Walnut Park Pocket Park Project
(Walnut Park Pocket Park Stormwater Improvements Project)

ADDENDUM

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Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
AQMP	air quality management plan
ARMR	Archaeological Resource Management Reports
BP	before present
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDP	Census Designated Place
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH_4	methane
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CWA	Clean Water Act
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
ESA	environmental site assessment
EWMP	Enhanced Watershed Management Program
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FHSZ	fire hazard severity zones
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GCC	global climate change
GHG	greenhouse gas
GWP	global warming potential
GWR	groundwater recharge
HPO	Historic Preservation Ordinance
HRA	health risk assessment
IND	industrial service supply
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

LASD	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Ldn	day/dight average noise level
Leq	equivalent continuous noise level
LID	Low Impact Development
LST	Localized Significance Threshold
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zones
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MUN	Municipal and Domestic Supply
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NOX	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O_3	ozone
O&M	operation and maintenance
PEIR	Program Environmental Impact Report
PERP	Portable Equipment Registration Program
PM2.5	particulate matter (less than 2.5 microns in diameter)
PM10	particulate matter (less than 10 microns in diameter)
PPV	peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
SB	Senate Bill
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCCIC	South Central Coastal Information Center
SCE	Southern California Edison
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SOX	sulfur oxides
SRA	source receptor area
SVP	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	toxic air contaminant
TCR	Tribal cultural resources
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
ULAR	Upper Los Angeles River
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VdB	vibration decibels with reference velocity of $1x10^{-6}$ inches per second
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WARM	warm freshwater habitat

WILD wildlife habitat

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Addendum

As part of the Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) for the Ballona Creek Watershed (BCWMG, 2016), Los Angeles County (County) certified the 2015 Los Angeles County Flood Control District Enhanced Watershed Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) on May 26, 2015 (LACPW, 2015). The PEIR analyzed the general effects due to the structural and non-structural best management practices (BMPs) identified in the 12 EWMPs submitted to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). The proposed Project was one of the BMPs identified as a multi-benefit project in accordance with updates to the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Group (ULAR) EWMP (PEIR Appendix G, Figure A, ID Number 4). The PEIR analyzed the general effects of the BMPs and identified program mitigation measures (PMMs) to reduce potential impacts; however, site-specific environmental analysis was not completed.

The purpose of this Addendum to the PEIR is to evaluate the site-specific environmental effects associated with the proposed Walnut Park Pocket Park Project (proposed Project) and determine whether these impacts are consistent with the evaluation presented in the PEIR in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Sections 15000 et seq.).

1.2 CEQA Requirements

An Addendum to an Environmental Impact Report is the appropriate tool to evaluate the environmental effects associated with *minor modifications* to previously approved projects. In the case of a PEIR, if the agency finds that pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 (see below), no new effects could occur or new mitigation measures would be required, the agency (County) can approve the site-specific activity as being within the scope of the program covered by the PEIR, and no new environmental document would be required.

According to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15164(a), "the lead agency or a responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred." An addendum may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary. A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR must also be provided in the addendum, findings, or the public record.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 lists the conditions that would require the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration rather than an addendum. These include the following:

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or

3. New information of substantial importance which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:

    a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;

    b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;

    c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternative; or

    d. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

The proposed Project is described in detail within Section 2 of this Addendum, and the site-specific impacts of this project would be as described and analyzed in the PEIR. The proposed Project has been reviewed by the County in light of State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15163 (see Section 3). As the CEQA Lead Agency, the County has determined, based on the analysis presented herein, that none of the conditions apply which would require preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR and that an Addendum to the certified PEIR is the appropriate environmental documentation under CEQA for the proposed Project.

Section 3 discusses issue-by-issue how the impacts anticipated for the proposed Project would be within those previously identified in the PEIR. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) adopted with the PEIR would continue to apply to the proposed Project to ensure all significant impacts are reduced to a less-than-significant level.

1.3 Adopted Mitigation Measures

The PEIR (LACPW, 2015) identified mitigation measures that reduce the potential significant impacts of the anticipated structural and non-structural BMPs identified in the 12 EWMPs submitted to the LARWQCB. These program mitigation measures (PMMs) were approved as part of the certification of the PEIR. The PMMs that apply to the proposed Project are listed below. The implementing agency for these measures would be the Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works).

Biological Resources

BIO-5: If construction and vegetation removal is proposed between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for breeding and nesting birds and raptors within 500-feet of the construction limits to determine and map the location and extent of breeding birds that could be affected by the project. Active nest sites located during the pre-construction surveys shall be avoided until the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site for survival as determined by a qualified biologist.

