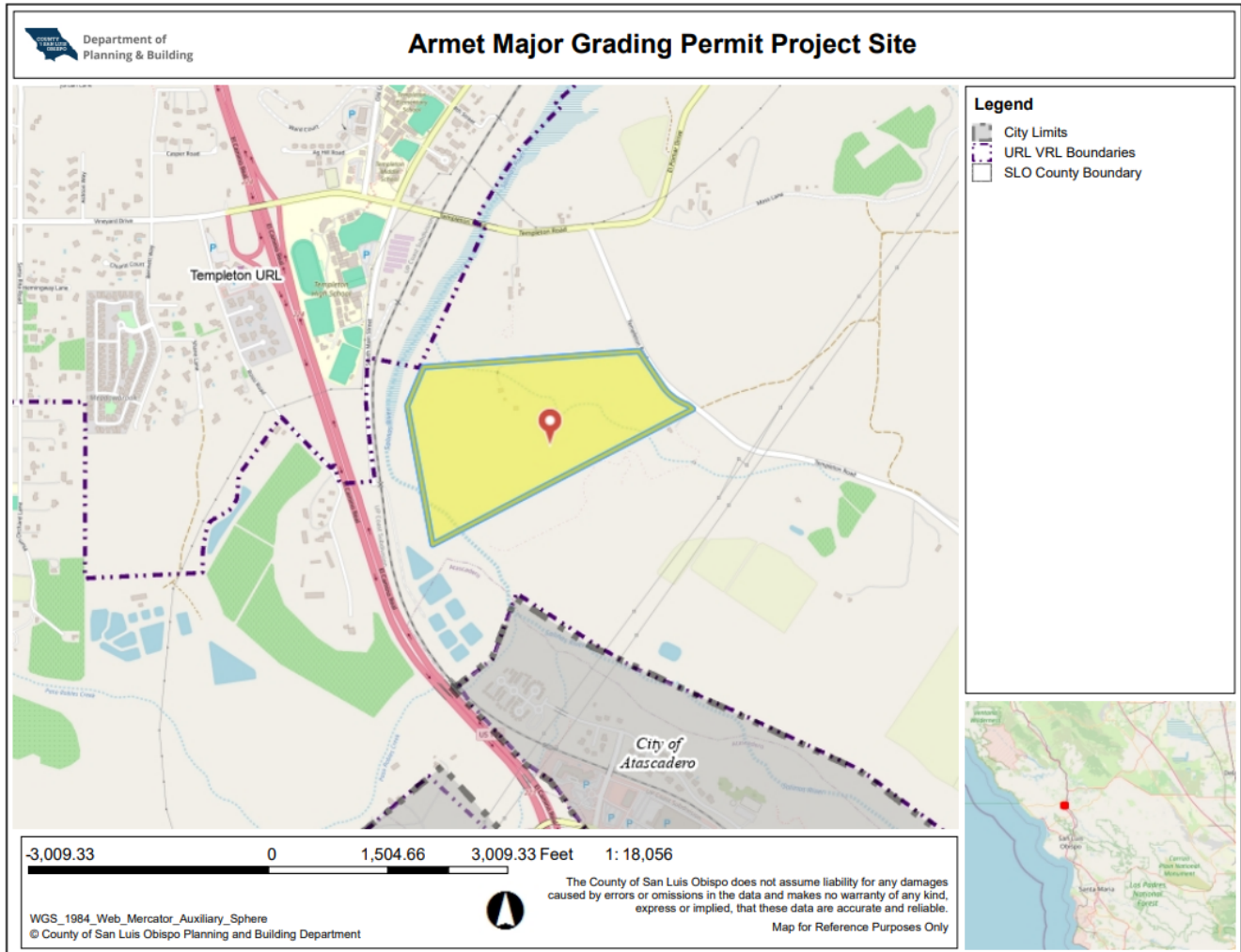


Figure 1 – Project Location

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

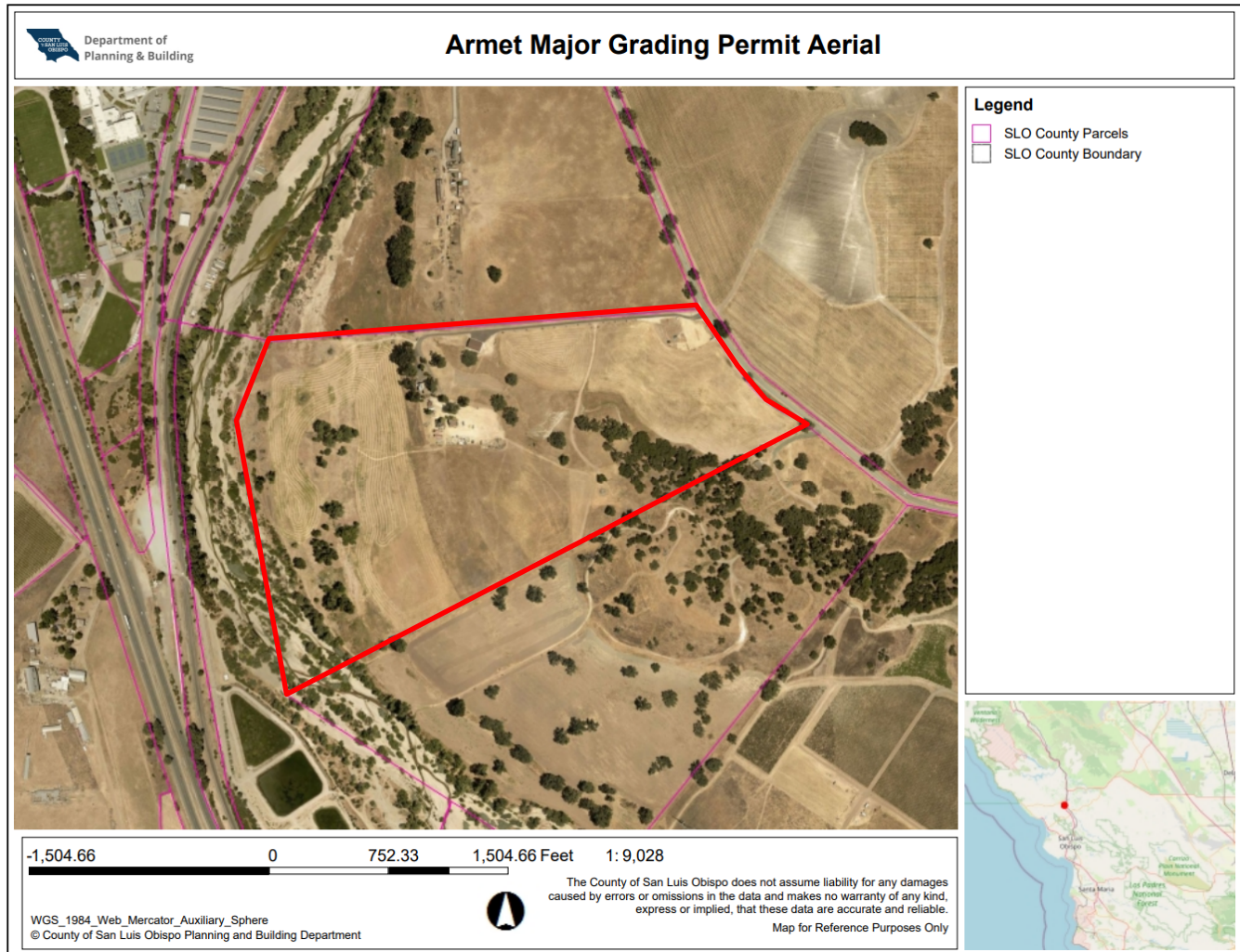


Figure 2 – Aerial View

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Baseline Conditions

The project site consists of an approximately 76.65-acre lot located 500 feet west of the community of Templeton and approximately 1,000 feet north of the City of Atascadero (Figure 1). Surrounding land uses consist of irrigated and non-irrigated agricultural operations on parcels ranging in size from 75 to 100 acres. The parcel to the west is owned by the Templeton CSD and contains wastewater treatment ponds. Vehicular access to the project site is provided by Templeton Road, a county-maintained rural collector.

The topography of the site is mostly flat with a steeply sloping hillside near the south side property line. The flatter portions of the site are used for agriculture (active and fallow row crops).

A single unnamed “blue line” drainage crosses the project site trending roughly east to west which is tributary to the Salinas River. The unnamed drainage does not support any riparian or wetland vegetation and is classified as a non-wetland water of the United States (Sage Institute, 2022). This classification has been verified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The steeply sloping hillside supports scattered to moderately dense live oak woodland and non-native grasses.

The project site contains a single-family residence, AG barn and unpaved access driveway. The portion of the access driveway that leads to the proposed development is unpermitted/as-built. There is also an unpermitted/as-built AG shop. No ordinance modifications are proposed.

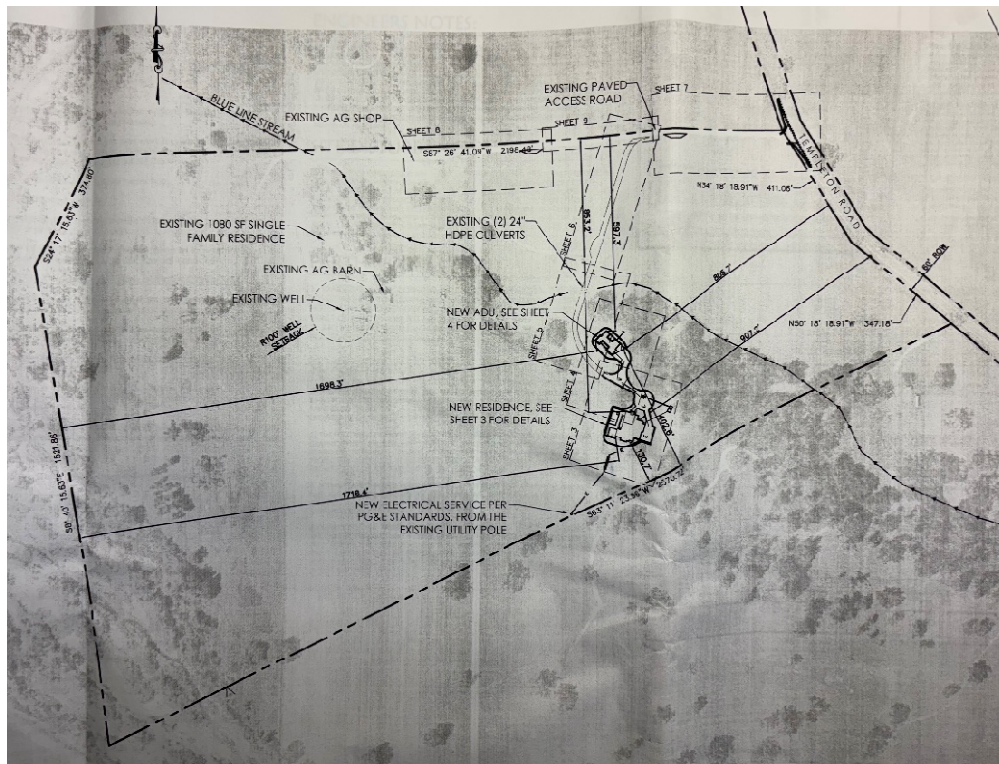


Figure 3 – Site Plan

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): 034-131-060

Latitude: 35° 32' 14" N **Longitude:** 120° 42' 11" W **SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #** 5

B. Existing Setting

Plan Area: North County **Sub:** El Pomar/Estrella **Comm:** Rural

Land Use Category: Agriculture

Combining Designation: Flood Hazard, Energy Extractive Area

Parcel Size: 76.65 acres

Topography: Moderately sloping to steeply sloping

Vegetation: Oak woodland, Grasses, Agriculture

Existing Uses: Agricultural uses, Agricultural uses, Accessory structures, Blue line creek

Surrounding Land Use Categories and Uses:

North: Agriculture; agricultural uses

East: Agriculture; wastewater treatment ponds

South: Agriculture; agricultural uses

West: Agriculture; agricultural uses

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

C. Environmental Analysis

The Initial Study Checklist provides detailed information about the environmental impacts of the proposed project and mitigation measures to lessen the impacts.

I. AESTHETICS

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

Setting

As discussed in the *Baseline Conditions*, the project site consists of 76.65 acres, is located on moderate to steeply sloping hillsides and an unnamed blue line drainage crosses the site that trends generally east to west toward the Salinas River. Most of the flat portions of the site have been farmed (row crops, fallow and active); uncultivated areas support mixed oak woodland and non-native grasses. Existing structures on the project site include a residence, AG barn and as-built AG shop. There is an unpaved access driveway within the project site that extends from Templeton Road. The portion of this access driveway that branches off to the south is unpermitted and crosses the blue line drainage.

The visual qualities of the project site and the surrounding undeveloped areas are considered moderately high.

The main vantage points for public views of the project site are provided to motorists travelling on Templeton Road which follow somewhat meandering paths through the ranches and agricultural operations east of the

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

community of Templeton. Traffic counts taken in 2020 for Templeton Road east of Templeton revealed a PM peak hour volume of 511 and an average daily traffic count of 4,235.

Conservation and Open Space Element. The Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) identifies several goals for visual resources in rural parts of the county:

- Goal VR 1: The natural and agricultural landscape will continue to be the dominant view in rural parts of the county.
- Goal VR 2: The natural and historic character and identity of rural areas will be preserved.
- Goal VR 3: The visual identities of communities will be preserved by maintaining rural separation between them.
- Goal VR 7: Views of the night sky and its constellation of stars will be maintained.

Some of the strategies identified to accomplish the goals listed above include encouraging project designs that emphasize native vegetation and conforming grading to existing natural forms.

Countywide Design Guidelines. The Countywide Design Guidelines identify objectives for both urban and rural development. Rural area guidelines applicable to the project include the following:

- Objective RU-5: Fences and screening should reflect an area's rural quality.
- Objective RU-7: Landscaping should be consistent with the type of plants naturally occurring in the County and should limit the need for irrigation.

Inland Land Use Ordinance. The Land Use Ordinance sets forth standards for exterior lighting (LUO Section 22.10.060). In accordance with these standards, exterior lighting must be shielded and directed onto the source parcel and away from roadways and adjacent parcels. In addition, LUO Section 22.10.095 sets forth highway corridor design standards that apply to new development along portions of Highway 41 and Highway 101. Lastly, Section 22.14 establishes a combining designation for visual resources; the project lies outside the areas where these regulations apply.

The only Officially Designated State Scenic Highway in San Luis Obispo County is Highway 1. Highway 101 is identified as a Suggested Scenic Corridor by Table VR-2 of the Conservation and Open Space Element.

Discussion

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

For the purposes of determining significance under CEQA, a scenic vista is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. If the project would substantially degrade the scenic landscape as viewed from public roads, designated scenic routes, or from other public or recreation areas, this would be considered a potentially significant impact on the scenic vista.

Although the project site and vicinity have a moderately high scenic value, the new development will not be visible from any designated scenic vista or roadway available to the public. Therefore, the project will result in *no impact* to a scenic vista.

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

The project will have *no impact* to any historic buildings or scenic rock outcroppings. According to the plans, the project will not result in the removal of any mature oak trees.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

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

The new development (besides the as-built AG shop) will be constructed on a sloped area located near the southern portion of the project site about 130 feet north of the property line.

Views of the project components from public roads will be blocked by the intervening terrain and vegetation. Therefore, the project will have *no impact* related to the potential degradation of the existing visual character or quality of public views.

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

The project would result in a significant impact if it subjects public viewing locations to a substantial amount of point-source lighting visible at night, or if project illumination results in a noticeable spillover effect into the nighttime sky, increasing the ambient light over the region. The placement of lighting, source of illumination, and fixture types combined with viewer locations, adjacent reflective elements, and atmospheric conditions can affect the degree of change to nighttime views. If the project results in direct visibility of a substantial number of lighting sources, or allows a substantial amount of light to project toward the sky, significant impacts on nighttime views and aesthetic character would result.

The project does not propose the use or installation of highly reflective materials that would create a substantial source of glare. The project would generally be consistent with the level of existing development in the project vicinity and does not propose the installation or use of outdoor lighting that would differ substantially from other proximate development. Additionally, County Code requires all lighting to be downcast and shielded. Therefore, the project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area, and potential impacts would be less than significant.

Therefore, the project will have *no impact* relating to sources of light and glare.

Conclusion

The project is not located within view of a scenic vista and would not result in a substantial change to scenic resources in the area. The project would be consistent with existing policies and standards in the County LUO and COSE related to the protection of scenic resources. There are no new sources of light proposed. Therefore, the project will result in *no impacts* to aesthetic resources.

Mitigation

None are required.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

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

Setting

The California Department of Conservation (CDOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts to California's agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality as well as current and previous land use. For purposes of CEQA compliance, the FMMP categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land as “agricultural land.” Non-agricultural designations include Urban and Built-up Land, Other Land, and Water.

Chapter 6 of the County Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) identifies resource management goals, policies, and strategies to protect agricultural soils from conversion to urban and residential uses. Important Agricultural Soils within the County are identified in Table SL-2 of the COSE and Policy SL 3.1 states that the conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses shall be evaluated using the applicable policies in the COSE and Agricultural Element.

Soils affected by the project are described in detail below

Map Unit: 106—Arbuckle-San Ysidro complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes

Arbuckle. This gently sloping coarse loamy soil is considered moderately drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: slow percolation. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class II when irrigated.

San Ysidro. This gently sloping coarse loamy soil is considered moderately to well drained. The soil has high erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: slow percolation. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class II when irrigated.

COSE Farmland Classification: Farmland of Statewide Importance

Map Unit: 154—Linne-Calodo complex, 50 to 75 percent slopes

Linne. This very steeply sloping soil is considered not well drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and moderate shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: steep slopes, shallow depth to bedrock, slow percolation. The soil is considered Class VII without irrigation and Class is not rated when irrigated.

Calodo. This very steeply sloping soil is considered not well drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and moderate shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: steep slopes, shallow depth to bedrock, slow percolation. The soil is considered Class VII without irrigation and Class is not rated when irrigated.

COSE Farmland Classification: Not Prime

Map Unit: 160—Lockwood-Concepcion complex, 9 to 15 percent slopes

Lockwood. This moderately sloping soil is considered moderately drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and moderate shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: slow percolation. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class III when irrigated.

Concepcion. This moderately sloping soil is considered very poorly drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: slow percolation. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class III when irrigated.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

COSE Farmland Classification: Other Productive Soils

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

The Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act, enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agriculture or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments that are much lower because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value. According to the County's Land Use View website, the project site is not subject to an active Williamson Act contract.

According to California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 12220(g), forest land is defined as land that can support 10% native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits. Timberland is defined as land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees.

- (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?*

According to the FMMP, the area of disturbance is underlain by soils mapped as Farmland of Local Importance, Farmland of Local Potential and Grazing Land. Therefore, the project will have *no impacts* to Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

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

The project site is located within the Agriculture land use category and is not subject to a Williamson Act Contract; A single-family residence, attached garage, ADU, AG shop and access driveway are allowable uses within the Agriculture land use category. Therefore, the project would not result in a conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract and *no impacts* would occur.

- (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))?*

The project site does not include land use designations or zoning for forest land or timberland as defined by the Public Resources Code; *no impacts would occur*.

