MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The City of Bakersfield Community Development Department has completed an initial study (attached) of the possible environmental effects of the following-described project and has determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate. It has been found that the proposed project, as described and proposed to be mitigated (if required), will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination has been made according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the City of Bakersfield's CEQA Implementation Procedures.

PROJECT NO. (or Title): Zone Change No. 24-0004

COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS: July 10, 2026

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: August 10, 2026

MITIGATION MEASURES (*included in the proposed project to avoid potentially significant effects, if required)***:**

Biological Resources Impact Mitigation Measures:

BIO-1 A biological resource pre-activity survey conducted by a qualified biologist no more that 30-days before the start of construction activities.

BIO-2 Biological resource monitoring during each initial phase of ground disturbance.

BIO-3 Compliance reporting provided to the required oversight agencies for all biological resource field surveys, monitoring, and additional tasks as warranted.

BIO-4 A Worker Environmental Awareness Program outlining special-status species that may access, use or otherwise transverse the project area will be implemented.

BIO-5 If known or natal SJKF dens are identified at any time during construction, protocols enumerated in the *USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (2011) should be implemented, and the appropriate agencies contacted for guidance.

BIO-6 Vertical sided trenching deeper than 2-feet will include escape ramps at no more than a 1:1 ratio every 100 feet.

BIO-7 Vertical sided holes that are not capable of being ramped should be covered or otherwise secured to the greatest extent practicable.

BIO-8 Pipes, conduit and similar material 3 inches or greater should be capped to prevent wildlife from becoming inadvertently trapped in the piping.

BIO-9 If ground-disturbing activities are planned during the nesting season for migratory birds that may nest on or near the site (generally February 1 through August 31), nesting bird surveys are recommended prior to the commencement of ground disturbance for project activities.

BIO-10 If nesting birds are present, no new construction or ground disturbance should occur within an appropriate avoidance area for that species until young have fledged, unless otherwise approved and monitored by a qualified onsite biologist.

BIO-11 Minimum avoidance zones for active nests should be implemented as follows: Ground or low-shrub nesting non-raptors – 300 feet (91 meters); Burrowing owl – as appropriate based on nest location, existing surrounding activity, and evaluation of owl behavior. Coordination with CDFW may be warranted; Sensitive raptors (e.g., prairie falcon, golden eagle) – 0.5 miles (0.8 kilometers); and other raptors – 500 feet (152 meters).

Cultural Resources Impact Mitigation Measures:

CUL-1 No cultural resources were identified. No further work is required. If archaeological resources are encountered during the course of construction, a qualified archaeologist should be consulted for further evaluation to include any tribal cultural resources.

CUL-2 If human remains or potential human remains are observed during construction, work in the vicinity of the remains will cease, and they will be treated in accordance with the provisions of State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. The protection of human remains follows California Public Resources Codes, Sections 5097.94, 5097.98, and 5097.99, and 5024.1 resource to a California Native American tribe.

Geology and Soils/Paleontological Mitigation Measures

GEO-1 7.5.During construction, if paleontological resources are encountered during construction or ground disturbance activities, all work within 50 feet of the find shall immediately cease and the area cordoned off until a qualified paleontological resource specialist can evaluate the find and make recommendations. If the specialist determines that the discovery represents a potentially significant paleontological resource, additional investigations may be required. These additional studies may include fossil salvage. Ground disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery site (within 50 feet) shall not resume until the resource-appropriate measures are implemented or the materials are determined to be less than significant.

INITIAL STUDY
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

1. **Project** *(Title & No.)*: Zone Change No. 24-0004

2. **Lead Agency** *(name and address)*: City of Bakersfield
   Development Services Department
   1715 Chester Avenue
   Bakersfield, California 93301

3. **Contact Person** *(name, title, phone)*: Jose Fernandez (661) 326-3778

4. **Project Location:** The project is located on the east side of Jenkins Road at Austin Creek Avenue, in northwest Bakersfield (Assessor Parcel Numbers 529-012-10 and 529-012-11)

5. **Applicant** *(name and address)*: Provost & Pritchard
   Attention: Adam Ojeda
   1518 Mill Rock Way
   Bakersfield, CA 93311

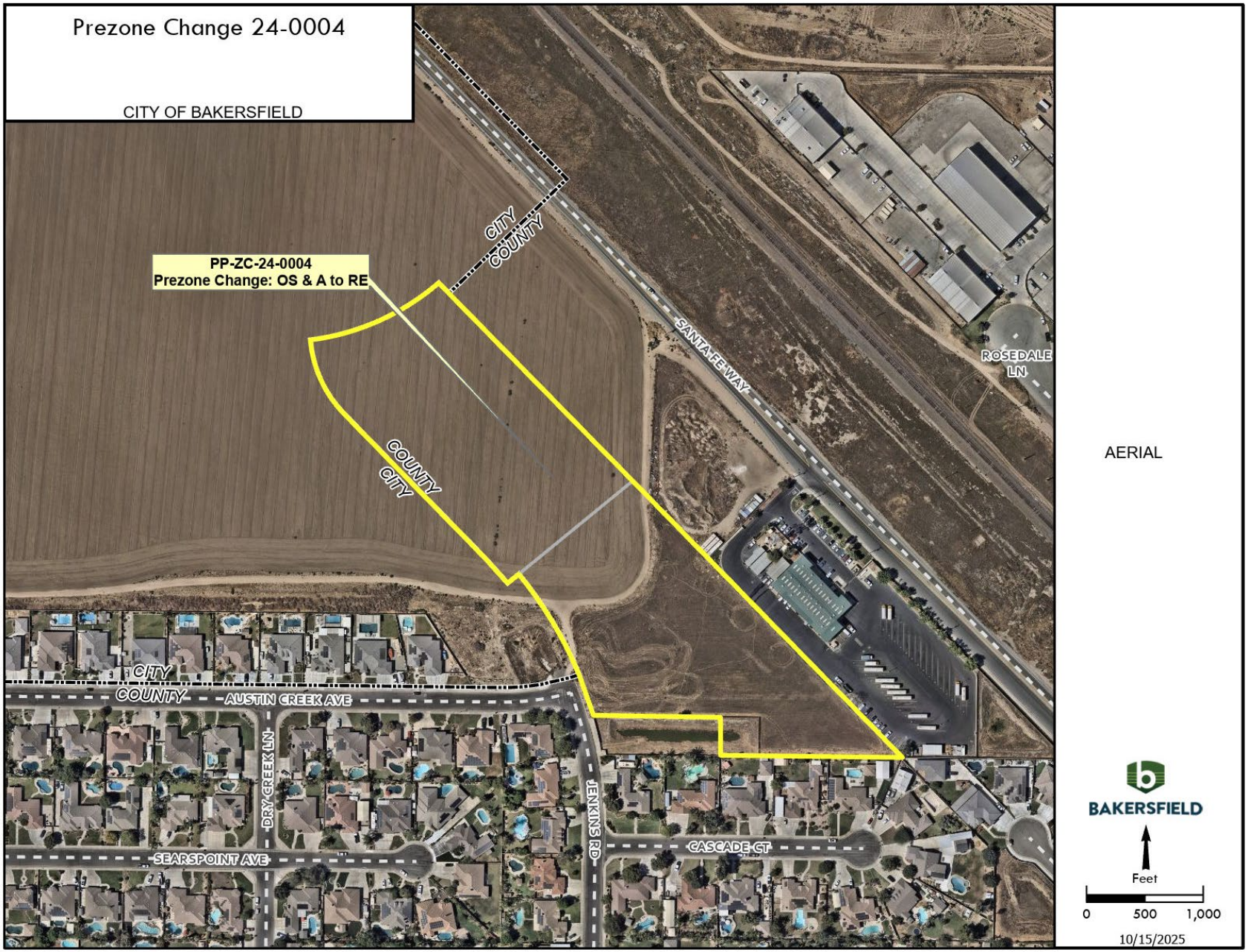
6. **General Plan Designation:** OS-P (Parks and Recreation)

