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Environmental Assessment
Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects
24 CFR Part 58

Project Information

Project Name: CARES Act CD Project No. 18.19.CV1.3 – Shafter Community Park Project and Road Access Improvements

Responsible Entity: County of Kern Planning and Natural Resources Department

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): Shafter Recreational and Park District

State/Local Identifier: CA

Preparer: James Golden, Supervising Planner

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Craig M. Murphy, Director Planning and Natural Resources Director

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): N/A

Consultant (if applicable): N/A

Direct Comments to: James Golden, Supervising Planner

Project Location: Northwest Corner of East Ash Ave. and Golds Avenue, Shafter, CA

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.21 & 58.32]**:** The project consists of the development of a 42.4-acre park on a vacant parcel of land. The project consists of street related improvements and four-related phases of park improvements. Phase one consists of the design, installation and construction of park related improvements including: road and streets access, pedestrian and park walkways and three (3) parking areas. Park facility related improvements include: four (4) baseball fields and two (2) softball fields, three (3) soccer fields, three (3) universal courts, three (3) handball courts, two (2) picnic and barbeque areas, four (4) basketball courts, batting cages, two (2) playgrounds and related improvements. CDBG CARES funds will be utilized to provide roads access since the approved State Grant funding does not include road access within the scope of covered improvements. Additional CDBG funding may be used for the design of phases two through four of the project.

Phase Two: Phase consists of the design, installation and construction for the expansion of one parking area with solar improvements, dog park, community garden, kids physical fitness, outdoor gym, two (2) tennis/pickleball courts, parking maintenance yard and shop, barbeque area and related improvements.

Phase Three: Phase consists of the design and construction of a gymnasium and related improvements.

Phase Four: Phase consists of the design and construction of a track and field area and related improvements.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal:

The community park will provide a recreational center for the City of Shafter and surrounding unincorporated areas for physical exercise and sport related activities. The project addresses coronavirus by providing residents with many options for outdoor activities and promoting healthy active lifestyles that improve overall health and support resiliency to coronavirus and other challenging and/or life threating health conditions. The CDBG CARES related funding will provide access to parking areas for the larger community and surrounding areas to utilize the park.

Existing Conditions and Trends [24 CFR 58.40(a)]:

There is a need for additional park space in underserved communities as there are limited options in more isolated areas for recreation and exercise. Additionally, the isolation experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic negatively affected personal health by reducing activity from isolation and social distancing and encouraged lifestyles that are more sedentary. Medical studies indicate that the stress, poor and/or limited dietary options and depression related to isolation are major risk factors that increase obesity rates. There is also significant statistical evidence that obesity increases the chances of severe illness, results in higher rates of hospitalization and increases the mortality rate from infection with Coronavirus.

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-20-UW-06-0502	CDBG CARES	$665,273

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: $665,273 of CDBG funding

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]**:** $8,500,000 State Grant from the State of California (under Prop 68) – Natural Resources Agency Department of Park and Recreation awarded from 2018/19;

Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or	Compliance determinations

	mitigation required?	
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 and 58.6		
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes ☐ No ☒	The project is not located within the boundaries of the adopted Airport Land Use Plan area for the County of Kern. The closest public airport to the project is Shafter Airport/Minter Field, which is located approximately 3.5 miles east of the project and to the west of State Route 99. The Shafter Minter Airport activities include flight training, supporting area agricultural and business operations, and aircraft fueling, storage, and maintenance. As is typical of most general aviation airports, the dominant type of aircraft based at Shafter Airport/Minter Field is the single-engine, propeller-driven, airplane, comprising 87% of the total (Shafter 2005). Shafter Minter Airport is not a military Airport. Therefore, the project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area because of a public airport or public use airport.
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes ☐ No ☒	There are no coastal barriers resources located with HUD Region IX or the State of California. A map has been included with this determination. No further evaluation for compliance with this factor is necessary.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes ☐ No ☒	The project site is not located in any Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The site is classified Zone X, per FIRM No. 06029C1775E, effective September 26, 2008. Consequently, no further evaluation for compliance with this factor is necessary.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5		
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes ☐ No ☒	The project site is located in the jurisdiction of the Southern San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SSJVAPCD). The SSJVAPCD is in non-attainment status for Ozone-Eight Hour (Extreme) and non-attainment status for PM 2.5, the EPA regulated criteria pollutants regulated under the Clean Air Act. As part of the rezoning and reclassification for the site in 2022, the City of Shafter completed an air

		quality assessment. The assessment was conducted as part of the CEQA related land use evaluation for General Plan Amendment (GPA) No. 21-37 and Zone Change (ZC) No. 21-70 processed for the site. The evaluation found that the change in land use from BP (Business Park) and I (Industrial) zoning to allow recreational development of a multi-phase recreation and sports park on a 42.4-acre parcel would to be insignificant as the project was found to not be in conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. SJVAPCD is currently implementing an air quality plan that includes the project site. The proposed project was included in a modified air quality plan performed for the GPA and Zone Change. As part of the GPA, ZC, the growth assumptions were modified since they were not initially included in the plan adopted in 2005. The evaluation found that the changes were consistent with the air quality management plan since the proposed emissions were below the emission established district thresholds and the primary source or emissions were motor vehicles that were already incorporated into the CARBs San Joaquin Valley Emissions Inventory. The calculated project related emissions 2020 for ROG (0.2938), NOX (0.8589) and PM10 (0.1027) are at insignificant levels and fall far below de minimis thresholds and the project is considered in conformance with the CAA.
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes ☐ No ☒	The nearest Coastal Zone Management (CZM) area is located more that seventy miles southeast of the project site. Consequently, no CZM areas will be impacted by the project.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)	Yes ☒ No ☐	There are no underground storage tanks located on the property. According to State of California Envirostor and Geotracker there is one listed DTSC site. The Brown and Bryant facility, located slightly less than half-mile west (2,500 feet) of the project site, has been undergoing a cleanup due to prior uses conducted as part of agricultural chemical operations from 1955 to 1989. Uses on the site consisted of blending and repackaging liquid fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, fumigants, and defoliants. While the site is no longer active, final risk and cleanup assessment and began in 2016 been ongoing and are progressing to the final stages.

		In 2027, a land use restriction will restrict development of the off-site location. The State of California Envirostor database notes that Cleanup Certification and completion is anticipated to be completed in 2028. As part of the original due diligence conducted for the property acquisition, three ASTM Phase One assessments were performed by AEC, for three segments of the current project site from west to the east side of the property. • The first segment (Hight) of the project site analyzed located on the westernmost section of the project site. The review identified an Historic Recognized Environmental Condition (HREC), related to historic use of agricultural chemicals on the site for farming activities between the 1940s and 1980s. However, due to the intended use of the site for recreational purposes, no further testing was recommended. The review noted a house keeping condition related to debris pile onsite with tire, metal and tumbleweeds in the northeast portion of the property. Also, it was recommended that "No Dumping" signs be placed to deter future illegal dumping. • The second segment (Wiens) of the project site analyzed is located in the middle of the project site. The report identified an onsite Historic REC related to the prior use of Organochloride Pesticides (OCPs) and arsenic on the site for farming activities between the 1940s and 1980s. However, due to the intended use of the site for recreational purposes, no further testing was recommended. Additionally, an REC was identified related to nearby oilfield related operations located offsite. However, the consultant determined that the REC related to the discharge of drilling fluids would not negatively impact the subject property. • The third segment of the project site (Ohanneson) analyzed the easternmost section of the property identified an onsite domestic well on the nearby residence that if should be used for human consumption should be tested for

		water quality purposes including bacterial, mineral, physical and inorganic analysis. As with the other segments reviewed, there is a Historic REC relating to the past agricultural use of the site between the 1940s and 1980s. However, due to the intended use of the site for recreational purposes, no further testing was recommended. There is also an offsite use related to five oil production wells located on the adjacent property to the east of the site. At least one spill was reported related to the site. However, the ASTM report stated that the reviewer concurred with a prior repost and issued a determination that discharge of drilling fluids on the offsite eastern adjoining property will not negatively impact the subject property. Based on the Environmental Site Assessment evaluations performed for the property, the project site is suitable for inclusion in HUD programs with the inclusion of any recommended mitigation.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes ☒ No ☐	In 2019, QK preformed an initial biologic assessment for the project site. The assessment resulted in a determination that the project would not 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 CDFW or USFWS. Furthermore, no positive evidence that the San Joaquin Kit Fox was present in the Biologic Study Area or BSA was found. The study also concluded that no special status plant species have potential to occur with the BSA because of existing habitat and soil conditions. The nearest sensitive community is located 10 miles of the project site with the nearest California Natural Diversity Database occurrence located is 3.7 miles from the project site as all areas within the vicinity of the project have been developed for urban and agricultural uses. There were no sensitive habitats identified in the area of the project and there are no aquatic or riparian habitats in the area of the project. Consequently, there project would have no impact to fish, amphibians or any crustaceans.

		Under Project Code 2024-0114065, consulted the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC database and was issued a species list. The following 2024 review included the species on the list: In August of 2024, a revised analysis and report was prepared for the site by QK. Of the Special Status species evaluated, the evaluation found two species that have the potential to occur onsite: Western Burrowing Owl (Federal Bird of Conservation Concern) and the endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox (SKJF). The reconnaissance survey found site conditions would support burrowing owl nesting and foraging due to the dryland grain crop habitat present. SJKF is known to be present in the area and has been observed in the vicinity of the project site. The evaluation found that due to the disturbance and maintenance of the surrounding agricultural lands, suitable denning habitat is not available to the species. Nevertheless, the species is highly mobile and may traverse the site and within the vicinity when foraging for food. On March 30, 2026, the review was updated and contains two fewer species than was evaluated in 2024. The 2026 USFWS Listed Species include: the Buena Vista Lake Shrew, Giant Kangaroo Rat, San Joaquin Kit Fox, Tipton Kangaroo Rat, California Condor, Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard, Northwestern Pond Turtle, Western Spadefoot, Monarch Butterfly, Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp and the flowering plant, Kern Mallow. The list is consistent with the findings of the 2024 report. The 2024 QK report included recommended mitigation measures including avoidance and minimization techniques to ensure impacts on any protected species are reduced to a less than significant level. The measures include the requirement for a preconstruction survey to assess and determine if there will be impacts to any species prior to implementation. Therefore, with implementation and compliance with the recommended measures, the impact will be of a less than significance level. In early April of 2026, Staff reached out to the USFWS for concurrence with this determination.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards	Yes ☐ No ☒	In 2018, the City of Shafter General Plan was updated and the site was rezoned for use as a

24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C		recreation and sports park. At the time, a review of uses surrounding the project site was conducted to ensure that no aboveground storage tanks pose a risk to the planned development as a park. There is one large aboveground storage tank at 700 Commerce Way, located approximately 700 feet from the southwest boundary of the project site. The tank is owned by the City of Shafter Public Works Department and used for the storage of sodium hypochlorite (Bleach), which is not considered flammable or explosive substance or an industrial fuel. Since there are no explosive contents this large tank does not present any concerns. Additionally, at 102 South Beech Avenue, approximately 500 feet to the west of the project site, there is an approximate 3,000-gallon aboveground propane storage tank. Since the proposal is for a park, the ASD assessment tool was used to determine that the aboveground tank is located at an acceptable separation distance for thermal radiation for people (437.09 feet) for a tank of that size. Finally, there is one facility with above ground storage used for storage of agricultural products located approximately 1,600 feet from the project boundary. The tanks are diked and located within a containment area of 71' x 93' and located at an acceptable separation distance for thermal radiation for people (340.53 feet) for a containment are of that size. Based on the review above, no further review for compliance.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes ☐ No ☒	There is a historic use of the site from the 1940s to the 1980s for farm related activities. However, the project development will not result in the conversion of any farmlands. The site was previously designated for industrial use but the City of Shafter processed a General Plan Amendment and Zone Change for the site and re-categorized the designed land use for recreational purposes. Consequently, the project is in compliance with this factor.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes ☐ No ☒	The site is not located in a FEMA designed floodplain. The site is classified Zone X, per FIRM No. 06029C1775E, effective September 26, 2008. Consequently, no further evaluation for compliance is necessary.

Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes ☒ No ☐	In 2018, thirteen (13) tribal contacts identified by NAHC were notified of the larger project. Additionally, evidence has been provided of correspondence between the Tejon Tribe and Shafter Recreation and Park District in 2018 regarding the project. At the time, the tribal contact comments did not identify concerns related to the project and provided comments in support of the proposal. In April of 2018, the State of California Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) provided comments regarding a Section 106 consultation LWCF Project LW-15-040, Shafter Community Park, Kern County. SHPO noted concurrence with the Finding of Effect of "No historic properties affected" regarding the initial acquisition of the project site. However, the letter noted that the determination should not be used as evidence of having completing Section 106 consultation efforts for future Section 106 efforts. In December of 2019, QK performed a Phase 1 Cultural survey for the 42.4-acre site. The result of the survey were negative as to cultural resources in the area of the project. On July 12, 2024, SHPO contacted the California State Parks, Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) regarding an inquiry for continuing consultation dated July 8, 2024. This request was related to using 5-acres portion of the previous identified 42.4-acre project area for the development of a park. SHPO comments indicated that it concurred with the determination by OGALS that no historic properties would be affected by the development but included conditions should the larger project site be developed. On July 29 2024, County of Kern Planning and Natural Resources (PLNR) contacted SSJVIC regarding the project and road access improvements. Record Search No. 24-328 noted that the cultural resources study conducted five years prior was negative and did not recommend any further cultural resources work. Nevertheless, the standard condition for any unearthed resources has been included in the event of any discoveries during implementation. On February 10, 2026, SHPO was contacted by PLNR regarding the development of the 42.4-acre

		project site. At the time, PLNR was unaware that the larger 42.4-acre project site was currently under construction. PLNR Staff became aware of this by reviewing recent Google Street View photos while reviewing other related factors under the Part 58 review. Staff reached out to confirm the actions by the Shafter Recreation and Park District and confirmed that the site was under construction but the activities related to roadwork was not included under the current contract.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes ☒ No ☐	The project site is located on a large approximate 42.4-acres park site. There is one railway in the projects vicinity that runs towards the southwest corner of the project site in a diagonal configuration. There is one area of the project that remains unobstructed area from the source located approximately 2,400 feet west of the site. There are no sensitive uses planned for the westerly section of the project site located nearest to the source or railway noise. While there are other areas of the project site that are closer in proximity to the rail line at 1,800 feet, there are existing buildings between the noise sources that buffer the noise generated from the source. Due to the unobstructed acoustic pathway for noise generated by the railway, the 2,400-foot distance was used for the noise calculation for the railway. Other areas of site exposure were considered mitigated by existing uses surrounding the area of the project. East Lerdo Highway is located approximately 400 feet north of the project site. The Kern Council of Governments Traffic County (TCDS) was used to determine that the nearest and most current traffic data was used for noise modeling. The Annual average daily traffic (AADT) data (2025) indicated that the site has two-way traffic AADT of 9,828 trips. There are no there other large roadways within 1,000 feet of the project area. Shafter Airport is located approximately 3.5 miles to the east of the project site and provides general aviation facilities, and services (Shafter 2005). The project site is outside the airport noise contour map area for the Shafter Airport – Minter Field included in the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP, pg. 4-124). Due to the proximity of the site and outside activities planned, the airport was included in the noise

		calculation assessment based on the proximity to the project site at an approximate 45 dB to account for any traffic in the area of the project. Due to the air traffic that utilizes the Shafter airport, loud impulse sounds were not included. The site is located outside the noise source nevertheless the HUD Noise Calculator has been used to determine the overall noise exposure and the site was found to have an exterior noise not exceeding 65 dB and within the acceptable noise zone. The project could be a source of noise during the construction phase, but the GPA/ZC processed for the land use included an evaluation of the construction related noise level. The CEQA review determined that noise during construction expected at a less than significant level. However, due to the proximity to sensitive receptors lying just to the north of the project site, construction activities shall be limited to the period of the day between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, to avoid becoming an unnecessary nuisance to residents within the immediate vicinity of the project.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes ☐ No ☒	The EPA has not designated any sole source aquifers within Kern County. The nearest sole source aquifer is located in Fresno County. No further evaluation for this factor is necessary.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes ☐ No ☒	There are no designated NWI wetlands located within the project site or its immediate vicinity. The online US Fish and Wildlife Service - NWI Mapper tool was reviewed and identified one designated NWI area located approximately 800 feet to the west of the project site. The wetland is located at the southern section of the intersection of South Beech Avenue. and East Ash Avenue. However, there are storm drains in place on East Ash Avenue, which redirect water flow before the road intersects with Beech Avenue. No other NWI areas are in proximity to the site that may be impacted by the project. Consequently, no NWI designated wetlands will be impacted by the project.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes ☐ No ☒	There are no designated wild or scenic rivers located within the area of the project. The nearest designated WSR is located to the south of the Kern River north of Kernville in Kern County.