Cultural Resources

CUL-2: Implementing agencies shall ensure that individual EWMP projects that require ground disturbance shall be subject to a Phase I cultural resources inventory on a project-specific basis prior to the implementing agency's approval of project plans. The study shall be conducted or supervised by a qualified archaeologist, defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeology, and shall be conducted in consultation with the local Native American representatives expressing interest. The cultural resources inventory shall include a cultural resources records search to be conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center; scoping with the NAHC and with interested Native Americans identified by the NAHC; a pedestrian archaeological survey where deemed appropriate by the qualified archaeologist; and formal recordation of all identified archaeological resources on California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms and significance evaluation of such resources presented in a technical report following the guidelines in *Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format*, Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation, State of California, 1990.

If potentially significant archaeological resources are encountered during the survey, the implementing agency shall require that the resources are evaluated by the qualified archaeologist for their eligibility for listing in the CRHR and for significance as a historical resource or unique archaeological resource per CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. Recommendations shall be made for treatment of these resources if found to be significant, in consultation with the implementing agency and the appropriate Native American groups for prehistoric resources. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), preservation in place shall be the preferred manner of mitigation to avoid impacts to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources. Methods of avoidance may include, but shall not be limited to, project reroute or redesign, project cancellation, or identification of protection measures such as capping or fencing. Consistent with CEQA

Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, the qualified archaeologist shall develop additional treatment measures, which may include data recovery or other appropriate measures, in consultation with the implementing agency, and any local Native American representatives expressing interest in prehistoric or tribal resources. If an archaeological site does not qualify as an historical resource but meets the criteria for a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 21083.2, then the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2.

CUL-4: During project-level construction, should subsurface archaeological resources be discovered, all activity in the vicinity of the find shall stop and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the significance of the find according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If any find is determined to be significant, the archaeologist shall determine, in consultation with the implementing agency and any local Native American groups expressing interest, appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), preservation in place shall be the preferred means to avoid impacts to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources. Methods of avoidance may include, but shall not be limited to, project reroute or redesign, project cancellation, or identification of protection measures such as capping or fencing. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, the qualified archaeologist shall develop additional treatment measures, such as data recovery or other appropriate measures, in consultation with the implementing agency and any local Native American representatives expressing interest in prehistoric or tribal resources. If an archaeological site does not qualify as an historical resource but meets the criteria for a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 21083.2, then the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2.

CUL-5: For individual structural BMP projects that require ground disturbance, the implementing agency shall evaluate the sensitivity of the project site for paleontological resources. If deemed necessary, the implementing agency shall retain a qualified paleontologist to evaluate the project and provide recommendations regarding additional work, potentially including testing or construction monitoring.

CUL-6: In the event that paleontological resources are discovered during construction, the implementing agency shall notify a qualified paleontologist. The paleontologist will evaluate the potential resource, assess the significance of the find, and recommend further actions to protect the resource.

CUL-7: The implementing agency shall require that, if human remains are uncovered during project construction, work in the vicinity of the find shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted to evaluate the remains, following the procedures and protocols set forth in Section 15064.5 (e)(1) of the CEQA Guidelines. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the Coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, subdivision (c), and Public Resources Code 5097.98 (as amended by AB 2641). The NAHC will then designate a Most Likely Descendant of the deceased Native American, who will engage in consultation to determine the disposition of the remains.

Geologic and Mineral Resources

GEO-1: Prior to approval of infiltration BMPs, implementing agencies shall conduct a geotechnical investigation of each infiltration BMP site to evaluate infiltration suitability. If infiltration rates are sufficient to accommodate an infiltration BMP, the geotechnical investigation shall recommend design measures necessary to prevent excessive lateral spreading that could destabilize neighboring structures. Implementing agencies shall implement these measures in project designs.