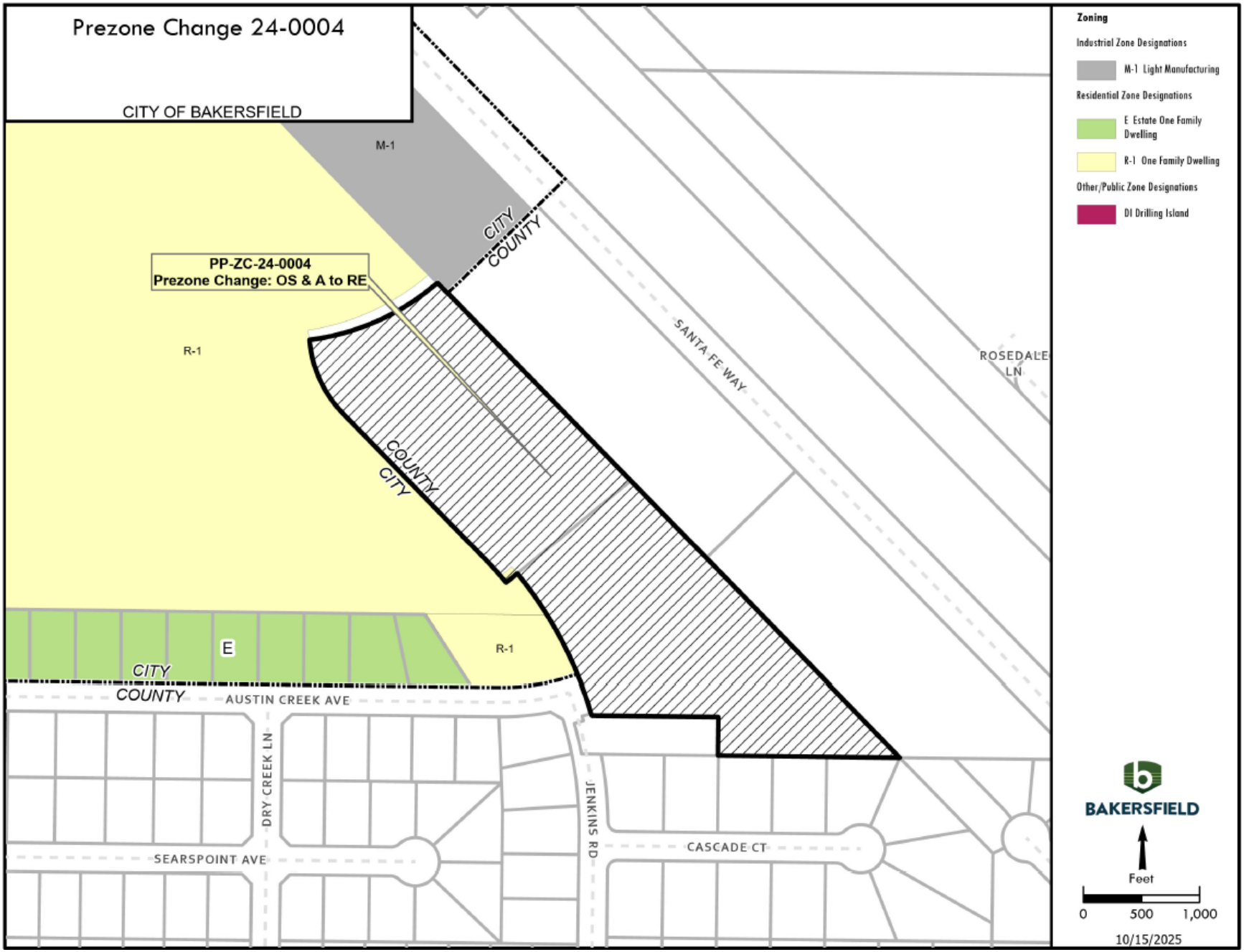
7. **Pre-Zoning:** OS (Open Space) and A (Agriculture)