		Consequently, no NWI designated wetlands will be impacted by the project.

Environmental Assessment Factors [24 CFR 58.40] Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. **All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.**

Impact Codes: Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

(1) Minor beneficial impact
(2) No impact anticipated
(3) Minor Adverse Impact – May require mitigation
(4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOPMENT		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	On June 22, 2022, a Negative Declaration was submitted to the State Clearinghouse (SCH #2022060577) for the park site. The Negative Declaration was submitted to California State Clearinghouse in order for the City to consider approval the land use entitlement for development of the 42.4-acre recreation and sports park. An amendment to the General Plan (GP) was necessary to the adopted Industrial (I) and Business Park (BP) land use designations for compatibility with park use. This action included an addendum to the adopted EIR for the 2005 Shafter General Plan for the change in land use. Adopted in August of 2022, City Resolution 22-403, changed the GP designation for the property to (PS) Park and Schools. The Negative Declaration also included an evaluation of a proposed change in zone classifications for the site. The Industrial (I) and Business Park (BP) zoning per Title 17 of the Shafter Municipal Code was not compatible with the proposed recreational use. Consequently, City Resolution No. 22-404, changed the zone classification to the 42.4-acre site to (CF) Community Facilities to allow for the park development. Therefore, the site is in conformance with the current land use plans and is compatible for planned scale and development.

Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	3	According to the USDA Web Soil Survey website, 83.4% of the site consists of the soil (184) Lewkalb sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, these soils are particularly susceptible to erosion if exposed to runoff from precipitation. The remaining 16.4% of the site consists of (243) Wasco sandy loam soils which are well drained soils with negligible to very low susceptibility to runoff. Installing landscaped surfacing will have a beneficial effect on soils by reducing the risk of erosion caused by wind and runoff exposure that impact soils that make up the site. Furthermore, the very low gradient of the site over the 42.4-acres (a slope of 0 to 2%) with a less than a 10-foot difference from the northeast to southwest portion of the property further reduces the potential for excessive erosion while continuing to convey drainage and storm water runoff towards storm drainage systems already present in the area of the project. The GPA/Zone Change prepared for the site indicated that due to the ground disturbance related activities in excess of one acre or more, the project would require a general permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for Storm Water Discharges associated with planned construction activities. Consequently, Best Management Practices would need to employed to mitigate and prevent construction pollutants, including eroded soils, topsoil from moving offsite. Construction shall include soil compaction to engineering specifications and disturbed areas either paved over or revegetated to prevent soil loss.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	3	Due to surrounding uses that include industrial uses to the south and west of the site, and oil production to the east, the site may be exposed to temporary nuisances and activities that present concern. However, these activities were present in the project area when the City of Shafter processed the General Plan designation and Zone Change. The Department of Toxic Substances Control provided comment on the GPA/Zone Change. County Staff reviewed the DTSC comments and the DTSC comments were provided to the Shafter Park and Recreation District (District) for response. In response to this inquiry, the District noted that they had completed discussion with the DTSC regarding the Brown and Bryant facility. While there was initial concern as to this factor, no mitigation is proposed at this time.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONOMIC		
Employment and Income Patterns	2	There is no evidence in the record that the project would result in any significant changes related to employment or income patterns in the area of the project.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	There is no evidence in the record that the project would result in any demographic or character changes. The project site is a vacant parcel and will not result in any displacement.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	1	The project will likely have a beneficial effect on educational and cultural facilities by providing additional opportunities for physical education and cultural expression.
Commercial Facilities	1	While the initial GPA/Zone Change that designated the site for recreational use may have reduced the land available for industrial use, which impact has been previously evaluated. The project development of the site will not have any direct impacts on commercial facilities in the area of the project. The impacts to commercial facilities are considered mostly beneficial, as residents utilize the site they are more likely to frequent businesses in the area that provide food, beverages and/or recreational goods.
Health Care and Social Services	2	There will not be any significant increase in the need for health care or social services in the area of the project as a result of the project. There is no evidence in the record to suggest the project will result in any growth inducing effects. While injuries related to activities/sports may occasionally occur, health facilities located in the area/region have adequate capacity to address most minor injuries that can reasonably be anticipated as a result of any planned facilities or activities.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	3	The planned use will generate more refuse and recyclable material that will result in the need for regular solid waste and more pickup. While the impact will not significantly change any patterns related to refuse generation or have large impact on landfills, the project will need to ensure that an adequate number of receptacle locations are available for both trash and recyclables generated by the project site. The GPA/Zone Change indicates that American Refuse is the franchise hauler that operates within the core area of the City of Shafter. Collected solid waste is disposed of primarily at the Shafter/Wasco landfill operated by Kern County Public Works but refuse may occasionally be taken to the Bakersfield Metro (Bena) Landfill, also managed by Kern County Public Works. The GPA/Zone Change processed for the park use concluded that landfill capacity is projected to meet the needs until December 2053 and April 2046 respectively.
Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers	3	The General Plan/Zone Change performed for land use entitlement noted the project would connect with the existing City sewer system located along East Ash Avenue. A will serve should be provided to ensure that sewer service is provided to the park and recreation development.
Water Supply	3	Non-potable water (Page 53) will be used to irrigate the site and potable water will be used within bathrooms, drinking fountains and sinks. Peak potable water would be 1,374 gallons per minute or gpm under fire flow conditions. A 2021 assessment of water use performed by QK determined that the existing potable water system has adequate capacity to serve the potable water needs without any upgrades to the City of Shafter water delivery system. Non-potable water is available from the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation

		District (SWID) from February to November but this water requires filtration due to its raw nature. The total use of non-potable is 49,707 gallons per day. During December and January, SWID water is not available but this is the wet season in California when seasonal rains provide moisture during the cold, wet months when evapotranspiration and demand is low. In order to ensure irrigation water is available during the remainder of the year, a will serve for non-potable will be required from the irrigation district prior to construction.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The City of Shafter Police Department (201 Central Avenue) and Kern County Fire Department (325 Sunset Avenue) are located approximately 1.4 miles in separate directions from project site. The GPA/Zone Change determined that the project would not increase demands for public safety protection. The City of Shafter will be responsible for ensuring that the project is constructed in accordance with local and State fire codes. This includes fire suppression equipment and improvements. As noted with the Health Care Facilities section, that while injuries related to activities/sports may occasionally occur, health facilities located in the area/region have adequate capacity to address most minor injuries that can reasonably be anticipated as a result of any planned facilities or activities.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	1	This is project is for the development of additional park, open space and recreation. The project will expand and have a beneficial impact on these resources.
Transportation and Accessibility	3	The site will be a hub for recreational activities for the community of Shafter. The park design includes six baseball fields and three soccer fields each with 12 to 15 members on each team. Traffic Modeling from the original General Plan Amendment and Zone Change for the site included trip generation counts of peak use Average Daily Trips (ADT) at 722 vehicles trips. Six intersections in the area of the project were evaluated and while the ADT generated will affect the level of service and some of the intersections immediately surrounding the park, the intersection anticipated to have the most impacted Level of Service is the intersection of Mannel Ave. and Lerdo Hwy. The LOS impact at this intersection warrants further consideration for inclusion of mitigation for current and projected levels of service (LOS) to the year 2040. As a result, construction of a signal at Mannel Ave. and Lerdo Hwy. is necessary for an acceptable LOS. However, the traffic modeling performed for the original General Plan Amendment and Zone Change determined that the level of service at the intersection would decline to the same level with or without the project. Consequently, the project is not considered to have a significant impact on traffic in the area.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		

Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	There are no unique natural features on or near the project site. The site has been previously disturbed due to agricultural uses.
Vegetation, Wildlife	3	There is no riparian habitat, wetlands or other sensitive natural communities in the area of the project. The 2019 biological report for the site identified seven (7) special-status plant species and 21 special status wildlife species that may occur in the vicinity of the project. Due to the habitat present and soil conditions of the site, no special status plant species were identified as being present in the area of the project. The survey found that while suitable burrowing and foraging habitat was present, other habitat was not present due to prior disturbance primarily related to the previous disturbance and agricultural use of the site. Bird species of concern in the area of the project include: burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk. California horned lark, San Joaquin kit fox, and nesting birds. Burrowing owls could be supported in the area and activities may impact owls present in the area without mitigation. Swainson's hawk was not present in the area and there is only marginal habitat to support the species, and impacts are considered less than significant. During the reconnaissance survey, Horned larks were present in the area of the project. In the area surrounding the project site there is habitat to support the species and the species may be susceptible to disturbance and may impact the species without mitigation. As to nesting bird species horned lark, killdeer, and northern harrier, there is suitable, albeit low quality habitat in the area of the project. Nesting activities may be impacted by construction related activities that include but are not limited to dust, vibration, and noise. No American Badger is present in the project area, but marginal quality denning and foraging habit exists in the area of the project. Mitigation has been included in the event any badger habitat, presence is encountered.
Other Factors	2	An evaluation of GHGs was conducted with the initial environmental review performed for the GPA and Zone Change for the site land use entitlement. The evaluation found the GHG levels were of a less than significant level due to the incorporation of Best Performance Standards within project design related to GHG emissions.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
ENERGY		
Energy Efficiency	3	Due to the construction of a new park, the project will consume additional grid based energy. However, the project would be constructed in an manner that is consistent with California Energy Building Code, Title 24 that includes the California Green Building Standards Code, CALGreen, which sets the minimum and mandatory energy standards for energy efficiency. The

		standards are considered best practices that are employed with all construction projects that ensure any impacts are reduced to a less than significant level.

Additional Studies Performed:

NOC # SCH2022060577
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (Three separate Phase I for property)
Phase I Cultural Survey
Biological Analysis Report

Field Inspection (Date and completed by)**:**

May 7, 2024, James Golden

List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted:

- AEC (Advanced Environmental Concepts). 2018. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment - 15.33-acre Agricultural Property (Hight)
- AEC (Advanced Environmental Concepts). 2018. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment - 18.48-acre Agricultural Property (Ohanneson)
- AEC (Advanced Environmental Concepts). 2018. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment – 16.85-acre Agricultural Property (Wiens)
- ASM (ASM Affiliates). 2019. Final Phase 1 Survey, Shafter Community Park Project, Shafter, Kern County, California. December.
- Christina G Hutten, Kishan Padalia, Alexi Vasbinder, Yiyuan Huang, Anis Ismail, Ian Pizzo, Kristen Machado Diaz, Tonimarie Catalan, Feriel Presswalla, Elizabeth Anderson, Grace Erne, Brayden Bitterman, Pennelope Blakely, Evangelos J Giamarellos-Bourboulis, Sven H Loosen, Frank Tacke, Athanasios Chalkias, Jochen Reiser, Jesper Eugen-Olsen, Mousumi Banerjee, Rodica Pop-Busui, Salim S Hayek, Obesity, Inflammation, and Clinical Outcomes in COVID-19: A Multicenter Prospective Cohort Study, *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, Volume 109, Issue 11, November 2024, Pages 2745–2753, https://doi.org/10.1210/clinem/dgae273 https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12889-023-15833-2
- Insight (Insight Environmental Consultants). 2019. Air Quality Impact Analysis, Shafter Community Park, Shafter California, December.
- Kern County. 2026. Kern County GIS. Available: https://maps.kerncounty.com/H5/index.html?viewer=KCPublic
- Kern County Public Works. 2026. Office Memorandum – Shafter Community Park Project for CDGB Project No.18.19.CV1.3. April
- Kern Council of Governments. 2026. Traffic Count Database System (TCDS). Available: https://kerncog.public.ms2soft.com/tcds/tsearch.asp?loc=Kerncog&mod=TCDS
- Nour, T.Y., ALTINTAŞ, K.H. Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on obesity and its risk factors: a systematic review. *BMC Public Health* **23**, 1018 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-023-15833-2
- QK. 2019. Biological Analysis Report – Shafter Park and Recreation District, Shafter Community Park Project. December.
- QK. 2024. Biological Analysis Report – Shafter Park and Recreation District, Shafter Community Park Project. August.
- QK. 2021a. Water Impact Assessment. August.

- QK. 2021b. Municipal Sewer Impact Assessment. August.
- Shafter (City of Shafter). 2005. General Plan.
- Shafter (City of Shafter). 2022. Mitigated Negative Declaration General Plan Amendment and Zone Change (GPA 21-37 and ZC 21-70)
- State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2026. Envirostor. Available: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/
- State of California Water Board. 2026. GeoTracker. Available: https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/
- SHPO (Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation). 2018. Section 106 Consultation LWCF Project LW-15-040, Shafter Community Park Project, Kern County. April.
- SHPO (Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation). 2024. Section 106 Consultation for Shafter Community Park, City of Shafter, Kern County (LW-15-040). July.
- SSJVIC (Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center). 2024. CHRIS (California Historical Resources Information System) – Cultural Resources Records Search No. 24-328. June.
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 2026. HUD Exchange. Noise Abatement and Control – Day/Night Noise Level Calculator. Available: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/dnl-calculator/
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 2026. HUD Exchange. Related Laws and Authorities. Available: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/federal-related-laws-and-authorities/
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 2026. HUD Exchange. Explosive and Flammable Facilities Acceptable Separation Distance Tool. Available: Acceptable Separation Distance (ASD) Electronic Assessment Tool - HUD Exchange
- United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2026. NEPAssist. Available: https://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepassist
- United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2026. Sole Source Aquifer Map. Available: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1bfab371d71e4b868fc9ae7df62a16fe
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 2026. Project Code 2024-0114065 – Species List. April.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 2026. National Wetlands Inventory – Wetlands Mapper. Available: https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/

List of Permits Obtained:

None

Public Outreach [24 CFR 50.23 & 58.43]**:**

The public notice for the establishment of the project was ran in location newspapers for a minimum of 30-days from June 10, 2024 to the Board Hearing on July 16, 2024.

Public Notice for the FONSI Determination will run from

Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]**:**

The project will have cumulative effects on traffic patterns in the area. The project traffic patterns have been evaluated and a signal will be provided were the Level of Service is anticipated to decline and will mitigate concerns related to traffic flow and safety. Other cumulative impacts include water use. The project reliance on water provided during the summer month but not available in the winter months may require outside sourcing in the event of an extreme winter drought to continue to maintain landscaping. A

mitigation measure has been included to encourage drought tolerant landscaping in non-play areas to reduce the need for outside water delivery.