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

According to the project plans, no mature oak trees will be removed for the new development. The project site does not contain stands of oak trees that meet the definition of "forest land" as prescribed in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g). Therefore, the project will result in *no impact* relating to the conversion of forest land to a 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?*

The project site is generally surrounded by agricultural operations on the parcel and adjacent and surrounding properties. The access road to the site will cause the permanent disturbance of a small section of agricultural land.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Surrounding agricultural operations may be temporarily affected by noise and dust generated during construction of the project. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would not result in the direct impairment or conversion of agricultural land to other uses. As discussed in Section X. Hydrology, the use of wells is not expected to adversely impact surrounding wells that may be used for agricultural operations.

Therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The project would result in less than significant impacts relating to the conversion of farmland, forest land, or timber land to non-agricultural uses or non-forest uses and would not conflict with agricultural zoning or otherwise adversely affect agricultural resources or uses. Potential impacts to agricultural resources would be *less than significant* and *less than cumulatively considerable* and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Mitigation

None necessary.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

III. AIR QUALITY

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

Setting

San Luis Obispo County Clean Air Plan

The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) San Luis Obispo County 2001 Clean Air Plan (CAP) is a comprehensive planning document that provides guidance to the SLOAPCD and other local agencies on how to attain and maintain the state air quality standards. The CAP presents a detailed description of the sources and pollutants that impact the jurisdiction’s attainment of state standards, future air quality impacts to be expected under current growth trends, and an appropriate control strategy for reducing emissions, thereby improving air quality. Project consistency with the CAP is determined by considering whether the project incorporates the relevant land use planning and transportation control measures and strategies outlined in the CAP.

The County is currently designated as a non-attainment area for ozone and PM₁₀ under state ambient air quality standards. Construction and operation of the project would result in emissions of ozone precursors including reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrous oxides (NO_x) as well as fugitive dust emissions (PM₁₀) and exhaust particulates.

SLOAPCD Criteria Pollutant Thresholds

The SLOAPCD has developed a CEQA Air Quality Handbook (most recently updated with a November 2017 Clarification Memorandum) to help local agencies determine the significance of project-specific air quality impacts and to determine whether mitigation measures are needed. To assist in this task, the Handbook includes screening criteria to determine the significance of project impacts. According to the Handbook, a project with grading in excess of 4.0 acres and results in the movement of 1,200 cubic yards of earth per day can exceed the construction threshold for respirable particulate matter (PM₁₀).

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

The use of heavy equipment and earth-moving operations during project construction can generate fugitive dust and engine combustion emissions that may have substantial temporary impacts on local air quality. Combustion emissions, such as nitrogen oxides (NOx), reactive organic gases (ROG), greenhouse gases (GHG), and diesel particulate matter (DPM), are most significant when using large, diesel-fueled scrapers, loaders, bulldozers, haul trucks, compressors, generators, and other heavy equipment. The SLOAPCD has established thresholds of significance for each of these contaminants.

Operational impacts are focused primarily on the indirect emissions (i.e., motor vehicles) associated with residential, commercial, and industrial development. Certain types of projects can also include components that generate direct emissions, such as power plants, gasoline stations, dry cleaners, and refineries (referred to as stationary source emissions). Table 1-1 of the APCD's CEQA Handbook provides screening criteria based on the size of different types of projects that would normally generate sufficient motor vehicle trips that would cause an exceedance of the operational thresholds for ozone precursors. A project consisting of 99 single family residences generating 970 average daily vehicle trips would be expected to exceed the 25 lbs/day operational threshold for ozone precursors.

The APCD has also estimated the number of vehicular round trips on an unpaved roadway necessary to exceed the 25 lbs/day threshold of significance for the emission of particulate matter (PM10). According to the APCD estimates, an unpaved roadway of one mile in length carrying 6.0 round trips would likely exceed the 25 lbs/day PM10 threshold.

Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors are people with an increased sensitivity to air pollution or environmental contaminants, such as the elderly, children, people with asthma or other respiratory illnesses, and others who are at a heightened risk of negative health outcomes due to exposure to air pollution. Some land uses are considered more sensitive to changes in air quality than others, due to the population that occupies the uses and the activities involved. Sensitive receptor locations include schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residences. The nearest sensitive receptors are single-family residences on surrounding agriculture parcels; the closest residence to the area of disturbance being approximately 750 feet to the northeast.

Naturally Occurring Asbestos

Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) is identified as a toxic air contaminant by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Serpentine and other ultramafic rocks are fairly common throughout San Luis Obispo County and may contain NOA. If these areas are disturbed during construction, NOA-containing particles can be released into the air and have an adverse impact on local air quality and human health. Based on SLOAPCD's NOA Screening Map, the project site is not located in an area identified as having the potential for soils containing NOA.

Developmental Burning

As of February 25, 2000, the APCD prohibits developmental burning of vegetative material within San Luis Obispo County. However, under certain circumstances where no technically feasible alternatives are available, limited developmental burning under restrictions may be allowed. Any such exception must complete the following prior to any burning: APCD approval; payment of fee to APCD based on the size of the project; and issuance of a burn permit by the APCD and the local fire department authority. As a part of APCD approval, the applicant shall furnish them with the study of technical feasibility (which includes costs and other constraints) at the time of application.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Discussion

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

In order to be considered consistent with the 2001 San Luis Obispo County CAP, a project must be consistent with CAP's land use planning and transportation control measures and strategies (SLOAPCD 2012). These strategies include, but are not limited to, planning compact communities with higher densities, providing for mixed land use, and balancing jobs and housing.

The project does not include development of retail or commercial uses that would be open to the public, therefore, land use planning strategies such as mixed-use development and planning compact communities are generally not applicable. The project would result in the construction of a single-family residence, ADU, 4-car garage, AG shop (as-built) and access driveway (as-built). Therefore, the project would not generate a significant number of employees and would not significantly affect the local area's jobs/housing balance.

Adopted transportation control measures include, but are not limited to, a voluntary commute options program, local and regional transit system improvements, bikeway enhancements, and telecommuting programs. The voluntary commute options program targets employers in the county with more than 20 full time employees; the project consists of the construction of a single-family residence, ADU, 4-car garage, AG shop (as-built) and access driveway (as-built) and would have no employees other than those associated with ongoing agricultural operations. The project would not conflict with regional plans for transit system or bikeway improvements.

Overall, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the CAP; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

(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?*

The County is currently designated as a non-attainment area for ozone and PM₁₀ under state ambient air quality standards. Construction and operation of the project would result in emissions of ozone precursors including reactive organic gasses (ROG) and nitrous oxides (NO_x) as well as fugitive dust emissions (PM₁₀).

Construction Emissions

Based on the project description, the project will have an area of disturbance of about 2.23 acres and will involve 2,181 cubic yards (cy) of cut, 1,925 cy of fill. Construction activities will result in the generation of dust, as well as short-term construction vehicle emissions. Using the SLOAPCD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook (2012) and Clarification Memorandum (2017), construction-related emissions were calculated for the project and are shown in Table 3 below.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Table 3 -- Estimated Construction-Related Emissions

Pollutant	Total Estimated Emissions	APCD Emissions Threshold	Mitigation Required?
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) + Nitrogen Oxide (NO _x) (combined)	7.73 lbs./day ¹	137 lbs./day	No
	0.35 tons/quarter ¹	2.5 tons/quarter	No
Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)	0.34 lbs. /day ²	7 lbs./day	No
	0.02 tons/quarter ²	0.13 tons/quarter	No
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	0.03 tons/quarter ³	2.5 tons/quarter	No

Notes:

1. Based on 4,106 cubic yards of material moved and 0.113 pounds of combined ROG and NO_x emissions per cubic yard of material moved and 60 construction days.
2. Based 4,106 cubic yards of material moved and 0.0049 pounds of diesel particulate emissions per cubic yard of material moved and 60 construction days.
3. Based on 2.23 total acres of disturbance and 0.75 tons of PM₁₀ generated per acre of disturbance per month and 60 days of construction.

As shown in Table 3, project construction related emissions are not expected to exceed the daily and quarterly emissions thresholds for ROG and NO_x, the daily and quarterly thresholds for diesel particulates, and the quarterly threshold for fugitive dust. Mitigation measures AQ-1 and AQ-2 are standard and recommended by the SLOAPCD to mitigate potential impacts associated with particulates, diesel particulates and ozone precursors. Therefore, project impacts associated with the exceedance of SLOAPCD daily and quarterly emissions thresholds and will be considered *less than significant with mitigation*.

Operation-Related Emissions. The project consists of a single-family residence, ADU, 4-car garage, AG shop and access driveway, and would therefore not generate a significant amount of trips per month. Accordingly, project-specific and cumulative operational impacts are considered a *less than significant* and *less than cumulatively considerable*.

Construction machinery and associated workers will travel to the work site over an unpaved road that extends west from Templeton Road, then south from the north side property line. The distance travelled on the unpaved road is estimated to be about 0.2 miles. As discussed in the regulatory setting, according to APCD estimates, an unpaved roadway of one mile in length carrying 6.0 round trips would likely exceed the 25 lbs/day PM₁₀ threshold. Based on the distance travelled on the unpaved surface (0.2 miles), the temporary nature of the construction related trips, and the distance from the unpaved roadway to the nearest sensitive receptors, the project is not expected to exceed the daily threshold for particulates of 25 lbs per day.

Overall, impacts related to exceedance of federal, state, or SLOAPCD ambient air quality standards due to operational activities would be *less than significant*.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

(c) *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

Sensitive receptors are people or other organisms that may have a significantly increased sensitivity to exposure to air pollution by virtue of their age and health (e.g. schools, day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes), regulatory status (e.g. federal or state listing as a sensitive or endangered species), or proximity to the source. The nearest sensitive receptor is a residence located about 750 feet east of the area of disturbance. Dust complaints could result in violation of the APCD's nuisance rules, a potentially significant air quality impact. As such, the project would be subject to expanded fugitive dust control measures in addition to primary measures pursuant to Land Use Ordinance Section 22.52.160.C (Construction Procedures, Air Quality Controls). These measures shall be shown on all grading and building plans in accordance with LUO Section 22.53.160C. Compliance with these measures would ensure fugitive dust emissions are adequately controlled to below 20 percent opacity limit as identified in the APCD's 401 Visible Emissions rule and that dust is not emitted offsite. Through the incorporation of mitigation measure AQ-1, impacts would be *less than significant levels with mitigation*.

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

Construction activities have the potential to emit odors from diesel equipment, paints, solvents, fugitive dust, and adhesives. Any odors generated by construction activities would be intermittent and temporary, and generally would not extend beyond the construction area. Following construction of site improvements, the project site would be limited to residential and agricultural uses and would not include any components or operational activities that would generate substantial long-term adverse odors. Therefore, odors generated by the project would be short-term, intermittent, and *less than significant*.

The project site is not located in an area identified as containing NOA which may be mobilized during ground disturbance activities.

The project does not propose to burn any onsite vegetative materials and would be subject to SLOAPCD restrictions on developmental burning of vegetative material; therefore, the project would have *no impact* relating to substantial air pollutant emissions from such activities.

Conclusion

The project would be consistent with the SLOAPCD's Clean Air Plan. Therefore, potential impacts to air quality would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Mitigation

AQ-1 Fugitive Dust Construction Control Measures. Prior to issuance of construction permits, the following measures shall be incorporated into the construction phase of the project and shown on all applicable plans:

- a. Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible;
- b. Use water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 miles per hour. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible; When water use is a concern due to drought conditions, the contractor or builder shall

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

- consider use of a dust suppressant that is effective for the specific site conditions to reduce the amount of water used for dust control;
- c. All dirt stock-pile areas shall be sprayed daily as needed;
 - d. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible, and building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used;
 - e. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) or otherwise comply with California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 23114.
 - f. "Track-Out" is defined as sand or soil that adheres to and/or agglomerates on the exterior surfaces of motor vehicles and/or equipment (including tires) that may then fall onto any highway or street as described in CVC Section 23113 and California Water Code 13304. To prevent 'track out', designate access points and require all employees, subcontractors, and others to use them. Install and operate a 'track-out prevention device' where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto paved streets. The 'track-out prevention device' can be any device or combination of devices that are effective at preventing track out, located at the point of intersection of an unpaved area and a paved road. Rumble strips or steel plate devices need periodic cleaning to be effective. If paved roadways accumulate tracked out soils, the track-out prevention device may need to be modified.
 - g. All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans;
 - h. The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons whose responsibility is to ensure any fugitive dust emissions do not result in a nuisance and to enhance the implementation of the mitigation measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints and reduce visible emissions below the APCD's limit of 20% opacity for greater than 3 minutes in any 60-minute period. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress (for example, wind-blown dust could be generated on an open dirt lot). The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork, or demolition (Contact the Compliance Division at 805-781-5912).
 - i. Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible, following completion of any soil disturbing activities.
 - j. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast germinating, non-invasive grass seed and watered until vegetation is established.
 - k. All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advanced by the APCD.
 - l. Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

- m. Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers shall be used with reclaimed water where feasible. Roads shall be pre-wetted prior to sweeping when feasible.
- n. Take additional measures as needed to ensure dust from the project site is not impacting areas outside the project boundary.

AQ-2 ROG, NO_x, DPM Emissions. The following measures based on the SLOAPCD standard mitigation measures for construction equipment for reducing nitrogen oxides (NO_x), reactive organic gases (ROG), and diesel particulate matter (DPM) emissions from construction equipment shall be implemented to reduce exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. These measures shall be shown on grading and building plans:

- a. Implement mitigation measure AQ-1, as identified above.
- b. On-road diesel vehicles shall comply with Section 2485 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations. This regulation limits idling from diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles with gross vehicular weight ratings of more than 10,000 pounds and licensed for operation on highways. It applies to California and non-California based vehicles. In general, the regulation specifies that drivers of said vehicles:
 - i. Shall not idle the vehicle's primary diesel engine for greater than 5 minutes at any location, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation; and,
 - ii. Shall not operate a diesel-fueled auxiliary power system to power a heater, air conditioner, or any ancillary equipment on that vehicle during sleeping or resting in a sleeper berth for greater than 5.0 minutes at any location when within 1,000 feet of a restricted area, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation.
- c. Maintain all construction equipment in proper tune according to manufacturer's specifications.
- d. Fuel all off-road and portable diesel-powered equipment with ARB certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for use off-road).
- e. Use diesel construction equipment meeting ARB's Tier 2 certified engines or cleaner off-road heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State Off-Road Regulation.
- f. Use on-road heavy-duty trucks that meet the CARB's 2010 or cleaner certification standard for on-road heavy-duty diesel engines and comply with the State On-Road Regulation.
- g. Idling of all on and off-road diesel-fueled vehicles shall not be permitted when not in use. Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas and or job site to remind drivers and operators of the no idling limitation.
- h. Electrify equipment when possible.
- i. Substitute gasoline-powered in place of diesel-powered equipment, when available. and,
- j. Use alternatively fueled construction equipment on-site when available, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane or biodiesel.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Regulatory Setting

Federal Laws and Regulations

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) prohibits anyone without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior from taking (pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb) bald or golden eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. This includes substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior. Activities that may result in the take of a bald or golden eagle require permits; the three activities eligible for permits include to remove or relocate an eagle nest; to transport, exhibit, collect, or control eagles or eagle parts, and for incidental take of eagles.

Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. The purpose of the CWA is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of all waters of the U.S. Permitting is required for filling waters of the U.S. (including wetlands). Permits may be issued on an individual basis or may be covered under approved nationwide permits.

Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) provides the legal framework for the listing and protection of species (and their habitats) identified as being endangered or threatened with extinction. “Critical Habitat” is a term within the FESA designed to guide actions by federal agencies and is defined as “an area occupied by a species listed as threatened or endangered within which are found physical or geographical features essential to the conservation of the species, or an area not currently occupied by the species which is itself essential to the conservation of the species.” Actions that jeopardize endangered or threatened species and/or critical habitat are considered a ‘take’ under the FESA. “Take” under federal definition means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

Projects that would result in “take” of any federally listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitats, are required to obtain permits from the USFWS through either Section 7 (interagency consultation with a federal nexus) or Section 10 (Habitat Conservation Plan) of FESA, depending on the involvement by the federal government in permitting and/or funding of the project. Through Section 10, it is required to prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to be approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which results in the issuance of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP). Through Section 7, which can only occur when a separate federal nexus in a project exists (prompting interagency consultation), a consultation by the various federal agencies involved can take place to determine appropriate actions to mitigate negative effects on endangered and threatened species and their habitat.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

All migratory, non-game bird species that are native to the U.S. or its territories are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (50 C.F.R. Section 10.13), as amended under the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act of 2004. MBTA makes it illegal to purposefully take (pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect) any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird, except under the terms of a valid Federal permit. Migratory non-game native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

State Law and Regulations

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA), similar to FESA, contains a process for listing of species and regulating potential impacts to listed species. State threatened and endangered species include both plants and wildlife, but do not include invertebrates. The designation “rare species” applies only to California native plants. State threatened and endangered plant species are regulated largely under the Native Plant Preservation Act in conjunction with the CESA. State threatened and endangered animal species are legally protected against “take.” The CESA authorizes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to enter into a memorandum of agreement for take of listed species to issue an incidental take permit for a state-listed threatened and endangered species only if specific criteria are met.

Section 2080 of the CESA prohibits the take of species listed as threatened or endangered pursuant to the Act. Section 2081 allows CDFW to authorize take prohibited under Section 2080 provided that: 1) the taking is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity; 2) the taking will be minimized and fully mitigated; 3) the applicant ensures adequate funding for minimization and mitigation; and 4) the authorization will not jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA defines a “project” as any action undertaken from public or private entity that requires discretionary governmental review (a non-ministerial permittable action). All “projects” are required to undergo some level of environmental review pursuant to CEQA, unless an exemption applies. CEQA’s environmental review process includes an assessment of existing resources, broken up by categories (i.e., air quality, aesthetics, etc.), a catalog of potential impacts to those resources caused by the proposed project, and a quantifiable result determining the level of significance an impact would generate. The goal of environmental review under CEQA is to avoid or mitigate impacts that would lead to a “significant effect” on a given resource; section 15382 of the CEQA Guidelines defines a “significant effect” as *a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment, but may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.*

California Fish and Game Code (CFGC)

The California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) is one of the 29 legal codes that form the general statutory law of California. A myriad of statutes regarding fish and game are specified in the CFGC; the following codes are specifically relevant to the proposed Project:

California Native Plant Protection Act

Sections 1900-1913 of the California Fish and Game Code contain the regulations of the Native Plant Protection Act of 1977. The intent of this act is to help conserve and protect rare and endangered plants in the state. The act allowed the CFGC to designate plants as rare or endangered.

Lake and Streambed Alteration

Section 1602 of the CFGC requires any person, state, or local governmental agency to provide advance written notification to CDFW prior to initiating any activity that would: 1) divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or remove material from the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake; or 2) result in the disposal or deposition of debris, waste, or other material into any river, stream, or lake. The state definition of “lakes, rivers, and streams” includes all rivers or streams that flow at least periodically or

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

permanently through a well-defined bed or channel with banks that support fish or other aquatic life, and watercourses with surface or subsurface flows that support or have supported riparian vegetation.