GEO-2: Prior to installing BMPs designed to recharge the local groundwater supplies, the Implementing Agency shall notify local groundwater managers, including the Upper Los Angeles River Area Water Master, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California, or the San Gabriel Water Master as well as local water producers such as local municipalities and water companies. The Implementing Agency shall coordinate BMP siting efforts with groundwater managers and producers to mitigate high groundwater levels while increasing local water supplies.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

HAZ-1: Implementing agencies shall prepare and implement maintenance practices that include periodic removal and replacement of surface soils and media that may accumulate constituents that could result in further migration of constituents to sub-soils and groundwater. A BMP Maintenance Plan shall be prepared by Implementing Agencies upon approval of the BMP projects, that identifies the frequency and procedures for removal and/or replacement of accumulated debris, surface soils and/or media (to depth where constituent concentrations do not represent a hazardous condition and/or have the potential to migrate further and impact groundwater) to avoid accumulation of hazardous concentrations and the potential to migrate further to sub-soils and groundwater. The BMP Maintenance Plan may consist of a general maintenance guideline that applies to several types of smaller distributed BMPs. For smaller distributed BMPs on private property, these plans may consist of a maintenance covenant that includes requirements to avoid the accumulation of hazardous concentrations in these BMPs that may impact underlying subsoils and groundwater. Structural BMPs shall be designed to prevent migration of constituents that may impact groundwater.

Hydrology and Water Quality

HYDRO-1: Prior to approving an infiltration BMP, the Permittee shall conduct an evaluation of the suitability of the BMP location. Appropriate infiltration BMP sites should avoid areas with low permeability where recharge could adversely affect neighboring subsurface infrastructure.

HYDRO-2: Prior to approving an infiltration BMP, the Permittee shall identify pretreatment technologies, type, and depth of filtration media; depth to groundwater; and other design considerations necessary to prevent contaminants from impacting groundwater quality. The design shall consider stormwater quality data within the BMP's collection area to assess the need and type of treatment and filtration controls. Local design manuals and ordinances requiring minimum separation distance to groundwater shall also be met as part of the design.

HYDRO-3: Prior to the installation of an infiltration BMP, the Permittee shall conduct a regulatory database review for contaminated groundwater sites within a quarter mile of the proposed infiltration facility. The review shall include locations of on-site wastewater treatment systems that could be affected by the BMP. The Permittee shall identify whether any contaminated groundwater plumes or leach fields are present within close proximity to the BMP location that could be affected by infiltrated water and whether coordination with the local and state environmental protection overseeing agency and responsible party is warranted prior to final design of infiltration facility.

Noise

NOISE-1: The implementing agencies shall implement the following measures during construction as needed:

- Include design measures necessary to reduce the construction noise levels to where feasible. These measures may include noise barriers, curtains, or shields.
- Place noise-generating construction activities (e.g., operation of compressors and generators, cement mixing, general truck idling) as far as possible from the nearest noise-sensitive land uses.
- Locate stationary construction noise sources as far from adjacent noise-sensitive receptors as possible.
- If construction is to occur near a school, the construction contractor shall coordinate the with school administration in order to limit disturbance to the campus. Efforts to limit construction activities to non-school days shall be encouraged.
- For the centralized and regional BMP projects located adjacent to noise-sensitive land uses, identify a liaison for these off-site sensitive receptors, such as residents and property owners, to contact with concerns regarding construction noise and vibration. The liaison's telephone number(s) shall be prominently displayed at construction locations.

For the centralized and regional BMP projects located adjacent to noise-sensitive land uses, notify in writing all landowners and occupants of properties adjacent to the construction area of the anticipated construction schedule at least 2 weeks prior to groundbreaking.

NOISE-2: All structural BMPs that employ mechanized stationary equipment that generate noise levels shall comply with the applicable noise standards established by the implementing agency with jurisdiction over the structural BMP site. The equipment shall be designed with noise-attenuating features (e.g., enclosures) and/or located at areas (e.g., belowground) where nearby noise-sensitive land uses would not be exposed to a perceptible noise increase in their noise environment.

Public Services and Recreation

PS-1: The Permittee implementing the EWMP project shall provide reasonable advance notification to service providers such as fire, police, and emergency medical services as well as to local businesses, homeowners, and other residents adjacent to and within areas potentially affected by the proposed EWMP project about the nature, extent, and

duration of construction activities. Interim updates should be provided to inform them of the status of the construction activities.

Transportation and Circulation

TRAF-1: For projects that may affect traffic, implementing agencies shall require that contractors prepare a construction traffic control plan. Elements of the plan should include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Develop circulation and detour plans to minimize impacts to local street circulation. Use haul routes minimizing truck traffic on local roadways to the extent possible.
- To the extent feasible, and as needed to avoid adverse impacts on traffic flow, schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.
- Install traffic control devices as specified in the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones where needed to maintain safe driving conditions. Use flaggers and/or signage to safely direct traffic through construction work zones.
- Coordinate with facility owners or administrators of sensitive land uses such as police and fire stations, hospitals, and schools. Provide advance notification to the facility owner or operator of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities.