Alternatives [24 CFR 58.40(e)]

Alternatives to the project evaluated include the reduction of the size of the project to a 20-acre park. However, this alternative was rejected since it will reduce the size available for park development and impact the reevaluated City of Shafter General Plan and could result in reclassification to industrial use and development in the area of the project. If the park were built with the necessary road access and parking areas, existing adjoining roads would likely result in dangerous traffic conditions related to ingress and egress including air related fugitive dust and debris.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:

The no action alternative means that no park and no access improvements will be available to the City residents. If there was no park built, the site would likely revert back to vacant lands available for industrial use or remain entirely vacant all together.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions: There are no findings that cannot be mitigated to a less thank significant impact. The park will provide another valuable recreational asset to the community to encourage residents to live healthy and active lifestyles and will encourage resiliency to a coronavirus and a litany of related health conditions that can be impacted by the virus.

Mitigation Measures and Conditions

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Contamination and Toxic Substances	A "No Dumping" sign shall be placed onsite to deter future illegal dumping.
Endangered Species and **Vegetation, Wildlife**	The following items shall be adhered to during all grading and construction related activities for project implementation: BIO-1 Pre-activity Surveys for San Joaquin kit fox dens, American badger dens, and western burrowing owl burrows. Within 14 days of the start of Project activities, a pre-activity survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist knowledgeable in the identification of these species. The pre-activity survey shall include walking transects to identify presence of burrowing owls and their burrows, American badgers and their dens, and San Joaquin kit foxes and their dens. The pre-activity survey shall be walked by no greater than 30-foot transects for

	100 percent coverage of the Project site and the 250-foot buffer, where feasible. If no evidence of these special-status species is detected, no further action is required. BIO-2 Avoidance of Burrowing Owl Burrows and American Badger and San Joaquin Kit Fox Dens. If dens or burrows that could support any of these species are discovered during the pre-activity survey conducted under Measure BIO-1, the avoidance buffers outlined below should be established. No work would occur within these buffers unless the biologist approves and monitors the activity. Burrowing Owl (active burrows) • Non-breeding season: September 1 – January 31 – 160 feet • Breeding season: February 1 – August 31 – 250 feet American Badger and San Joaquin Kit Fox • Potential or Atypical den – 50 feet • Known den – 100 feet • Natal or pupping den – Contact agencies for further guidance BIO-3 Avoidance and Minimization Measures for San Joaquin Kit Fox, American Badger, and Burrowing Owl. The following avoidance and minimization measures should be implemented during all phases of the Project to reduce the potential for impact from the Project. They are modified from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance (USFWS 2011, Appendix E). • Project-related vehicles should observe a daytime speed limit of 20-mph throughout the site in all Project areas, except on County roads and State and federal highways. • All Project activities should occur during daylight hours, but if work must be conducted at night then a night-time construction speed limit of 10-mph should be established. • Off-road traffic outside of designated Project areas should be prohibited. • To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during construction of the project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks should be installed. • Before holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the USFWS and the CDFW should be contacted before proceeding with the work.

	In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the USFWS and CDFW should be contacted for guidance. • All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of four inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes and burrowing owls before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe should not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped. • All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or Project site. • No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the Project site. • Project-related use of rodenticides and herbicides should be restricted. • A representative should be appointed by the Project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The representative should be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number should be provided to the USFWS and CDFW. • Upon completion of the Project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances (including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc.) should be recontoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions. An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the Project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated. • Any Project personnel who are responsible for inadvertently killing or injuring one of these species should immediately report the incident to their representative. This representative should contact the CDFW (and USFWS in the case of San Joaquin kit fox) immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped San Joaquin kit fox, American badger, or western burrowing owl. • The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife office and CDFW Region 4 office should be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during project related activities. The CDFW should be notified

	in the case of accidental death to an American badger or western burrowing owl. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information. • New sightings of San Joaquin kit fox, American badger, or western burrowing owl shall be reported to the CNDDB. A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where a San Joaquin kit fox was observed should also be provided to the USFWS. BIO-4 Pre-activity Surveys for Nesting Birds. If Project activities must occur during the nesting season (February 1 to September 15), pre-activity nesting bird surveys should be conducted within seven days prior to the start of construction at the construction site plus a 250-foot buffer for songbirds and a 500-foot buffer for raptors (other than Swainson's hawk). The surveys should be phased with construction of the Project. If no active nests are found, no further action is required. However, existing nests may become active and new nests may be built at any time prior to and throughout the nesting season, including when construction activities are in progress. If active nests are found during the survey or at any time during construction of the Project, an avoidance buffer ranging from 50 feet to 500 feet may be required, with the avoidance buffer from any specific nest being determined by a qualified biologist. The avoidance buffer will remain in place until the biologist has determined that the young are no longer reliant on the adults or the nest. Work may occur within the avoidance buffer under the approval and guidance of the biologist, but full-time monitoring may be required. The biologist should have the ability to stop construction if nesting adults show any sign of distress. BIO-5 Worker Environmental Awareness Training. Prior to the initiation of construction activities, all personnel should attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Training program developed by a qualified biologist. The program should include information on the life histories of special-status species with potential to occur on the Project, their legal status, course of action should these species be encountered on-site, and avoidance and minimization measures to protect these species.
Historic Preservation	<u>During implementation of all grading and construction related activities</u>: In the unlikely event that any historical or cultural resources are encountered during the undertaking, all work shall halt in the area of the discovery and a qualified professional consultant be contacted to evaluate the findings and make any appropriate mitigation recommendations, as appropriate.

Noise Abatement and Control	During all construction related activities: In order to avoid being a nuisance to existing residences just to the north of the site, activities shall be limited to the period of the day between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, to avoid becoming an unnecessary nuisance to residents within the immediate vicinity of the project.
Solid Waste Disposal/Recycling	Prior to filing a Notice of Completion: The Shafter Park and Recreation District will need to ensure that an adequate number of receptacle locations are available for both trash and recyclables generated by the project site.
Storm Water Runoff	Prior to commencement of operations: A general permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for Storm Water Discharges shall be obtained.
Waste Water/Sanitary Sewers	Prior to commencement of operations: A will serve letter shall be obtained and provided to the County to ensure sewer service is available to serve park and recreation development.
Water Supply	Prior to commencement of operations: In order to ensure irrigation water is available during the remainder of the year, a will serve for non-potable will be required from the irrigation district prior to construction. Wherever possible in non-play areas and in any median landscaped areas, drought tolerant landscaping should be provided to reduce water consumption during the winter months when water is not readily available to the site.
Transportation and Accessibility	Prior to any final occupancy permit and/or Notice of Completion is filed: A traffic signal shall be constructed at the intersection of Mannel Avenue and Lerdo Highway in order to ensure that the Level of Service does not decline to an unacceptable level.

Determination:

☒ **Finding of No Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1)]
The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

☐ **Finding of Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2)]
The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature: _____ Date: 4/24/26

Name/Title/Organization: James Golden, Supervising Planner, Kern Planning and Natural Resources Department – Community Development Division

Certifying Officer Signature: _____ Date: 4/24/26

Name/Title: Craig M. Murphy, Director, Kern Planning and Natural Resources Department

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).

CEQA – NOC # SCH2022060577

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Shafter Community Park Project

Lead Agency: City of Shafter | Contact Person: Steve Esselman, Planning Director
Mailing Address: 336 Pacific Avenue | Phone: 661-746-5002
City: Shafter | Zip: 93263 | County: Kern

Project Location: County: Kern | City/Nearest Community: Shafter
Cross Streets: East Ash Avenue and Golds Avenue | Zip Code: 93263
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 35 ° 29 ′ 52 ″ N / 119 ° 15 ′ 18 ″ W Total Acres: 42.4
Assessor's Parcel No.: 089-230-66, 089-140-74 & 089-140-76 | Section: 14 | Twp.: 28S | Range: 25E | Base: MDBM
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR-43 | Waterways: Numerous
Airports: None | Railways: BNSF | Schools: Numerous

Document Type:

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Early Cons ☐ Neg Dec ☒ Mit Neg Dec ☐ Draft EIR ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) ____ Other: ____
NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI
Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other: ____

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☒ General Plan Amendment ☐ General Plan Element ☐ Community Plan
☐ Specific Plan ☐ Master Plan ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Site Plan
☒ Rezone ☐ Prezone ☐ Use Permit ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)
☐ Annexation ☐ Redevelopment ☐ Coastal Permit ☐ Other: ____

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units ____ Acres ____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
☐ Educational: ____
☒ Recreational: Community Park
☐ Water Facilities: Type ____ MGD ____
☐ Transportation: Type ____
☐ Mining: Mineral ____
☐ Power: Type ____ MW ____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type ____ MGD ____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type ____
☐ Other: ____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual ☒ Agricultural Land ☒ Air Quality ☒ Archeological/Historical ☒ Biological Resources ☐ Coastal Zone ☒ Drainage/Absorption ☐ Economic/Jobs
☐ Fiscal ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☒ Geologic/Seismic ☒ Minerals ☒ Noise ☐ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Public Services/Facilities
☒ Recreation/Parks ☒ Schools/Universities ☐ Septic Systems ☒ Sewer Capacity ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☒ Solid Waste ☒ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Traffic/Circulation
☒ Vegetation ☒ Water Quality ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater ☒ Wetland/Riparian ☐ Growth Inducement ☒ Land Use ☒ Cumulative Effects ☐ Other: ____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

The land is currently designated by the General Plan and zoned per Shafter Municipal Code Title 17 as BP (Business Park) and I (Industrial).

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The project consists of a requested General Plan Amendment and Zone Change to allow for the construction of a two-phase recreation and sports park on a 42.4-acre site located at the northwest corner of East Ash Avenue and Golds Avenue in the City of Shafter. The project would be developed in two phases.

Phase 1 would include the construction of various recreational fields and courts for baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, and handball, as well as children's playground and barbecue areas totaling approximately 20 acres. Phase 1 would also include a 340-square-foot restroom, a 1,300-square-foot concession stand with restroom, a 1,000-square-foot storage building, one 720-square-foot office, and three parking areas composed of 336 parking spaces.

Phase 2 would include the construction of various recreational features and courts such as an outdoor gym, tennis/pickle ball courts, kids fit course, dog-park, barbecue area, and track field. Phase 2 would also include the construction of a 26,725-square-foot gym/multi-purpose room, a 1,500-square-foot shop, a 1,000-square-foot restroom, maintenance yard, and 2-parking areas composed of 388 parking spaces. Street construction included in Phase 2 would include the remaining portion of the access road along the north and west boundaries of the park. An on-site retention basin, sized per a drainage study reviewed and approved by the City Engineer, would also be developed at the site. Additionally, an on-site drywell and filtration unit would also be developed to filter raw irrigation water provided by the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District and supplemented by an offsite water well.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

____	Air Resources Board	____	Office of Historic Preservation
____	Boating & Waterways, Department of	____	Office of Public School Construction
____	California Emergency Management Agency	X	Parks & Recreation, Department of
X	California Highway Patrol	____	Pesticide Regulation, Department of
X	Caltrans District # 6	____	Public Utilities Commission
____	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	X	Regional WQCB # 5
____	Caltrans Planning	____	Resources Agency
X	Central Valley Flood Protection Board	____	Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
____	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	____	S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
____	Coastal Commission	____	San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
____	Colorado River Board	____	San Joaquin River Conservancy
X	Conservation, Department of	____	Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
____	Corrections, Department of	____	State Lands Commission
____	Delta Protection Commission	____	SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
____	Education, Department of	____	SWRCB: Water Quality
____	Energy Commission	____	SWRCB: Water Rights
X	Fish & Game Region # 4	____	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
____	Food & Agriculture, Department of	X	Toxic Substances Control, Department of
____	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of
____	General Services, Department of		
____	Health Services, Department of	____	Other: _____
____	Housing & Community Development	____	Other: _____
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date June 24, 2022 Ending Date July 24, 2022

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____ Applicant: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
Phone: _____

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: 71ca84c6-768c-44cf-959c-74aa9d4ac082 Digitally signed by 71ca84c6-768c-44cf-959c-74aa9d4ac082 DN: cn=71ca84c6-768c-44cf-959c-74aa9d4ac082 Date: 2022.06.16 10:21:20 -07'00' **Date:** June 24, 2022

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Mitigation Monitoring Program

4/23/26

Mitigation Monitoring Plan

CD Project Nos. 18.19.CV1.3 – Shafter Community Park Project and Road Access Improvements
Location: Northwest Corner of East Ash Ave. and Golds Avenue, Shafter, CA .

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]**:**

The project consists of the development of a 42.4-acre park on a vacant parcel of land. The project consists of street related improvements and four-related phases of park improvements. Phase one consists of the design, installation and construction of park related improvements including: road and streets access, pedestrian and park walkways and three (3) parking areas. Park facility related improvements include: four (4) baseball fields and two (2) softball fields, three (3) soccer fields, three (3) universal courts, three (3) handball courts, two (2) picnic and barbeque areas, four (4) basketball courts, batting cages, two (2) playgrounds and related improvements. CDBG CARES funds will be utilized to provide roads access since the approved State Grant funding does not include road access within the scope of covered improvements. Additional CDBG funding may be used for the design of phases three and four of the project.

Phase Two: Phase consists of the design, installation and construction for the expansion of one parking area with solar improvements, dog park, community garden, kids physical fitness, outdoor gym, two (2) tennis/pickleball courts, parking maintenance yard and shop, barbeque area and related improvements.

Phase Three: Phase consists of the design and construction of a gymnasium and related improvements.

Phase Four: Phase consists of the design and construction of a track and field area and related improvements.

Proposed Mitigation Measures for Shafter Community Park Project and Road Access Improvements per Part 58 review:

Factor: Contamination and Toxic Substances

Reason: The site has historically been used for illegal dumping that resulted in an identified housekeeping condition in the Phase I – Environmental Site Assessment conducted for the property.

A "No Dumping" sign shall be placed onsite to deter future illegal dumping.

Steps to compliance: Prior to issuance of the Notice of Completion at least one sign shall be placed in a strategic location on the property to discourage illegal dumping of refuse onsite.

Factor: Endangered Species/Vegetation and Wildlife

Reason: The site is located in an area where protected species may be present and nesting, foraging, and burrowing habitat may be present for birds or other sensitive species.

The following items shall be adhered to during all grading and construction related activities for project implementation:

BIO-1

Pre-activity Surveys for San Joaquin kit fox dens, American badger dens, and western burrowing owl burrows. Within 14 days of the start of Project activities, a pre-activity survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist knowledgeable in the identification of these species. The pre-activity survey shall include walking transects to identify presence of burrowing owls and their burrows, American badgers and their dens, and San Joaquin kit foxes and their dens. The pre-activity survey shall be walked by no greater than 30-foot transects for 100 percent coverage of the Project site and the 250-foot buffer, where feasible. If no evidence of these special-status species is detected, no further action is required.

BIO-2

Avoidance of Burrowing Owl Burrows and American Badger and San Joaquin Kit Fox Dens. If dens or burrows that could support any of these species are discovered during the pre-activity survey conducted under Measure BIO-1, the avoidance buffers outlined below should be established. No work would occur within these buffers unless the biologist approves and monitors the activity.

Burrowing Owl (active burrows)

- Non-breeding season: September 1 – January 31 – 160 feet
- Breeding season: February 1 – August 31 – 250 feet

American Badger and San Joaquin Kit Fox

- Potential or Atypical den – 50 feet
- Known den – 100 feet
- Natal or pupping den – Contact agencies for further guidance

BIO-3

Avoidance and Minimization Measures for San Joaquin Kit Fox, American Badger, and Burrowing Owl. The following avoidance and minimization measures should be implemented during all phases of the Project to reduce the potential for impact from the Project. They are modified from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance (USFWS 2011, Appendix E).

- Project-related vehicles should observe a daytime speed limit of 20-mph throughout the site in all Project areas, except on County roads and State and federal highways.
- All Project activities should occur during daylight hours, but if work must be conducted at night then a night-time construction speed limit of 10-mph should be established.
- Off-road traffic outside of designated Project areas should be prohibited.