Nesting Birds

Sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513 of CFGC states that it is “unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto,” and “unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds of prey or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird” unless authorized.

Regional Water Quality Control Board

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) not only regulates impacts to water quality in federal waters of the U.S. under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, but also regulates any isolated waters that are impacted under the state Porter Cologne Act utilizing a Waste Discharge Requirement. Discharge of fill material into waters of the State not subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act may require authorization pursuant to the Porter Cologne Act through application for waste discharge requirements or through waiver of waste discharge requirements.

Special Status Species and Sensitive Habitat Regulations

For the purposes of this biological resources assessment, special status species are those plants and animals listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered by the USFWS under the FESA; those listed or proposed for listing as rare, threatened, or endangered by the CDFW under the CESA; animals designated as “Species of Special Concern,” “Fully Protected,” or “Watch List” by the CDFW; and plants with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1, 2, 3, or 4.

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)

“Special Plants” and “Special Animals” are broad terms used to refer to all the plant and animal taxa inventoried by the CNDDDB, regardless of their legal or protection status (CNDDDB 2020a and 2020b). The Special Plants list includes vascular plants, high priority bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, and hornworts), and lichens. The Special Animals list is also referred to by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as the list of “species at risk” or “special status species.”

According to the CNDDDB (2020a, 2020b), Special Plants and Animals lists include: taxa that are officially listed or proposed for listing by California or the Federal Government as Endangered, Threatened, or Rare; taxa which meet the criteria for listing, as described in Section 15380 of CEQA Guidelines; taxa deemed biologically rare, restricted in range, declining in abundance, or otherwise vulnerable; population(s) in California that may be marginal to the taxon’s entire range but are threatened with extirpation in California; and/or taxa closely associated with a habitat that is declining in California at a significant rate. Separately, the Special Plants List includes taxa listed in the California Native Plant Society’s Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California, as well as taxa determined to be Sensitive Species by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or U.S. Forest Service. The Special Animals List distinctively includes taxa considered by the CDFW to be a Species of Special Concern (SSC) and taxa designated as a special status, sensitive, or declining species by other state or federal agencies.

Federal and State Endangered Species Listings

The FESA and CESA are the regulatory documents that govern the listing and protection of species, and their habitats, identified as being endangered or threatened with extinction (see Sections 1.5.1 and 1.5.2). Possible listing status under both Federal and California ESA includes Endangered and Threatened (FE, FT, CE, or CT).

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Species in the process of being listed are given the status of either Proposed Federally Endangered/Threatened, Candidate for California Endangered/Threatened (PE, PT, CCE, or CCT). The CESA has one additional status: Rare (CR).

Global and State Ranks

Global and State Ranks reflect an assessment of the condition of the species (or habitats, see 1.6.6 below) across its entire range. Basic ranks assign a numerical value from 1 to 5, respectively for species with highest risk to most secure. Other ranking variations include rank ranges, rank qualifiers, and infraspecific taxon ranks. All Heritage Programs, such as the CNDDDB use the same ranking methodology, originally developed by The Nature Conservancy and now maintained and recently revised by NatureServe. Procedurally, state programs such as the CNDDDB develop the State ranks. The Global ranks are determined collaboratively among the Heritage Programs for the states/provinces containing the species. Rank definitions, where G represents Global and S represents State, are as follows:

- **G1/S1:** Critically imperiled globally/in state because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer populations).
- **G2/S2:** Imperiled globally/in state because of rarity (6 to 20 populations).
- **G3/S3:** Vulnerable; rare and local throughout range or in a special habitat or narrowly endemic (on the order of 21 to 100 populations).
- **G4/S4:** Apparently secure globally/in state; uncommon but not rare (of no immediate conservation concern).
- **G5/S5:** Secure; common, widespread, and abundant.
- **G#G#/S#S#:** Rank range - numerical range indicating uncertainty in the status of a species, (e.g., G2G3 more certain than G3, but less certain than G2).
- **G/S#?:** Inexact numeric rank
- **Q:** Questionable taxonomy - Taxonomic distinctiveness of this entity is questionable.
- **T#:** Infraspecific taxa (subspecies or varieties) – indicating an infraspecific taxon that has a lower numerical ranking (rarer) than the given global rank of species.

California Rare Plant Ranks

Plant species are considered rare when their distribution is confined to localized areas, their habitat is threatened, they are declining in abundance, or they are threatened in a portion of their range.

The California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) categories range from species with a low threat (4) to species that are presumed extinct (1A). All but a few species are endemic to California. All of them are judged to be vulnerable under present circumstances, or to have a high potential for becoming vulnerable. Threat ranks are assigned as decimal values to a CRPR to further define the level of threat to a given species. The rare plant ranks and threat levels are defined below.

- **1A:** Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere.
- **1B:** Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
- **2A:** Plants presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere
- **2B:** Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
- **4:** Plants of limited distribution - a watch list

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

- **0.1:** Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
- **0.2:** Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
- **0.3:** Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Animal Rank

The CDFW assigns one of three ranks to Special Animals: Watch List (WL), Species of Special Concern (SSC), or Fully Protected (FP). Unranked species are referred to by the term Special Animal (SA).

Animals listed as Watch List (WL) are taxa that were previously designated as SSC, but no longer merit that status, or taxa that do not yet meet SSC criteria, but for which there is concern and a need for additional information to clarify status.

Animals listed as California Species of Special Concern (SSC) may or may not be listed under California or federal Endangered Species Acts. They are considered rare or declining in abundance in California. The Special Concern designation is intended to provide the CDFW biologists, land planners, and managers with lists of species that require special consideration during the planning process to avert continued population declines and potential costly listing under federal and state endangered species laws. For many species of birds, the primary emphasis is on the breeding population in California. For some species that do not breed in California but winter here, emphasis is on wintering range. The SSC designation thus may include a comment regarding the specific protection provided such as nesting or wintering.

Animals listed as Fully Protected (FP) are those species considered by CDFW as rare or faced with possible extinction. Most, but not all, have subsequently been listed under the CESA or FESA. Fully Protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no provision of the California Fish and Game code authorizes the issuance of permits or licenses to take any Fully Protected species.

Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive Natural Community is a state-wide designation given by CDFW to specific vegetation associations of ecological importance. Sensitive Natural Communities rarity and ranking involves the knowledge of range and distribution of a given type of vegetation, and the proportion of occurrences that are of good ecological integrity (CDFW 2018a). Evaluation is conducted at both the Global (G) and State (S) levels, resulting in a rank ranging from 1 for very rare and threatened to 5 for demonstrably secure. Natural Communities with ranks of S1-S3 are considered Sensitive Natural Communities in California and may need to be addressed in the environmental review processes of CEQA and its equivalents.

Environmental Setting

The project site is approximately 0.75 miles southeast of the intersection of Highway 101 and Vineyard Road, and south of Templeton Road. Surrounding land uses include agriculture and rural residences. The site is comprised primarily of agricultural fields in the form of active and fallow row crops, wild oats/annual brome grasslands, and patches of mixed oak woodlands.

A biological resources assessment (BRA) of the project site was prepared in August 2023 by Sage Institute, which is incorporated herein by reference and available for review in its entirety at the Department of Planning and Building. The following is a summary of the findings and recommendations of this report.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Methodology

Prior to conducting a field survey, the biologists completed background review of available information current and historical aerial photography of the project area (Google Earth), the Natural Resources Conservation Service soil survey), and a ten-mile radius query results of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB, March 2023).

Following the background review, the biologists conducted surveys on March 26, April 13, May 24, and June 26, 2023. The purpose of the field surveys was to document existing conditions in terms of habitat for plant and wildlife species, suitability for special-status species, the potential to support wetland and/or riparian habitats, and/or waters of the U.S./State. The field surveys included a complete floristic inventory and rare plant survey as surveys were conducted during the peak growing season and full expression of the onsite flora.

Community alliance and alliance codes used in the BRA follow *A manual of California vegetation, 2nd edition* (Sawyer et al. 2009). Plant names used in this report follow *The Jepson Manual, Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition Thoroughly Revised and Expanded* (Baldwin et al. 2012). Refer to Appendix B, Table -1 for the complete list of plant species observed during the floristic inventory and rare plant survey.

Habitats/Vegetative Communities

Vegetation communities and land cover types were assessed, classified, and mapped based on vegetation composition, structure, and density, with consideration of known land management practices. The BSA totaled approximately 22.63 acres of the project site. The natural vegetation communities identified in the BSA were Wild Oats And Annual Brome Grasslands (5.59 acres) and Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland (4.37 acres). The remainder of the BSA consisted of disturbed/developed areas (0.84 acres) and agricultural land (11.83 acres).

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

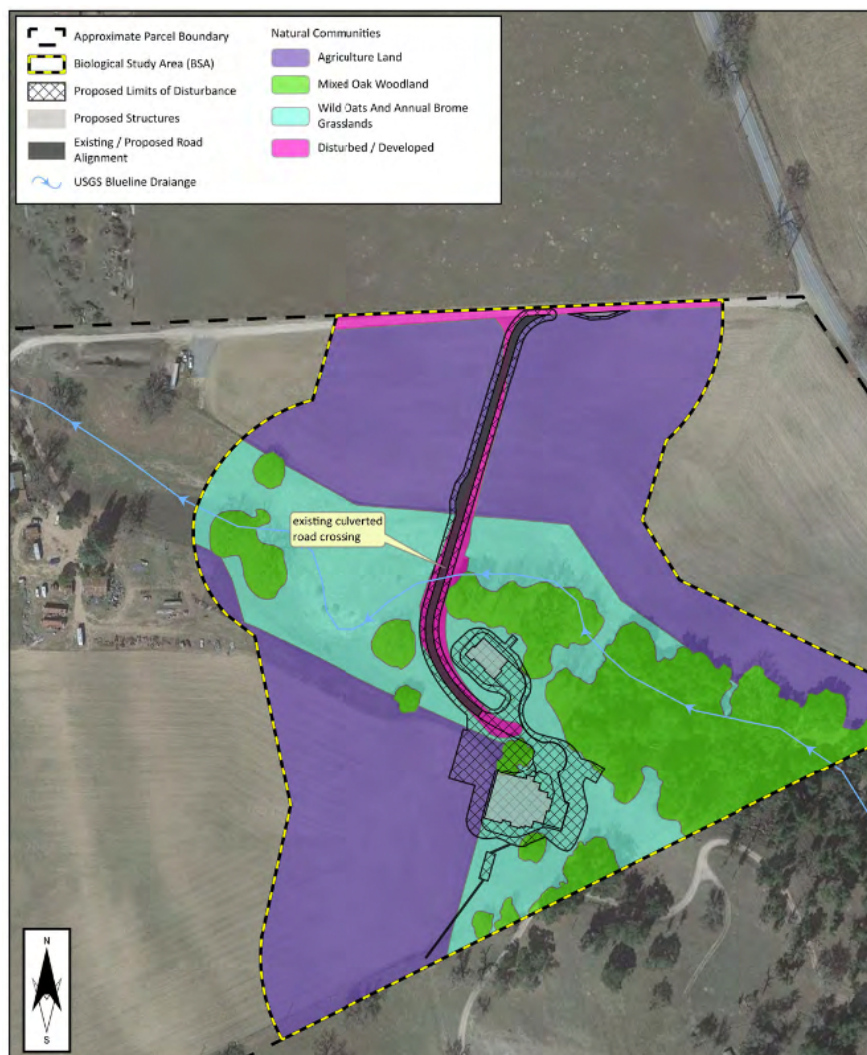


Figure 4 – Vegetative Communities of the Project Site

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Wildlife Habitats

The oak woodland is considered suitable nesting, foraging, and roosting habitat for resident and migratory birds, and locally common wildlife. The BSA also provides typical habitat for locally common wildlife accustomed to the rural environment.

Hydrologic Features

There is one blue line creek that runs across the center of the parcel. It was determined in this report that the blue line creek is a drainage tributary to the Salinas River. The blue line drainage does not meet the Section 404 Clean Water Act three-parameter jurisdictional wetland and therefore is considered a non-wetland water of the U.S. There are no other hydrologic features (wetlands, riparian habitat or vernal pools) within the BSA.

Critical Habitats and Special Status Natural Communities

No USFWS-Designated Critical Habitat overlap the BSA (USFWS, 2021).

Natural Communities are evaluated using NatureServe's Heritage Methodology, the same system used to assign global and state rarity ranks for plant and animal species in the CNDDDB. They are assigned an overall rarity score for a single rank of 1 through 5. Evaluation is done at both the Global (full natural range within and outside of California) and State (within California) levels resulting in a single G (global) and S (state) rank ranging from 1 (very rare and threatened) to 5 (demonstrably secure). Natural Communities with ranks of S1-S3 are considered Sensitive Natural Communities to be addressed in the environmental review processes of CEQA and its equivalents. No sensitive natural community as defined by CDFW was documented within the BSA

Special-status Plant Species

Special-status plant species are defined as the following:

- Plants listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §17.12 for listed plants and various notices in the Federal Register for proposed species).
- Plants that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the FESA.
- Plants that meet the definitions of rare or endangered species under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (State CEQA Guidelines §15380).
- Plants considered by the CNPS to be "rare, threatened, or endangered" in California (Ranks 1B and 2 in CNPS 2023a).
- Plants listed by CNPS as plants about which we need more information and plants of limited distribution (Ranks 3 and 4 in CNPS 2023a).
- Plants listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] §670.5).
- Plants listed under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code §1900 et seq.).
- Plants considered sensitive by other federal agencies (i.e., United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management), state and local agencies, or jurisdictions.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Based on CNDDDB review, 29 special status plant species occurrences were recorded within a 10 mile radius search of the project site. No special status plant species were observed in the BSA during field surveys, and based on site/habitat analysis, none are expected to occur (Sage Institute, 2023).

Special-status Wildlife Species

Special-status animal species are defined as the following:

- Animals listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the FESA (50 CFR §17.11 for listed animals and various notices in the Federal Register for proposed species).
- Animals that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the FESA.
- Animals that meet the definitions of rare or endangered species under CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines §15380).
- Animals listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened and endangered under the CESA (14 CCR §670.5).
- Animal species of special concern (SSC) to CDFW.
- Animal species that are fully protected in California (California Fish and Game Code, §3511 [birds], §4700 [mammals], and §5050 [reptiles and amphibians]).

Based on CNDDDB review, 21 special status wildlife species occurrences were recorded within a 10 mile radius search of the project site. No special status wildlife species were observed in the BSA during field surveys, and based on site/habitat analysis, none are expected to occur (Sage Institute, 2023).

Migratory Nesting Birds

In addition to bird species protected by the state and federal government, all native avian species are protected by state and federal legislation, most notably the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and CDFW Fish and Game Code. Collectively, these and other international regulations make it unlawful to collect, sell, pursue, hunt, or kill native migratory birds, their eggs, nests, or any parts thereof.

Avian species can be expected to occur within the project area during all seasons and throughout construction of the proposed project. The potential to encounter and disrupt avian species is highest during their nesting season (generally February 1–August 31) when nests are likely to be active and eggs and young are present. The birds may nest within the mature trees, grassland habitat, or equipment. Raptors are particularly drawn to large trees and structures, and they are less tolerant of disturbances than other species.

Discussion

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

Special-Status Plants

Based on CNDDDB review, 29 special status plant species occurrences were recorded within a 10 mile radius search of the project site. No special status plant species were observed in the BSA during field surveys, and based on site/habitat analysis, none are expected to occur.

Special Status Wildlife

Based on CNDDDB review, 21 special status wildlife species occurrences were recorded within a 10 mile radius search of the project site. No special status wildlife species were observed in the BSA during field surveys, and based on site/habitat analysis, none are expected to occur.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Nesting Birds

Construction of the new development (e.g., vegetation removal, site grading) could impact a variety of nesting bird species if site disturbance is implemented during the typical nesting bird season (February 1 through August 31). Construction activities may result in nest destruction, nest or chick abandonment, nest failure, or lead to disturbance of breeding behaviors. Avoidance and Mitigation Measure BIO-1 has been recommended to ensure that project activities avoid impacts to nesting bird species within the BSA.

With implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1, impacts to special status wildlife species are considered *less than significant with mitigation*.

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

The proposed project will not result in direct impacts to any riparian habitat or any other sensitive natural community. The as-built driveway access will cross over the unnamed blue line drainage. However, it was determined that the drainage is a non-wetland water of the U.S. Riparian and wetland habitat is not found within the drainage area. The area disturbed for the as-built crossing has been naturally revegetated with non-native annual grassland species that previously occupied the area. No long-term change in plant species diversity, percent cover, or biological resource values are expected to occur up or downstream of the existing crossing. Downstream of the temporary work area the drainage transitions to a densely vegetated broad swale that has shown no recent sign of sediment deposition. Therefore, project impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities are considered *less than significant with mitigation*.

- (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?*

There are no wetland or vernal pool resources within the area of disturbance or surrounding properties that would be impacted by the project. Therefore, there would be *no impact* to state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.).

- (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?*

Wildlife Corridors

Maintaining connectivity between areas of suitable habitat is critical for the survival and reproduction of plants and wildlife. Intact habitats benefit plants by ensuring proper dispersal of pollen and seeds, which sustains or grows the population and contributes to the genetic health of the species. Wildlife need contiguous habitats to attain sufficient food resources for their energetic demands; to locate proper resting, burrowing, and/or nesting sites; to facilitate long-distance travel or migration to seek out mates or resources; and for the safe and successful dispersal of young.

The project site is small in comparison to the large existing blocks of open lands and the Salinas River corridor adjacent to the BSA. The BSA is also bordered to the east by Templeton Road, a regularly travelled and paved county roadway. The BSA offers limited connectivity to other habitat areas and does not represent a substantial movement corridor for local wildlife.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Therefore, as proposed the project is not expected to substantially increase the current level of habitat fragmentation in the region nor is it expected to create a significant barrier to wildlife movement. The project does not introduce significant features that would be expected to affect wildlife movement through surrounding natural habitats and impacts to wildlife movement are considered *less than significant*.

Migratory Nesting Birds and Sensitive Avian Species

In addition to those species protected by the state or federal ESA, all native avian species are protected by state and federal legislation, most notably the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the CDFW Fish and Game Code. Collectively, these regulations make it unlawful to collect, sell, pursue, hunt, or kill native migratory birds, their eggs, nests, or any parts thereof. Avian species can be expected to occur within and adjacent to the project site during all seasons and throughout construction of the proposed project. The potential to encounter and disrupt these species is generally highest between February 1 and August 31, when nests are likely to be active, and eggs and young are present. Oak woodland and grassland habitats within the survey area provide suitable foraging and nesting habitat for many species. With implementation of recommended mitigation measure BIO-1, impacts related to interference with the movement of migratory fish or wildlife would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

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

Oak trees and woodlands are protected under Senate Bill 1334 / Kuehl Bill and California Public Resources Code 21083.4. Individual coast live oak trees are present in the BSA. Impacts to or removal of any mature oak trees (i.e., greater than six inches in diameter at breast height [DBH]) on the project site are regulated under California Public Resources Code 21083.4. According to the project plans, no oak trees will be removed. However, grading or trenching within the critical root zones of oak trees can result in tree mortality. With implementation of recommended mitigation measure BIO-2 impacts associated with conflict with local ordinances or policies protecting biological resources are considered *less than significant with mitigation*.