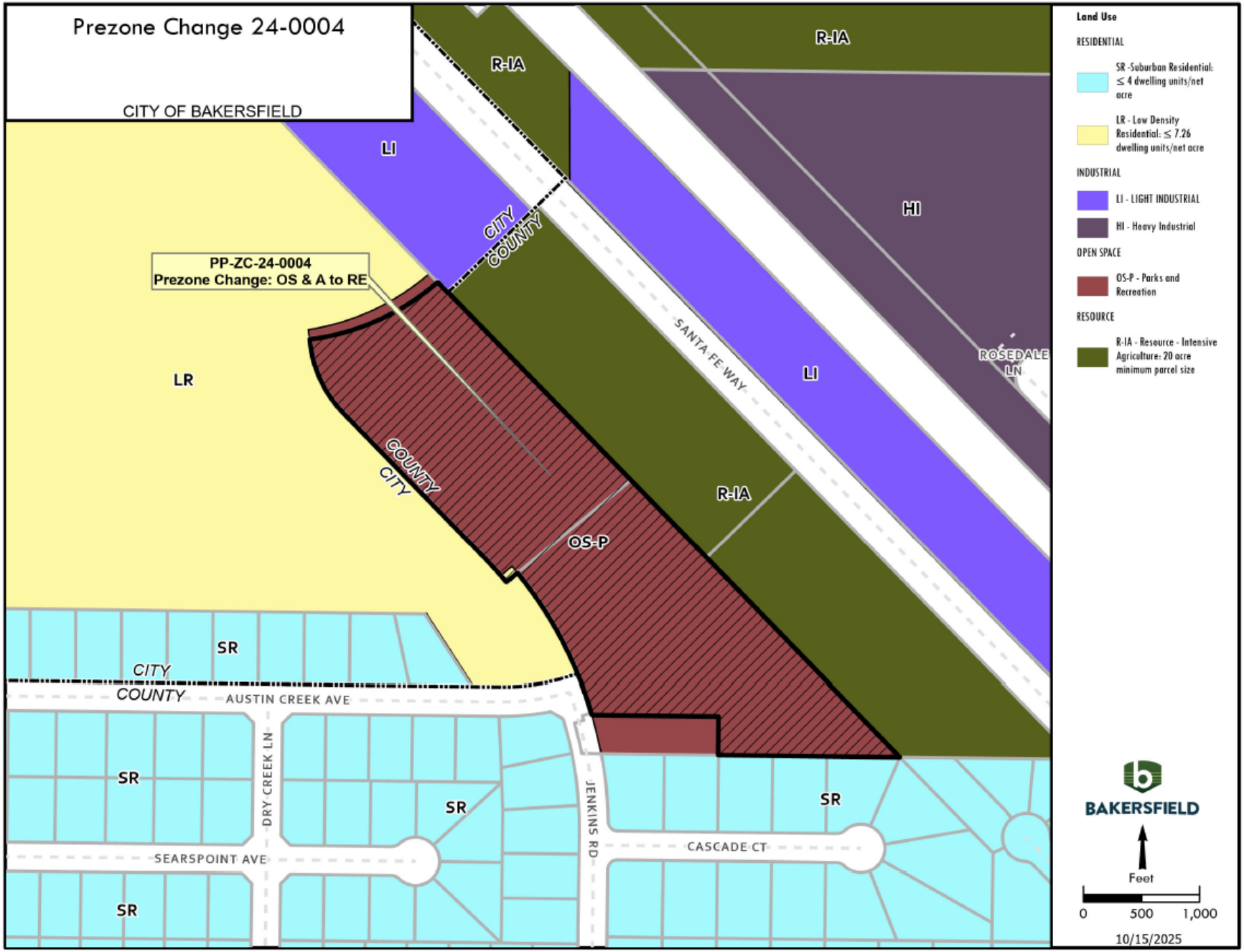
8. **Description of Project** Provost and Pritchard (applicant), representing the North of the River Recreation and Parks District (Owner), is proposing a pre-zone change from County Open Space (OS) and Agriculture (A) to City Recreation Estate (R-E) zone district to facilitate the development of a public park on approximately 9.3 acres.

9. **Environmental setting**
   The proposed project site is currently vacant undeveloped land. Surrounding properties are developed as: vacant undeveloped land City zoned R-1(Single-Unit Dwelling) and City M-1 (Light Manufacturing) to the north, a school district transportation facility County zoned A (Agriculture) to the east, residential development County zoned E, 1/4 (Estate, 0.25 acres) to the south, and vacant undeveloped land City zoned R-1 to the west.

10. **Other public agencies whose approval is anticipated to be required** *(e.g., permits, financing approval or participation agreement)*:
    - City of Bakersfield – Mitigated Negative Declaration consideration and adoption
    - City of Bakersfield – Improvement Plans
    - City of Bakersfield – Building permits
    - San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District – Indirect Source Rule compliance


Prezone Change 24-0004
CITY OF BAKERSFIELD
PP-ZC-24-0004
Prezone Change: OS & A to RE
CITY
COUNTY
COUNTY
CITY
SANTA FE WAY
ROSEDALE LN
CITY
COUNTY
AUSTIN CREEK AVE
DRY CREEK LN
JENKINS RD
SEARSPOINT AVE
CASCADE CT
AERIAL
BAKERSFIELD
Feet
0
500
1,000
10/15/2025


Prezone Change 24-0004
CITY OF BAKERSFIELD
M-1
CITY
COUNTY
PP-ZC-24-0004
Prezone Change: OS & A to RE
R-1
SANTA FE WAY
ROSEDALE LN
COUNTY
CITY
E
R-1
CITY
COUNTY
AUSTIN CREEK AVE
DRY CREEK LN
JENKINS RD
CASCADE CT
SEARSPOINT AVE
Zoning
Industrial Zone Designations
M-1 Light Manufacturing
Residential Zone Designations
E Estate One Family Dwelling
R-1 One Family Dwelling
Other/Public Zone Designations
DI Drilling Island
BAKERSFIELD
Feet
0
500
1,000
10/15/2025


Prezone Change 24-0004
CITY OF BAKERSFIELD
PP-ZC-24-0004
Prezone Change: OS & A to RE
LR
LI
R-IA
HI
OS-P
SR
CITY
COUNTY
SANTA FE WAY
ROSEDALE LN
AUSTIN CREEK AVE
DRY CREEK LN
JENKINS RD
SEARSPOINT AVE
CASCADE CT
Land Use
RESIDENTIAL
SR -Suburban Residential: ≤ 4 dwelling units/net acre
LR - Low Density Residential: ≤ 7.26 dwelling units/net acre
INDUSTRIAL
LI - LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
HI - Heavy Industrial
OPEN SPACE
OS-P - Parks and Recreation
RESOURCE
R-IA - Resource - Intensive Agriculture: 20 acre minimum parcel size
BAKERSFIELD
Feet
0
500
1,000
10/15/2025


ADULT SOFTBALL FIELD
ADULT SOFTBALL FIELD
MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD
MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD
SUMP
DOG PARK
Austin Creek Park
CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLAN #5
NORTH of the RIVER
recreation & park district

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

As indicated by the checklist on the following pages, the project would result in potentially significant impacts with respect to the environmental factors checked below (*Impacts reduced to a less than significant level through the incorporation of mitigation are not considered potentially significant.*):

□ Aesthetics	□ Agricultural Resources	□ Air Quality
□ Biological Resources	□ Cultural Resources	□ Geology / Soils
□ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	□ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	□ Hydrology / Water Quality
□ Land Use / Planning	□ Mineral Resources	□ Noise
□ Population / Housing	□ Public Services	□ Recreation
□ Transportation / Traffic	□ Utilities / Service Systems	
□ Mandatory Findings of Significance		

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

□ I find that the proposed project **could** not have a significant effect on the environment, and a **negative declaration** will be prepared.

■ I find that although the proposed project **could** have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **mitigated negative declaration** will be prepared.

□ I find that the proposed project **may** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **environmental impact report** is required.