Utilities and Service Systems

UTIL-3: Implementing agencies shall encourage construction contractors to recycle construction materials and divert inert solids (asphalt, brick, concrete, dirt, fines, rock, sand, soil, and stone) from disposal in a landfill where feasible. Implementing agencies shall incentivize construction contractors with waste minimization goals in bid specifications where feasible.

As part of the design process and to support preparation of this Addendum, several of the PEIR mitigation measures have already been complied with, as shown in Table 1-1, and described in Section 3 of this Addendum.

Table 1-1. Mitigation Measure Status

Mitigation Measure	Status
BIO-5	To be implemented during construction.
CUL-2	Complete – See Section 3, Part V.
CUL-4	To be implemented during construction.
CUL-5	Complete – See Section 3, Part VII.
CUL-6	To be implemented during construction.
CUL-7	To be implemented during construction.
GEO-1	Complete – See Section 3, Part VII.
GEO-2	To be implemented prior to and during construction.
HAZ-1	To be implemented during operations.
HYDRO-1	Completed – See Section 3, Part VII.
HYDRO-2	Completed – See Section 3, Part X.

Table 1-1. Mitigation Measure Status	
Mitigation Measure	**Status**
HYDRO-3	Completed – See Section 3, Part X.
NOISE-1	To be implemented during construction.
NOISE-2	To be implemented during construction.
PS-1	To be implemented during construction.
TRAF-1	To be implemented prior to and during construction.
UTIL-3	To be implemented prior to and during construction.

2. Project Description

2.1 Project Location and Setting

Los Angeles County Public Works proposes to construct the stormwater capture elements (proposed Project) of the proposed Walnut Park Pocket Park Project. The Walnut Pocket Park Project is located at 2614 Hope Street (APN: 6201-028-900) within unincorporated Walnut Park, with Pacific Boulevard to the west, Grand Avenue to the south, and Seville Avenue to the east (see Figure 2-1). The Walnut Park Pocket Park Project would create a half-acre park on undeveloped land owned by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The Project area is surrounded by commercial buildings and single-family residential homes. The building immediately adjacent to the west of the Project site consists of a small grocery store, dry cleaner, locksmith, and other small businesses.

The proposed Project is located within the densely urbanized Los Angeles River Watershed of the First Supervisorial District. The proposed Project includes a diversion system and infiltration drywells to divert and capture both dry-weather and wet-weather runoff. The proposed Project will reduce bacteria and metal pollutants from entering the Los Angeles River, through the capture of stormwater and urban runoff from a 31-acre drainage area. The runoff will be pre-treated before being infiltrated through a series of infiltration drywells with total storage capacity of 1.4 acre-feet. In addition, the site is located above an unconfined aquifer and has the potential to provide stormwater recharge in the Central Groundwater Basin. The proposed Project will divert, treat, and infiltrate approximately 14 acre-feet of stormwater in an average rainfall year from the 31-acre drainage area. All of the Project's drainage area is within Unincorporated Los Angeles County (see Figure 2-2).

2.2 Background

A significant number of waterbodies in Los Angeles County have been identified as impaired for water quality and are listed in Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Consequently, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) developed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards for a number of pollutants originating from urban and stormwater runoff in the watersheds throughout Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles River is a waterbody that contains TMDLs and would benefit from the proposed project.

On November 8, 2012, the Regional Board adopted the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit for the County to regulate stormwater discharges and achieve water quality objectives. It provides permittees an innovative approach to TMDL compliance through the development of Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) plans. Subsequently, the County joined the ULAR Group in the development of an EWMP.

The Los Angeles River Watershed is subject to a metals TMDL that requires compliance by 2028 and a bacteria TMDL that requires compliance by 2037. The EWMP identified a suite of institutional and structural control measures, including multi-benefit regional projects to address compliance toward TMDLs. This project was identified as a multi-benefit project site in accordance with updates to the ULAR EWMP.