- (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?*

The project site is not located within an area subject to an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted plan and there would be *no impact*.

Conclusion

Upon implementation of mitigation measures BIO-1 and BIO-2 potential impacts to biological resources would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Mitigation

BIO-1 Nesting Bird Season. Vegetation removal and initial site disturbance shall be conducted between September 1 and January 31 outside of the nesting season for birds. If vegetation and/or tree removal is planned for the bird nesting season (February 1 to August 31), then preconstruction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if any active nests would be impacted by project construction. If no active nests are found, then no further mitigation shall be required. If

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

any active nests are found that would be impacted by construction, then the nest sites shall be avoided with the establishment of a non-disturbance buffer zone around active nests as determined by a qualified biologist. Nest sites shall be avoided and protected with the non-disturbance buffer zone until the adults and young of the year are no longer reliant on the nest site for survival as determined by a qualified biologist. As such, avoiding disturbance or take of an active nest would reduce potential impacts on nesting birds to a less-than-significant level.

BIO-2 Oak Tree Mitigation. Ground disturbing and oak tree construction monitoring by a qualified arborist shall be conducted in accordance with the recommended Tree Protection Plan (TPP) measures (Kokers, January 2023; Appendix C). Per the TPP, inadvertent or accidental oak trees removed shall be replaced in kind at 4:1 ratio. Oak trees shall be replaced in kind at 2:1 ratio for trees within the impact area that do not survive through the construction process and 18 months following the completion of construction. Replacement trees must be planted onsite in an area ideal for the tree to thrive and receive all necessary nutrients for survival (soil type, exposure to sunlight, and necessary water requirements for the tree to reach maturity). Upon construction completion, arborist to report to the County that all safety measures were followed and mitigation measures were met.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Setting

San Luis Obispo County possesses a rich and diverse cultural heritage and has an abundance of historic and prehistoric cultural resources dating as far back as 9,000 B.C. The County protects and manages cultural resources in accordance with the provisions detailed by CEQA and local ordinances.

As defined by CEQA, a historical resource includes:

1. A resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).
2. Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant. The architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural records of California may be considered to be a historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence.

The COSE identifies and maps anticipated culturally sensitive areas and historic resources within the county and establishes goals, policies, and implementation strategies to identify and protect areas, sites, and buildings having architectural, historical, Native American, or cultural significance.

A Phase I Archaeological Survey was completed for the project site in July 2023 by Cultural Resource Management Services (CRMS) which is incorporated by reference and available for review in its entirety at the County Planning Department, 976 Osos Street, San Luis Obispo. The Survey includes a cultural resources records review, a California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search, and an archaeological survey of the project area.

Discussion

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

Based on a review of current and historical aerial photography, the project site does not contain any historic resources identified in the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historic

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Resources. The project site does not contain a site under the Historic Site (H) combining designation and does not contain other structures of historic age (50 years or older) that could be potentially significant as a historical resource. Therefore, the project would result in *no impacts* associated with an adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

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

The Project will be located on a terrace above the eastern bank of the Salinas River. The project vicinity is within an agricultural environment, with roads, infrastructure, vineyards, and developments defining all margins of the study area.

As discussed above, the archaeologists, Culture Resource Management Services (CRMS) conducted a cultural resources records review, a California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search, and an archaeological survey of the project area.

CRMS conducted a records and literature search at the Central Coast Information Center, Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, which is the regional clearinghouse for archaeological site information for San Luis Obispo County under agreement with the state Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). The search also included inventories for the following:

- State Historic Property Data Files
- National Register of Historic Places
- National Register of Determined Eligible Properties
- California Historical Landmarks
- California Points of Historic Interest
- California OHP Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility
- CalTrans State and Local Bridge Surveys

The records search included a review of information on all surveys and sites within a 0.25-mile radius of the current project area. Fifteen cultural resource studies have been conducted within this radius and four prehistoric archaeological sites were identified in the search area.

On July 3, 2023, a letter was sent to the Project Analyst at the NAHC requesting a Sacred Lands File search. The search resulted in no evidence of Sacred Lands within the project.

On July 12, 2023, Ron Rose of CRMS surveyed approximately 5 acres of the project area. The surface was inspected by walking parallel transects at two-meter intervals. No evidence of prehistoric or historic artifacts, features or other indications of significant cultural resources were found during the survey. However, the boundaries of nearby sites have never been established, and excavations of nearby sites have shown that there is substantially more material present than is seen on the surface. Because of the presence of recorded sites nearby, monitoring of initial grading, over-excavations septic system and pool should be monitored by an archaeologist, guided by an Archaeological Monitor Plan.

Archaeological monitoring would minimize potential impacts to archaeological resources. Therefore, impacts related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resources would be *less than significant with mitigation incorporated*.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

(c) *Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?*

Based on existing conditions, buried human remains are not expected to be present in the area proposed for development. In the event of an accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, California State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and LUO 22.10.040 (Archaeological Resources) require that no further disturbances shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. With adherence to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and County LUO, impacts related to the unanticipated disturbance of archaeological resources and human remains would be reduced to less than significant; therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

No historical resources are known or expected to occur within or adjacent to the areas proposed for development. Archival research, a Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands Records Search, and the archaeological surface survey of the project site by CRMS identified no cultural resources within the proposed project areas. However, CRMS recommends monitoring of the site during ground disturbing activities because of nearby recorded sites that have no established boundaries and the potential for resources to exist below the surface. Impacts related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resources would be *less than significant with mitigation* measures CR-1 to CR-4.

Mitigation

CR-1 Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan. Prior to issuance of grading or construction permits, the applicant shall submit an Archaeological Resources Monitoring Plan (Monitoring Plan), prepared by a County-approved archaeologist, for review and approval by the County Department of Planning and Building. The intent of this Monitoring Plan shall be to monitor all initial ground-disturbing activities on site. The Monitoring Plan shall include at a minimum:

- a. List of personnel involved in the monitoring activities;
- b. Inclusion of involvement of the Native American community, as appropriate (shall include Tribal representative from the Salinan Tribe of San Luis Obispo County);
- c. Description of the required cultural training element to occur prior to site disturbance;
- d. Description of how the monitoring shall occur;
- e. Description of frequency of monitoring (e.g. full time, part time, spot checking);
- f. Description of what resources are expected to be encountered;
- g. Description of procedures for halting work on the site and notification procedures; and
- h. Description of monitoring reporting procedures; and
- i. Specific, detailed protocols for what to do in the event of the discovery of human remains.

CR-2 Cultural Resources Monitoring. For all ground disturbing construction activities, the applicant shall retain a County-approved archaeologist and Native American representative to monitor these activities, per the approved monitoring plan. The applicant shall install any necessary protective field measures, as directed by the archaeologist, and shall keep them in good working order during construction. Upon discovery, the applicant shall take immediate remedial actions should corrective measures be needed. If any significant archaeological resources or human remains are found during

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

monitoring, work shall stop within the immediate vicinity (precise area to be determined by the archaeologist in the field) of the resource until such time as the resource can be evaluated by an archaeologist and any other appropriate individuals.

CR-3 Cultural Resources Reporting. Prior to final inspections and granting final occupancy of structures, the project archaeologist shall submit a detailed summary of all site monitoring that took place and acknowledge any discoveries made during the monitoring process or conflicts that occurred. The report shall be submitted to the Department of Planning and Building and approved by County staff prior to scheduling final building inspections.

CR-4 Cultural Resources Unearthed. In the event that archeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction activities, the following standards apply:

Construction activities shall cease, and the County of San Luis Obispo Project Manager shall be notified so that the extant and location of discovered materials may be recorded by a qualified archaeologist, and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with state and federal law.

In the event archeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the Coroner shall be notified in addition to the County of San Luis Obispo Project Manager so proper disposition may be accomplished.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

VI. ENERGY

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

Setting

Local Utilities

The Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) is the primary electricity provider for urban and rural communities within San Luis Obispo County. Approximately 38% of electricity provided by PG&E is sourced from renewable sources and an additional 43% is sourced from non-renewable GHG-free resources (PG&E 2024).

PG&E offers two programs through which consumers may purchase electricity from renewable sources: the Solar Choice program and the Regional Renewable Choice program. Under the Solar Choice program, a customer remains on their existing electric rate plan and pays a modest additional fee on a per kilowatt-hour (kWh) basis for clean solar power. The fee depends on the type of service, rate plan, and enrollment level. Customers may choose to have 50% or 100% of their monthly electricity usage to be generated via solar projects. The Regional Renewable Choice program enables customers to subscribe to renewable energy from a specific community-based project within PG&E's service territory. The Regional Renewable Choice program allows a customer to purchase between 25% and 100% of their annual usage from renewable sources.

The Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) is the primary provider of natural gas for urban and rural communities within San Luis Obispo County. SoCalGas has committed to replacing 20% of its traditional natural gas supply with renewable natural gas by 2030 (Sempra 2019).

Local Energy Plans and Policies

The COSE establishes goals and policies that aim to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), conserve water, increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, and reduce GHG emissions. This element provides the basis and direction for the development of the County's EnergyWise Plan (EWP), which outlines in greater detail the County's strategy to reduce government and community-wide GHG emissions through a number of goals, measures, and actions, including energy efficiency and development and use of renewable energy resources.

State Building Code Requirements

The California Building Code (CBC) contains standards that regulate the method of use, properties, performance, or types of materials used in the construction, alteration, improvement, repair, or rehabilitation

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

of a building or other improvement to real property. The CBC includes mandatory green building standards for residential and nonresidential structures, the most recent version of which are referred to as the *2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards*. These standards focus on four key areas: smart residential photovoltaic systems, updated thermal envelope standards (preventing heat transfer from the interior to the exterior and vice versa), residential and nonresidential ventilation requirements, and non-residential lighting requirements. While the CBC has strict energy and green-building standards, U-occupancy structures (such as greenhouses used for cultivation activities) are typically not regulated by these standards.

Vehicle Fuel Economy Standards

In October 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), on behalf of the Department of Transportation, issued final rules to further reduce GHG emissions and improve corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards for light duty vehicles for model years 2017 and beyond. NHTSA's CAFE standards have been enacted under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act since 1978. This national program requires automobile manufacturers to build a single light-duty national fleet that meets all requirements under both federal programs and the standards of California and other states. This program would increase fuel economy to the equivalent of 54.5 miles per gallon (mpg) limiting vehicle emissions to 163 grams of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per mile for the fleet of cars and light-duty trucks by the model year 2025.

As part California's overall approach to reducing pollution from all vehicles, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has established standards for clean gasoline and diesel fuels and fuel economies of new vehicles. CARB has also put in place innovative programs to drive the development of low-carbon, renewable, and alternative fuels such as their Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Program pursuant to California Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and the Governor's Executive Order S-01-07.

In January 2012, CARB approved the Advanced Clean Cars Program which combines the control of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and criteria air pollutants, as well as requirements for greater numbers of zero-emission vehicles, into a single package of standards for vehicle model years 2017 through 2025. The new rules strengthen the GHG standard for 2017 models and beyond. This will be achieved through existing technologies, the use of stronger and lighter materials, and more efficient drivetrains and engines. The program's zero-emission vehicle regulation, the Advanced Clean Cars II rule, establishes a year-by-year roadmap so that by 2035 100% of new cars and light trucks sold in California will be zero-emission vehicles, including plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. The regulation realizes and codifies the light-duty vehicle goals set forth in Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-79-20.

The program also includes a clean fuels outlet regulation designed to support the commercialization of zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell vehicles planned by vehicle manufacturers by 2015 by requiring increased numbers of hydrogen fueling stations throughout the state. The number of stations will grow as vehicle manufacturers sell more fuel cell vehicles. By 2025, when the rules will be fully implemented, the statewide fleet of new cars and light trucks will emit 34 percent fewer global warming gases and 75 percent fewer smog-forming emissions than the statewide fleet in 2016 (CARB 2016).

All self-propelled off-road diesel vehicles 25 horsepower (hp) or greater used in California and most two-engine vehicles (except on-road two-engine sweepers) are subject to the CARB's Regulation for In-Use Off-Road Diesel Fueled Fleets (Off-Road regulation). This includes vehicles that are rented or leased (rental or leased fleets). The overall purpose of the Off-Road regulation is to reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM) from off-road diesel vehicles operating within California through the

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

implementation of standards including, but not limited to, limits on idling, reporting and labeling of off-road vehicles, limitations on use of old engines, and performance requirements.

Discussion

- (a) *Result in a 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?*

Construction Activities

During construction activities, fossil fuels, electricity, and natural gas would be used by construction vehicles and equipment. The energy consumed during construction would be temporary in nature and would be typical of other similar construction activities in the county. Based on the size and scope of proposed earthwork, the project would not have the potential to result in adverse environmental impacts through its excessive use of diesel fuel for construction equipment. In addition, project contractors save costs by avoiding the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, such as idling. Therefore, potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the consumption of energy resources during construction would be avoided and project construction activities would not result in a conflict with a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, project construction impacts associated with energy use would be *less than significant*.

Project Operations

Electricity and Natural Gas Use. There is currently a single-family residence onsite. The project's operational electricity needs would be met by a connection to PG&E infrastructure. Natural gas may be provided by PG&E or by stand-alone propane.

Operational energy use would be consistent with that of similar facilities and would not be wasteful or inefficient. Implementation of the project would not result in a significant new energy demand and there are no project components or operations that would conflict with the EWP or any other state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Additionally, the project will be required to comply with Title 24 of the CBC which requires energy efficient structures, and compliance will be verified during the construction permitting process. There are no unique project characteristics that would result in a significant increase in energy usage, or inefficient, wasteful use, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The project would not result in a potentially significant energy demand and inefficient energy use during long-term operations that would be considered wasteful, inefficient and unnecessary. Potential impacts related to energy would be *less than significant* and *less than cumulatively considerable*.

Mitigation

None are required.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

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

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (Alquist-Priolo Act) is a California state law that was developed to regulate development near active faults and mitigate the surface fault rupture potential and other hazards. The Alquist-Priolo Act identifies active earthquake fault zones and restricts the construction of habitable structures over known active or potentially active faults. San Luis Obispo County is located in a geologically complex and seismically active region.

The General Plan Safety Element identifies three active faults that traverse through the county and are currently zoned under the Alquist-Priolo Act: the San Andreas, the Hosgri-San Simeon, and the Los Osos. Another 17 faults are considered potentially active or have uncertain fault activity. The Safety Element establishes policies that require new development to be located away from active and potentially active faults. The element also requires that the County enforce applicable building codes relating to seismic design of structures and require design professionals to evaluate the potential for liquefaction or seismic settlement to impact structures in accordance with the Uniform Building Code. The nearest potentially capable fault line is the Rinconada Fault located about 1.75 miles to the east.

The County LUO identifies a Geologic Study Area (GSA) combining designation for areas where geologic and soil conditions could present new developments and/or their occupants with potential hazards to life and property. The project site is not located within a GSA combining designation. Based on the Safety Element, the project site is located in an area with moderate to low landslide risk potential and moderate to low liquefaction potential.

The following analysis is informed by the following investigations of the site:

- A Geotechnical Engineering Report prepared by Beacon Geotechnical, Inc. dated March 10, 2022.
- A Paleontological Resource Assessment prepared by Applied Earthworks dated August 2023.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Discussion

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

(a-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.*

The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Fault Hazard Zone. The potential for ground rupture at the site during ground shaking is considered moderate to low. The closest known Quaternary age fault is the Rinconada Fault about 2.7 miles to the east which is considered potentially active but does not underly the project site. Therefore, there would be *no impact* associated with potential impacts related to the rupture of a known earthquake fault.

(a-ii) *Strong seismic ground shaking?*

Groundshaking refers to the motion that occurs in response to local and regional earthquakes. Seismic groundshaking is influenced by the proximity of the site to an earthquake fault, the intensity of the seismic event, and the underlying soil composition. As discussed above, the closest known Quaternary age fault is the Rinconada Fault about 2.7 miles to the east of the site which is considered potentially active but does not underly the project site.

The project is required to comply with the CBC and other applicable standards to ensure the effects of a potential seismic event would be minimized through compliance with current engineering practices and techniques. Implementation of the project in compliance with relevant construction codes would not expose people or structures to significant increased risks associated with seismic ground shaking; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

(a-iii) *Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*

Based on the Safety Element Liquefaction Hazards Map, the project site is located in an area with low to moderate potential for liquefaction.

In addition, the project would be required to comply with CBC seismic requirements to address the site's potential for seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction. Therefore, the potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

(a-iv) *Landslides?*

Based on the Safety Element Landslide Hazards Map, the project site is located in an area with a low risk for landslides. The project would be required to comply with CBC seismic requirements to address the site's potential for landslides. Therefore, the potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

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

The project would result in approximately 2.23 acres of site disturbance and will require approximately 2,181 cubic yards (cy) of cut and 1,925 cy of fill. During site preparation and grading/leveling activities, there would be a potential for erosion to occur. The project application materials include a preliminary grading, drainage and erosion control plan that includes drainage collection, storage and conveyance infrastructure to ensure runoff does not cause erosion or adversely impact the quality of downstream surface or groundwater bodies.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Section 22.51.120 of the LUO requires any project that would change the runoff volume or velocity leaving any point of the site, result in an impervious surface of more than 20,000 square feet, or involve hillside development on slopes steeper than 10 percent to prepare and implement a sedimentation and erosion control plan. LUO Section 22.51.120 includes requirements for specific erosion control materials and states that Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be employed to control sedimentation and erosion. These mandatory BMPs are set forth in LUO Section 22.52.150 B. and C. and may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Minimizing the use of impervious surfaces (e.g., installing pervious driveways and walkways);
- Directing runoff from roofs and drives to vegetative strips before it leaves the site;
- Managing runoff on the site (e.g., percolation basins); and other Low Impact Design (LID) techniques.
- The installation of vegetated roadside drainage swales shall be encouraged and, if used, calculated into BMP requirements.
- The combined set of BMPs shall be designed to treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff up to and including the 85th percentile storm event.
- The BMPs shall include measures to minimize post-development loadings of total suspended solids.

Compliance with these mandatory BMPs will ensure water quality is protected from potential impacts associated with the construction and occupancy of the project. The plans will be reviewed by the County Building and Public Works Departments to ensure compliance.

In addition, the project may be subject to Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requirements for preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (LUO Section 22.52.130), which may include the preparation of a Storm Water Control Plan to further minimize on-site erosion. Upon implementation of the recommended BMPs, impacts related to soil erosion would be *less than significant*.

- (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?*

As discussed above under item a-iv, based on the Safety Element Landslide Hazards Map the potential for landslide is moderate to low and the potential for liquefaction is moderate to low.

Due to the distance to the nearest active fault zone and topography of the project site, lateral spreading is not likely to occur on-site. Compliance with the recommendations of the Geotechnical soil engineering report and CBC standards as required by recommended mitigation measure GEO-1 will significantly reduce potential risks associated with unstable earth conditions. Therefore, impacts related to on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

- (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?*

According to the Geotechnical Engineering Report, soils underlying the area of have low shrink-swell potential. The project will be required to comply with applicable CBC standards designed to reduce potential risks associated with expansive soils. Mitigation measure GEO-1 requires the project to

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

implement, and comply with, the geotechnical recommendations for construction. Therefore, potential impacts associated with expansive soil would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

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

The project consists of a single-family residence, garage, ADU, 4-car garage, barn and access road. The project site contains soils with characteristics that may constrain a septic system due to slow percolation, steep slopes, and shallow depth to bedrock. Therefore, the Geotechnical Engineer recommends the septic tank system be designed by an experienced engineer. Mitigation Measure GEO-1 requires the project to comply with the recommendations in the Geotechnical Engineering Report. Therefore, the project will have a *less than significant impact with mitigation* relating to the adequacy of soils to support the use of septic tanks.