□ I find that the proposed project **may** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect has been (1) adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on the attached sheets. An **environmental impact report** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

□ I find that although the proposed project **could** have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects have been (1) analyzed adequately in an earlier **environmental impact report or negative declaration** pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier **environmental impact report or negative declaration**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

J. Fernandez
Signature

June 15, 2026
Date

Jose Fernandez
Printed name

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
   a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

Environmental Checklist and Analysis

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS: Would the project;				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcrops, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** The project is located outside the City limits, at the northeast corner of Austin Creek Avenue and Jenkins Road, in northwest Bakersfield. The existing visual environment in the area adjacent to the project consists of vacant undeveloped land to the north, school district transportation facility to the east and residential development to the south. The construction of a public park at the site would be in character and compatible with existing urban land uses in the vicinity of the site and is a natural extension of the urban growth occurring in the project area. Therefore, the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista and impacts are less than significant.

b. **No impact.** There are no trees, rock outcrops, or historic buildings located within the project site. Additionally, the project is not located adjacent to or near any officially designated or potentially eligible scenic highways to be listed on the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) State Scenic Highway System (Caltrans, n.d.). The closest section of highway eligible for state scenic highway designation is State Route (SR) 14 located in Kern County approximately 60 miles to the southeast of the project area. Therefore, the project would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcrops, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.

c. **Less than significant impact**. Please refer to responses I.a, I.b and I.d. The project does not conflict with any applicable vista protection standards, scenic resource protection requirements or design criteria of federal, state, or local agencies and, the project would be consistent with the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan (MBGP) designations and Zoning Ordinance classifications for the project area. The area is not regarded or designated within the MBGP as visually important or "scenic." Therefore, the project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings and impacts are less than significant.

d. **Less than significant impact.** This project involves incremental urban growth within the City of Bakersfield's sphere of influence. This project would have to comply with City development

standards, including Title 17 (Zoning Ordinance), Title 15 (buildings and construction), as well as California Code of Regulations Title 24. Together, these local and state requirements oblige project compliance with current lighting and signage standards that minimize unwanted light or glare to spill over into neighboring properties. Therefore, the project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area and impacts are less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES:				
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project;				
a. Convert prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance (farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forest land to non-forest?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** The project site consists of approximately 9 acres, of which roughly half is designated as Prime Farmland pursuant to the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) (CDOC, 2022). Prime Farmland is defined as land with the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops and is considered a valuable agricultural resource under CEQA.

The site is currently vacant and does not appear to be actively cultivated for agricultural production and the surrounding area is characterized by urban development. The project proposes development of a public park on the site. The General Plan designates the property as

OS-P (Parks and Recreation), which anticipates open space and recreational uses rather than agricultural activities. While this represents a loss of land classified as Prime Farmland, the impact is reduced by the fact that the site is already planned for park and recreational use under the General Plan. Additionally, the development of a park would maintain the site in a largely open and permeable condition, which is more compatible with the preservation of open space compared to urban or intensive development.

Furthermore, the site is not under a Williamson Act contract, and the proposed use would not conflict with any existing agricultural zoning or preservation policies. The conversion is therefore consistent with adopted land use plans and does not introduce new development pressure beyond what has already been anticipated. Therefore, the conversion to a public park would be consistent with planned land use patterns, and impacts are less than significant.

b. **No impact**. The project site is currently county zoned A (Agriculture) but not used for agricultural purposes and is not under a Williamson Act contract (KernGIS, 2026). Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.

c. **No impact.** As discussed in II.b, the project site is zoned A. There are no forest lands located on the site. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land or timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production.

d. **No impact.** There are no forestlands within the project site. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forest land to non-forest.

e. **Less than significant impact.** Please refer to responses II.a through II.d. This project is in an area designated for urban development by the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan. The project itself is typical of the development found in Metropolitan Bakersfield. Therefore, the project would result in no impact related to the change in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, and impacts are less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY:				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** The project site is located within the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), which is responsible for implementing regional air quality plans to attain state and federal standards. The proposed project consists of development of an approximate 9 acre public park on a site designated for Parks and Recreation (OS-P) in the General Plan. As such, the project is consistent with planned land uses and regional growth assumptions used in air quality planning efforts. The project would not introduce land uses or population growth beyond what has already been accounted for in applicable air quality plans. The project was reviewed using the SJVAPCD Small Project Analysis Levels (SPAL) and is below the established threshold listed in Table 6: Recreational for City Parks not exceeding the 256 acre size threshold and HHDT trips. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan and Impacts would be less than significant.

b. **Less than significant impact.** Project construction would result in temporary emissions from grading activities, construction equipment, and worker trips. However, given the relatively small size of the project (approximately 9 acres) and the limited duration of construction activities, emissions are expected to be below SJVAPCD significance thresholds. Operational emissions associated with a park use are minimal, consisting primarily of infrequent vehicle trips and passive recreational activities. The project does not include stationary sources of emissions. Compliance with standard SJVAPCD rules and implementation of basic construction best management practices (BMPs), such as dust control measures, would further reduce emissions. As a result, the project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of criteria pollutants. Impacts would be less than significant.

c. **Less than significant impact.** Sensitive receptors include residences, schools, and other locations where people may be more vulnerable to air pollution. Construction activities could temporarily generate dust and equipment emissions; however, these impacts would be short-term and localized. Implementation of standard dust control measures in accordance with SJVAPCD Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions) would minimize potential exposure. The proposed park use does not include significant operational emission sources that would expose nearby receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d. **Less than significant impact**. The land use proposed for this project does not have the potential to create objectionable odors. This project is not included on the list of land uses generally regarded to have site odor problems per Table 6 of the Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (SJVAPCD, 2015). In addition, there are no significant existing odor-generating facilities located in close proximity to the site that would adversely affect future residents. Project emissions estimates further indicate that operational activities would not generate odors at a level that would affect surrounding receptors. For these reasons, the proposed Project would not generate objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people, nor would it expose future residents to significant odor impacts. Therefore, the project impacts are less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project;				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with an established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** A biological desktop review was prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, dated January 21, 2026 for the project site using available databases and aerial imagery. No field survey was conducted . The site consists primarily of agricultural and ruderal habitat, which may provide limited foraging or nesting opportunities for common wildlife species .

Numerous special-status plant and wildlife species were evaluated for potential occurrence; however, the majority were determined to be absent due to lack of suitable habitat. One species, the San Joaquin kit fox, has a possible potential to occur due to the presence of ruderal habitat and its known occurrence within the City of Bakersfield.

If known or natal SJKF dens are identified at any time during construction, protocols enumerated in the USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit

Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance (2011) should be implemented, and the appropriate agencies contacted for guidance.

Direct and indirect impacts, in the form of "incidental take" of a threatened, endangered, or otherwise protected species, are not expected as a result of the development of the proposed project. Implementation of standard measures for the protection of biological resources are recommended to avoid and minimize potential impact to general wildlife. These measures include **BIO-1 through BIO-3.**

However, the project consists of development of a park on a previously disturbed site, and the biological assessment concluded that the project would not result in physical disturbance to special-status species. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

b. **No impact.** No riparian habitat or natural communities of special concern were identified on the project site or in the immediate vicinity (Provost and Pritchard, 2025). The site is characterized by disturbed agricultural and ruderal land uses, which do not support sensitive biological communities. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities.

c. No impact. No features, identified in wetland categories, appear on the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory mapping (USFWS 2025) on the proposed, modified project site. No federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act were identified during the field study conducted for the preparation of this report. No substantial adverse effect will occur as a result of the development of the project.

d. Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. No migratory wildlife corridors were identified during the literature search or field study. The project will not interfere substantially with the movement of any native fish of wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. With the implementation of measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-8**, the project would not interfere substantially with wildlife movement or impede use of native wildlife nursery sites.(Provost and Pritchard, 2025). Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

e. No impact. There are no biological resources on the site which are protected by local policies. Impacts from conflicts with local policies will not occur. No additional mitigation measures are recommended (Provost and Pritchard, 2025).

f. **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** Please refer to responses IV.a, IV.d., with implementation of Mitigation BIO-1 through BIO-8 the project would not conflict with the provisions of a local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan, and impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project;				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

a. **No impact.** A cultural resources desktop review was conducted by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, dated February 18, 2026 for the project, including a records search through the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. The records search identified no recorded cultural or historical resources within the project site . Additionally, no resources within the project area or surrounding one-half mile radius are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, or other recognized inventories .