• To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during construction of the project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks should be installed.

• Before holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the USFWS and the CDFW should be contacted before proceeding with the work. In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the USFWS and CDFW should be contacted for guidance.

• All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of four inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes and burrowing owls before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe should not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.

• All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or Project site.

• No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the Project site.

• Project-related use of rodenticides and herbicides should be restricted.

• A representative should be appointed by the Project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The representative should be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number should be provided to the USFWS and CDFW.

• Upon completion of the Project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances (including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc.) should be recontoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions.

An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the Project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated.

• Any Project personnel who are responsible for inadvertently killing or injuring one of these species should immediately report the incident to their representative. This representative should contact the CDFW (and USFWS in the case of San Joaquin kit fox) immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped San Joaquin kit fox, American badger, or western burrowing owl.

• The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife office and CDFW Region 4 office should be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during project related activities. The CDFW should be notified in the case of accidental death to an American badger or western burrowing owl. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information.

• New sightings of San Joaquin kit fox, American badger, or western burrowing owl shall be reported to the CNDDB. A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where a San Joaquin kit fox was observed should also be provided to the USFWS.

BIO-4

Pre-activity Surveys for Nesting Birds. If Project activities must occur during the nesting season (February 1 to September 15), pre-activity nesting bird surveys should be conducted within seven days prior to the start of construction at the construction site plus a 250-foot buffer for songbirds and a

500-foot buffer for raptors (other than Swainson's hawk). The surveys should be phased with construction of the Project. If no active nests are found, no further action is required. However, existing nests may become active and new nests may be built at any time prior to and throughout the nesting season, including when construction activities are in progress. If active nests are found during the survey or at any time during construction of the Project, an avoidance buffer ranging from 50 feet to 500 feet may be required, with the avoidance buffer from any specific nest being determined by a qualified biologist. The avoidance buffer will remain in place until the biologist has determined that the young are no longer reliant on the adults or the nest. Work may occur within the avoidance buffer under the approval and guidance of the biologist, but full-time monitoring may be required. The biologist should have the ability to stop construction if nesting adults show any sign of distress.

BIO-5

Worker Environmental Awareness Training. Prior to the initiation of construction activities, all personnel should attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Training program developed by a qualified biologist. The program should include information on the life histories of special-status species with potential to occur on the Project, their legal status, course of action should these species be encountered on-site, and avoidance and minimization measures to protect these species.

Steps to compliance:

The contractor shall ensure that commencement of operations, including ground disturbing activities, do not proceed until the necessary preconstruction survey is conducted and all recommendations of the reviewing biologist are complied with to ensure the protection of listed species. Evidence of completion of the report shall be provided to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department – Community Development Division and the report shall be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to commencement of actions or the undertaking any ground disturbing activities. Where determined necessary by the biologist, exclusion zones shall be established and maintained until all construction activities are complete, unless said agencies prefer that any affected special status species be removed and/or relocated, in accordance with said agencies adopted guidelines or standard procedures.

During implementation, all ongoing biologic resource measures shall be adhered during execution of the work authorized under this clearance, and wherever appropriate based on new information, discoveries or changes in the area of the project, a biologist shall be consulted regarding steps to compliance for any relevant sections of these mitigation measures.

The contractor shall obtain all permits required for the commencement and operation of the property. All operations shall be undertaken in a manner consistent with permits issued for the site.

Factor: Historic Preservation

Reason: The following measure is to account for any unknown, undiscovered cultural resources that may be present in the area of the project and discovered as a result of project implementation.

In the unlikely event that any historical or cultural resources are encountered during the undertaking, all work shall halt in the area of the discovery and a qualified professional consultant be contacted to evaluate the findings and make any appropriate mitigation recommendations, as appropriate.

Steps to Compliance: In the event that a discovery is made the Contractor shall contact a qualified professional consultant and the project manager for the Planning and Natural Resources Department of the County of Kern regarding the finding. All recommendations of the cultural/historic professional consultant shall be strictly adhered to during project implementation.

Factor: Noise Abatement and Control

Reason: The following measures are to ensure that construction related noise and vibration levels are mitigated to less than significant level for single-family residences located immediately north of the project.

<u>During all construction related activities</u>:

In order to avoid being a nuisance to existing residences just to the north of the site, activities shall be limited to the period of the day between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, to avoid becoming an unnecessary nuisance to residents within the immediate vicinity of the project.

Steps to Compliance: During project implementation and construction the Contractor shall ensure that the construction daily operational timeframes are adhered to.

Factor: Solid Waste Disposal/Recycling

Reason: The project will be a new source of trash and refuse that may become fugitive is enough receptacles are not provided.

The Shafter Park and Recreation District will need to ensure that an adequate number of receptacle locations are available for both trash and recyclables generated by the project site.

Steps to Compliance: Prior to filing a Notice of Completion ensure that an adequate number of receptacles are provided.

Factor: Storm Water Runoff

Reason: A National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is required for the discharge of Storm Water.

Prior to commencement of operations:

A general permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for Storm Water Discharges shall be obtained.

Steps to Compliance: The Shafter Park and Recreation District shall obtain and provide a copy of the NPDES permit for Storm Water Discharges to the Planning and Natural Resources Department of the County of Kern.

Factor: Waste Water/Sanitary Sewers

Reason: The development will result in the need to dispose of wastewater into a community sewer system.

Prior to commencement of operations:

A will serve letter shall be obtained and provided to the County to ensure sewer service is available to serve park and recreation development.

Steps to Compliance: The Shafter Park and Recreation District shall obtain and provide a copy of the will-serve for wastewater disposal to the Planning and Natural Resources Department of the County of Kern.

Factor: Water Supply

Reason: The project will need to incorporate water saving measures to decrease reliance on water purveyors and address drought conditions that may occur during the winter months when reliable water purveyor services are not available to the project.

Prior to commencement of operations:

In order to ensure irrigation water is available during the remainder of the year, a will serve for non-potable will be required from the irrigation district prior to construction.

Wherever possible in non-play areas and in any median landscaped areas, drought tolerant landscaping should be provided to reduce water consumption during the winter months when water is not readily available to the site.

Steps to Compliance: The Shafter Park and Recreation District shall provide areas where drought tolerate landscaping can be incorporated into the project design to reduce water consumption.

Factor: Transportation and Accessibility

Reason: The traffic related Level of Service will be impacted development of the large community park.

Prior to any final occupancy permit and/or Notice of Completion is filed:

A traffic signal shall be constructed at the intersection of Mannel Avenue and Lerdo Highway in order to ensure that the Level of Service does not decline to an unacceptable level.

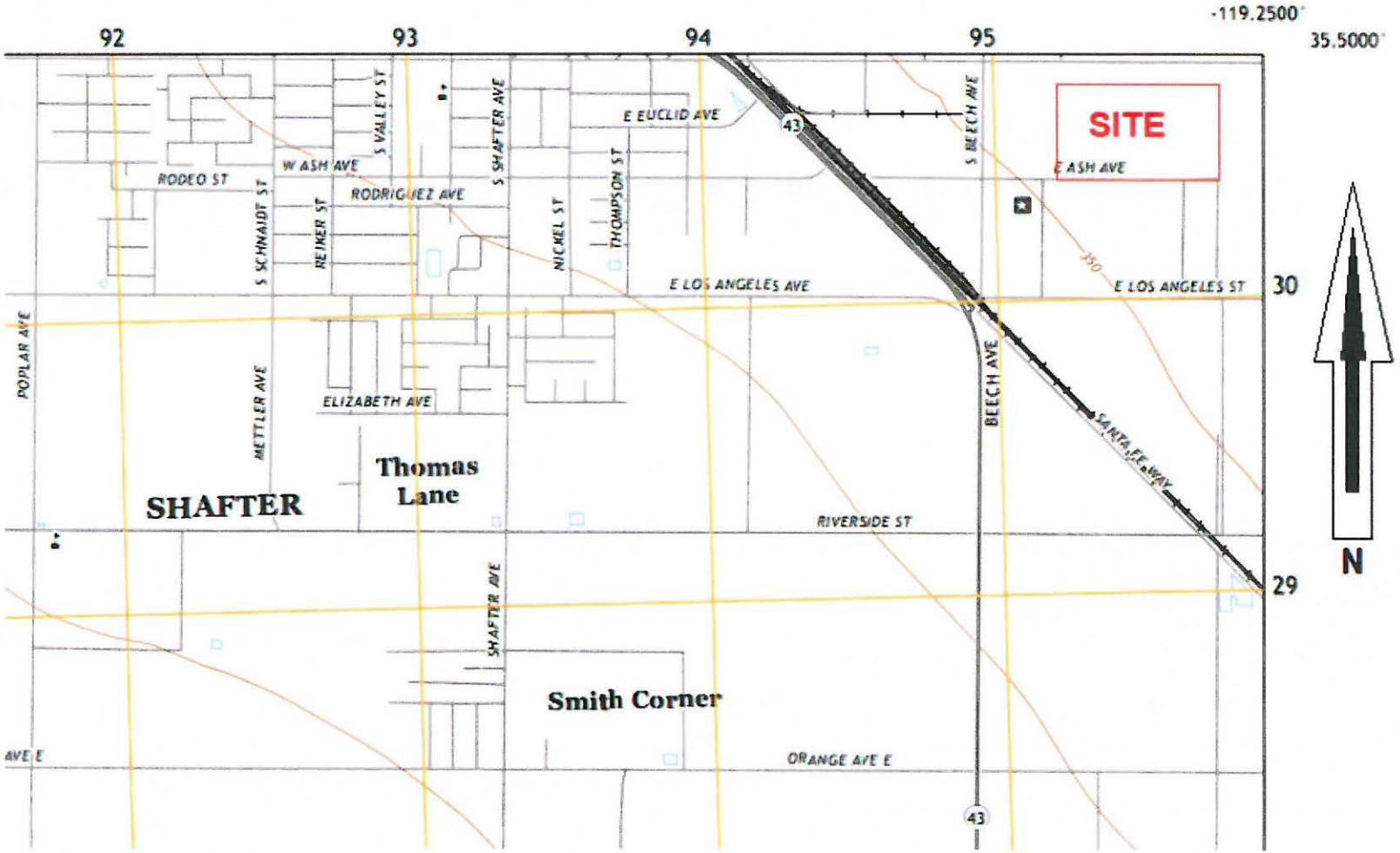
Steps to Compliance: Ensure the level of service for traffic in the area of the project does not decline and provide the traffic signal at the intersection of Mannel Avenue and Lerdo Highway.

Site Related Maps

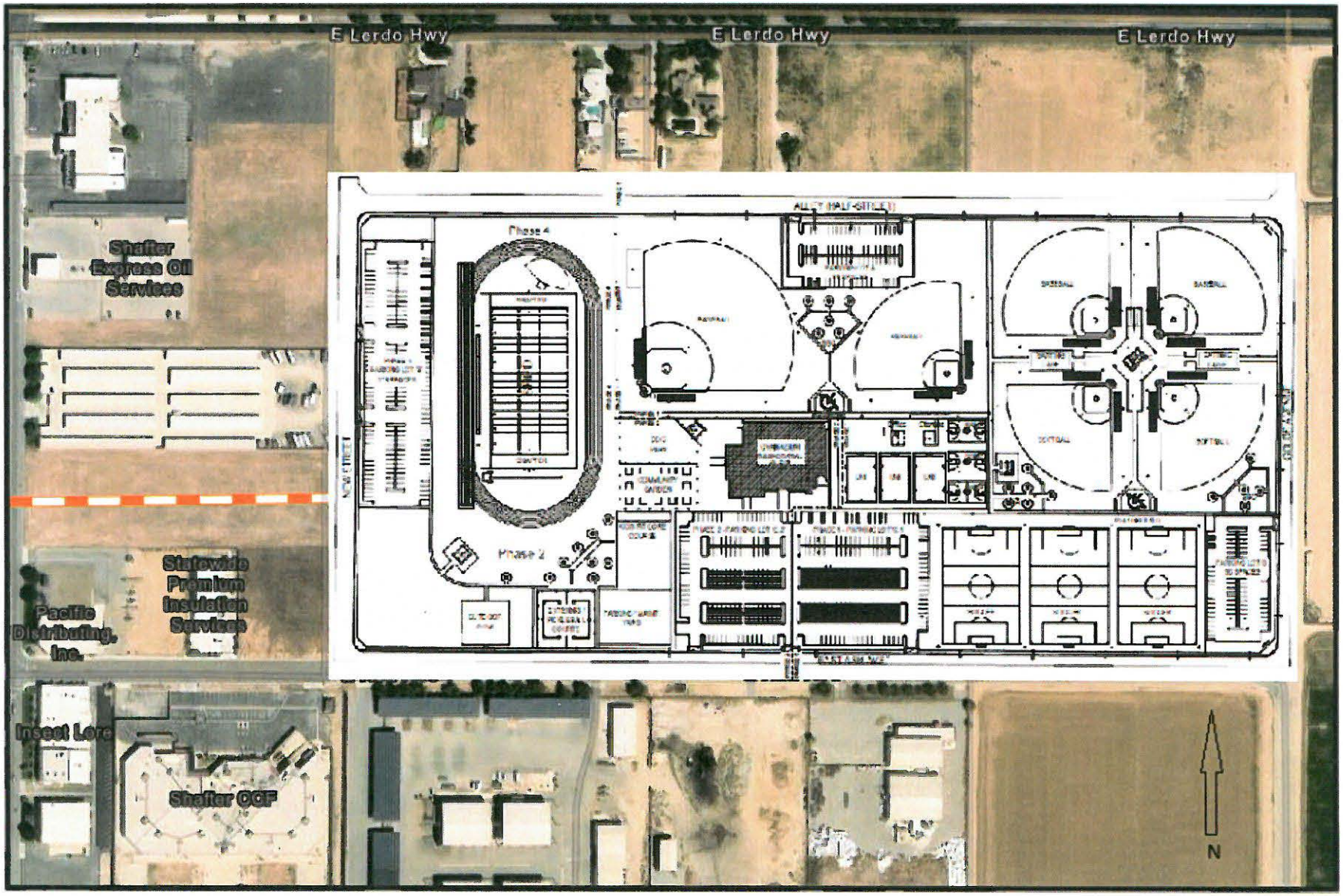
CARES Act CD Project No. 18.19.CV1.3
- Shafter Community Park Project
Road Access Improvements

RIO BRAVO QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA - KERN COUNTY
7.5-MINUTE SERIES