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

A Paleontological Resources Assessment (PRA) of the project site was conducted by Applied Earthworks in March 2022 which is incorporated herein by reference and available for review in its entirety at the County Planning Department located at 976 Osos Street, San Luis Obispo. The purpose of the study was to determine the potential effect of the project on paleontological resources. The following is a summary of the findings and recommendations of that study.

According to the study, the surface of the Project has been mapped as Miocene Monterey Shale, late Pliocene to Pleistocene Paso Robles Formation, Pleistocene older surficial sediments, and Holocene surficial sediments.

The paleontological record search revealed fossils from unknown formations in the Pleistocene, the Paso Robles Formation, and the Monterey Formation within a 10-mile radius of the Project location. A paleontological field survey of the project site was performed. The survey focused on Monterey Shale within the project area, and some nearby exposures just outside of the project area. The portion of the project area to the north of the property was also briefly surveyed, including a drainage basin with mostly Holocene alluvial deposits. Within the Monterey Shale outcroppings, the paleontological surveyor observed in situ fragments of diatomaceous shale with molds of fossilized marine bivalves. In the drainage basin, ex situ fragments of diatomaceous shale were observed. Although bivalves such as these are not significant and fairly common in Monterey Shale, their presence nonetheless demonstrates that the unit is fossiliferous within the project area.

Based upon the records search, results of the paleontological survey and the project plans, Applied Earthworks ranked the Monterey Shale outcropping to the south of the property as high sensitivity for paleontological resources and the rest of the parcel was assigned low sensitivity. Nonetheless, the PRA recommends full-time monitoring for excavation at all depths in the Monterey Shale (southern portion of the project site) and at depths of 5 feet or greater in the Holocene alluvial deposits (northern portion of the project site) due to no subsurface data being available. They also recommend the preparation of a Paleontological Resources Impact Program (PRIMP) by a qualified professional paleontologist prior to issuance of grading permits. The PRIMP will specify steps taken to mitigate impacts to paleontological resources. With implementation of mitigation measures GEO-2, GEO-3 and GEO-4, potential impacts to paleontological resources would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Conclusion

The project site is not subject to significant geologic hazards such as landslides and shallow groundwater. Compliance with mandatory BMPs required by the LUO, relevant provisions of the CBC, as well as incorporation of the findings and recommendations of the geotechnical investigation stated in mitigation measure GEO-1, impacts associated with geology and geologic hazards would be *less than significant with mitigation*. In addition, any excavation may adversely impact paleontological resources associated with the Monterey Formation which be encountered. With implementation of mitigation measures GEO-2, GEO-3 and GEO-4, potential impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Mitigation

- GEO-1 Plans submitted for grading/construction permits** shall incorporate the findings and recommendations of the geotechnical investigation of the project site prepared by Beacon Geotechnical, dated March 10, 2024.
- GEO-2 A Paleontological Resources Management Plan (PRIMP)** shall be prepared and implemented by a San Luis Obispo County Certified Paleontologist for this project. At minimum it shall include: (1) paleontological resources awareness training for all earthmoving personnel, (2) specify paleontological personnel qualifications, (3) identify an established and recognized professional repository for any fossils recovered, (4) take into account the latest information on cut depth and location and specify where monitoring shall be required, (5) require and specify the full-time monitoring of the site, (6) specify fossil recovery procedures and locality documentation, (7) specify laboratory procedures, (8) require a detailed catalogue of specimens recovered with identification by experts, and (9) require a final report with the catalogue and all specialists reports as appendices.
- GEO-3 Full-time paleontological monitoring** shall be conducted throughout the duration of excavation into rocks of the at all depths in the Monterey Shale and full-time monitoring at depths of 5 feet or greater in the Holocene alluvial deposits. Should identifiable or otherwise potentially informative fossils be exposed by excavation, these shall be excavated, collected, and preserved, following guidelines presented in the PRIMP.
- GEO-4** If unanticipated fossil resources are unearthed during construction excavations, the contractor shall notify the County Department of Planning and Building and cease all earth-disturbing activities within a 50-foot radius of the area of discovery until the discovery can be evaluated by a San Luis Obispo County approved paleontologist.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

Setting

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are any gases that absorb infrared radiation in the atmosphere. The primary GHGs that are emitted into the atmosphere as a result of human activities are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and fluorinated gases. These are most commonly emitted through the burning of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal), agricultural practices, decay of organic waste in landfills, and a variety of other chemical reactions and industrial processes (e.g., the manufacturing of cement). Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most abundant GHG and is estimated to represent approximately 80–90% of the principal GHGs that are currently affecting the earth’s climate. According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), transportation (vehicle exhaust) and electricity generation are the main sources of GHGs in the state.

In October 2008, the CARB published the *Climate Change Proposed Scoping Plan*, which is the state’s plan to achieve GHG reductions in California required by Assembly Bill (AB) 32. The Scoping Plan included CARB-recommended GHG reductions for each emissions sector of the state’s GHG inventory. The largest proposed GHG reduction recommendations were associated with improving emissions standards for light-duty vehicles, implementing the Low Carbon Fuel Standard program, implementation of energy efficiency measures in buildings and appliances, the widespread development of combined heat and power systems, and developing a renewable portfolio standard for electricity production.

Senate Bill (SB) 32 and Executive Order (EO) S-3-05 extended the state’s GHG reduction goals and require CARB to regulate sources of GHGs to meet the following goals:

- Reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020;
- Reduce GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030;
- Reduce GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

The initial Scoping Plan was approved by CARB on December 11, 2008, and is updated every 5 years. The first update of the Scoping Plan was approved by the CARB on May 22, 2014, which looked past 2020 to set mid-term goals (2030–2035) toward reaching the 2050 goals. The most recent update released by CARB is the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan, which was released in November 2017. The 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan incorporates strategies for achieving the 2030 GHG-reduction target established in SB 32 and EO S-3-05.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

When assessing the significance of potential impacts for CEQA compliance, an individual project's GHG emissions will generally not result in direct significant impacts because the climate change issue is global in nature. However, an individual project could be found to contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. Projects that have GHG emissions above the noted thresholds may be considered cumulatively considerable and require mitigation. Accordingly, in March 2012, the SLOAPCD approved thresholds for GHG impacts which were incorporated into their 2012 CEQA Air Quality Handbook. The Handbook recommended applying a 1,150 MTCO_{2e} per year Bright Line Threshold for commercial and residential projects and included a list of general land uses and estimated sizes or capacities of uses expected to exceed this threshold. According to the SLOAPCD, this threshold was based on a 'gap analysis' and was used for CEQA compliance evaluations to demonstrate consistency with the state's GHG emission reduction goals associated with AB32 and the 2008 Climate Change Scoping Plan which have a target year of 2020. However, in 2015, the California Supreme Court issued an opinion in the case of *Center for Biological Diversity vs California Department of Fish and Wildlife* ("Newhall Ranch") that determined that AB 32 based thresholds derived from a gap analysis are invalid for projects with a planning horizon beyond 2020. Since the bright-line and service population GHG thresholds in the Handbook are AB 32 based, and project horizons are now beyond 2020, the SLOAPCD no longer recommends the use of these thresholds in CEQA evaluations.

In 2023, the SLOAPCD released an update to these thresholds with their *2023 Administrative Update Version to APCD Board Adopted April 2012 Version*. These updated thresholds were developed by creating updated GHG emissions inventories for 2005 and 2018 for the incorporated cities and unincorporated areas in SLO County to consider whether jurisdictions were on track with the AB 32 GHG reduction target. Then, target GHG emissions for SLO county in 2020, 2030, and 2045 were calculated to be consistent with reduction targets specified in AB 32, SB 32, and AB 1279. Thresholds for the years in between those evaluated were linearly interpolated, and annual GHG efficiency thresholds were adjusted to factor in GHG reductions needed for new development using information from the City of SLO's 2020 qualified Climate Action Plan's Appendix C – CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds and Guidance. A project's initial operating year should be used to determine which of the updated GHG Bright Line Thresholds for new residential, commercial, and mixed-use development is applicable to the project. For projects with an initial operating year of 2030 or earlier, GHG emissions at or below the applicable threshold for that year are contributing to the state's SB 32 GHG reduction target. For projects with an initial operational year after 2030, GHG emissions at or below the applicable threshold for that year are contributing to the state's AB 1279 target of reaching carbon neutrality by 2045. Table 5 shows the GHG Bright-Line Thresholds for projects with an initial operating year between 2023 and 2030.

Table 5 -- San Luis Obispo County Bright-Line CEQA GHG Thresholds Between 2023 and 2030 for Residential, Commercial, and Mix-use Development Projects

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
GHG Bright-Line Thresholds (MT/Yr)	980	930	880	830	780	740	690	650

If the lead agency determines that a proposed project's operational phase GHG emissions are below the applicable threshold, then the project's GHG impacts would be deemed less than significant and consistent with state and local GHG reduction goals.

EnergyWise Plan

The County EnergyWise Plan (EWP) identifies changes that could occur in the County as a result of climate change, provides an inventory of GHG emissions in the County, and establishes a GHG emissions forecast and

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

reduction targets for the County. This plan identifies strategies to reduce the county's GHG emissions by 15% below the baseline year of 2006 by the year 2020. This goal is consistent with Assembly Bill 32. The inventory denotes municipal and community-wide emissions caused by a range of activities in 2006, including transportation, waste, agriculture, energy, and aircraft-related activities. The EWP includes an Implementation Program that provides a strategy for action with specific measures and steps to achieve the identified GHG reduction targets including, but not limited to, the following:

- Encourage new development to exceed minimum Cal Green requirements;
- Require a minimum of 75% of nonhazardous construction and demolition debris generated on site to be recycled or salvaged;
- Continue to implement strategic growth strategies that direct the county's future growth into existing communities and to provide complete services to meet local needs;
- Continue to increase the amount of affordable housing in the County, allowing lower-income families to live closer to jobs and activity centers, and providing residents with greater access to transit and alternative modes;
- Reduce potable water use by 20% in all newly constructed buildings by using the performance method provided in the California Green Building Code;
- Require use of energy-efficient equipment in all new development;
- Minimize the use of dark materials on roofs by requiring roofs to achieve a minimum solar reflectivity index of 10 for high-slope roofs and 68 for low-slope roofs; and
- Use light-colored aggregate in new road construction and repaving projects adjacent to existing cities.

In 2016 the County published the EnergyWise Plan 2016 Update, which describes changes and modifications to the EnergyWise plan. These modifications include a summary of the progress made toward implementing measures in the 2011 EWP, overall trends in energy use and emissions since the baseline year of the inventory (2006), and the addition of implementation measures intended to provide a greater understanding of the County's emissions status.

Discussion

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

Based on the nature of the proposed project and Table 1-1 of the SLOAPCD CEQA Air Quality Handbook, the project would generate less than the SLOAPCD Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 MTCO₂e metric tons of GHG emissions. The project's construction related and operational GHG emissions and energy demands would be minimal. Therefore, the project's potential direct and cumulative GHG emissions would be less than significant and less than a cumulatively considerable contribution to regional GHG emissions. Projects that generate less than the above-mentioned thresholds will also participate in emission reductions because air emissions, including GHGs, are under the purview of the ARB (or other regulatory agencies) and will be regulated by standards implemented by the ARB, the federal government, or other regulatory agencies. For example, new vehicles will be subject to increased fuel economy standards and emission reductions, large and small appliances will be subject to more strict emissions standards, and energy delivered to consumers will increasingly come from renewable sources. As a result, even the emissions that result from projects that produce fewer

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

emissions than the threshold will be subject to emission reductions. Therefore, potential impacts associated with GHG emissions would be *less than significant* and *less than cumulatively considerable*.

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

Energy inefficiency contributes to higher GHG emissions which in turn may conflict with the following state and local plans for energy efficiency.

2011 EnergyWise Plan (EWP). As discussed above, the County of San Luis Obispo EnergyWise plan (EWP), adopted in 2011, serves as the County’s GHG reduction strategy. The GHG-reducing policy provisions contained in the EWP were prepared for the purpose of complying with the requirements of AB 32 and achieving the goals of the AB 32 Scoping Plan, which have a horizon year of 2020. The policy provisions are divided into community-wide measures and measures aimed at reducing GHG emissions associated with County operations. The GHG reduction measures contained in the EWP are generally programmatic and intended to be implemented at the community level. Measure No. 7 encourages energy efficient new development and provides incentives for new development to exceed Cal Green energy efficiency standards. The following is a summary of project consistency with the relevant supporting actions identified in the EWP for promoting energy efficiency in new development.

Supporting Action	Project Consistency
Require the use of energy-efficient equipment in all new development, including but not limited to Energy Star appliances, high-energy efficiency equipment, heat recovery equipment, and building energy management systems.	The new development will satisfy current energy efficiency requirements.

San Luis Obispo County 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). The 2023 RTP, which was adopted by the SLOCOG Board in June 2023, provides a collective vision for the region’s future balancing transportation and housing needs with social, economic, and environmental goals. The Plan identified and tested growth scenarios to accommodate the coming 42,000 new people, 18,000 new homes, and 18,000 new jobs. The plan helps guide future planning efforts and policy decisions that affect transportation, including its relationship with housing and land use that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our region. The 2023 RTP provides recommendations to help our cities and the County of San Luis Obispo make important decisions about transportation, housing, and land-use. The 2023 RTP provides forward looking recommendations out to 2045 because many of our local government decisions will influence the region’s long-term growth and development over the coming decades.

The RTP includes the region’s Sustainable Communities Strategy and outlines how the region will meet or exceed its GHG reduction targets by creating more compact, walkable, bike-friendly, transit-oriented communities, preserving important habitat and agricultural areas, and promoting a variety of transportation demand management and system management tools and techniques to maximize the efficiency of the transportation network. The RTP and SCS provide guidance for the development and management of transportation systems county-wide to help achieve, among other objectives, GHG reduction goals. The RTP/SCS recommend strategies for community planning such as encouraging mixed-use, infill development that facilitate the use of modes of travel other than motor

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

vehicles. The project would result in the establishment of activities that are residential in nature and would not result in employment opportunities or a substantial population increase in the project area. However, as discussed in Section XVII, Transportation, the project is not expected to exceed existing VMT thresholds during construction or operation, which is consistent with the 2019 RTP.

As discussed in Section III. Air Quality, the project does not include development of retail or commercial uses that would be open to the public, therefore, land use planning strategies such as mixed-use development and planning compact communities are generally not applicable. The project would result in a residence and an ADU. Therefore, the project would not significantly affect the local area's jobs/housing balance.

California Air Resources Board (CARB) 2022 Scoping Plan. Pursuant to AB 32, the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) prepared and adopted the initial Scoping Plan to “*identify and make recommendations on direct emissions reductions measures, alternative compliance mechanisms, market-based compliance mechanisms, and potential monetary and non-monetary incentives*” in order to achieve the 2020 goal, and to achieve “*the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG emissions reductions*” by 2020 and maintain and continue reductions beyond 2020. AB 32 requires CARB to update the Scoping Plan at least every five years.

The 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan recommends strategies to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 or earlier, outlining a technologically feasible, cost-effective, and equity-focused path to achieve the state's climate target. The 2022 plan, addressing recent legislation and direction from Governor Newsom, extends and expands upon earlier scoping plans with a target of reducing anthropogenic emissions to 85 percent below 1990 levels by 2045. The 2022 plan also takes the unprecedented step of adding carbon neutrality as a science-based guide and touchstone for California's climate work. The plan outlines how carbon neutrality can be achieved by taking steps to reduce GHGs to meet the anthropogenic emissions target and by expanding actions to capture and store carbon through the state's natural and working lands and using a variety of mechanical approaches.

The strategies described in the 2022 Scoping Plan are programmatic and intended to be implemented state-wide and industry-wide. They are therefore not applicable at the level of an individual project. However, as discussed in Section XVII. Transportation, the project is not expected to generate a significant increase in construction-related or operational traffic trips or Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) which is consistent with Scoping Plan strategies for reducing vehicle miles traveled. Overall, the project would have a *less than significant impact* relating to consistency with adopted plans and policies aimed at reducing GHG emissions.

Conclusion

GHG emissions would be *less than significant and less than cumulatively considerable* and consistent with plans adopted to reduce GHG emissions.

Mitigation

None are required.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Setting

The Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List), which is a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code (CGC) Section 65962.5, is a planning document used by the state, local agencies, and developers to comply with CEQA requirements related to the disclosure of information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. The project is not located in an area of known hazardous material contamination and is not on a site listed on the Cortese List (State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB] 2021; California Department of Toxic Substance Control [DTSC] 2021).

The County has adopted general emergency plans for multiple potential natural disasters, including the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, County Emergency Operations Plan, Earthquake Plan, Dam and Levee Failure Plan, Hazardous Materials Response Plan, County Recovery Plan, and the Tsunami Response Plan.

The California Health and Safety Code provides regulations pertaining to the abatement of fire-related hazards and requires that local jurisdictions enforce the CBC, which provides standards for fire resistive building and roofing materials, and other fire-related construction methods. The Safety Element of the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan provides a Fire Hazard Zones Map identifies areas of the unincorporated areas in the county within moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones. The project is located within the Local Responsibility Area in a low fire hazard severity zone. Based on the Safety Element map of response times, it would take about 5 minutes to respond to a call regarding fire or life safety. For more information about fire-related hazards and risk assessment, see Section XX, Wildfire.

The Paso Robles Municipal Airport is located about 9.5 miles to the north; the project site is not located within an Airport Review Area.

Discussion

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

Construction activities may involve the use of oils, fuels, and solvents. In the event of a leak or spill, persons, soil, and vegetation down-slope from the site may be affected. The use, storage, and transport of hazardous materials is regulated by DTSC (22 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 66001, et seq.). The use of hazardous materials on the project site for construction and maintenance is required to follow local, state, and federal regulations. In addition, compliance with best management practices (BMPs) for the use and storage of hazardous materials would also address impacts. These BMPs may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Determining whether a product constitutes a hazardous material in accordance with federal and state regulations;
- Properly characterizing the physical properties, reactivity, fire and explosion hazards of the various materials;
- Using storage containers that are appropriate for the quantity and characteristics of the materials;
- Properly labeling of containers and maintaining a complete and up to date inventory;
- Ongoing inspection and maintenance of containers in good condition;
- Proper storage of incompatible, ignitable and/or reactive wastes;

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Project operations would not involve the use of household hazardous materials such as fertilizer and pesticides.

Compliance with the Uniform Fire Code and the recommendations of County Fire/CalFIRE will ensure that potential impacts associated with hazards to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials would be *less than significant*.