Although several prior cultural resource studies have been conducted within the project area, no resources were identified. Therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

b. **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** The CHRIS records search did not identify any known archaeological resources within the project site (Provost and Pritchard Cultural Memo, 2026). While four cultural resources were identified within a one-half mile radius, these are not located on the project site and would not be impacted.

Additionally, the project as proposed does not include ground-disturbing activities associated with the annexation and zone change. As such, no impacts to archaeological resources are anticipated at this time. However, in the event that future ground disturbance occurs, standard procedures would require work to stop if resources are encountered and a qualified archaeologist be consulted. Therefore, the likelihood of archeological resources being present and intact is low. With the implementation of measures **CUL-1** through **CUL-2,** the project would not significantly affect archeological resources, and impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

c. **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** There are no known human remains on the site. The project could inadvertently uncover or damage previously unknown human remains. Measure **CUL-2** requires that if any human remains are found at the site during construction, work would cease, and the remains would be handled pursuant to applicable law. With implementation of measure **CUL-2**, the project would not significantly disturb any human remains, therefore the project would not significantly affect archeological resources, and impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

VI. ENERGY: Would the project;

a.	Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** The proposed project involves development of a public park on an approximately 9-acre site. Construction activities would require the use of energy in the form of fuel for construction equipment, worker vehicle trips, and transport of materials. These activities would be temporary and typical of small-scale construction projects. The project would be required to comply with applicable regulations, including idling restrictions and standard construction practices, which would minimize unnecessary fuel consumption.

Operational energy demand associated with the park would be minimal. Energy use would be limited to features such as lighting, irrigation systems, and minor maintenance activities. The project would not include energy-intensive uses such as industrial operations or large buildings. Additionally, park development generally promotes outdoor recreation and passive uses, which are not energy-intensive.

All new construction within the City of Bakersfield must adhere to modern building standards, including California Code of Regulations Title 24, which outlines energy efficiency standards for new buildings to ensure that they do not wastefully, inefficiently, or unnecessarily consume energy. Therefore, the project would not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation, and impacts are less than significant.

b. **Less than significant impact.** There is no adopted plan by the City of Bakersfield for renewable energy or energy efficiency. As mentioned above, all new development projects within the City are required to adhere to modern building standards related to energy efficiency. Additionally, the City encourages applicants and developers to go beyond the required standards and make their developments even more efficient through programs such as LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, which is a green building rating system that provides a framework to create healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings. Other encouraged programs available to applicants and developers are Title 20 appliance energy efficiency standards and 2005 building energy efficiency standards. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency, and impacts are less than significant.

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

Discussion

a. The following discusses the potential for the project to expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects because of various geologic hazards. The City is within a seismically active area. According to the *Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan*, major active fault systems border the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley. Among these major active fault systems include the San Andreas, Breckenridge-Kern County, Garlock, Pond Poso, and White Wolf faults. There are numerous additional smaller faults suspected to occur within the Bakersfield area, which may or may not be active. The active faults have a maximum credible Richter magnitude that ranges from 6.0 (Breckenridge-Kern County) to 8.3 (San Andreas). Potential seismic hazards in the planning area involve strong ground shaking, fault rupture, liquefaction, and landslides.

i. **No impact.** Ground rupture is ground deformation that occurs along the surface trace of a fault during an earthquake. According to the California Department of Conservation's (CDOC) Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation map, the project site is not located within an

earthquake fault zone (CDOC, n.d.). Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving rupture of a known earthquake fault.

ii. **Less than significant impact.** The City is within a seismically active area. Future structures proposed on the project site are required by state law and City ordinance to be constructed in accordance with the Uniform Building Code (specifically Seismic Zone 4, which has the most stringent seismic construction requirements in the United States), and to adhere to all modern earthquake construction standards. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving strong seismic ground shaking, and impacts are less than significant.

iii. **Less than significant impact.** The most common seismic-related ground failure is liquefaction and lateral spreading. In both cases, during periods of ground motion caused by an event such as an earthquake, loose materials are transformed from a solid state to near-liquid state as a result of increased pore water pressure. Such ground failure generally requires a high-water table and poorly draining soils in order for such ground failure to occur.

Soils underlain the project site include Granoso sandy loam and Kimberlina fine sandy loam (USDA, n.d.). The potential for liquefaction at the project site is low. The site is not within an area with high ground water. In addition, future structures proposed on the project site are required by state law and City ordinance to be constructed in accordance with the Uniform Building Code, including those relating to soil characteristics. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, and impacts are less than significant.

iv. **No impact.** In Kern County, the common types of landslides induced by earthquake occur on steeper slopes found in the foothills and along the Kern River Canyon; in these areas, landslides are generally associated with bluff and stream bank failure, rockslide, and slope slip on steep slopes. The project site is relatively flat and level with no major changes in grade. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving landslides.

b. **Less than significant impact.** The relatively low precipitation in the project area [on average about 6 inches/year results in surface runoff that is intermittent and temporary in nature (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2025).The erosion potential at the site and the fact that the soils are well drained coupled with low average rainfall in the area does not make the project site likely to have substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil. The project site's soils have low-to-moderate susceptibility to erosion by rainfall (USDA, n.d.).

Construction of the site would temporarily disturb soils, which could loosen soil, and the removal of vegetation could contribute to future soil loss and erosion by wind and storm water runoff. The project would have to request coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (No. 2012-0006-DWQ) (General Permit) because the project would result in 1 or more acres of ground disturbance. To conform to the requirements of the General Permit, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would need to be prepared that specifies best management (BMPs) to prevent construction pollutants, including eroded soils (such as topsoil), from moving offsite. Implementation of the General Permit and BMPs requirements would mitigate erosion of soil during construction activities.

During operation, the soils would be sufficiently compacted to required engineered specifications, revegetated in compliance with City requirements, or paved over with impervious surfaces such that

the soils at the site would not be particularly susceptible to soil erosion. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, and impacts are less than significant.

c. **Less than significant impact.** As discussed above, the project site's soils would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, lateral spreading, or landslides.