Section 14, T28S, R25E, MDBM



Park Concept Overlay Map



Airport Map



July 18, 2024

Project 1

Airport Points

Airport Polygons

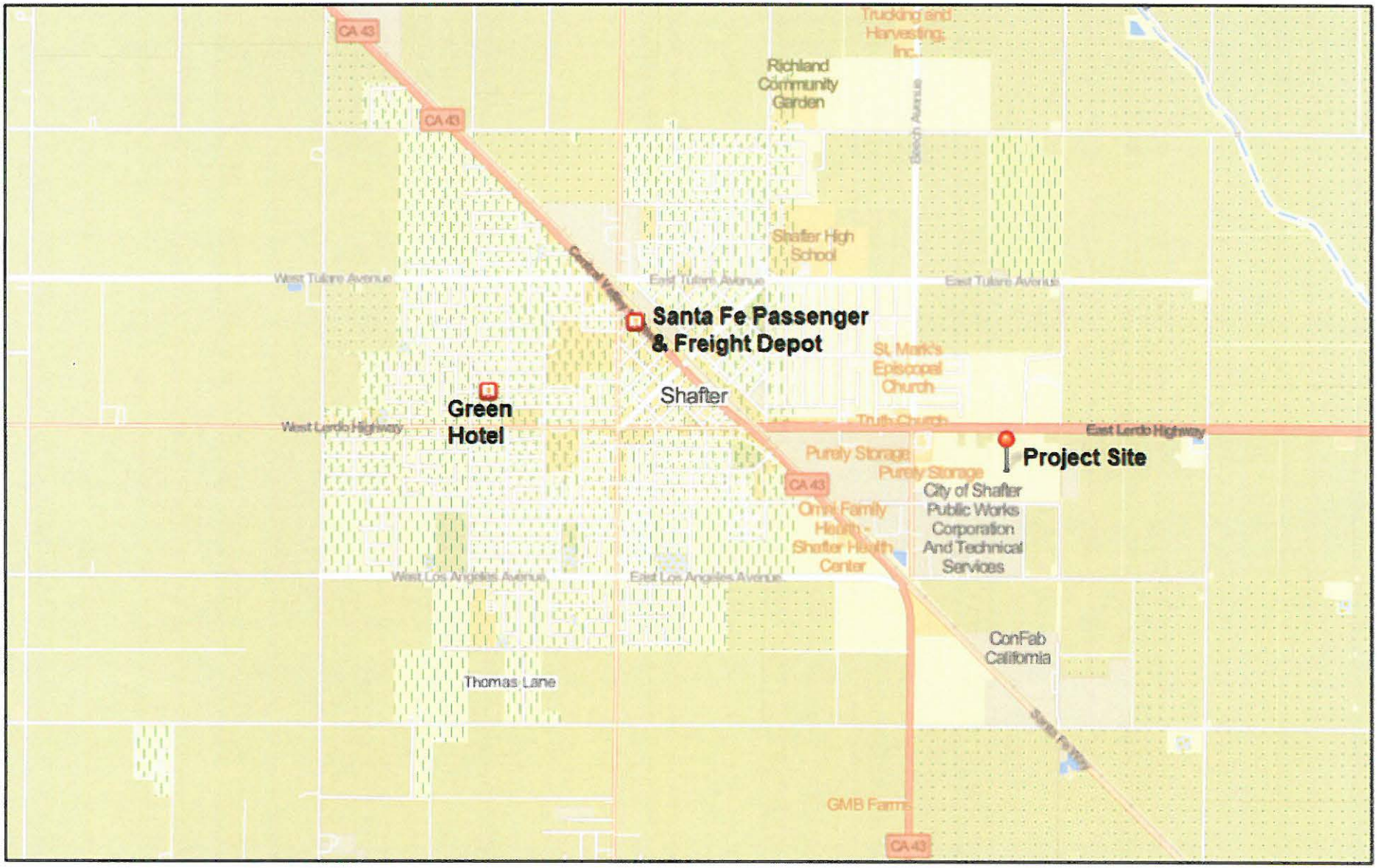
1:72,224

0 0.5 1 2 mi

0 0.75 1.5 3 km

© 2024 Microsoft Corporation © 2024 TomTom, EPA OEI

Historic Places Map



July 18, 2024

Project 1

National Register of Historic Places

1:36,112

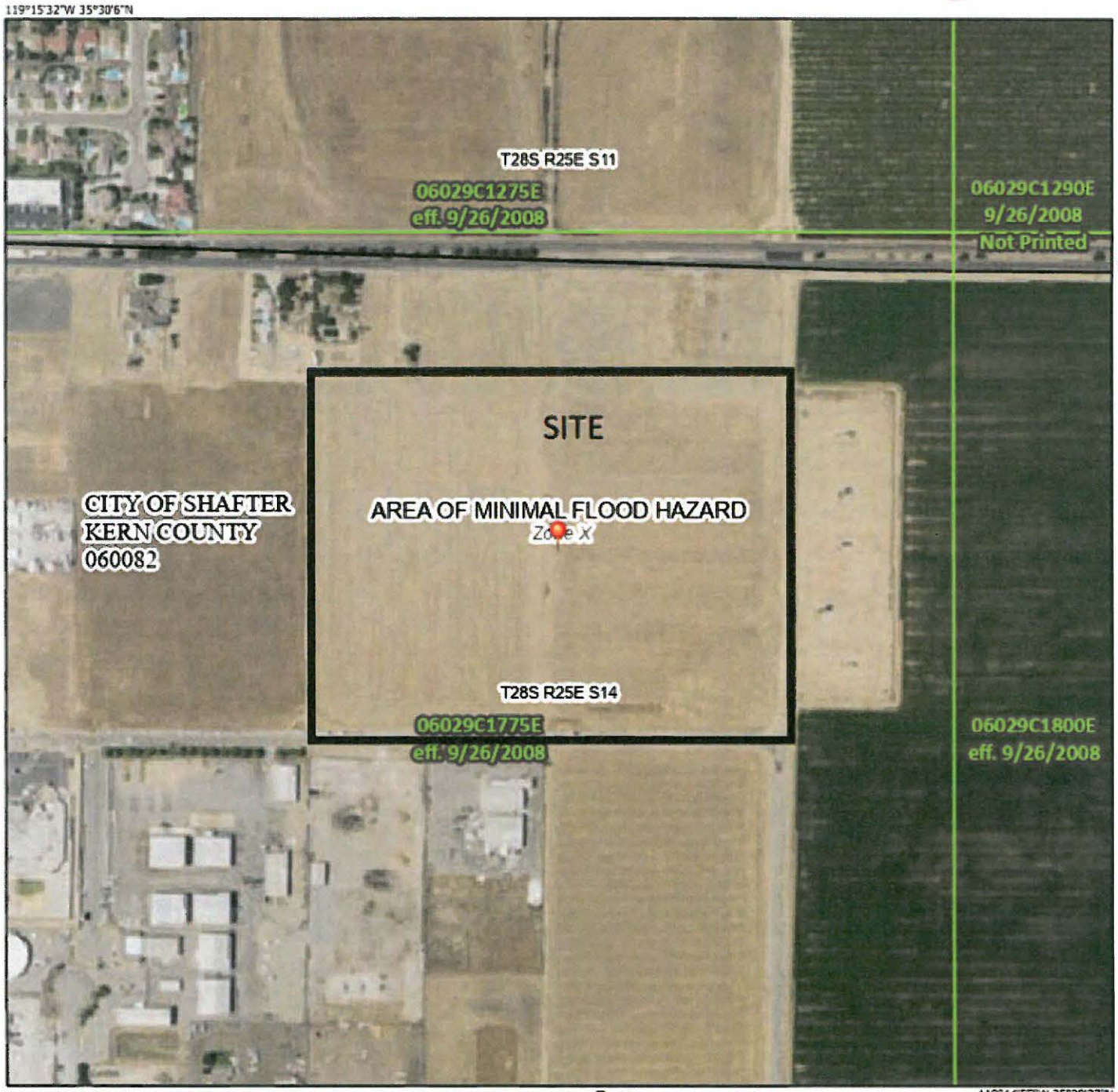
0 0.25 0.5 1 mi

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 km

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri, EPA OEI.

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

FEMA



Basemap Imagery Source: USGS National Map 2023

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS
- Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
- With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
- Regulatory Floodway

OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
- Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X
- Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D

OTHER AREAS
- NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
- Effective LOMRs
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D

GENERAL STRUCTURES
- Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
- Levee, Dike, or Floodwall

OTHER FEATURES
- 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance
- 17.5 Water Surface Elevation
- Coastal Transect
- Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
- Limit of Study
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Coastal Transect Baseline
- Profile Baseline
- Hydrographic Feature

MAP PANELS
- Digital Data Available
- No Digital Data Available
- Unmapped

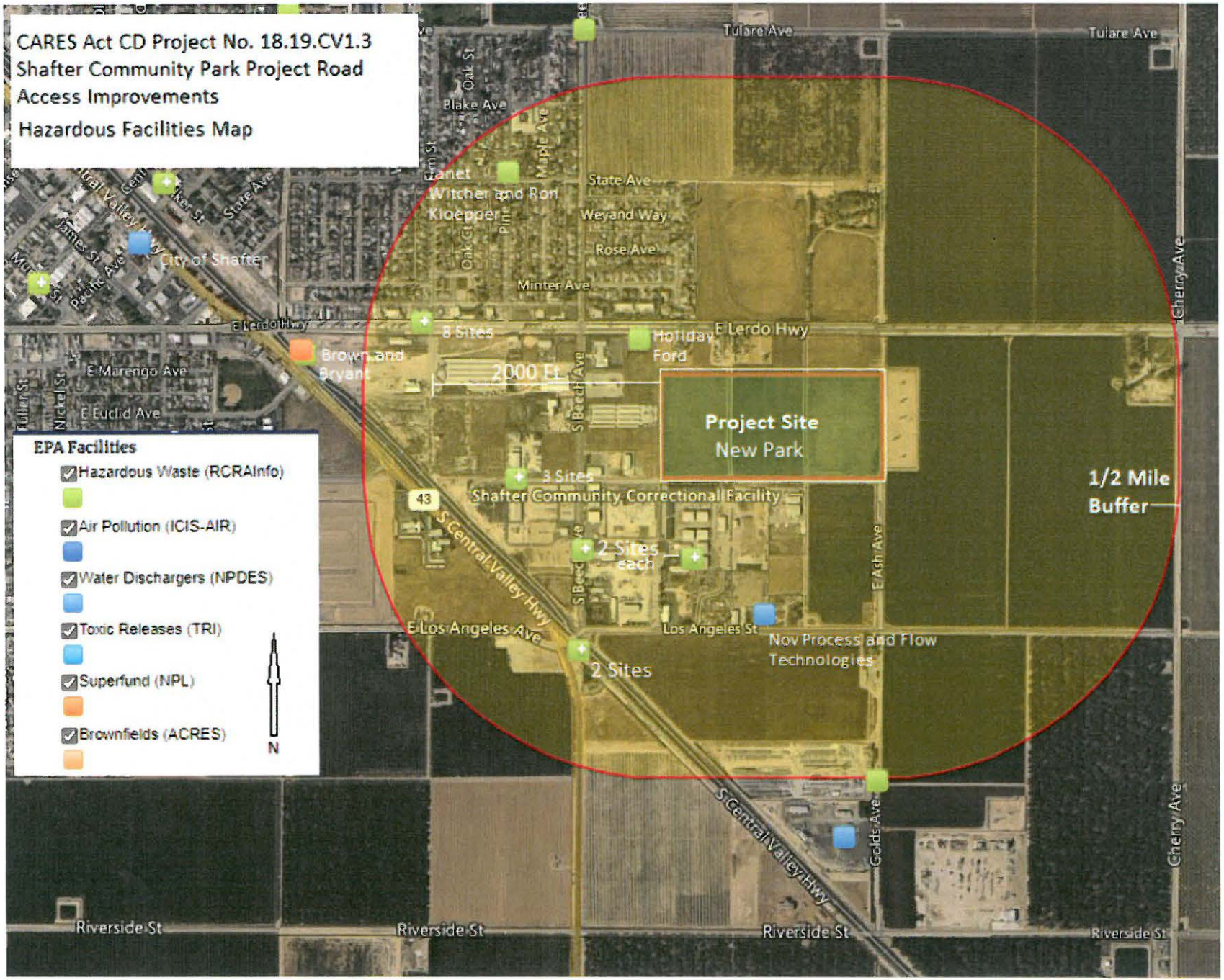
N

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

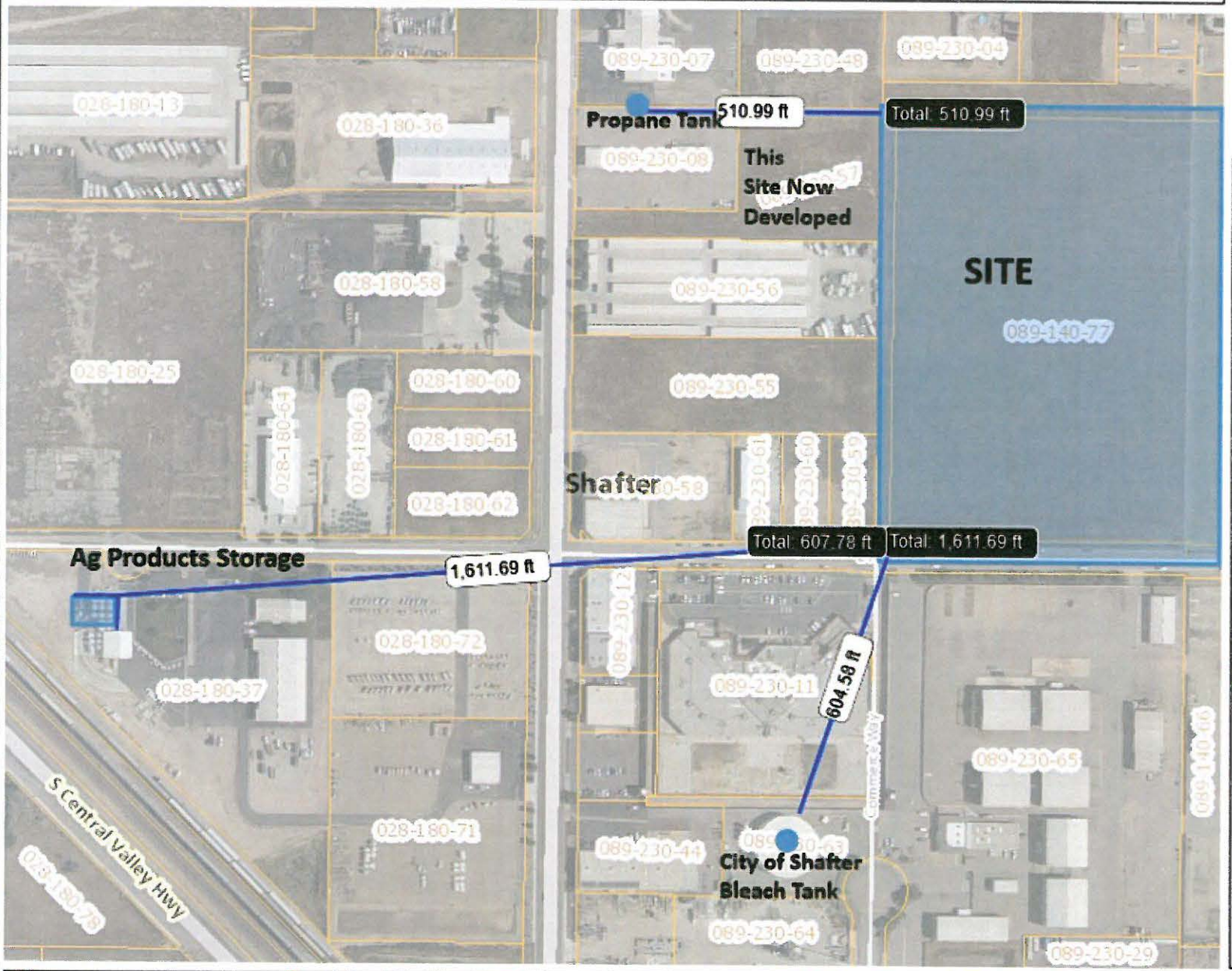
The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 6/19/2024 at 2:06 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

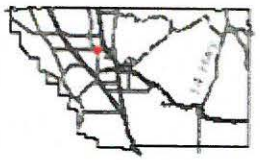
This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.