- (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?*

Oils, gasoline, lubricants, fuels, and other potentially hazardous substances would be used and temporarily stored onsite during construction activities. A spill or leak of these materials under accident conditions during construction activities could create a potentially significant hazard to the surrounding environment including the blue line creek that runs downslope of the disturbance area for the residence, garage and ADU. Mitigation measures HAZ-1 and HAZ-2 are required to reduce potential impacts associated with upset or accident conditions during project construction.

Through required compliance with these standards, potential operational hazards associated with the use of ethanol onsite would be effectively minimized. Therefore, potential impacts associated with hazards to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset or accident conditions would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

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

The closest school facility (Templeton High School) is located approximately 0.5 miles west of the project site. Therefore, the project site is not located within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

- (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?*

Based on the California DTSC's Envirostor and SWRCB's GeoTracker, the project site is not listed on, nor is it located in close proximity to, a site listed on the Cortese List, which is a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to CGC Section 65962.5; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

- (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?*

The nearest airstrip in proximity to the project site is the Paso Robles Airport located approximately 9.5 miles northeast of the site. The project site is not located within an Airport Review designation or adjacent to a private airstrip. The project site is not located within or adjacent to an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or private airstrip; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

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

The project does not require any road closures and would be required to be designed to accommodate emergency vehicle access. The project would not impair implementation or physically interfere with County hazard mitigation or emergency plans; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

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

The project is located in a low Fire Hazard Severity Zone and has not been subject to a wildfire since at least 1950. The project does not include the construction of any structures or buildings that would be subject to human occupation. The project will be conditioned to implement building and site improvements in accordance with the Fire Code as required. Therefore, potential impacts associated with exposure of people or structures to significant risk involving wildland fires would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The project may include the use of potentially hazardous materials during construction. Mitigation measures have been identified below to reduce potential impacts associated with routine transport, use, and disposal of these materials, as well as potential hazards associated with upset and accident conditions and wildland fire risk. Upon implementation of measures HAZ-1 and HAZ-2, potential impacts associated with hazards and hazardous materials would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Mitigation

HAZ-1 Equipment Maintenance and Refueling. During all construction activities, the cleaning, refueling, and maintenance of equipment and vehicles shall occur only within designated staging areas. The staging areas shall conform to all Best Management Practices applicable to attaining zero discharge of stormwater runoff. At a minimum, all equipment and vehicles shall be checked and maintained on a daily basis to ensure proper operation and to avoid potential leaks or spills.

HAZ-2 Spill Response Protocol. During all construction activities, all project-related spills of hazardous materials shall be cleaned up immediately. Appropriate spill prevention and cleanup materials shall be onsite at all times during construction.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

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

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Setting

One unnamed 'blue line' creek crosses the project site roughly east to west and is tributary to the Salinas River. The as-built gravel access driveway crosses this creek. Large boulders and soil were placed in the creek in order to allow the gravel access driveway to pass over the creek. Two culverts were placed in the creek under the crossing to allow water to pass through. The unnamed creek does not support any riparian or wetland vegetation and is classified as a non-wetland water of the United States (Sage Institute, 2022). This classification has been verified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The RWQCB's Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin (Basin Plan; RWQCB 2017) describes how the quality of surface water and groundwater in the Central Coast Region should be managed to provide the highest water quality reasonably possible. The Basin Plan outlines the beneficial uses of streams, lakes, and other water bodies for humans and other life. There are 24 categories of beneficial uses, including, but not limited to, municipal water supply, water contact recreation, non-water contact recreation, and cold freshwater habitat. Water quality objectives are then established to protect the beneficial uses of those water resources. The RWQCB implements the Basin Plan by issuing and enforcing waste discharge requirements to individuals, communities, or businesses whose discharges can affect water quality.

In accordance with the LUO, a project that would change the runoff volume or velocity leaving any point of the site, result in an impervious surface of more than 20,000 square feet, or involve hillside development on slopes steeper than 10 percent is required to prepare a drainage plan for review and approval by the County. A drainage plan is not required where grading is exclusively for an exempt agricultural structure, crop production, or grazing. The LUO also requires the preparation of an erosion and sedimentation control plan for all construction and grading permit projects and site disturbance activities of one-half acre or more in geologically unstable areas, on slopes steeper than 30 percent, on highly erodible soils, or within 100 feet of any watercourse.

The County Department of Public Works is responsible for ensuring that new construction sites implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction, and that site plans incorporate appropriate post-construction stormwater runoff controls. Construction sites that disturb 1 acre or more must obtain coverage under the SWRCB's Construction General Permit. The Construction General Permit requires the preparation of a SWPPP to minimize on-site sedimentation and erosion. There are several types of projects that are exempt from preparing a SWPPP, including routine maintenance to existing developments, emergency construction activities, and projects exempted by the SWRCB or RWQCB. Projects that disturb less than 1 acre must implement all required elements within the site's erosion and sediment control plan as required by the LUO.

The project lies within the Atascadero Groundwater Basin as defined by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118. The Basin is not considered in overdraft conditions as of 2024. In May 2018, DWR designated the Atascadero Basin as a very low priority basin and therefore no longer required to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). According to the most recent biennial Resource Summary Report, the Atascadero Basin has not been assigned a Level of Severity.

For planning purposes, the flood event most often used to delineate areas subject to flooding is the 100-year flood. The Safety Element of the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan establishes policies to reduce flood hazards and reduce flood damage, including, but not limited to, prohibition of development in areas of high flood hazard potential, discouragement of single-road access into remote areas that could be closed during floods, and review of plans for construction in low-lying areas.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Discussion

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

The project will involve 2,181 cy of cut, 1,925 cy of fill and an area of disturbance of about 2.23 acres. Accordingly, a sedimentation and erosion control plan will be required to minimize the potential for soil erosion, which will be subject to the review and approval of the County Building Division in accordance with LUO Section 22.52.120. The application materials included a preliminary grading plan which was subject to peer review by Beacon Geotechnical, Inc., in 2024.

The project includes an as-built crossing over a blue line stream. The blue line stream is a seasonally active drainage and per the CDFW, a non-wetland water of the US since it does not support riparian or wetland vegetation. Large boulders, soil and two culverts were placed in the drainage to allow water to pass through.

The erosion and sedimentation control plan sets forth measures to minimize potential impacts related to erosion and will include requirements for specific erosion control materials, setbacks from creeks, and siltation. In addition, the project is located outside of a stormwater management area and proposes a disturbance area greater than 1.0 acre, therefore, the project may be required to prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) by a qualified SWPPP developer in order to demonstrate compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act which prohibits certain discharges of stormwater containing pollutants.

The project will be conditioned to require all potentially hazardous materials to be stored, refilled, and dispensed on-site in full compliance with applicable County Department of Environmental Health standards and mitigation measures HAZ-1 and HAZ-2, which requires implementation of efforts to protect surface water quality, and compliance with existing County and state water quality, sedimentation, and erosion control standards. Therefore, as conditioned, the project would not result in a violation of any water quality standards, discharge into surface waters, or otherwise alter surface water quality; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

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

The project proposed includes a single-family residence, ADU, 4-car-garage, barn and as-built driveway. The project would be subject to implementation of a Stormwater Control Plan (SWCP) in accordance with County regulations or RWQCB Post-Construction Requirements (PCRs) for long-term stormwater control measures at the project site. The project is not located within a groundwater basin designated as Level of Severity III per the County's Resource Management System or in severe decline by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The project would not substantially increase water demand, deplete groundwater supplies, or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge; therefore, the project would not interfere with sustainable management of the groundwater basin. Potential impacts associated with groundwater supplies would be *less than significant*.

- (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:*

- (c-i) *Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?*

The project will involve approximately 2,181 cy of cut, 1,925 cy of fill and an area of disturbance of about 2.23 acres.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

As discussed above, there is one 'blue line' creek that crosses the project site. The as-built access driveway crosses this creek. Soil, boulders and culverts were placed in the creek to create this access and allow water to pass through. The unnamed creek does not support any riparian or wetland vegetation and is classified as a non-wetland water of the United States (Sage Institute, 2022). High streamflow, grading and construction activities have the potential to result in erosion which in turn could result in the siltation of the drainage. The project application materials include a preliminary grading, and erosion control plan that includes drainage collection, storage and conveyance infrastructure to ensure runoff does not adversely impact the quality of downstream surface or groundwater bodies. The project will be conditioned to prepare a final sedimentation and erosion control plan subject to the review and approval of the County Building Division in accordance with LUO Section 22.52.120.

In addition, the project may be required to comply with all National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements and prepare a SWPPP that incorporates BMPs during construction. Water quality protection measures would include protection of stockpiles, protection of slopes, protection of all disturbed areas, protection of access roads, and perimeter containment measures. Therefore, potential impacts associated with erosion and siltation from substantial alteration of the existing on-site drainage pattern would be *less than significant*.

(c-ii) *Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?*

The construction of the project will slightly increase the volume and velocity of stormwater runoff generated on site. The application materials include a preliminary grading and erosion control plan that includes drainage collection, storage, and conveyance infrastructure to ensure runoff does not adversely impact the quality of downstream surface or groundwater bodies.

In addition, the project will be subject to post-construction stormwater requirements through preparation and implementation of a SWPPP, which would identify appropriate BMPs to capture and treat runoff before it leaves the site. Based on required compliance with applicable state and County drainage and stormwater control regulations, the project's impacts associated with increased surface runoff resulting in flooding on- or off-site would be *less than significant*.

(c-iii) *Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*

The project will be subject to post-construction stormwater requirements through preparation and implementation of a SWPPP, which would identify appropriate BMPs to capture and treat runoff before it leaves the site.

Based on required compliance with applicable state and County drainage and stormwater control regulations, the project's impacts associated with increased surface runoff resulting in exceedance of the capacity of existing or planned drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff would be *less than significant*.

(c-iv) *Impede or redirect flood flows?*

Based on the County Flood Hazard Map, the area of disturbance is not located within a mapped 100-year flood zone. Therefore, *no impacts would occur*.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

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

Based on the Safety Element Flood Hazard Map, the project site is not located within a mapped 100-year flood zone (County of San Luis Obispo 2013). Based on the San Luis Obispo County Tsunami Inundation Maps, the project site is not located in an area with potential for inundation by a tsunami. The project site is not located within close proximity to a standing body of water with the potential for a seiche to occur. Therefore, the project site has no potential to release pollutants due to project inundation and *no impacts would occur*.

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

As discussed in the setting, the project site lies within the Atascadero Groundwater Basin. In May 2018, DWR designated the Atascadero Basin as a very low priority basin and therefore no longer required to comply with the SGMA. Nonetheless, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) decided to continue to proactively manage the groundwater resources in the Atascadero Basin and move forward with the development of a GSP using grant funds provided by DWR. The Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (ABGSP) was submitted to DWR in 2022. The ABGSP sets forth projects and management actions to achieve and maintain the sustainable use of the Basin. The management strategies are largely programmatic; therefore, an individual project such as this single-family residence and ADU, will have no effect on the implementation of the plan. Therefore, potential impacts associated with conflict or obstruction of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

With the implementation of spill response and site maintenance measures required by mitigation measures HAZ-1 and HAZ-2 the project will result in *less than significant impacts with mitigation* associated with water supply, water quality and hydrology.

Mitigation

Implement mitigation measures HAZ-1 and HAZ-2

Sources

See Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

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

Setting

The LUO was established to guide and manage the future growth in the county in accordance with the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan; regulate land use in a manner that will encourage and support orderly development and beneficial use of lands; minimize adverse effects on the public resulting from inappropriate creation, location, use, or design of buildings or land uses; and protect and enhance significant natural, historic, archeological, and scenic resources within the county. The LUO is the primary tool used by the County to carry out the goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan.

The Land Use Element (LUE) of the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan provides policies and standards for the management of growth and development in each unincorporated community and rural areas of the county and serves as a reference point and guide for future land use planning studies throughout the county. The LUE identifies strategic growth principles to define and focus the County's proactive planning approach and balance environmental, economic, and social equity concerns. Each strategic growth principle correlates with a set of policies and implementation strategies that define how land will be used and resources protected. The LUE also defines each of the 14 land use designations and identifies standards for land uses based on the designation they are located within. The project parcel and adjacent properties within the unincorporated county are all within the Agricultural land use designation.

The inland LUE also contains the area plans of each of the four inland planning areas: Carrizo, North County, San Luis Obispo, and South County. The area plans establish policies and programs for land use, circulation, public facilities, services, and resources that apply "areawide," in rural areas, and in unincorporated urban areas within each planning area. Part three of the LUE contains each of the 13 inland community and village plans, which contain goals, policies, programs, and related background information for the County's unincorporated inland urban and village areas.

The site is within the El Pomar-Estrella Sub Area of the North County Planning Area as described in the Baseline Conditions.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Discussion

(a) *Physically divide an established community?*

The project does not propose project elements or components that would physically divide the site from surrounding areas and uses. The project would be compatible with existing agricultural operations on the project and surrounding properties and would not create, close, or impede any existing public or private roads, or create any other barriers to movement or accessibility within the community. Therefore, the proposed project would not physically divide an established community, and *impacts would be less than significant.*

(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?*

The project would be consistent with the property's land use designation and the guidelines and policies for development within the applicable area plan, inland LUO, and the COSE. The project, as it may be conditioned, was found to be consistent with standards and policies set forth in the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan, the San Luis Obispo Area Plan, the SLOAPCD Clean Air Plan, and other land use policies for this area. The project would be required to be consistent with standards set forth by County Fire/CAL FIRE and the County Public Works Department.

The project would be required to implement measures to mitigate potential impacts associated with air quality, biological resources, geology, and hazardous materials; therefore, with mitigation, the project would not conflict with policies or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating environmental effects and impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation.*

Conclusion

The project would be consistent with local and regional land use designations, plans, and policies and would not divide an established community. Potential impacts related to land use and planning would be *less than significant with mitigation* measures associated with air quality, biological resources, hazards and hazardous materials.

Mitigation

Implement mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, BIO-1, BIO-2, CR-1 through CR-4, GEO-1 through GEO-4, HAZ-1 and HAZ-2.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

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

Setting

The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) requires that the State Geologist classify land into mineral resource zones (MRZ) according to the known or inferred mineral potential of the land (California PRC Sections 2710–2796).

The three MRZs used in the SMARA classification-designation process in the San Luis Obispo-Santa Barbara Production-Consumption Region are defined below (California Geological Survey [CGS] 2015):

- **MRZ-1:** Areas where available geologic information indicates that little likelihood exists for the presence of significant mineral resources.
- **MRZ-2:** Areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists. This zone shall be applied to known mineral deposits or where well-developed lines of reasoning, based upon economic-geologic principles and adequate data, demonstrate that the likelihood for occurrence of significant mineral deposits is high.
- **MRZ-3:** Areas containing known or inferred aggregate resources of undetermined significance.

The LUO provides regulations for development in delineated Energy and Extractive Resource Areas (EX) and Extractive Resource Areas (EX1). The EX combining designation is used to identify areas of the county where:

1. Mineral or petroleum extraction occurs or is proposed to occur;
2. The state geologist has designated a mineral resource area of statewide or regional significance pursuant to California PRC Sections 2710 et seq. (SMARA); and
3. Major public utility electric generation facilities exist or are proposed.

The purpose of this combining designation is to protect significant resource extraction and energy production areas identified by the County LUE from encroachment by incompatible land uses that could hinder resource extraction or energy production operations, or land uses that would be adversely affected by extraction or energy production.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Discussion

- (a) *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*
- (b) *Result in the loss of availability of a locally- important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*

Based on the California Geological Survey (CGS) Information Warehouse for Mineral Land Classification and on Chapter 6 of the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element – Mineral Resources, the project site is not in close proximity to an active mine but the eastern portion of the parcel is located within an EX-1 extractive resource area/combining designation (CGS 2021). The extractive resource area is mapped due to the sand resources within the Salinas River. The Salinas River and the corresponding mapped extractive resource area is located outside the limits of disturbance for the proposed project. There will be no loss of availability of a known mineral resource valuable to the County or the state as a result of this project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Conclusion

No impacts to mineral resources would occur and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Mitigation

None necessary.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XIII. NOISE

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

Setting

The Noise Element of the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan provides a policy framework for addressing potential noise impacts in the planning process. The purpose of the Noise Element is to minimize future noise conflicts. The Noise Element identifies the major noise sources in the county (highways and freeways, primary arterial roadways and major local streets, railroad operations, aircraft and airport operations, local industrial facilities, and other stationary sources) and includes goals, policies, and implementation programs to reduce future noise impacts. Among the most significant policies of the Noise Element are numerical noise standards that limit noise exposure within noise-sensitive land uses and performance standards for new commercial and industrial uses that might adversely impact noise-sensitive land uses.

Noise sensitive include the following:

- Residential development, except temporary dwellings
- Schools (preschool to secondary, college and university, and specialized education and training)
- Health care services (e.g., hospitals, clinics, etc.)
- Nursing and personal care
- Churches
- Public assembly and entertainment
- Libraries and museums
- Hotels and motels
- Bed and breakfast facilities

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

- Outdoor sports and recreation
- Offices

All sound levels referred to in the Noise Element are expressed in A-weighted decibels (dBA). A-weighting de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequencies of sound in a manner similar to the human ear.

The LUO establishes acceptable standards for exterior and interior noise levels (Table 11) and describes how noise will be measured for determining compliance with county noise level standards. Exterior noise level standards are applicable when a land use affected by noise is one of the sensitive uses listed in the Noise Element. Exterior noise levels are measured from the property line of the affected noise-sensitive land use.

Table 11 -- Maximum allowable exterior noise level standards⁽¹⁾

Sound Levels	Daytime 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.	Nighttime ⁽²⁾
Hourly Equivalent Sound Level (L _{eq} , dB)	50	45
Maximum level, dB	70	65

¹ When the receiving noise-sensitive land use is outdoor sports and recreation, the noise level standards are increased by 10 db.

² Applies only to uses that operate or are occupied during nighttime hours.

The LUO provides exceptions to these noise standards for specific sources and activities. Noise associated with construction activities that occur between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday are exempt. Additionally, noise sources associated with the maintenance of a residential use between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. are also exempt, as is noise associated with agricultural land uses (as listed in Section 22.06.030), traffic on public roadways, railroad line operations, and aircraft in flight.

Discussion

- (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?*

Construction Impacts. As noted above, the County LUO noise standards are subject to a range of exceptions, including noise sources associated with construction, provided such activities do not take place before 7 a.m. or after 9 p.m. on weekdays, or before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday. According to the 2005 Federal Highway Administration's Roadway Construction Noise Mode Database, noise associated with heavy construction equipment can range from about 73 to 101 dBA for non-impact equipment. Noise levels 50 feet from stationary equipment can range from 68 to 88 dBA. Table 12 provides an estimate of noise generated by temporary construction equipment that may be used for construction of the project.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Table 12 -- Estimate of Noise from Construction Equipment

Equipment	Quantity	dBA at the Nearest Property line 50 Feet ¹
Backhoe	1	78
Dozer	1	82
Excavator	1	81
Dump Truck	1	76
Generator	1	81
Pickup Truck	2	75

Notes:

1. Source: Federal Highway Administration's Roadway Construction Noise Mode Database.

Project construction would result in a temporary increase in noise levels associated with construction activities, equipment, and vehicle trips. Construction noise would be variable, temporary, and limited in nature and duration.