Collapsible soils consist of loose, dry, low-density materials that collapse and compact under the addition of water or excessive loading. Future structures proposed on the project site are required by state law and City ordinance to be constructed in accordance with the Uniform Building Code, including those relating to soil characteristics. Therefore, the project would not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse, and impacts are less than significant.

d. **Less than significant impact.** The soils identified on site, milham sandy loam, do not have a high potential to be expansive (USDA, n.d.). Additionally, future structures proposed on the project site are required by state law and City ordinance to be constructed in accordance with the Uniform Building Code, including those relating to soil characteristics. Therefore, the project would not be located on expansive soil creating substantial risks to life or property, and impacts are less than significant.

e. **No impact.** The project, if developed in the City, would not require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems because the project would connect to existing City sewer services in the area. Therefore, there would be no impacts related to soils incapable of adequately supporting septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems.

f. **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** Paleontological sensitivity is determined by the potential for a geologic unit to produce scientifically significant fossils. Because paleontological resources typically occur in the substratum soil horizon, surface expressions are often not visible during a pedestrian survey. Paleontological sensitivity is derived from known fossil data collected from the entire geologic unit. The project site is entirely underlain by alluvial fan deposits of late Holocene age, which presumably transition in the subsurface into older, Pleistocene-age deposits.

Due to the presence of alluvial deposits, there is the potential to unearth previously unknown paleontological resources at the project site, and grading and other ground-disturbing activities have the potential to damage or destroy such resources. Therefore, with the implementation of Mitigation Measure **GEO-1**, the project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, and impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project;				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** The proposed project consists of development of a public park on an approximately 9-acre site. Construction activities would generate short-term greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the use of heavy equipment, material transport, and worker vehicle trips. These emissions would be temporary and typical of small-scale construction projects.

Operational GHG emissions associated with the project would be minimal. The park use would generate limited vehicle trips and low energy demand associated with features such as lighting and irrigation. The project does not include industrial uses, large buildings, or other significant sources of ongoing emissions. Additionally, the park would provide open space and recreational opportunities, which are generally associated with low-intensity land uses and may contribute to broader community sustainability goals.

Given the small scale of the project, temporary nature of construction emissions, and minimal operational emissions, the project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions that would have a significant impact on the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.

b. **Less than significant impact.** The project would be required to comply with applicable state and local regulations aimed at reducing GHG emissions, including energy efficiency standards under Title 24 of the California Building Standards Code and vehicle emission standards established by the State. The proposed park use is consistent with the City's General Plan designation of OS-P (Parks and Recreation), which anticipates low-intensity, open space uses.

The project would not conflict with any applicable greenhouse gas reduction plans, such as statewide targets established under Assembly Bill 32 or Senate Bill 32. Due to its low operational emissions and consistency with planned land uses, the project supports broader efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Therefore, the project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Impacts would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project;				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-	☐	☐	☐	☒

quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** The proposed project consists of development of a public park, which would not involve the routine use, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials beyond typical small quantities associated with maintenance activities (e.g., fuels, oils, or landscaping products). These materials would be handled in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. As such, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment and impacts are less than significant.

b. **Less than significant impact.** Please refer to response VIX.a. Therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous material into the environment and impacts are less than significant.

c. **No impact**. The closest school is Providence Classical Academy, located approximately 0.33 miles southeast of the project site. Therefore, the project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed school.

d. **No impact.** The EnviroStor (DTSC, 2025) and Cortese lists (DTSC, n.d.) pursuant to Government Code (GC) Section 65962.5 were reviewed. No portion of the project site is identified on either list, which provides the location of known hazardous waste concerns. Therefore, the project would not be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to GC Section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

e. **No impact.** The project site is not located within the Kern County *Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan* area (Kern County, 2011). The closest airport to the project site is the Bakersfield Municipal Airport, which is located approximately 6 miles northeast of the project site. Therefore, the project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area. The project is not located within a distance an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted.

f. **Less than significant impact.** Access to the site would be maintained throughout the construction period, and appropriate detours would be provided in the event of potential temporary road closures. The project would not interfere with any local or regional emergency response or evacuation plans because the project would not result in a substantial alteration to the adjacent and area circulation system. The project is typical of urban development in Bakersfield, and is not inconsistent with the adopted City of Bakersfield Hazardous Materials Area Plan (City of Bakersfield, 1996). This plan identifies responsibilities and provides coordination of emergency response at the local level to hazardous materials incidents. Therefore, the project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan and impacts are less than significant.

g. **Less than significant impact.** The project site is not located within a fire hazard severity zone (City of Bakersfield, 2025). The Fire Prevention Division of the Kern County Fire Department inspects all new construction, major remodels, and fire protection system revisions to ensure compliance with the California Fire Code and conducts enforcement of the fire code (City of Bakersfield, 2002). The project site would be developed with hardscapes and irrigated landscaping, which would further reduce fire potential at the site. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands and impacts are less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project;				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☒	☐
i. Result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of	☐	☐	☒	☐

pollutants due to project inundation?

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

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** Construction would include ground disturbing activities. As discussed in VII.b, the project site's soil types have a low-to-medium susceptibility to sheet and rill erosion by rainfall and a low susceptibility to wind erosion at the ground surface. Disturbance of onsite soils during construction could result in soil erosion and siltation, and subsequent water quality degradation through increased turbidity and sediment deposition during storm events to offsite locations. Additionally, disturbed soils have an increased potential for fugitive dust to be released into the air and carried offsite. As described in VII.b, the project would be required to comply with the General Permit. To conform to the requirements of the General Permit, a SWPPP would need to be prepared that specifies BMPs to prevent construction pollutants from moving offsite. The project is required to comply with the General Permit because project-related construction activities would disturb at least 1 acre of soil. Therefore, by complying with the permit, the project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, and impacts are less than significant.

b. **Less than significant impact.** Potable water from the project would be supplied by the Vaughn Water Company. Vaughn has provided a "Will Serve" letter stating that they would supply potable water (Vaughn, 2025). Therefore, the project would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level, and impacts are less than significant.

c. The following discusses whether the project would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces.

    i. **Less than significant impact.** The project site does not contain any blue-line streams or other surface water features and therefore, the project would not alter the course of a river or stream. The project site would be graded and, as a result, the internal drainage pattern at the site would be altered from the baseline condition. Additionally, the project would result in increased impervious surfaces (i.e., building pads, sidewalks, asphalt parking area, etc.) at the site, which would reduce percolation to ground and result in greater amounts of storm water runoff concentrations at the site. If uncontrolled, differences in drainage patterns and increased impervious surfaces could result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite. However, the project would be required to comply with the General Permit during construction and MS4 permit during operation. In order to comply with the MS4 Permit, the City requires compliance with adopted building codes, including complying with an approved drainage plan, which avoids on- and offsite flooding, erosion, and siltation problems. Therefore, the project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite, and impacts are less than significant.

    ii. **Less than significant impact.** Please refer to response X.c.i. Therefore, the project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or

amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or offsite, and impacts are less than significant.