Figure 2-1. Project Location Map

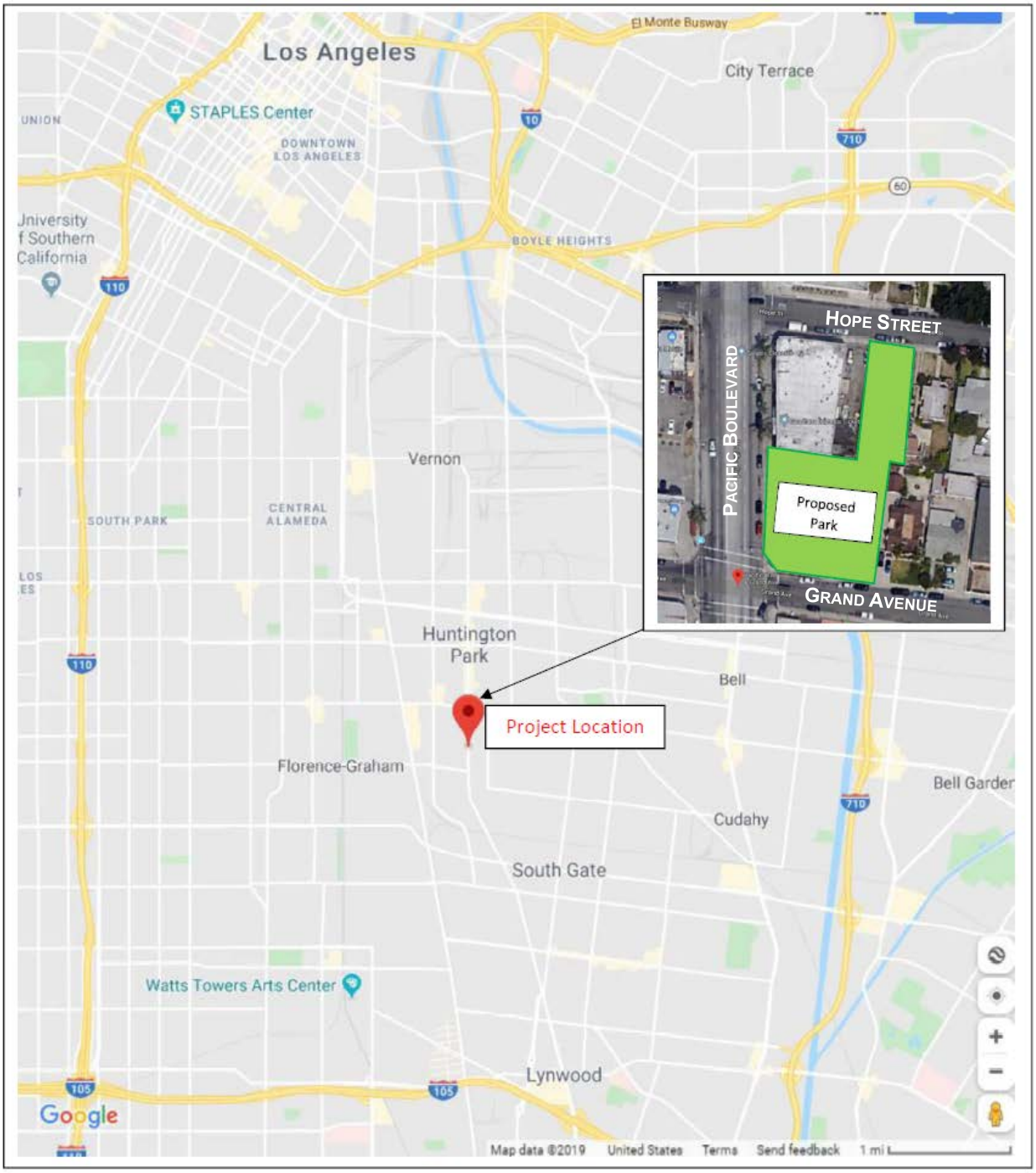
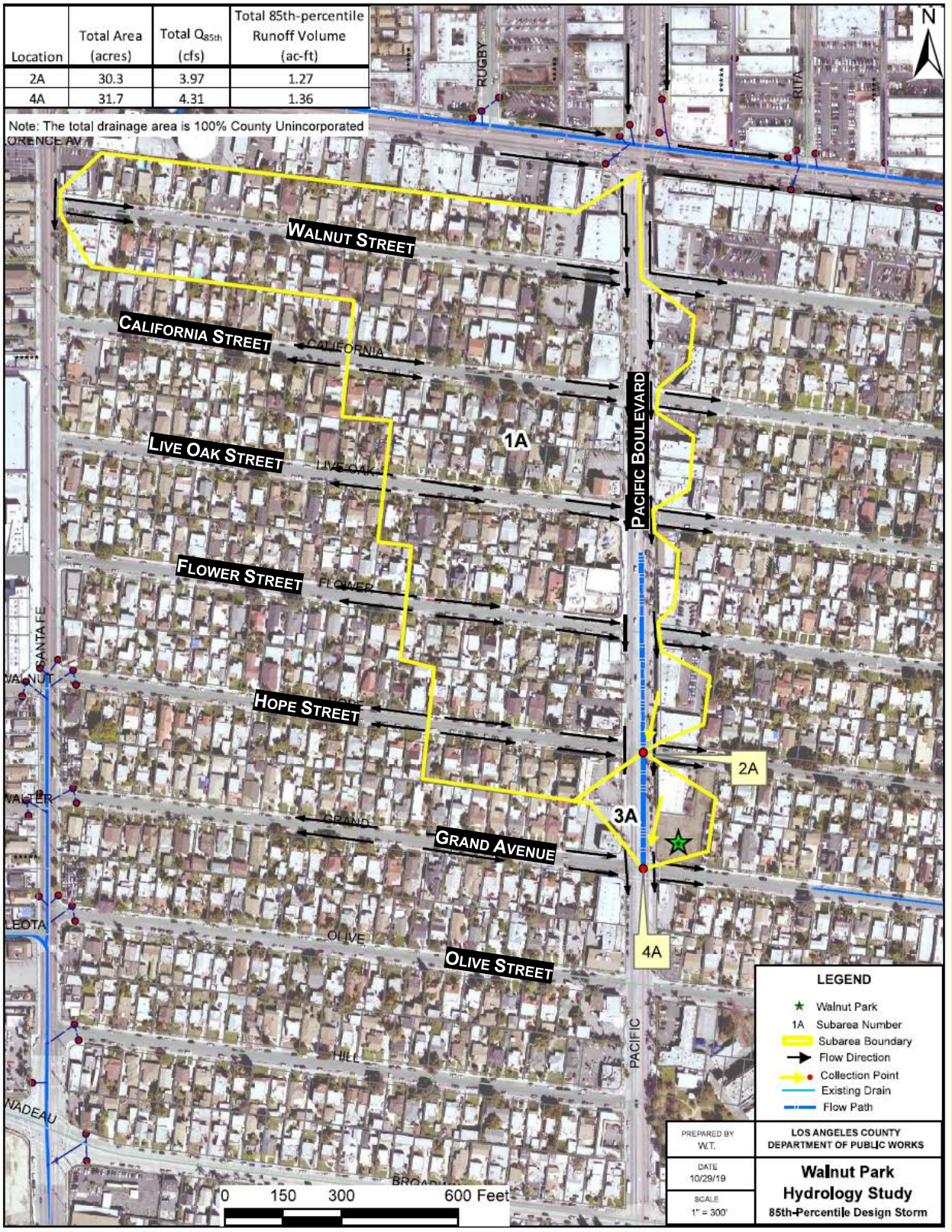