CARES Act CD Project No. 18.19.CV1.3
Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements
Hazardous Facilities Map
Tulare Ave
Tulare Ave
Blake Ave
Oak St
Maple Ave
State Ave
Janet Witcher and Ron Kloepper
Weyand Way
Rose Ave
Minter Ave
City of Shafter
Pacific Ave
E Lerdo Hwy
8 Sites
Holiday Ford
Brown and Bryant
E Marengo Ave
E Euclid Ave
2000 Ft
Project Site
New Park
1/2 Mile Buffer
Cherry Ave
S Beech Ave
3 Sites
Shafter Community Correctional Facility
43
S Central Valley Hwy
2 Sites each
E Ash Ave
E Los Angeles Ave
Los Angeles St
Nov Process and Flow Technologies
2 Sites
Golds Ave
Riverside St
Riverside St
Riverside St
Riverside St
EPA Facilities
Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)
Air Pollution (ICIS-AIR)
Water Dischargers (NPDES)
Toxic Releases (TRI)
Superfund (NPL)
Brownfields (ACRES)
N

Kern County
Online Mapping System

Explosive and Flammable Hazards Map





Legend

- City Incorporated
- Roads 3k-5k
  - Freeway
  - Highway
  - Major
  - Minor
  - Local
  - Ramp
  - Unpaved
- Parcels Land

1: 4,514

0.1 0 0.07 0.1 Miles

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere

© Latitude Geographics Group Ltd.

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for general reference only. The County of Kern assumes no liability for damages, incurred by the user of this information, which occur directly or indirectly as a result of errors, omissions or discrepancies in the information.

Notes

NWI Wetlands Map1

CARES CD Project 18.19.CV1.3 - Shafter Community Park Project



July 18, 2024

Project 1

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

1:9,028

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 mi

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 km

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. National Standards and Support Team. wetlands_team@fws.gov. © 2024 Microsoft Corporation © 2024 Maxar

State of California Geotracker Website - CARES CD Project 18.19.CV1.3 - Shafter Park Project Road Access Imp.



Coastal Zone Management Area Map - CARES CD Project 18.19.CV1.3
Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements



Section 106 - Cultural Consultation Documentation

KERN COUNTY
Planning & Natural Resources

Craig M. Murphy, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8600
TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929
Email: planning@kerncounty.com
Web Address: https://kernplanning.com

February 10, 2026

File: Environmental Review Record (ERR)

State Historic Preservation Officer,
California Office of Historic Preservation
1724 23rd Street, Room 100
Sacramento, CA 95816
Attn: Shannon Lauchner Pries

Re: CD Project No. CARES Act CD Project No. 18.19.CV1.3 - Shafter Community Park Project and Road Access Improvements

Dear Ms. Pries:

This letter is a request pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Specifically we ask for your views and concurrence with regard to identification of historic resources (36 CFR 800.4) and assessment of adverse effects (36 CFR 800.5). The Area of Potential Effects (APE), as defined at 36 CFR 800.16 (d), is the project improvement area within the 42.4-acre community park in Shafter, and its immediate vicinity.

The proposal addresses coronavirus by providing citizens within the community with opportunities to be active and encourages socially distanced activities through a variety of outdoor activities. Project activities benefit a service area with 23,690 persons, 56.02% of whom are low to moderate income (2023 HUD ACS LMISD). 03F – Park, Recreation Facilities; Section 570.208(a)(1)(i); 570.201(c) – Public Facilities and Improvements; APN# 089-140-77.

On December 17, 2019, a Phase 1 Cultural Resources study was conducted for the site. No cultural resources of any kind were identified within the area of the project.

On July 29, 2024, the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center conducted a Cultural Resources Records Search (Record Search 24-328). The search found one previous cultural resource studies conducted within the project area (KE-05385) and five conducted within a one-half mile radius of the project. The record search conducted by SSJVIC identified two (2) recorded resources within a half-mile radius, a historic railroad and commercial building.

The project activities include the design, construction and/or installation of three new access roads, tentatively identified as North Alley, Golds Avenue, East Ash Avenue and New West Street that provide access and may include facilities to an approximate 42.4-acre large community park. The project improvements consist of four (4) phases of development of a 42.4-acre park.

Although the original search by SSJVIC identified project related activities as road access improvements, additional activities undertaken could include the activities identified below:

- Phase one consists of the design, installation and construction of park related improvements including: road and streets access, pedestrian and park walkways and three (3) parking areas. Park facility related improvements include: four (4) baseball fields and two (2) softball fields, three (3) soccer fields, three (3) universal courts, three (3) handball courts, two (2) picnic and barbeque areas, four (4) basketball courts, batting cages, two (2) playgrounds and related improvements.

- Phase Two: consists of the design, installation and construction for the expansion of one parking area with solar improvements, dog park, community garden, kids physical fitness, outdoor gym, two (2) tennis/pickleball courts, parking maintenance yard and shop, barbeque area and related improvements.
- Phase Three: consists of the design and construction of a gymnasium and related improvements.
- Phase Four: consists of the design and construction of a track and field area and related improvements.

Native American Consultation efforts:

Your agency provided a letter, dated July 24, 2024 (NPS_2024_0521_001) and attached here for quick reference, noted that your office had received no previous documentation regarding consultation with the Tejon Tribe.

The project proponent has provided an email indicating that it was in consultation with the Tejon Tribe in 2018. The attached communication from Tejon Indian Tribe did not identify any concerns regarding the project. Finally, the Tejon Tribe will be included with the circulation of the NEPA review document thus ensuring that no tribal concerns remain.

Also noted that on July 12, 2024, NAHC response to the latter was returned with a negative result and a list of 16 contacts who represented 10 individual tribes, no Native American resources or historic properties were identified. These tribes were identified as having possible historic ties to the project area in consultation with the NAHC.

Based on the foregoing evaluation, we have made the following finding(s) regarding the proposed undertaking and its impact on Historic Properties within the Area of Potential Effects for the project:

[X] No Historic Properties, as defined at 36 CFR 800.16 (l), will be affected by the undertakings.

[ ] The undertaking **will not** have an adverse effect, as defined at 36 CFR 800.5, on Historic Properties.

[ ] The undertaking **will** have an adverse effect on Historic Properties, as defined at 36 CFR 800.5 (a), and requires further consultation and resolution between this Agency, SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6.

If you have questions or require further documentation, please contact me at (661) 862-5130 or email me at goldenj@kerncounty.com. Thank You.

Sincerely,

James Golden, Supervising Planner
Planning and Natural Resources Department
Community Development Division
Enclosure; Site and Related Project Maps

R:\PLANNING\Golden\CARES\Shafter Rec and Parks\FONSI Docs\SHPO Letter 2025_Phase 1-4.docx

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project/Activity Title: Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements

B. Project/Activity Number: CARES Act CD Project No. 18.19.CV1.3

C. Date Environmental Review Commenced: February 9, 2026 (SHPO)

D. Project/Activity Address/Location: See **Project Location** section below

E. Comprehensive Project/Activity Description *(General Nature / Purpose of Project, Physical Extent of Project, Environmental Setting, HUD National Objective Compliance, and Phasing/Estimated Project Cost).*

GENERAL NATURE / PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

The Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements include the design, construction and/or installation of three new access roads, tentatively identified as North Alley, Golds Avenue, East Ash Avenue and New West Street that provide access to a new, approximate 42.4-acre, park. The proposal addresses coronavirus by providing citizens within the community with opportunities to be active and encourages socially distanced activities through a variety of outdoor activities. Project activities benefit a service area with 23,690 persons, 56.02% of whom are low to moderate income (2023 HUD ACS LMISD). 03F – Park, Recreation Facilities; Section 570.208(a)(1)(i); 570.201(c) – Public Facilities and Improvements; APN# 089-140-77

The project consists of the development of a 42.4-acre park on a vacant parcel of land. The project consists of street related improvements and four-related phases of park improvements. Phase one consists of the design, installation and construction of park related improvements including: road and streets access, pedestrian and park walkways and three (3) parking areas. Park facility related improvements include: four (4) baseball fields and two (2) softball fields, three (3) soccer fields, three (3) universal courts, three (3) handball courts, two (2) picnic and barbeque areas, four (4) basketball courts, batting cages, two (2) playgrounds and related improvements.

Phase Two: consists of the design, installation and construction for the expansion of one parking area with solar improvements, dog park, community garden, kids physical fitness, outdoor gym, two (2) tennis/pickleball courts, parking maintenance yard and shop, barbeque area and related improvements.

Phase Three: consists of the design and construction of a gymnasium and related improvements.

Phase Four: consists of the design and construction of a track and field area and related improvements.

PHYSICAL EXTENT OF PROJECT:

Historical/Current use of the site and area of project effect (APE): The site is currently a vacant parcel. The site has historic use in agriculture that was later rezoned for commercial development as a business park and zoned industrial. Then General Plan Amendment (GPA)/Zone Change (ZC) was processed for the site in 2022 to establish land use entitlements to build the park. As a part of that review, consultation letters were sent to 25 Native American Tribes within the geographic area as identified by the NAHC. No comments were received from any tribes as a result of the consultation.

Hazardous Materials: As part of the prior GPA/ZC, a mitigated negative declaration was prepared for the project. The project was circulated through the State Clearinghouse. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) submitted comments regarding the project requesting further consideration of the following: identify historic/future uses in the area of the project, potential for oil and gasoline related compounds in soil, potential contaminated soil utilized for backfill purposes, and chemicals used in the past for agricultural, weed abatement on the property. NEPAssist indicated there are several RCRA reported sites within a half-mile vicinity of the project site, however there are no current violations reported at any of the site. The State of California Envirostor and Geotracker databases have been reviewed for sites of concern in the area of the project. There is one site located approximately 2,000 feet west of the project site that is identified as a Superfund Site. A review of related site documentation and materials indicates the site contamination is related to uses on the site as a pesticide storage and sales operation from the 1950s to the 1980s. Site contamination is primarily due to concentrations of pesticides and herbicides that remain on the site in the soil due to minor spills related to handling of the materials. The site is has an open cleanup site status and reporting continues related to site management managed by the DTSC. As recently as in 2023, DTSC has communicated with local regulators regarding the site for continued monitoring.

Airport: Shafter Minter Field, located approximately 3.5 miles to the east of the site, is the closest public airport. The distance is more than 2,500 feet of the project. There are no military airports located within 15,000 feet of the project site.

Floodplain and Flood Insurance and NWI Wetlands: The area for project implementation is designated Zone X, as shown in Federal Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel #06029C21775E, effective 9/26/08, and is located not within a 100-year flood zone. There are no NWI wetlands located in the vicinity of the project.

Biological Resources: There are no critical habitats within the project area, though there are identified threatened or endangered species within the project area on the species list. A biologic assessment report was performed for the site in 2019. Mitigation related to evaluated species present in the area of the project has been incorporated into the project.

Air Related Impacts: The project is located within the administrative boundaries of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). Air related impacts of the project have been quantified as part of the GPA/ZC processed for land use entitlements related to the project.

Project Utilities: If there is the potential for conflict with any utilities or other obstructions in rights-of-way, please notify us if you have knowledge or if any facilities are located in the area of the project that must be considered prior to undertaking the activity.

Phasing/Estimated Project Cost: The current proposal includes at least $665,273 in HUD CARES CDBG fund assistance for project implementation. As available, additional CARES/ CDBG funds may be included for Phased development and implementation of related activities.

State of California • Natural Resources Agency
Edmund G. Brown Jr., *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Lisa Ann L. Mangat, *Director*

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

RECEIVED
APR 24 2018
OFFICE OF GRANTS
& LOCAL SERVICES

April 20, 2018

In Reply Refer To: NPS_2018_0418_002

Richard Rendón - Supervisor
Office of Grants and Local Services
1416 9th Street, Room 918
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Section 106 consultation *LWCF Project LW-15-040, Shafter Community Park, Kern County*

Dear Mr. Rendón:

OHP received the Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) letter of 17 April 2018 and the Shafter Recreation & Park District (Applicant) Section 106 materials initiating consultation on the above referenced undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR 800 (as amended 8-05-04) regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). On behalf of the National Park Service - Land and Water Conservation Fund (NPS-LWCF), OGALS requests the SHPO's comments on the Applicant's delineation of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and historic property identification and evaluation efforts, and concurrence on a proposed finding of effect (FOE) of *"No historic properties affected."*

The Applicant is seeking assistance from NPS-LWCF to purchase 42.4-acres of undeveloped land for, as I understand it, the future development of a park. As I also understand it, the undertaking is for the acquisition of land only and it will involve no ground disturbing work.

The Applicant determined the APE encompasses the aforementioned acreage and OGALS depicted it in a map that was provided on a request for additional information. OGALS too provided the Applicant's Section 106 materials as evidence of CHRIS and Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) records searches, and consultation with NAHC identified contacts having been completed for the proposed undertaking.

The CHRIS search stated that "no previous cultural resource studies" had been "conducted within the project area." The Applicant did not conduct a field-survey of the APE but stated that it would implement such work "prior to any future development of land resources." Section 106 work completed for the proposed undertaking identified no historic properties.

NPS_2018_0418_002

The SHPO offers the following comments based on a review of submitted materials:

1. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(a)(1) I have no objection to the Applicant's delineation of the APE.

2. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(b)(1), I have no objections to the Applicant's "*Level of Effort*" identifying historic properties but, as the APE has never been surveyed for cultural resources, I advise both OGALS and the Applicant that Section 106 historic property identification and evaluation efforts for any future development with a federal nexus should include such work.

3. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), I **concur** with the proposed FOE of "*No historic properties affected.*"

4. Please note that OGALS, on behalf of NPS-LWCF and the Applicant, may have additional Section 106 responsibilities if the undertaking changes in scope from that reviewed for this Section 106 consultation effort.

5. Please note that this comment letter pertains to the proposed undertaking only and should not be used as evidence of having completing Section 106 for other Federal undertakings. However, copies of submitted materials should be retained in the Applicant's files as they may be used as archival information for future Section 106 efforts.

6. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.13 for "*Post Review Discoveries*", the Applicant, on behalf of OGALS and NPS-LWCF, should cease ground disturbing work at and in proximity to any inadvertent finds of cultural resources and consult with the OHP on the potential of such resource being historic properties.

On behalf of the Applicant and NPS-LWCF, OGALS has taken into account the effects of its actions on historic properties and, on the part of California OHP, afforded the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation reasonable opportunity to comment. Please direct questions to Jeff Brooke at Jeff.Brooke@parks.ca.gov or (916) 445-7003.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

State of California • Natural Resources Agency
Gavin Newsom, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Armando Quintero, *Director*

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

July 12, 2024

Reply In Reference To: NPS_2024_0521_001

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Katherine Vallaire
Land and Water - Senior Environmental Planner
California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Grants and Local Services
1416 9th Street, Room 918
Sacramento, CA 95814-5500

RE: Section 106 consultation for Shafter Community Park, City of Shafter, Kern County (LW-15-045)

Dear Ms. Vallaire:

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) received California State Parks, Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) letter report of 8 July 2024 continuing consultation on the above referenced undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04) regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). On behalf of NPS, OGALS requests SHPO comments "*on our level of effort to identify historic properties in the undertaking's APE*", SHPO consensus "*on our eligibility evaluation of Zamora Park*", and SHPO concurrence on "*our finding of No Historic Properties Affected.*"

SHPO provided OGALS comments on the APE in a 22 May 2024 letter. Per the 21 May 2024 letter report that initiated Section 106 consultation, the 42.4-acre Area of Potential Effects (APE) would be used by the NPS-LWCF Applicant (Shafter Recreation and Park District) to "*develop a new public park using 5 acres of a previously designated 42.4-acre parkland.*" The physical condition of the APE was not discussed in that consultation; however, Figure-2 (APE Map) depicted it as open agricultural land. Per OGALS' current submission, "*the APE, as previously commented on, has not changed.*"

Section 106 work completed by the NPS-LWCF Applicant and submitted by OGALS to identify and evaluate historic properties and determine the undertaking's potential to cause an effect included CHRIS and Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) record searches, consultation with NAHC identified contacts, and field-survey of the 42.4-acre APE. Section 106 work was further discussed in the following report that was prepared by the Applicant and included in the current submission:

- *Phase I Survey, Shafter Community Park Project, Shafter, Kern County, California* (ASM 2019)

Per OGALS' submission, Native American consultation work consisted of two efforts; one completed by the NPS-LWCF Applicant and the other in conjunction with the above report. A 14 November 2019 NAHC response to the latter was returned with a negative result and a list of 16 contacts who represented 10 individual tribes. Per consultation information included in OGALS' submission, each tribe was contacted, however one contact on the NAHC list had not. Per the submission, a third Native American consultation effort would be completed by NPS "*before making their final determination of effect for this project.*" Consultation efforts completed to date identified no Native American resources or historic properties.