The nearest property line to the area of disturbance is located to the east of the area of disturbance with the distance about 50 feet. As shown in Table 12, construction related noise would likely temporarily exceed the maximum hourly daytime levels allowed by the County's noise standards at the nearest property line. The County LUO requires that construction activities be conducted during daytime hours and that construction equipment be equipped with appropriate mufflers recommended by the manufacturer. Compliance with these standards would ensure short-term construction noise would be *less than significant*.

Operational Impacts. The project does not propose noise generating activities. Operational noise will be limited to those of a single-family residence, which is consistent with the surrounding residential land uses. Therefore, operational noise will be below County standards and impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impacts associated with the generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels would be *less than significant*.

- (b) *Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

The project will not involve the use of pile driving, or other high impact activities that would generate substantial groundborne noise or groundborne vibration during construction. In addition, construction equipment has the potential to generate minor groundborne noise and/or vibration, but these activities would be limited to the daytime hours allowed by County LUO. The project does not propose a use that would generate long-term operational groundborne noise or vibration. Therefore, impacts related to exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels would be *less than significant*.

- (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?*

The nearest airstrip in proximity to the project site is the Paso Robles Regional Airport located approximately 9 miles to the north. The project site is not located within an Airport Review designation

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

or adjacent to a private airstrip. The project site is not located within or adjacent to an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or private airstrip; therefore, *no impact would occur*.

Conclusion

Short-term construction activities would be limited in nature and duration and conducted during daytime periods per LUO standards. Operational noise levels will be less than the standards set forth in the LUO and are considered less than significant. No other potentially significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Mitigation

None are required.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

Setting

The Housing Element of the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan recognizes the difficulty for residents to find suitable and affordable housing within San Luis Obispo County. The Housing Element includes an analysis of vacant and underutilized land located in urban areas that is suitable for residential development and considers zoning provisions and development standards to encourage development of these areas. Consistent with state housing element laws, these areas are categorized into potential sites for very low- and low-income households, moderate-income households, and above moderate-income households.

In its efforts to provide for affordable housing, the County currently administers the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which provide limited financing to projects relating to affordable housing throughout the county.

The project site is currently vacant.

Discussion

- (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)?*

The project proposes the construction of one single-family dwelling unit and ADU. The project would not result in the extension or establishment of roads, utilities, or other infrastructure that would induce development and population growth in new areas. Nor would the project generate a substantial number of new employment opportunities that would encourage population growth in the area. Therefore, the project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial growth and *no impacts* would occur.

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

The project would have *no impact* associated with the displacement of existing housing or necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Conclusion

No impacts to population and housing would occur and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Mitigation

None necessary.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Fire protection services in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County are provided by CAL FIRE, which has been under contract with the County to provide full-service fire protection since 1930. Approximately 180 full-time state employees operate the County Fire Department, supplemented by as many as 100 state seasonal fire fighters, 300 County paid call and reserve fire fighters, and 120 state inmate fire fighters. CAL FIRE responds to emergencies and other requests for assistance, plans for and takes action to prevent emergencies and reduce their impact, coordinates regional emergency response efforts, and provides public education and training in local communities. CAL FIRE has 24 fire stations located throughout the county, and the project would be served by the Templeton Fire station, located approximately 5 miles west of the project site in the community of Templeton. Emergency personnel would be able to reach the site in 5-10 minutes of receiving a call.

Police protection and emergency services in the unincorporated portions of the county are provided by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office Patrol Division responds to calls for service, conducts proactive law enforcement activities, and performs initial investigations of crimes. Patrol personnel are deployed from three stations throughout the county, the Coast Station in Los Osos, the North County Station in Templeton, and the South Station in Oceano. The project would be served by the North County Sheriff's Station, located approximately 1.5 miles to the north of the project site in the community of Templeton.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

San Luis Obispo County has a total of 12 school districts that currently enroll approximately 34,000 students in over 75 schools. The project site is located within the Templeton Unified School District.

Within the County's unincorporated areas, there are currently 23 parks, three public golf courses, four trails/staging areas, and eight Special Areas that include natural areas, coastal access, and historic facilities currently operated and maintained by the County.

Public facilities fees, Quimby fees, and developer conditions are several ways the County currently funds public services. A public facility fee program (i.e., development impact fee program) has been adopted to address impacts related to public facilities (county) and schools (CGC Section 65995 et seq.). The fee amounts are assessed annually by the County based on the type of proposed development and the development's proportional impact and are collected at the time of building permit issuance. Public facility fees are used as needed to finance the construction of and/or improvements to public facilities required to serve new development, including fire protection, law enforcement, schools, parks, and roads.

Discussion

- (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?

The project will be designed to comply with all fire safety rules and regulations, including the California Fire Code and California PRC. The project will be conditioned to implement all requirements identified by the County Fire Department/CAL FIRE for the project including items to be completed prior to final inspection/operation. Based on the type of development proposed (single-family residence, ADU, 4-garage, barn and access driveway), the project would not create a significant new demand for fire services. In addition, the project will be subject to public facility fees to offset the increased cumulative demand on fire protection services. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*. Additional information regarding wildfire hazard impacts is discussed in Section XX, Wildfire. Additional information regarding fire related hazard impacts is discussed in Section IX, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

Police protection?

The project may be subject to public facility fees to offset the project's cumulative contribution to demand on law enforcement services. Therefore, impacts related to police services would be *less than significant*.

Schools?

As discussed in Section XIV, Population/Housing, the project would not induce population growth and would not result in the need for additional school services or facilities. As a result, the project would not be subject to school impact fees, pursuant to California Education Code Section 17620, to help fund construction or reconstruction of school facilities. Therefore, there would be *no impact* to schools.

Parks?

As discussed in Section XIV, Population and Housing, the project would not induce any increase in population growth and would not result in the need for additional parks or recreational services or

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

facilities to serve new populations; therefore, there would be *no impact* to parks or recreational services or facilities.

Other public facilities?

As discussed above, the proposed project may be subject to applicable fees to offset negligible increased demands on public facilities; therefore, there would be *no impacts* related to other public facilities.

Conclusion

The project does not propose development that would substantially increase demands on public services and would not induce population growth that would substantially increase demands on public services. The project may be subject to payment of development impact fees to reduce the project's negligible contribution to increased demands on public services and facilities. Therefore, potential impacts related to public services would be *less than significant* and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Mitigation

None are necessary.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XVI. RECREATION

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

Setting

The Parks and Recreation Element (Recreation Element) of the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan establishes goals, policies, and implementation measures for the management, renovation, and expansion of existing parks and recreation facilities and the development of new parks and recreation facilities in order to meet existing and projected needs and to assure an equitable distribution of parks throughout the county.

Public facilities fees, Quimby fees, and developer conditions are several ways the County currently funds public parks and recreational facilities. Public facility fees are collected upon construction of new residential units and currently provide funding for new community-serving recreation facilities. Quimby Fees are collected when new residential lots are created and can be used to expand, acquire, rehabilitate, or develop community-serving parks. Finally, a discretionary permit issued by the County may condition a project to provide land, amenities, or facilities consistent with the Recreation Element.

The County Bikeways Plan identifies and prioritizes bikeway facilities throughout the unincorporated area of the county, including bikeways, parking, connections with public transportation, educational programs, and funding. The Bikeways Plan is updated every 5 years and was last updated in 2016. The plan identifies goals, policies, and procedures geared towards realizing significant bicycle use as a key component of the transportation options for San Luis Obispo County residents. The plan also includes descriptions of bikeway design and improvement standards, an inventory of the current bicycle circulation network, and a list of current and future bikeway projects within the county.

Discussion

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

The project proposes the construction of a single-family residence, ADU, 4-garage, barn and as-built driveway would not generate or accommodate new residents or workers. The project is not proposed in a location that would affect any existing trail, park, recreational facility, coastal access, and/or natural area. The project would result in *no impact* relating to substantial growth within the area and

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

would not substantially increase demand on any proximate existing neighborhood or regional park or other recreational facilities.

- (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?*

The project does not include the construction of new recreational facilities and would not result in a substantial increase in demand or use of parks and recreational facilities. Implementation of the project would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities; therefore, there would be *no impact*.

Conclusion

The project would not result in the significant increase in use, construction, or expansion of parks or recreational facilities. Therefore, there would be *no impact* relating to recreation.

Mitigation

None necessary.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

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

Setting

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) holds several key roles in transportation planning within the county. As the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), SLOCOG is responsible for conducting a comprehensive, coordinated transportation program; preparing a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); programming state funds for transportation projects; and administering and allocating transportation development act funds required by state statutes. The 2023 RTP, adopted June 7, 2023, is a long-term blueprint of San Luis Obispo County’s transportation system. The plan identifies and analyzes transportation needs of the region and creates a framework for project priorities. SLOCOG represents and works with the County as well as the Cities within the county in facilitating the development of the RTP.

In 2013 SB 743 was signed into California State law with the intent to “more appropriately balance the needs of congestion management with statewide goals related to infill development, promotion of public health through active transportation, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions” and required the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to identify new metrics for identifying and mitigating transportation impacts within CEQA. As a result, in December 2018, the California Natural Resources Agency certified and adopted updates to the State CEQA Guidelines. The revisions included new requirements related to the implementation of SB 743 and identified VMT per capita, VMT per employee, and net VMT as new metrics for transportation analysis under CEQA (as detailed in Section 15064.3[b]).

The County of San Luis Obispo has developed a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Program (Transportation Impact Analysis Guidelines; County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works 2020). The program provides interim operating thresholds and includes a screening tool for evaluating VMT impacts. Screening criteria were developed for projects within San Luis Obispo County based on methodology provided in the County of San Luis Obispo VMT Thresholds Study (GHD 2021). The screening maps indicate where residential and work-

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

based projects would generate an average VMT of 15% or less below the VMT baselines and would not require a VMT analysis. It is important to emphasize that if a project is not presumed to be less than significant based on these screening maps, it does not necessarily mean that the project will have a VMT impact, only that a less than significant impact determination cannot be assumed and that a VMT analysis would be necessary to make that determination (GHD 2021).

The County Department of Public Works maintains updated traffic count data for all County-maintained roadways. In addition, Traffic Circulation Studies have been conducted within several community areas using traffic models to reasonably simulate current traffic flow patterns and forecast future travel demands and traffic flow patterns. These community Traffic Circulation Studies include the South County Circulation Study, Los Osos Circulation Study, Templeton Circulation Study, San Miguel Circulation Study, Avila Circulation Study, and North Coast Circulation Study. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) maintains annual traffic data on state highways and interchanges within the county.

The County has established Level of Service (LOS) “C” or better for rural roadways. The project site is currently undeveloped and generates a very low volume of traffic. The project site is served by Templeton Road, a county rural collector with low traffic volumes.

The County’s Framework for Planning (Inland) includes the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan. The Framework establishes goals and strategies to meet pedestrian circulation needs by providing usable and attractive sidewalks, pathways, and trails to establish maximum access and connectivity between land use designations. Due to the remote location of the project site, there are no pedestrian, bicycle, or public transit facilities serving the project site.

Discussion

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

The project does not propose the substantial temporary or long-term alteration of any proximate transportation facilities and is not expected to generate any additional operational motor vehicle trips. Construction activities will require temporary construction trips to and from the site. The project is not likely to generate foot or bicycle traffic, or generate public transit demand and would have a less than significant impact on levels of service/conditions for these facilities.

Based on the existing low level of traffic on Templeton Road, the project is not expected to result in any long-term changes in traffic or circulation or reduce the Level of Service below LOS “C”. The project would be consistent with the County Framework for Planning (Inland) and consistent with the projected level of growth and development identified in the 2023 RTP. The project does not propose uses that would interfere or conflict with applicable policies related to circulation, transit, roadway, bicycle, or pedestrian systems or facilities. The project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs for transportation. Therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

No significant traffic impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures above what are already required by existing regulations are necessary.

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

County Transportation Impact Analysis Guidelines also state that small projects that are consistent with SLOCOG’s SCS or San Luis Obispo County General Plan and generate fewer than 110 daily trips, consistent with trip generation associated with a project eligible for a Categorical Exemption under

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

CEQA, are considered to have a less than significant VMT impact (County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works 2020).

Based on the project description, the project is not expected to generate a significant increase in construction-related or operational traffic trips or VMT. Therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

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

The project was referred to the County Department of Public Works. No traffic or traffic safety concerns were identified. The project may be conditioned to construct all access improvements to consistent with County Fire/CalFire and County standards. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

- (d) *Result in inadequate emergency access?*

The project may be conditioned to construct all access improvements consistent with County standards.

The project would not result in road closures during short-term construction activities or long-term operations. Individual access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction activities and throughout the project area. Project implementation would not affect long-term access through the project area and sufficient alternative access exists to accommodate regional trips. Therefore, the project would not adversely affect existing emergency access and impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The project would not alter existing transportation facilities or result in the generation of substantial additional trips or vehicle miles traveled. Payment of standard development fees, as required, and compliance with existing regulations would ensure potential impacts are reduced to less than significant.

Mitigation

None are required.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Setting

Approved in 2014, AB 52 added tribal cultural resources to the categories of resources that must be evaluated under CEQA. Tribal cultural resources are defined as either of the following:

1. Sites, features, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
 - a. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the Cultural Resources Historic Register (CRHR); or
 - b. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of California PRC Section 5020.1.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth California PRC Section 5024.1(c).

In applying these criteria for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.

Recognizing that tribes have specific expertise regarding their tribal history and practices, AB 52 requires lead agencies to provide notice to tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project if they have requested notice of projects proposed within that area. If the tribe requests consultation within 30 days upon receipt of the notice, the lead agency must consult with the tribe regarding the potential for adverse impacts on tribal cultural resources as a result of a project. Consultation may include discussing the type of environmental review necessary, the presence and/or significance of tribal cultural resources, the level of significance of a project's impacts on the tribal cultural resources, and available project alternatives and mitigation measures recommended by the tribe to avoid or lessen potential impacts on tribal cultural resources.

In accordance with AB 52 Cultural Resources requirements, outreach to the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, *tiṭvu tiṭvu yak tiḥini* Northern Chumash, and Northern Chumash Tribal Council was made on February 7, 2025. On March 19, 2025, Patti Dunton of the Salinan Tribe requested monitoring of the ground disturbing activities for the project from a member of their tribe. On April 15, 2025, the monitoring plan prepared by CRMS was sent to Patti Dunton. On April 16, 2025, Patti Dunton requested wording be changed in the monitoring plan to include Salinan Tribe monitors, and not Chumash. On April 23, 2025, the language was updated to the approval of the Salinan Tribe.

Discussion

- (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:*
 - (a-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)?*

According to the Phase I archaeological study prepared for the project site (see Section V. Cultural Resources), no archaeological resources were discovered during the surface survey. However, monitoring for archaeological resources was recommended by CRMS due to findings of archaeological resources in the surrounding area.

Consultation letters were emailed to the Salinan and Chumash community on February 7, 2025. On March 19, 2025, Patti Dunton of the Salinan Tribe requested monitoring of the ground disturbing activities for the project from a member of their tribe. On April 15, 2025, the monitoring plan prepared by CRMS was sent to Patti Dunton. On April 16, 2025, Patti Dunton requested wording be changed in the monitoring plan to include Salinan Tribe monitors, and not Chumash. On April 23, 2025, the language was updated to the approval of the Salinan Tribe.

Mitigation measures CR-1 through CR-4 address potential impacts to archaeological resources through monitoring and reporting of ground disturbance and cease of project construction in the event that tribal cultural resources are discovered. Therefore, there would be a *less than significant impact with mitigation* related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of tribal cultural resources.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

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

As discussed in Section V. Cultural Resources, a Phase I Archaeological Survey was completed for the project site by Cultural Resource Management Services. The Survey included a cultural resources records review, a California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search, an archaeological survey of the project area, and preparation of a technical memorandum documenting the results of the inventory and providing management recommendations.

According to the Phase I Survey, the surface survey did not result in findings of tribal resources. However, the literature and records search revealed archaeological sites within 0.25 miles of the project site. Due to the proximity of the project site to archaeological sites with unknown boundaries, a monitoring plan was recommended by CRMS.

Mitigation measures CR-1 through CR-4 address potential impacts to archaeological resources through monitoring and reporting of ground disturbance and cease of project construction in the event that tribal cultural resources are discovered. Therefore, there would be a *less than significant impact* related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of tribal cultural resources.

Conclusion

Cultural resources are not expected to occur within or adjacent to the project site. In the event unanticipated sensitive resources are discovered during project activities, adherence with LUO standards and State Health and Safety Code procedures would reduce potential impacts to less than significant; therefore, potential impacts to tribal cultural resources would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation

CR-1 through CR-4

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

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

Setting

The County Department of Public Works provides water and wastewater services for specific County Service Areas (CSAs) that are managed through issuance of water/wastewater “will serve” letters. The Department of Public Works currently maintains CSAs for the communities of Nipomo, Oak Shores, Cayucos, Avila Beach, Shandon, the San Luis Obispo County Club, and Santa Margarita. Other unincorporated areas in the county rely on on-site wells and individual wastewater systems. Regulatory standards and design criteria for on-site wastewater treatment systems are provided by the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (California OWTS Policy).

The Department of Public Works is responsible for ensuring that new construction sites implement BMPs during construction, and that site plans incorporate appropriate post-construction stormwater runoff controls. Construction sites that disturb 1 acre or more must obtain coverage under the SWRCB's Construction

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

General Permit. PG&E is the primary electricity provider and both PG&E and SoCalGas provide natural gas services for urban and rural communities within the county. The project would be served by multiple existing wells. The project's energy needs would be provided by PG&E.

There are three landfills in San Luis Obispo County: Cold Canyon Landfill, located near the city of San Luis Obispo; Chicago Grade Landfill, located near the community of Templeton; and Paso Robles Landfill, located east of the city of Paso Robles. The project's solid waste needs would be served by the Chicago Grade landfill.

Discussion

- (a) *Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

The project will be served by multiple existing on-site wells. Based on the project description and the analyses contained in the topical sections of this MND, the project, as conditioned, is not expected to result in a substantial increase in the demand for water, stormwater collection, treatment, or disposal facilities that would require the construction of new or expanded facilities other than those on site necessary to serve the project. The project would not result in a substantial increase in energy demand, natural gas, or telecommunications; no new or expanded facilities would be required. No utility relocations are proposed. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

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

As discussed in Section X, Hydrology and Water Quality, the wells serving the project site are sufficient for the proposed single-family use. Impacts related to water supplies would be *less than significant*.

- (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?*

The project does not include a wastewater treatment provider. The project includes an onsite septic system designed by an experienced civil engineer. Therefore, *no impacts would occur*.