Figure 2-2. Walnut Park Pocket Park Tributary Area



2.3 Project Objectives

The primary goals and objectives identified in the 2015 PEIR include the following (Public Works, 2015):

- To collaborate among agencies (Permittee jurisdictions) across the watershed to promote more cost-effective and multi-beneficial water quality improvement projects to comply with the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Permit.
- To develop watershed-wide EWMPs that will, once implemented, remove, or reduce pollutants from dry- and wet-weather urban runoff in a cost-effective manner.
- To reduce the impact of stormwater and non-stormwater on receiving water quality.

In accordance with these goals and objectives, the proposed Project, which would construct an underground storage gallery, would accomplish the following objectives:

- Improve water quality in the Los Angeles River.
- Assist Los Angeles County in addressing its stormwater permit requirements.
- Achieve water quality objectives for the Project drainage area.
- Enhance recreational opportunities that would increase public awareness of water quality and water conservation issues.

The primary objective of the proposed Project is to meet the runoff and water quality goals of the EWMP. The proposed Project would reduce bacteria and metal pollutants from entering the Los Angeles River, through the capture of stormwater and urban runoff from a 31-acre drainage area. The runoff will be pre-treated before being infiltrated through a series of infiltration drywells with total storage capacity of 1.4 acre-feet. In addition, the site is located above an unconfined aquifer and has the potential to provide stormwater recharge in the Central Groundwater Basin. The proposed Project will divert, treat, and infiltrate approximately 14 acre-feet of stormwater in an average rainfall year from the 31-acre drainage area.