iii. **Less than significant impact.** In order to comply with the City's MS4 Permit, the City requires compliance with an approved drainage plan that would avoid on- and offsite flooding thus, the project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, and impacts are less than significant.

iv. **Less than significant impact.** A review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Maps, shows the project site is located in Zone X, which is a minimal risk area outside the 1-percent and 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain (FEMA, n.d.). Therefore, the project would not impede or redirect flood flows, and impacts are less than significant.

d. **Less than significant impact.** The City of Bakersfield is located within Central California and is not near a coastal environment that risks flood inundation. In addition, the City is not located within a tsunami zone as identified by the California Department of Conservation's Tsunami Map. As mentioned above, the project site is located in Zone X, which is a minimal risk area outside the 1-percent and 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain. The project site, like most of the City, is located within the Lake Isabella flood inundation area (USACE, n.d), which is the area that would experience flooding in the event that there was a catastrophic failure of the Lake Isabella Dam. There is an approved Lake Isabella Dam Failure Evacuation Plan (Kern County Fire Department, 2009)) that establishes a process and procedures for the mass evacuation and short-term support of populations at risk below the Lake Isabella Dam. The City would utilize the Evacuation Plan to support its Emergency Operations Plans. Due to the project's location and implementation of related emergency safety plans, the project would not likely risk release of pollutants due to project inundation in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, and impacts are less than significant.

e. **Less than significant impact.** Please refer to response X.c.i. There is currently no adopted groundwater management plan for the project site or its vicinity. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan, and impacts are less than significant.

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

Discussion

a. **No impact.** The project is a continuation of the existing urban development pattern of the City or is an infill development. The project is not a long and linear feature, such as a freeway, railroad track, block wall, etc., that would have the potential to divide a community. The project is the

development of a 9-acre project site that does not impede existing or future movement or development of the City. Therefore, the project would not physically divide an established community.

b. **Less than significant impact**. The project site is designated as OS-P (Parks and Recreation) in the City's General Plan. The proposed use as a public park is consistent with this designation, which anticipates open space and recreational uses. The project would not conflict with applicable land use policies or regulations intended to avoid or mitigate environmental impacts.

Additionally, the project would be subject to review and approval by the City and would comply with all applicable zoning and development standards. As the project is consistent with the General Plan and does not introduce incompatible land uses, it would not result in a significant environmental impact due to a land use conflict. Impacts would be less than significant.

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

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** The project site does not contain any previously drilled oil wells. Because there is no ongoing or reasonably foreseeable future mineral extraction, development of the site would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or state. Therefore, impacts on mineral resources would be less than significant.

b. **No impact.** The project site is currently designated A (Agriculture). No portion of the site is designated for a potential mineral resource extraction use such as R-MP (Mineral and Petroleum). Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site that is delineated in a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. NOISE: Would the project result in:				
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐

b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** The project would generate noise during construction by the use of construction equipment. Typical construction equipment generates sound levels between 80 and 85 A-weighted decibels (dBA), which is a decibel system reflective of human hearing characteristics. At 80 to 85 dBA, the human response to such a sound level is annoyance and difficulty hearing conversation. As noise attenuates 7.5 dBA per a doubling of distance away from the sound-emitting source, it would require 800 feet away from an 85-dBA sound-emitting source to obtain a 55-dBA sound level, which is considered "quiet" to the human ear. Project construction would be limited to 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. on weekends per Bakersfield Municipal Code Chapter 9.22 (Noise).

Project operations would generate sound levels typical of park land uses which would have to comply with Bakersfield Municipal Code regarding noise. Therefore, the project would not expose persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies, and the impacts are less than significant.

b. **Less than significant impact.** Some ground-borne vibration and noise would originate from earth movement and building activities during the project's construction phase. Ground-borne noise and vibration from construction activity would be mostly low to moderate. The operation of typical construction equipment would generate ground-borne vibrations that would not exceed guidelines that are considered unsafe for any type of buildings. Operation of the proposed park use would not generate ground-borne vibration. Therefore, the project would not expose persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels, and impacts are less than significant.

c. **No impact.** The project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels for a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the project result in:				
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads	☐	☐	☒	☐

or other infrastructure)?

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

Discussion

a. **No impact.** The project proposes development of a public park for the residents of Bakersfield which is the logical extension of existing urban development. The project would also require the extension of infrastructure. Therefore, the project would not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly, and impacts are less than significant.

b. **No impact.** The project site consists of undeveloped land. Therefore, the project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES: Would the project result in:				
a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
v. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. The following discusses whether the project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts to public services. The need for additional public service is generally directly correlated to population growth and the resultant additional population's need for services beyond what is currently available.

i. **Less than significant impact.** Fire protection services for the Metropolitan Bakersfield area are provided through a joint fire protection agreement between the City and County. The proposed project consists of development of a public park on an

approximately 9-acre site. Therefore, the project would not introduce residential or intensive commercial uses that would substantially increase demand for public services such as fire protection, and impacts are less than significant.

ii. **Less than significant impact.** Once annexed into the City, Police protection for the project would be provided by the Bakersfield Police Department. The proposed project consists of development of a public park on an approximately 9-acre site. Therefore, the project would not introduce residential or intensive commercial uses that would substantially increase demand for public services such as police protection, and impacts are less than significant.

iii. **Less than significant impact.** The proposed project consists of development of a public park on an approximately 9-acre site. The project would not introduce residential or intensive commercial uses that would substantially increase demand for public services such as additional schools, and impacts are less than significant.

iv. **Less than significant impact.** The proposed project consists of development of a public park on an approximately 9-acre site. The project would not introduce residential or intensive commercial uses that would substantially increase demand for public services such as additional parks. The project itself is a park and would therefore contribute to the City's park and recreational facilities, rather than create a demand for additional parkland. Therefore, the project would be served by existing police and fire protection services, and impacts are less than significant.

v. **Less than significant impact.** The proposed project consists of development of a public park on an approximately 9-acre site. The low-intensity nature of the proposed use would not require the construction of new or expanded governmental facilities. Additionally, the project and eventual buildup of this area would result in an increase in maintenance responsibility for the City. Though the project may necessitate increased maintenance for other public facilities, this potential increase can be paid for by property taxes generated by this development. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for other public facilities, and impacts are less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. RECREATION: Would the project result in:				
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact**. Please refer to response XV.a.iv. Therefore, the project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, and impacts are less than significant.

b. **Less than significant impact.** Please refer to response XV.a.iv. Therefore, the project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment, and impacts are less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. TRANSPORTATION: Would the project result in:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** The proposed project consists of development of a public park on an approximately 9-acre site. The project would result in temporary construction-related traffic impacts. Construction workers traveling to and from the project site as well as construction material delivery would result in additional vehicle trips to the area's roadway system. Construction material delivery may require a number of trips for oversized vehicles that may travel at slower speeds than existing traffic and, due to their size, may intrude into adjacent travel lanes. These trips may temporarily degrade level of service on area roadways and at intersections. Additionally, the total number of vehicle trips associated with all construction-related traffic, including construction worker trips, could temporarily increase daily traffic volumes on local roadways and intersections. The project may require temporary lane closures or the need for flagmen to safely direct traffic on roadways near the project site. However, once the project is built, it would not result in any permanent traffic-related effects.