- (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?*

The nearest landfill to the site is the Chicago Grade Landfill located approximately 5 miles to the southeast. The landfill has a remaining capacity of approximately 2.4 million cubic yards as of 2022. The incremental amount of waste generated by the project that is not recycled/reused would be within the service capacity of the landfill. Construction activities would result in the generation of minimal solid waste materials; no significant long-term increase in solid waste would occur. Local landfills have adequate permit capacity to serve the project and the project does not propose to generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

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

The project would not result in a substantial increase in waste generation during project construction or operation. Construction waste disposal would comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Conclusion

The project would not result in significant increased demands on wastewater or stormwater infrastructure and facilities. No substantial increase in solid waste generation would occur. Therefore, potential impacts to utilities and service systems would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation

None are required.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XX. WILDFIRE

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

Setting

In central California, the fire season usually extends from roughly May through October; however, recent events indicate that wildfire behavior, frequency, and duration of the fire season are changing in California. Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) are defined by CALFIRE based on the presence of fire-prone vegetation, climate, topography, assets at risk (e.g., high population centers), and a fire protection agency’s ability to provide service to the area (CAL FIRE 2007). FHSZs throughout the county have been designated as “Very High,” “High,” or “Moderate.” In San Luis Obispo County, most of the area that has been designated as a “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone” is located in the Santa Lucia Mountains, which extend parallel to the coast along the entire length of San Luis Obispo County. The project is located within the Local Responsibility Area and a “High” fire hazard severity zone, and, based on the County’s fire response time map, it would take about 5-10 minutes to respond to a call regarding fire or life safety.

The County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) addresses several overall policy and coordination functions related to emergency management. The EOP includes the following components:

- Identifies the departments and agencies designated to perform response and recovery activities and specifies tasks they must accomplish;

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

- Outlines the integration of assistance that is available to local jurisdictions during disaster situations that generate emergency response and recovery needs beyond what the local jurisdiction can satisfy;
- Specifies the direction, control, and communications procedures and systems that will be relied upon to alert, notify, recall, and dispatch emergency response personnel; alert the public; protect residents and property; and request aid/support from other jurisdictions and/or the federal government;
- Identifies key continuity of government operations; and
- Describes the overall logistical support process for planned operations.

Topography influences wildland fire to such an extent that slope conditions can often become a critical wildland fire factor. Conditions such as speed and direction of dominant wind patterns, the length and steepness of slopes, direction of exposure, and/or overall ruggedness of terrain influence the potential intensity and behavior of wildland fires and/or the rates at which they may spread (Barros et al. 2013).

The Safety Element establishes goals, policies, and programs to reduce the threat to life, structures, and the environment caused by fire. Policy S-13 identifies that new development should be carefully located, with special attention given to fuel management in higher fire risk areas, and that new development in fire hazard areas should be configured to minimize the potential for added danger. Implementation strategies for this policy include identifying high risk areas, developing and implementing mitigation efforts to reduce the threat of fire, requiring fire resistant material be used for building construction in fire hazard areas, and encouraging applicants applying for subdivisions in fire hazard areas to cluster development to allow for a wildfire protection zone.

The California Fire Code provides minimum standards for many aspects of fire prevention and suppression activities. These standards include provisions for emergency vehicle access, water supply, fire protection systems, and the use of fire-resistant building materials.

The County EOP outlines the emergency measures that are essential for protecting public health and safety. These measures include, but are not limited to, public alert and notifications, emergency public information, and protective actions. The EOP also addresses policy and coordination related to emergency management.

Discussion

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

The project does not require any road closures, and the access road is being designed to accommodate emergency vehicle access.

As conditioned, implementation of the proposed project would not have a permanent impact on any adopted emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans. Temporary construction activities and staging would not substantially alter existing circulation patterns or trips. Access to adjacent areas would be maintained throughout the duration of the project.

Based on the County's Land Use View tool and Dam and Levee Failure Plan, the project is not located within an area that would be inundated in the event of a dam failure and has been designed to accommodate overflow in the event of major rainfall events. The project would not impair implementation or physically interfere with County hazard mitigation or emergency plans; therefore, no impacts related to emergency plans would occur.

Therefore, the project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

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

The project will be located in an area with stands of live oaks on the nearby hills. As described in Section 6, Geology and Soils, the potential for landslides at the project site is moderate to low. Construction of the project site would not be conducive to the formation of debris flows.

The site is located within a Local Responsibility Area and, based on the County's fire response time map, it would take 5-10 minutes to respond to a call regarding fire or life safety. The project will be conditioned to incorporate all required fire safety rules and regulations, including:

- Relevant provisions of the California Uniform Fire Code and Public Resources Code;
- Improvements to the access road and site to accommodate emergency vehicle access as necessary. More specifically, the fire access road must comply with the requirements of C.C.R. Title 14 and San Luis Obispo County Title 16.

In addition, the project will be conditioned to comply with all applicable fire protection standards as determined by County Fire/CalFire. Compliance with the Uniform Fire Code and the recommendations of County Fire/CalFIRE will ensure that potential impacts associated with slope, prevailing winds, and other factors will be *less than significant*.

Therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

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

As discussed above under item (b), the project would be designed to comply with all fire safety rules and regulations, including the California Fire Code and Public Resources Code. Therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

- (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?*

The project will be located on a slightly sloped area with non-native annual grasses and some oak trees. The project is not proposing disturbance in areas of steep slopes; as described in Section VI., Geology and Soils, the potential for landslides on the project site underlying the project site and the area of disturbance is considered low. The project includes the construction of single-family residence, attached garage, ADU, AG shop and access driveway that would incorporate the provisions of a complete grading, drainage and erosion control plan consistent with County and CalFire standards.

Therefore, the project will not expose the occupants to significant risks such as downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes and project impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

As conditioned, the project would not expose people or structures to new or exacerbated wildfire risks and would not require the development of new or expanded infrastructure or maintenance to reduce wildfire risks. Therefore, potential impacts associated with wildfire would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Mitigation

None are required.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

Discussion

(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?*

As discussed in each resource section above, upon implementation of identified mitigation measures, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to biological or cultural resources and would not 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, 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. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

- (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)?*

Based on the nature of proposed development and the analysis provided in resource sections above, the project would have the potential to result in environmental impacts associated with air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and hazards and hazardous materials, that could have a cumulative effect with other development projects in the project region. Mitigation Measures AQ-1 and AQ-2, BIO-1 and BIO-2, CR-1 through CR-4, GEO-1 through GEO-4 and HAZ-1 and HAZ-2 have been identified to reduce potential environmental impacts associated with the project to a less-than-significant level. Other past and future development projects requiring a discretionary permit in the project region would also be subject to applicable mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts associated with these impact issue areas. Therefore, based on the implementation of project-level mitigation measures and discretionary and CEQA review of other projects within the project area, potential impacts would be less than cumulatively considerable with mitigation.

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

Environmental impacts that may have an adverse effect on human beings, either directly or indirectly, are analyzed in each environmental resource section above. In addition, implementation of mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, GEO-1, HAZ-1 and HAZ-2, as identified in in the resource sections above would reduce potential adverse effects on human beings to *less than significant*; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Conclusion

Potential impacts would be less than significant upon implementation of mitigation measures identified in the resource sections above.

Sources

Provided in Exhibit A.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Exhibit A - Initial Study References and Agency Contacts

The County Planning Department has contacted various agencies for their comments on the proposed project. With respect to the subject application, the following have been contacted (marked with an) and when a response was made, it is either attached or in the application file:

Contacted	Agency	Response
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Public Works Department	In File**
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Environmental Health Services	In File**
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Airport Manager	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Airport Land Use Commission	Not Applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Air Pollution Control District	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Sheriff's Department	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional Water Quality Control Board	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA Coastal Commission	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA Department of Fish and Wildlife	Not Applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire)	In File**
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA Department of Transportation	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Services District	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other AB 52 Tribes	In File**

** "No comment" or "No concerns"-type responses are usually not attached

The following checked ("") reference materials have been used in the environmental review for the proposed project and are hereby incorporated by reference into the Initial Study. The following information is available at the County Department of Planning and Building.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project File for the Subject Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Design Plan
County Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Plan Policies	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Resource Summary Report
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Framework for Planning (Coastal/Inland)	<input type="checkbox"/> Circulation Study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Plan (Inland/Coastal), includes all maps/elements; more pertinent elements:	Other Documents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Air Plan/APCD Handbook
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation & Open Space Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Transportation Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uniform Fire Code
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Control Plan (Central Coast Basin – Region 3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Resources Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation Element/Project List	<input type="checkbox"/> Area of Critical Concerns Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety Element	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Biological Importance Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use Ordinance (Inland/Coastal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA Natural Species Diversity Database
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building and Construction Ordinance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Hazard Severity Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Facilities Fee Ordinance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood Hazard Maps
<input type="checkbox"/> Real Property Division Ordinance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey for SLO County
<input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS mapping layers (e.g., habitat, streams, contours, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Airport Land Use Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Wise Plan	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North County Area Plan/El Pomar-Estrella SA	

The project application materials are incorporated by reference in their entirety and available for review at the Department of Planning and Building, 976 Osos Street, Suite 200, San Luis Obispo. In addition, the

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

following project specific information and/or reference materials have been considered as a part of the Initial Study:

Project-Specific Studies and Supporting Materials

Biological Resources Assessment prepared by Sage Institute, dated August 17, 2023

Cultural Resources Inventory prepared by CRMS, dated July 2023

Geotechnical Engineering Report prepared by Beacon Geotechnical, Inc., dated March 10, 2022

Review of Grading and Foundation Plans prepared by Beacon Geotechnical, Inc., dated January 22, 2024

Paleontological Resource Assessment prepared by Applied Earthworks, dated March 10, 2022

Other County References

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities. 2018.

Sawyer, John O., et. al. 2009. California Native Plant Society (CNPS). A Manual of California Vegetation.

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<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Prodesc/proddesc_71748.htm>.

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Occupational Health and Safety Administration Technical Manual, Section III, Chapter 5 part II.B.6.

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). 2019. Delivering Low-Emission Energy. Available at:
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University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Landscape Water Requirement Calculator, 2022

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary Table

Per Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, the following measures also constitute the mitigation monitoring and/or reporting program that would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels. These measures would become conditions of approval (COAs) should the project be approved. The Lead Agency (County) or other Responsible Agencies, as specified in the following measures, are responsible to verify compliance with these COAs.

Air Quality

AQ-1 Fugitive Dust Construction Control Measures. Prior to issuance of construction permits, the following measures shall be incorporated into the construction phase of the project and shown on all applicable plans:

- a. Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible;
- b. Use water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 miles per hour. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible; When water use is a concern due to drought conditions, the contractor or builder shall consider use of a dust suppressant that is effective for the specific site conditions to reduce the amount of water used for dust control;
- c. All dirt stock-pile areas shall be sprayed daily as needed;
- d. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible, and building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used;
- e. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) or otherwise comply with California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 23114.
- f. "Track-Out" is defined as sand or soil that adheres to and/or agglomerates on the exterior surfaces of motor vehicles and/or equipment (including tires) that may then fall onto any highway or street as described in CVC Section 23113 and California Water Code 13304. To prevent 'track out', designate access points and require all employees, subcontractors, and others to use them. Install and operate a 'track-out prevention device' where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto paved streets. The 'track-out prevention device' can be any device or combination of devices that are effective at preventing track out, located at the point of intersection of an unpaved area and a paved road. Rumble strips or steel plate devices need periodic cleaning to be effective. If paved roadways accumulate tracked out soils, the track-out prevention device may need to be modified.
- g. All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans;
- h. The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons whose responsibility is to ensure any fugitive dust emissions do not result in a nuisance and to enhance the implementation of the mitigation measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints and reduce visible emissions below the APCD's limit of 20% opacity for greater than 3 minutes in any 60-minute period. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress (for example, wind-blown dust could be generated on an open dirt lot). The name

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork, or demolition (Contact the Compliance Division at 805-781-5912).

- i. Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible, following completion of any soil disturbing activities.
- j. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast germinating, non-invasive grass seed and watered until vegetation is established.
- k. All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advanced by the APCD.
- l. Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site.
- m. Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers shall be used with reclaimed water where feasible. Roads shall be pre-wetted prior to sweeping when feasible.
- n. Take additional measures as needed to ensure dust from the project site is not impacting areas outside the project boundary.

AQ-2 ROG, NO_x, DPM Emissions. The following measures based on the SLOAPCD standard mitigation measures for construction equipment for reducing nitrogen oxides (NO_x), reactive organic gases (ROG), and diesel particulate matter (DPM) emissions from construction equipment shall be implemented to reduce expose of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. These measures shall be shown on grading and building plans:

- a. Implement mitigation measure AQ-1, as identified above.
- b. On-road diesel vehicles shall comply with Section 2485 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations. This regulation limits idling from diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles with gross vehicular weight ratings of more than 10,000 pounds and licensed for operation on highways. It applies to California and non-California based vehicles. In general, the regulation specifies that drivers of said vehicles:
 - i. Shall not idle the vehicle's primary diesel engine for greater than 5 minutes at any location, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation; and,
 - ii. Shall not operate a diesel-fueled auxiliary power system to power a heater, air conditioner, or any ancillary equipment on that vehicle during sleeping or resting in a sleeper berth for greater than 5.0 minutes at any location when within 1,000 feet of a restricted area, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation.
- c. Maintain all construction equipment in proper tune according to manufacturer's specifications.
- d. Fuel all off-road and portable diesel-powered equipment with ARB certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for use off-road).

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

- e. Use diesel construction equipment meeting ARB's Tier 2 certified engines or cleaner off-road heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State Off-Road Regulation.
- f. Use on-road heavy-duty trucks that meet the CARB's 2010 or cleaner certification standard for on-road heavy-duty diesel engines and comply with the State On-Road Regulation.
- g. Idling of all on and off-road diesel-fueled vehicles shall not be permitted when not in use. Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas and or job site to remind drivers and operators of the no idling limitation.
- h. Electrify equipment when possible.
- i. Substitute gasoline-powered in place of diesel-powered equipment, when available. and,
- j. Use alternatively fueled construction equipment on-site when available, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane or biodiesel.

Biological Resources

BIO-1 Nesting Bird Season. Vegetation removal and initial site disturbance shall be conducted between September 1 and January 31 outside of the nesting season for birds. If vegetation and/or tree removal is planned for the bird nesting season (February 1 to August 31), then preconstruction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if any active nests would be impacted by project construction. If no active nests are found, then no further mitigation shall be required. If any active nests are found that would be impacted by construction, then the nest sites shall be avoided with the establishment of a non-disturbance buffer zone around active nests as determined by a qualified biologist. Nest sites shall be avoided and protected with the non-disturbance buffer zone until the adults and young of the year are no longer reliant on the nest site for survival as determined by a qualified biologist. As such, avoiding disturbance or take of an active nest would reduce potential impacts on nesting birds to a less-than-significant level.

BIO-2 Oak Tree Mitigation. Ground disturbing and oak tree construction monitoring by a qualified arborist shall be conducted in accordance with the recommended Tree Protection Plan (TPP) measures (Kokers, January 2023; Appendix C). Per the TPP, inadvertent or accidental oak trees removed shall be replaced in kind at 4:1 ratio. Oak trees shall be replaced in kind at 2:1 ratio for trees within the impact area that do not survive through the construction process and 18 months following the completion of construction. Replacement trees must be planted onsite in an area ideal for the tree to thrive and receive all necessary nutrients for survival (soil type, exposure to sunlight, and necessary water requirements for the tree to reach maturity). Upon construction completion, arborist to report to the County that all safety measures were followed and mitigation measures were met.

Cultural Resources

CR-1 Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan. Prior to issuance of grading or construction permits, the applicant shall submit an Archaeological Resources Monitoring Plan (Monitoring Plan), prepared by a County-approved archaeologist, for review and approval by the County Department of Planning and Building. The intent of this Monitoring Plan shall be to monitor all initial ground-disturbing activities on site. The Monitoring Plan shall include at a minimum:

- a. List of personnel involved in the monitoring activities;

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

- b. Inclusion of involvement of the Native American community, as appropriate (shall include Tribal representative from the Salinan Tribe of San Luis Obispo County);
- c. Description of the required cultural training element to occur prior to site disturbance;
- d. Description of how the monitoring shall occur;
- e. Description of frequency of monitoring (e.g. full time, part time, spot checking);
- f. Description of what resources are expected to be encountered;
- g. Description of procedures for halting work on the site and notification procedures; and
- h. Description of monitoring reporting procedures; and
- i. Specific, detailed protocols for what to do in the event of the discovery of human remains.

CR-2 Cultural Resources Monitoring. For all ground disturbing construction activities, the applicant shall retain a County-approved archaeologist and Native American representative to monitor these activities, per the approved monitoring plan. The applicant shall install any necessary protective field measures, as directed by the archaeologist, and shall keep them in good working order during construction. Upon discovery, the applicant shall take immediate remedial actions should corrective measures be needed. If any significant archaeological resources or human remains are found during monitoring, work shall stop within the immediate vicinity (precise area to be determined by the archaeologist in the field) of the resource until such time as the resource can be evaluated by an archaeologist and any other appropriate individuals.

CR-3 Cultural Resources Reporting. Prior to final inspections and granting final occupancy of structures, the project archaeologist shall submit a detailed summary of all site monitoring that took place and acknowledge any discoveries made during the monitoring process or conflicts that occurred. The report shall be submitted to the Department of Planning and Building and approved by County staff prior to scheduling final building inspections.

CR-4 Cultural Resources Unearthed. In the event that archeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction activities, the following standards apply:

Construction activities shall cease, and the County of San Luis Obispo Project Manager shall be notified so that the extant and location of discovered materials may be recorded by a qualified archaeologist, and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with state and federal law.

In the event archeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the Coroner shall be notified in addition to the County of San Luis Obispo Project Manager so proper disposition may be accomplished.

Geology and Soils

GEO-1 Plans submitted for grading/construction permits shall incorporate the findings and recommendations of the geotechnical investigation of the project site prepared by Beacon Geotechnical, dated March 10, 2024.

GEO-2 A Paleontological Resources Management Plan (PRIMP) shall be prepared and implemented by a San Luis Obispo County Certified Paleontologist for this project. At minimum it shall include: (1)

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

paleontological resources awareness training for all earthmoving personnel, (2) specify paleontological personnel qualifications, (3) identify an established and recognized professional repository for any fossils recovered, (4) take into account the latest information on cut depth and location and specify where monitoring shall be required, (5) require and specify the full-time monitoring of the site, (6) specify fossil recovery procedures and locality documentation, (7) specify laboratory procedures, (8) require a detailed catalogue of specimens recovered with identification by experts, and (9) require a final report with the catalogue and all specialists reports as appendices.

GEO-3 Full-time paleontological monitoring shall be conducted throughout the duration of excavation into rocks of the at all depths in the Monterey Shale and full-time monitoring at depths of 5 feet or greater in the Holocene alluvial deposits. Should identifiable or otherwise potentially informative fossils be exposed by excavation, these shall be excavated, collected, and preserved, following guidelines presented in the PRIMP.

GEO-4 If unanticipated fossil resources are unearthed during construction excavations, the contractor shall notify the County Department of Planning and Building and cease all earth-disturbing activities within a 50-foot radius of the area of discovery until the discovery can be evaluated by a San Luis Obispo County approved paleontologist.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

HAZ-1 Equipment Maintenance and Refueling. During all construction activities, the cleaning, refueling, and maintenance of equipment and vehicles shall occur only within designated staging areas. The staging areas shall conform to all Best Management Practices applicable to attaining zero discharge of stormwater runoff. At a minimum, all equipment and vehicles shall be checked and maintained on a daily basis to ensure proper operation and to avoid potential leaks or spills.

HAZ-2 Spill Response Protocol. During all construction activities, all project-related spills of hazardous materials shall be cleaned up immediately. Appropriate spill prevention and cleanup materials shall be onsite at all times during construction.