The Walnut Park Pocket Park Project would include play equipment, exercise stations, a splash pad, a picnic area, decomposed granite walking paths, and an open turf field. Furthermore, through the installation of interpretive signage throughout the park, the Walnut Park Pocket Park Project would provide education on sustainable development and increase public awareness of water quality and conservation efforts.

2.4 Project Details

2.4.1 Construction

The proposed stormwater features of the proposed Project entails construction of a system that would capture, treat, and infiltrate surface flows from dry-weather and wet-weather runoff and includes the construction of the following:

1. Construction of ten drywells at 36" in diameter and 75 feet in depth. Approximately 3 feet of over-excavation may be required for a total maximum excavation depth of 78 feet. The drywells would be designed to capture and infiltrate the 85th

percentile 24-hour storm volume of 1.4 acre-feet and associated flow rate of 4.3 cubic feet per second (cfs). They would be located in the proposed open field space off of Hope Street.

2. Construction of two catch basins on the west and east side of Pacific Boulevard near the intersection of Hope Street, and a 24-inch pipe to divert dry-weather and wet-weather runoff flows for infiltration. Flows exceeding 4.3 cfs would bypass the catch basins and continue downstream as surface runoff. In addition, each catch basin would be retrofitted with a connector pipe screen and an automatic retractable screen to prevent trash from entering the diversion system.

3. Construction of a stormwater pretreatment system on Hope Street. The diverted urban runoff and stormwater flows from the newly constructed catch basins will undergo physical treatment by means of a hydrodynamic separator or baffle box, which will remove trash, sediment, oil and other pollutants. The pretreatment unit will have a utility lid (minimum 36") that will be accessible from Hope Street for maintenance. After undergoing pretreatment, flows will then be diverted into the newly constructed drywells.

New recreational amenities would be included in the park, including play equipment, exercise stations, a splash pad, a picnic area, decomposed granite walking paths, and an open turf field.

Construction Schedule

Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to occur over approximately six months, beginning in August 2022 and concluding in January 2023. Construction would occur Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (one shift per day). No construction is expected on weekends or holidays. Daytime lighting would be required during construction. This construction schedule may differ from the selected contractor's schedule depending on the contractor's equipment and personnel resources. The construction contractor would be responsible for coordinating with LACPW and provide continuous security for the Project site during construction.

Access, Parking, and Staging Areas

Access to the Project site and staging areas would occur at Hope Street and Grand Avenue. During construction of components within the interior of the Park, parking for construction personnel would occur on the streets surrounding the project site, most likely along Hope Street, Grand Avenue, and Pacific Boulevard. Staging areas would be located anywhere within the park project boundary. This proposed Project area would be fenced off and utilized Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Traffic control plans would be prepared during the final design phase. LACPW plans to hold community meetings to discuss the impacts of lane closures and potential traffic detours with the nearby residents and businesses.

Workforce, Equipment, and Materials

A detailed list of equipment and personnel required to construct the proposed Project, as well as the truck trips required for the materials that would be imported and exported from

the site, are provided in Appendix B. The anticipated *peak* workforce would be approximately 10-12 personnel, including construction workers, management, and monitoring staff.

Standard erosion control BMPs (e.g., silt fence, straw waddles) would be applied during construction as required by the existing 2012 MS4 Permit. Additionally, a Spill Prevention Countermeasure and Control Plan, which is a standard BMP, would be included in the construction contract as a special provision. Water used for dust control would be provided from an on-site or adjacent source.

2.4.2 Operations and Maintenance

LACPW would develop an operations and maintenance (O&M) plan to ensure the proposed Project performs as designed and attains its projected lifespan. Typical O&M activities would involve six existing County staff members mobilizing to the project location. Typical equipment to be used during O&M activities would involve vacuum trucks, pickup trucks, manhole lifts, and traffic control devices. Maintenance activities for the stormwater pre-treatment unit and catch basins is expected to take place once per month on average, while maintenance activities for the infiltration drywells and connector system is expected once every 3 months on average. The splash pad plaza would require seasonal maintenance and monitoring of water levels and pH. The fitness and playground equipment, lighting, and shade structures would be inspected annually. Permeable paving would require annual washing and vacuuming.

2.5 Anticipated Permits and Other Approvals

The infiltration wells need to be registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The infiltration wells may also require a permit from the LARWQCB, which can prescribe requirements for discharges into California waters, including groundwater. The infiltration wells would be subject to the LARWQCB's water quality control plans and must take into consideration the beneficial uses of the affected water.