The project would generate a limited number of vehicle trips associated with park visitors and maintenance activities. The site would be accessed via existing public roadways, and no major modifications to the circulation system are anticipated.

The project would be designed to include pedestrian access and internal pathways, dedication and improvement of streets, traffic control measures during construction, pedestrian access, and the payment of impact fees consistent with applicable City standards. The low-intensity nature of the proposed use would not conflict with adopted circulation plans, policies, or programs.

Additionally, the project is consistent with the General Plan land use designation of OS-P (Parks and Recreation), which anticipates such uses. Therefore, the project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, and impacts are less than significant.

b. **Less than significant impact.** Please refer to response XVII.a. The project would not conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways, and impacts are less than significant.

c. **Less than significant impact.** The project would have to comply with all conditions placed on it by the City Traffic Engineering Division in order to comply with accepted traffic engineering standards intended to reduce traffic hazards, including designing the roads so that they do not result in design feature hazards. The project is within the City limits and surrounded by compatible existing and planned land uses and land use designations. Therefore, the project would not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses, and impacts are less than significant.

d. **Less than significant impact.** There is the potential that, during the construction phase, the project would impede emergency access. For projects that require minor impediments of a short duration (e.g., pouring a new driveway entrance), the project would be required to obtain a street permit from City Public Works. If a project requires lane closures and/or the diversion of traffic, then a Traffic Control Plan, subject to Public Works approval, would be required. During operations, the project would have to comply with all applicable City policies and requirements to ensure adequate emergency access. The need for such permits is determined by the Public Works Department during the permitting and construction phases of their permitting process. In addition, the site plans have been designed in accordance with all City development standards, and impacts are less than significant.

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

Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**. A Cultural Resources Desktop Review was conducted for the project site (Provost and Pritchard, 2026). The Cultural Resources review determined that there are no cultural resources which include any tribal cultural resources within the project site. A determination of no adverse effect and no significant impact will result from the project. However, in the event that any unknown resources are encountered, measures **CUL-1** through **CUL-2** would be implemented. Therefore, the project would result in a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

b. **Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**. See response XVII.a. above. Therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency to be significant, and impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

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

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact**. The proposed project consists of development of a public park on an approximately 9-acre site. The project would require connection to existing water infrastructure for irrigation and minor facilities, as well as stormwater management features

consistent with City standards. Wastewater demand would be minimal, limited to any small restroom facilities, if included.

Existing public infrastructure is available to serve the project, and any required connections or minor extensions would be constructed in accordance with applicable standards. The low-intensity nature of the park use would not require the construction of new or expanded treatment facilities. Stormwater would be managed on-site through standard design measures.

Therefore, the project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded utilities that would cause significant environmental effects, and impacts are less than significant.

b. **Less than significant impact.** The Vaughn Water Company has provided a "Will Serve" letter stating that they will provide water to the property (Vaughn, 2025). The proposed development would not result in a need for significant additional systems or substantially alter the existing water utilities in the area. Therefore, the project would have sufficient water supplies available from existing entitlements and resources, and new or expanded entitlements would not be needed, and impacts are less than significant.

c. **Less than significant impact**. Once the project annexes into the City, the wastewater as a result of the project would be treated at WWTP No. 3, which is owned and operated by the City. The proposed project would generate minimal wastewater, limited to potential restroom facilities. Existing wastewater infrastructure and treatment capacity are sufficient to accommodate the project's demand. Therefore, the project would not result in a determination that additional wastewater treatment capacity is required, and impacts are less than significant.

d. **Less than significant impact.** The project would generate minimal solid waste during operation, primarily consisting of typical park-related waste such as litter and maintenance debris. Construction would generate temporary waste, which would be disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations. The Solid Waste Division of Public Works will conduct a detailed review of the facility at the time of development to incorporate appropriate on-site trash facilities, subject to city approval. Therefore, the project would be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs, and impacts are less than significant.

e. **Less than significant impact.** By law, the project would be required to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, including those relating to waste reduction, litter control, and solid waste disposal. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. WILDFIRES: Would the project result in:				
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐

c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than significant impact.** The project is not located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. The project is located in an urbanized area and access to the site would be maintained throughout the construction period. The project would not interfere with any local or regional emergency response or evacuation plans because the project would not result in substantial alteration to the adjacent and area circulation system. The project is typical of urban development in Bakersfield, and is not inconsistent with the adopted City of Bakersfield Hazardous Materials Area Plan (Bakersfield, 1996). This plan identifies responsibilities and provides coordination of emergency response at the local level to hazardous materials incidents. Therefore, the project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and impacts are less than significant.

b. **Less than significant impact.** As mentioned above, the project is not located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. Additionally, the project site is relatively flat, not near wildlands, the site and its surrounding do not possess high fuel loads (i.e., lots of vegetation and other burnable material) to exacerbate wildfire risks and therefore, fire-related pollutant concentrations. Therefore, the project would not exacerbate wildfires and expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, and impacts are less than significant.

c. **Less than significant impact.** The project is in a developed area with existing infrastructure such as roads, power lines, utilities etc., to support the development of this project. Therefore, the project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment, and impacts are less than significant.

d. **Less than significant impact.** The project site is relatively flat, is not within a floodplain, and is not located in a fire risk area. The project would not expose people or structures to substantial risks associated with downslope or downstream flooding, landslides, post-fire slope instability, runoff, or drainage changes, and impacts are less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Would the project result in:	☐	☒	☐	☐

a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of life of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** The project must comply with listed plant and animal species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), as directed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California State Department of Fish and Wildlife, respectively. In addition, measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-11** would be implemented to avoid any impacts to special status species. There are no important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory found at the site. However, measures **CUL-1** and **CUL-2** would be implemented to avoid any potential impacts to cultural or historical resources. Therefore, with the implementation of measures, the project would not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number, or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory, and impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

b. **Less than significant impact.** Under Section 15065(a)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the environment where there is substantial evidence that the project has potential environmental effects "that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable." This section further states that cumulatively considerable means "that the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects."

Past, present, and future projects in proximity to the project were considered and evaluated as part of this Initial Study. Also, in addition to project specific impacts, this Initial Study considered the projects potential for incremental effects that are cumulatively considerable. As described in the responses above, there is no substantial evidence that there are cumulative effects associated with this project. In addition, any future development projects not identified above would be required to undergo a separate environmental analysis and mitigate any project- or site-specific potential impacts, and, impacts are less than significant.

c. **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** As described in the responses above, the project, with mitigation, would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, and impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

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