In addition to the above work, other Section 106 efforts completed for the proposed undertaking identified no historic properties. The following SHPO comments are based on a review of submitted materials:

1. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(b)(1), OGALS has documented a reasonable and good faith effort to identify and evaluate historic properties.
2. Please note that there was no evidence of direct consultation with Octavio Escobedo of the Tejon Indian Tribe. Unless indicated otherwise by the contact or Tribe, future consultation efforts as proposed by NPS should include the contact.
3. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), I **concur** with "*No historic properties affected.*"
4. Be aware that consultation with my office on the potential of any inadvertent discovery of a cultural resource during project implementation being a historic property should comply with 36 CFR Part 800.11 and 800.13 for "*Documentation standards*" and "*Post Review Discoveries.*"
5. The NPS-LWCF applicant should consider retaining the materials they prepared for this submission on file as, though they cannot be submitted as evidence of Section 106 work having been completed for future undertakings, they could function as research and support materials in such efforts to comply with the federal regulations.

You may have additional Section 106 responsibilities for the undertaking under conditions such as changes in the project scope or design. Please direct questions to Jeff Brooke at (916) 445-7003 or Jeff.Brooke@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

TEJON
INDIAN TRIBE

February 2, 2018

Mr. Gilbert Garcia
Shafter Recreation Park District
700 E. Tulare Ave.
Shafter, CA 93263

Dear Mr. Garcia:

As Tribal Administrator for the Tejon Indian Tribe, the only federally-recognized tribe in Kern County, I was most pleased that you came forward to meet with us and explain your project. The need you shared for facilities and opportunities for area youth is being well addressed by your plan. We fervently hope that your proposal is funded and the development is soon underway.

If there is something more that we can do to assist you, please keep in touch. We look forward to continued collaboration and mutual support on projects to create opportunity in our community.

Sincerely;

William Gollnick

Cc: Octavio Escobedo, Chairman

1731 Hasti Acres Drive, Suite 108 Bakersfield, CA 93309 (661) 834-8566

Gmail

Gil Garcia <garciagilbertm@gmail.com>

Tribal Consultation Meeting

Julie Gonzales <Jtgonzales@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov> Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 2:55 PM
To: Gil Garcia <garciagilbertm@gmail.com>
Cc: Phillip Jimenez <pjimenez@shafterrec.com>

Hi Gil,

Thank you for stopping by. Please see attached letter from Mr. Gollnick.

Kind Regards,

Julie Tuazon-Gonzales

Tejon Indian Tribe 1731 Hasti Acres Dr. #108 Bakersfield, CA 93309

(661) 834-8566 Office | (661) 834-8564 Fax

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[Quoted text hidden]

Shafter Rec.pdf
16K

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE CHART
NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS LISTING AS OF 3/16/2018

	Method of Contact			
	By Mail	By Email	By Phone	Contact Notes
1. Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/20/2018	Called to get email address/advised to copy J. Paydon on email.
Genevieve Jones, Chairperson			3/27/2018	Called and left follow-up message on 3/27/2018 at 12:43 pm.
P.O. Box 700,Big Pine, CA 93513			3/27/2018	Received call back and see below comments from contact made with Sara.
760-938-2003 Paiute - Shoshone				No returned phone call received regarding project interest.
g.jones@bigpinepaiute.org		3/20/2018 16:45		
Carbon copy to: j.paydon@bigpinepaiute.org		3/20/2018 16:45		
2. Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/27/2018	Called and spoke to Sara. She indicated Tribal meeting tonight.
Danelle Gutierez THPO			3/27/2018	They will call if anythig is needed regarding any project interest following meeting.
P.O. Box 700,Big Pine, CA 93513			3/27/2018	No returned phone call received regarding project interest.
760-938-2003 ext. 228 Paiute - Shoshone	11/25/2019			Sent letter.
d.gutierrez@bigpinepaiute.org		12/19/2019		Emailed project map.
760-938-2942-fax				
3. Chumash Council of Bakersfield	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/22/2018	Called to leave message for Mr. Julio Quair but not a good phone number.
Julio Quair, Chairperson			3/27/2018	Reached out to the Chumash Tribal Office in San Inez, CA not able to help.
729 Texas St., Bakersfield, CA 93307			3/27/2018	Called the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project no information for tribe.
661-322-0121 Chumash			3/27/2018	Called the Kern Valley Indian Community per secreatary Julie Turner she is not
chumashtribe@sbcglobal.net				sure if this group is still operating and has no other contact information.
			3/28/2018	Reached out to Mr. Quair on Facebook.
	11/25/2019			Sent letter to Mr. Quair.
		12/19/2019		Emailed project maps to Mr. Quair.
4. Kern Valley Indian Community	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/20/2018	Contacted Tribal Secretary Ms. Julie Turner received corrected address and email.
Julie Turner, Secretary			3/27/2018	Follow-up phone call to see if any interest in Project, no interest expressed.
21700 Indian Wells Dr., Tahachapi, CA 93561			3/27/2018	Ms. Turner assisted with email addresses/phone numbers for Robert L. Gomez Jr.
661-340-0032-cell Tubatulabal & Kawaiisu	11/25/2019			Sent letter.
meindiangirl65@gmail.com		12/19/2019		Emailed project maps to krazykendricks@hotmail.com
5. Kern Valley Indian Community	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/20/2018	Contacted Tribal Secretary Ms. Julie Turner received corrected phone number.
Robert Robinson, Chairperson			3/26/2018	Left message no response.
P.O.Box 1010, Lake Isabella, CA 93283			3/27/2018	Called and left message 1:17 PM no response to proposed project.
760-378-2915 - cell Tubatulabal & Kawaiisu			3/27/2018	Have received contact with above Tubatulabal & Kawaiisu Tribe.
brobinson@iwvisp.com			4/3/2018	No response as of April 3, 2018 from Robert Robinson's office.
	11/25/2019			Sent letter.
		12/19/2019		Emailed project maps to krazykendricks@hotmail.com
6. Kianemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/22/2018	Called and left message for Ms. Delia Dominguez on 3/22.
Delia Dominguez, Chairperson		3/26/2018	3/26/2018	Ms. Delia Dominguez returned call and provided corrected email address.
115 Radio St. Bakersfield, CA 93305			3/27/2018	She also asked the exact address of the project and knows the Shafter area.
626-339-6785 Yowlumne & Kitanemuk				She will call if any interest in project following application review.
2deedominguez@gmail.com	11/25/2019			Sent letter.
		12/19/2019		Emailed project maps.
7. San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/20/2018	Received no interest response e-mail from Jessica Mauck on 3/21/18.
Lee Clauss, Director-CRM Dept.		3/21/2018	3/21/2018	Project is outside of Tribe district area.
26569 Community Center Dr. Highland, CA 92346	11/25/2019			Sent letter.
909-864-8933 Serrano		12/19/2019		Emailed project maps.
lclauss@sanmanuel-nsn.gov				Alexandra McCleary (Tribal Archaeologist) responded on behalf of Lee Clauss, Director of the Cultural Resources Management Department, and stated the proposed project is "located outside of Serrano ancestral territory and, as such, SMBMI will not be requesting consulting party status with the lead agency or requesting to participate in the scoping, development, and/or review of documents created pursuant to legal and regulatory mandates."
909-864-3370-fax				
8. San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/22/2018	Phone conversation explaining project with staff members on 3/22.

Lynn Valbuena		Sent to	3/26/2018	Follow-up phone conversation with Myra and she indicated that Lee Clauss will respond.
26569 Community Center Drive		Lee Clauss	3/27/2018	See above e-mail correspondence from Jessica Mauck of the SMBMI Tribal council.
Highland, CA 92346			3/27/2018	Project is outside of Tribe district area.
909-864-8933 Serrano				
9. Santa Rosa Indian Community	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/20/2018	Called and A. Barias said all correspondence send to her email.
of the Santa Rosa Rancheria			3/27/2018	Called, talked to Bianca, Mr. Barrios still busy, she took message 1:33 pm but will
Rueben Barrios, Sr. Chairperson				return phone call if there are any Tribal interest in the project land.
P.O. Box 8, Lemoore, CA 93245			4/3/2018	No response as of April 3, 2018 from R. Barrios's office.
559-924-1278 Tache, Tachi & Yokut	11/25/2019			Sent letter.
barias@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov		12/19/2019		Emailed project map to SPowers@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov
559-924-3583-fax				
10. Tejon Indian Tribe	3/2/2018			Met with Tribal Leader William Golinick and received letter of support February 2, 2018.
Octavio Escobedo, Chairperson	11/25/2019			Sent letter.
1731 Hasti Acres Drive, Suite 108		12/19/2019		Emailed project map to rgomez@tubatulabal.org.
Bakersfield, CA 93309				
oescobedo@tejontribe.net				
(661) 834-8566, (661) 834-8564 fax				
11. Tubatulabals of Kern Valley	3/19/2018	3/27/2018	3/20/2018	Neither the phone numbers from the list are working number.
Robert L. Gomez, Jr., Tribal Chairperson			3/28/2018	Received assistance from Julie Turner provided contact information.
P.O. Box 226, Lake Isabella, CA 93240			3/28/2018	Received e-mail: " As a general rule I do not respond to projects outside the recognized
661-246-5481 Tubatulabal				traditional Tubatulabal areas. I generally leave that up to the local tribal communities.
rlgomezjr@yahoo.com				It appears you are adhering to all compliance process and I am confide (sic) you will with
rogomezjr@gmail.com				
760-379-4592 - fax				the CEQA process. I wish you well with process and thank you for your efforts.
				--Email from R. Gomez rec'd 3/28/18
	11/25/2019			Sent letter.
		12/19/2019		Emailed project map to rgomez@tubatulabal.org.
12. Tule River Indian Tribe	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/23/2018	Original email sent 3/20 returned back, staff member updated email address on 3/23.
Neil Peyron, Chairperson		3/23/2018	3/27/2018	Conducted follow-up phone call spoke to Amber and she deliver message to Mr. Peyron.
P.O. Box 589, Porterville, CA 93258			4/3/2018	No response as of April 3, 2018 from Neil Peyron's office.
559-781-4271 Yokuts	11/25/2019			Sent letter.
neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov		12/19/2019		Emailed project map.
559-781-4610-fax				
13. Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/21/2018	Mr. Woodrow called on 3/21 to say that he received the e-mail.
Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson			3/27/2018	Conducted follow-up phone call left message.
1179 Rock Haven Ct., Salinas, CA 93906			4/3/2018	No response as of April 3, 2018 from Ken Woodrow's office.
831-443-9702 Foothill Yokus, Mono & Wuksache	11/25/2019			Sent letter.
kwood8934@aol.com		12/19/2019		Emailed project map.

California Historical Resources Information System

Fresno
Kern
Kings
Madera
Tulare

Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center
California State University, Bakersfield
Mail Stop: 72 DOB
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022
(661) 654-2289
E-mail: ssjvic@csub.edu
Website: www.csub.edu/ssjvic

To: James Golden
Kern County Planning & Natural Resources
2700 M Street, Suite 250
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323

Record Search 24-328

Date: July 29, 2024

Re: CARES Act CD Project No. 18.19.CV1.3 - Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements

County: Kern

Map(s): Wasco, Famoso, Rio Bravo, Rosedale 7.5'

CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.

The following are the results of a search of the cultural resource files at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. These files include known and recorded cultural resources sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with this office, and resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the OHP Built Environment Resources Directory, California State Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest. Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the OHP are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area.

PRIOR CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS

According to the information in our files, there has been one previous cultural resource study completed within the project area: KE-05385. There have been five cultural resource studies completed within the one-half mile radius: KE-01497, 02343, 02396, 03025, 05442.

KNOWN/RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS

According to the information in our files, there are no recorded resource within the project area. There are two recorded cultural resources within the one-half mile radius: P-15-000560, 021393. This resource is an historic era railroad, and 1-3 story commercial building.

There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, for the California State Historic Landmarks.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We understand the Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements include the construction of three new access roads, to a new 42.4-acre park. Further, we understand this project area is currently a vacant parcel. The study completed within the project area was conducted five years ago and had a finding of negative results with a recommendation of no further cultural resources work. As such, the information center agrees with these findings. However, if any cultural resources are unearthed during any ground disturbance activities, all work must halt in the area of the find and a qualified, professional consultant should be called out to assess the findings and make the appropriate mitigation recommendations. A list of qualified consultants can be found at www.chrisinfo.org.

We also recommend that you contact the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento. They will provide you with a current list of Native American individuals/organizations that can assist you with information regarding cultural resources that may not be included in the CHRIS Inventory and that may be of concern to the Native groups in the area. The Commission can consult their "Sacred Lands Inventory" file to determine what sacred resources, if any, exist within this project area and the way in which these resources might be managed. Finally, please consult with the lead agency on this project to determine if any other cultural resource investigation is required. If you need any additional information or have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (661) 654-2289.

By:

Jeremy E David, Assistant Coordinator **Date**: July 29, 2024

Please note that invoices for Information Center services will be sent under separate cover from the California State University, Bakersfield Accounting Office.

James Golden

From: James Golden
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:32 AM
To: 'Sloan, Justin'
Cc: Dennis McNamara; Jamal Ferguson
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Section 7 Consultation Request

Thanks for letting me know I reached out to James Vincent as well as his name came up in your automated response. Much Appreciated.

Thank you,

James Golden

From: Sloan, Justin <Justin_Sloan@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:21 AM
To: James Golden <goldenj@kerncounty.com>
Cc: Nelson, Matthew J <matthew_nelson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Section 7 Consultation Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi James,

We have received your email. Matthew Nelson will be working on this consultation and will be in touch if he has any questions after he has reviewed the information.

Thanks,
Justin

From: James Golden <goldenj@kerncounty.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 10:07:50 AM
To: Sloan, Justin <Justin_Sloan@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Section 7 Consultation Request

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Justin Can you respond to this email

James Golden

From: James Golden
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 10:49 AM
To: Sloan, Justin <Justin_Sloan@fws.gov>; damian_higgins@fws.gov
Cc: Dennis McNamara <McNamaraD@kerncounty.com>
Subject: FW: Section 7 Consultation Request

Good Morning,

Due to the size of the original email noted below, it was rejected and I am resending. I removed the Bio Study and am mailing a copy as it is 90 pages with the other documents included here. Please let us know if this will be needed for any determination.

Thank you,

James Golden
Supervising Planner

From: James Golden
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 9:48 AM
To: Sloan, Justin <Justin_Sloan@fws.gov>; damian_higgins@fws.gov
Cc: Dennis McNamara <McNamaraD@kerncounty.com>
Subject: Section 7 Consultation Request

Please see the attached Section 7 Consultation Request for CDBG CARES Project No. 18.19.CV1.3 – Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements
RE Determination is may affect, not likely to adverse effect with inclusion of recommended mitigation.
We are requesting concurrence with our determination.

Thank you,

James Golden
Supervising Planner
County of Kern Planning and Natural Resources Department
Community Development Division

ESA Section 7 Consultation - USFWS

KERN COUNTY
Planning & Natural Resources

Craig M. Murphy, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8600
TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929
Email: planning@kerncounty.com
Web Address: https://kernplanning.com

Date: April 8, 2026

County of Kern Planning and Natural Resources Department
Community Development Division
2700 M Street, Suite 250, Bakersfield, CA 93301

RE: Section 7 Informal Consultation Request: CARES Act CD Project No. 18.19.CV1.3 – Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements **(IPAC Project Code: 2024-0114065 Updated 03/30/26)**

To Whom It May Concern,

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), we request concurrence with the following project for infill residential development for the project, which consists of the development of a 42.4-acre park on a vacant parcel of land. The project consists of street related improvements and four-related phases of park improvements. Phase one consists of the design, installation and construction of park related improvements including: road and streets access, pedestrian and park walkways and three (3) parking areas. Park facility related improvements include: four (4) baseball fields and two (2) softball fields, three (3) soccer fields, three (3) universal courts, three (3) handball courts, two (2) picnic and barbeque areas, four (4) basketball courts, batting cages, two (2) playgrounds and related improvements. CDBG CARES funds will be utilized to provide roads access since the approved State Grant funding does not include road access within the scope of covered improvements.

Phase Two: consists of the design, installation and construction for the expansion of one parking area with solar improvements, dog park, community garden, kids physical fitness, outdoor gym, two (2) tennis/pickleball courts, parking maintenance yard and shop, barbeque area and related improvements.

Phase Three: consists of the design and construction of a gymnasium and related improvements.

Phase Four: consists of the design and construction of a track and field area and related improvements.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal:

The community park is under construction and will provide a recreational center for the City of Shafter and surrounding unincorporated areas for physical exercise and sport related activities. The project addresses coronavirus by providing residents with many options for outdoor activities and promoting healthy active lifestyles that improve overall health and support resiliency to coronavirus and other challenging and/or life threating health conditions. The CDBG CARES related funding will provide access to parking areas for the larger community and surrounding areas to utilize the park. Additional CDBG funding may be used for the design of phases three and four of the project.

In 2019, Quad Knopf (QK) preformed an initial biologic assessment for the project site. The assessment resulted in a determination that the project would not 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 CDFW or USFWS. Furthermore, no positive evidence that the San Joaquin Kit Fox was present in the Biologic Study Area or BSA was found.

The study also concluded that no special status plant species have potential to occur with the BSA because of existing habitat and soil conditions. The nearest sensitive community is located 10 miles of the project site with the nearest California Natural Diversity Database occurrence located is 3.7 miles from the project site as all areas within the vicinity of the project have been developed for urban and agricultural uses.

There were no sensitive habitats identified in the area of the project and there are no aquatic or riparian habitats in the area of the project. Consequently, there project would have no impact to fish, amphibians or any crustaceans.

Under Project Code 2024-0114065, consulted the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC database and was issued a species list. The following 2024 review included the species on the list:

In August of 2024, a revised analysis and report was prepared for the site by QK. Of the Special Status species evaluated, the evaluation found two species that have the potential to occur onsite: Western Burrowing Owl (Federal Bird of Conservation Concern) and the endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox (SKJF). The reconnaissance survey found site conditions would support burrowing owl nesting and foraging due to the dryland grain crop habitat present.

SJKF is known to be present in the area and has been observed in the vicinity of the project site. The evaluation found that due to the disturbance and maintenance of the surrounding agricultural lands, suitable denning habitat is not available to the species. Nevertheless, the species is highly mobile and may traverse the site and within the vicinity when foraging for food.

The federal list On March 30, 2026, the review was updated and currently contains two fewer species than was evaluated in 2024. The 2026 USFWS Listed Species include: the Buena Vista Lake Shrew, Giant Kangaroo Rat, San Joaquin Kit Fox, Tipton Kangaroo Rat, California Condor, Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard, Northwestern Pond Turtle, Western Spadefoot, Monarch Butterfly, Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp and the flowering plant, Kern Mallow. The list is consistent with the findings of the 2024 report.

The 2024 QK report included recommended mitigation measures including avoidance and minimization techniques to ensure impacts on any protected species are reduced to a less than significant level. The measures include the requirement for a preconstruction survey to assess and determine if there will be impacts to any species prior to implementation. Therefore, with implementation and compliance with the recommended measures, the impact will be of a less than significance level.

A biological clearance survey was prepared for the project site by McCormick Biological, Inc., which found that there were no San Joaquin Kit Fox (SJKF) observed in the project area. No small mammal burrows were observed onsite. The report noted that based on the level of disturbance of the site blunt-nosed leopard lizards and Tipton Kangaroo Rat are not anticipated to occur in the area of the project.

The survey found that there were no rare plants, such as Bakersfield Cactus, observed at the project site.

No nesting was observed onsite and nesting habitat was limited and poor quality due to the level of disturbance and lack of large trees. Although transient and not observed at the site, SJKF, is known to be present in the area of the project. Consequently, the report included minimization efforts for the SJKF as construction and ongoing operations requirements under the 2011 USFWS Standardized Recommendations

for protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance, as applicable to the project.

Additionally, it was noted that actions that cause abandonment, damage, or destruction of bird nests covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act violate law. However, no nesting bird activated was observed.

On March 28, 2025, a protected species list was obtained from your IPAC service under Project Code 2025-0075795. The official species list noted that there are no critical habitats within the area of the project.

While there is one canal in the vicinity of the project, Beardsley Canal, the canal is devoid of any vegetation that could provide habitat for aquatic species. There is no aquatic habitat within the project site. Based on the inclusion of minimization efforts for SJKF, and absence of dens in the area of the project, the responsible agency has determined that the project, may effect, but is not likely to adversely affect listed species. No other protected species were observed in the area of the project. As no nesting bird activities were observed, there was no indication any adverse effect would occur as a result of implementation.

Since the period of time related to the study was limited to a thirty day period, and having since ended on May 23, 2025, a follow-up study will be required to be submitted to evaluate any other changes to the project prior to implementation.

Listed federally protected species include:

Mammals

Buena Vista Lake Ornate Shrew CH *Sorex ornatus relictus* Endangered

No Affect - No suitable habitat in area of the project; site primarily devoid of vegetation

Giant Kangaroo Rat *Dipodomys ingens* Endangered

No Affect - Level of disturbance of site and absence of suitable burrows onsite

San Joaquin Kit Fox *Vulpes macrotis mutica* Endangered

May Affect Unlikely to Adversely Affect

SJKF Standard Minimization Techniques Recommended

Tipton Kangaroo Rat *Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides* Endangered

No Affect - Level of disturbance of site and absence of suitable burrows onsite

Birds

California Condor CH *Gymnogyps californianus* Endangered

No Affect - Site with lack of trees and flat terrain does not support species

Reptiles

Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard *Gambelia silus* Endangered

No Affect - Level of disturbance of site and absence of suitable burrows onsite

Northwestern Pond Turtle *Actinemys marmorata* Proposed Threatened

No Affect - No suitable habitat in area of the project

Amphibians

Western Spadefoot *Spea hammondii* Proposed Threatened

No Affect - No suitable habitat in area of the project

Insects

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

No Affect - None Observed; No milkweed present to support habitat, breeding

Crustaceans

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi* Threatened

No Affect – No suitable habitat in area of the project

Flowering Plants

Kern Mallow *Eremalche kernensis* Endangered

No Affect – Site heavily disturbed due to previous agricultural use

Critical habitats

There are no critical habitats in the area of the project.

Proposed Project Mitigation Measures are included below:

The following items shall be adhered to *during all grading and construction related activities* for project implementation:

BIO-1

Pre-activity Surveys for San Joaquin kit fox dens, American badger dens, and western burrowing owl burrows. Within 14 days of the start of Project activities, a pre-activity survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist knowledgeable in the identification of these species. The pre-activity survey shall include walking transects to identify presence of burrowing owls and their burrows, American badgers and their dens, and San Joaquin kit foxes and their dens. The pre-activity survey shall be walked by no greater than 30-foot transects for 100 percent coverage of the Project site and the 250-foot buffer, where feasible. If no evidence of these special-status species is detected, no further action is required.

BIO-2

Avoidance of Burrowing Owl Burrows and American Badger and San Joaquin Kit Fox Dens. If dens or burrows that could support any of these species are discovered during the pre-activity survey conducted under Measure BIO-1, the avoidance buffers outlined below should be established. No work would occur within these buffers unless the biologist approves and monitors the activity.

Burrowing Owl (active burrows)

- Non-breeding season: September 1 – January 31 – 160 feet

• Breeding season: February 1 – August 31 – 250 feet

American Badger and San Joaquin Kit Fox

• Potential or Atypical den – 50 feet

• Known den – 100 feet

• Natal or pupping den – Contact agencies for further guidance

BIO-3

Avoidance and Minimization Measures for San Joaquin Kit Fox, American Badger, and Burrowing Owl. The following avoidance and minimization measures should be implemented during all phases of the Project to reduce the potential for impact from the Project. They are modified from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance (USFWS 2011, Appendix E).

• Project-related vehicles should observe a daytime speed limit of 20-mph throughout the site in all Project areas, except on County roads and State and federal highways.

• All Project activities should occur during daylight hours, but if work must be conducted at night then a night-time construction speed limit of 10-mph should be established.

• Off-road traffic outside of designated Project areas should be prohibited.

• To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during construction of the project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks should be installed.

• Before holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the USFWS and the CDFW should be contacted before proceeding with the work.

In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be

installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the USFWS and

CDFW should be contacted for guidance.

• All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of four inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes and burrowing owls before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe,

that section of pipe should not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.

• All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or Project site.

• No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the Project site.

• Project-related use of rodenticides and herbicides should be restricted.

• A representative should be appointed by the Project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The representative should be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number should be provided to the USFWS and CDFW.

• Upon completion of the Project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances (including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc.) should be recontoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions.

An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the Project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated.

• Any Project personnel who are responsible for inadvertently killing or injuring one of these species should immediately report the incident to their representative. This representative should contact the CDFW (and USFWS in the case of San Joaquin kit fox) immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped San Joaquin kit fox, American badger, or western burrowing owl.

• The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife office and CDFW Region 4 office should be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during project related activities. The CDFW should be notified in the case of accidental death to an American badger or western burrowing owl. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information.

• New sightings of San Joaquin kit fox, American badger, or western burrowing owl shall be reported to the CNDDB. A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where a San Joaquin kit fox was observed should also be provided to the USFWS.

BIO-4

Pre-activity Surveys for Nesting Birds. If Project activities must occur during the nesting season (February 1 to September 15), pre-activity nesting bird surveys should be conducted within seven days prior to the start of construction at the construction site plus a 250-foot buffer for songbirds and a

500-foot buffer for raptors (other than Swainson's hawk). The surveys should be phased with construction of the Project. If no active nests are found, no further action is required. However, existing nests may become active and new nests may be built at any time prior to and throughout the nesting season, including when construction activities are in progress. If active nests are found during the survey or at any time during construction of the Project, an avoidance buffer ranging from 50 feet to 500 feet may be required, with the avoidance buffer from any specific nest being determined by a qualified biologist. The avoidance buffer will remain in place until the biologist has determined that the young are no longer reliant on the adults or the nest. Work may occur within the avoidance buffer under the approval and guidance of the biologist, but full-time monitoring may be required. The biologist should have the ability to stop construction if nesting adults show any sign of distress.

BIO-5

Worker Environmental Awareness Training. Prior to the initiation of construction activities, all personnel should attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Training program developed by a qualified biologist. The program should include information on the life histories of special-status species with potential to occur

on the Project, their legal status, course of action should these species be encountered on-site, and avoidance and minimization measures to protect these species.

With the inclusion of the above mitigation measures into the project implementation, the project impact will be of a less than significant level. Due to the timeframe for implementation, we would appreciate a response to this request as soon as possible at goldenj@kerncounty.com and by mail, if possible.

Thank you for your consideration,

James Golden
Supervising Planner
County of Kern Planning and Natural Resources Department
Community Development Division

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office
Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846
Phone: (916) 414-6600 Fax: (916) 414-6713

In Reply Refer To: 03/30/2026 19:47:59 UTC
Project Code: 2024-0114065
Project Name: CARES Act CD Project No. 18.19.CV1.3 – Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of

this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office
Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846
(916) 414-6600

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0114065

Project Name: CARES Act CD Project No. 18.19.CV1.3 – Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements

Project Type: Recreation - New Construction

Project Description: The Shafter Community Park Project Road Access Improvements include the design, construction and/or installation of three new access roads, tentatively identified as North Alley, Golds Avenue, East Ash Avenue and New West Street that provide access to a new 40-acre park. The proposal addresses coronavirus by providing citizens within the community with opportunities to be active and encourages socially distanced activities through a variety of outdoor activities. Project activities benefit a service area with 23,690 persons, 56.02% of whom are low to moderate income (2023 HUD ACS LMISD). 03F – Park, Recreation Facilities; Section 570.208(a)(1)(i); 570.201(c) – Public Facilities and Improvements

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@35.49681415,-119.25500265375423,14z



Counties: Kern County, California

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 11 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME STATUS

Buena Vista Lake Shrew *Sorex ornatus relictus* Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1610
General project design guidelines:
https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3I5UTJZ5FJH2XMSQF7KNBOQPVE/documents/generated/11271.pdf

Giant Kangaroo Rat *Dipodomys ingens* Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6051
General project design guidelines:
https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3I5UTJZ5FJH2XMSQF7KNBOQPVE/documents/generated/11271.pdf

San Joaquin Kit Fox *Vulpes macrotis mutica* Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2873
General project design guidelines:
https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3I5UTJZ5FJH2XMSQF7KNBOQPVE/documents/generated/11271.pdf

Tipton Kangaroo Rat *Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides* Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7247
General project design guidelines:
https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3I5UTJZ5FJH2XMSQF7KNBOQPVE/documents/generated/11271.pdf

BIRDS

NAME STATUS

California Condor *Gymnogyps californianus* Endangered

Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population
There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8193
General project design guidelines:
https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3I5UTJZ5FJH2XMSQF7KNBOQPVE/documents/generated/11271.pdf

REPTILES

NAME STATUS

Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard *Gambelia silus* Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/625
General project design guidelines:

NAME	STATUS
https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3I5UTJZ5FJH2XMSQF7KNBOQPVE/documents/generated/11271.pdf	
Northwestern Pond Turtle *Actinemys marmorata* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1111 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3I5UTJZ5FJH2XMSQF7KNBOQPVE/documents/generated/11271.pdf	Proposed Threatened

AMPHIBIANS

NAME	STATUS
Western Spadefoot *Spea hammondii* Population: Northern DPS No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5425 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3I5UTJZ5FJH2XMSQF7KNBOQPVE/documents/generated/11271.pdf	Proposed Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3I5UTJZ5FJH2XMSQF7KNBOQPVE/documents/generated/11271.pdf	Proposed Threatened

CRUSTACEANS

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3I5UTJZ5FJH2XMSQF7KNBOQPVE/documents/generated/11271.pdf	Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Kern Mallow *Eremalche kernensis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1731	Endangered

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: County of Kern
Name: James Golden
Address: 2700 M St., Suite 250
City: Bakersfield
State: CA
Zip: 93301-2323
Email goldenj@kerncounty.com
Phone: 6618625130

Project Comments Received – Early Consultation

Office Memorandum

To: Craig Murphy, Director
Planning and Natural Resources Department
Attn: James Golden, Supervising Planner

April 10, 2026

From: Cesar Ayon, Engineering Manager CA
Public Works Department/Development

Subject: Shafter Community Park Project for CDGB Project No. 18.19.CV1.3

Development Review Division

This Division has reviewed the subject project and has no comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions or comment, please contact Rodd Parke of this Division at (661) 862-8848.

Sewer and Water Division

This Division has reviewed the subject project and has no comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Kyle Perez of this Division at (661) 862-8852.

Floodplain Management Division

This Division has reviewed the subject project and has no comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Brian Blaise of this Division at (661) 862-5098.

CSA Division

This Division has reviewed the subject project and has no comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Miguel Munoz of this Division at (661) 862-8908.