The proposed water supply system is considered an alternate non-potable water supply source. Distribution of rainfall or non-potable runoff needs to be evaluated and approved by the State Department of Public Health and the LARWQCB.

In addition, since the infiltration wells may affect the water supply aquifer, it is important to inform and collaborate with the local groundwater manager, the Upper Los Angeles River Area Water Master, as well as local water producers such as the Walnut Park Mutual Water Company.

The Project area is less than one acre; therefore, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is not required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Project. Additionally, the proposed Project is not expected to require any permits from the Army Corps of Engineers or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

3. Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

The following evaluation assesses the project-specific impacts of the proposed Project in light of the analysis completed in the 2015 PEIR. Determinations are made as to whether the proposed Project would result in new significant effects or substantially more severe effects, which would trigger the need for a Subsequent or Supplemental EIR.

3.1 Aesthetics

1. AESTHETICS			
Would the project:		Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a.	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☒
b.	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	☐	☒
c.	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points). 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 daytime or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☒

3.1.1 Discussion:

3.1.1.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project would be located on an undeveloped parcel surrounded by commercial buildings to west and single-family residential homes to the north, east, and south.

3.1.1.2 Regulatory Setting

State Scenic Highway Program. In 1963, the California legislature created the Scenic Highway Program to protect scenic highway corridors from changes that would diminish the aesthetic value of lands adjacent to the highways. The state regulations and guidelines governing the Scenic Highway Program are found in the Streets and Highways Code, Section 260 et seq. A highway is designated under this program when a local jurisdiction adopts a scenic corridor protection program, applies to Caltrans for scenic highway approval, and receives notification from Caltrans that the highway has been designated as a Scenic Highway. When a city or county nominates an eligible scenic highway for official designation, it defines the scenic corridor, which is land generally adjacent to and visible to a motorist on the highway.

3.1.1.3 Impacts Analysis

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

The proposed Project would be located in a highly urbanized area that is not in the vicinity of undeveloped hillsides, ridgelines, or other scenic vistas. The Project site is vacant and undeveloped with housing directly adjacent to the east and a commercial building adjacent to the northwest corner. Construction of the proposed Project would require temporary ground disturbance within the site and on the surrounding sidewalks and streets. As described in the PEIR, the presence of construction equipment and materials during construction would be visible from public vantage points but would not affect any scenic views or vistas, given the urban setting of the proposed Project (LACPW, 2015). Visual impacts to this area would be short-term. Further, the proposed Project would incorporate permanent recreational amenities and aesthetic enhancements to the site, including play equipment, exercise stations, a splash pad, a picnic area, decomposed granite waking paths, and an open turf field. Given the temporary nature of construction impacts and the long-term aesthetic improvements to the Project site, impacts from the proposed Project would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that effects on scenic vistas from individual projects could be potentially significant if inappropriately designed or located, but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant without mitigation; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The Project site is not located in the vicinity of any designated or eligible scenic highways or historic parkways (LACPW, 2015). No impacts to scenic highways would occur from the proposed Project.

The PEIR concluded that effects on designated or eligible scenic highways or historic parkways from individual projects could be potentially significant if inappropriately designed or located, but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project would have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

The proposed Project would be located within a vacant and undeveloped lot in an urban setting. The construction of the proposed pocket park would align with the Walnut Park Neighborhood Plan's objectives and policies of enhancing public landscaping, constructing pedestrian improvements along Pacific Boulevard, and

promoting buffer uses between residential and commercial areas (County of Los Angeles, 1987). The proposed Project would improve the scenic quality of the area by adding native vegetation and landscaping to a currently vacant lot.

Construction activities, such as the installation of drywells, catch basins, and stormwater pretreatment system would temporarily affect the visual character of the Project area. However, upon completion of the underground stormwater capture system, installation of recreational amenities would provide aesthetic improvements at the Project site. Furthermore, the visual impacts from Project construction would be short-term, and the Project would provide long-term improvements to the visual character of the site; therefore, impacts from the proposed Project would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that effects on visual character from individual projects could be potentially significant if inappropriately designed, located, or maintained, but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation measures. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?

Construction of the proposed Project would occur during the daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Temporary lighting may be required during construction for installation of the underground stormwater capture components, and permanent nighttime lighting (combination of solar and utility-connected) would be installed to support nighttime recreational activities and to provide security. Proposed lighting fixtures for Walnut Park Pocket Park include approximately 10 pole-mounted fixtures. Nighttime glare would be reduced, as the lighting would have low cut off angles and would be angled downwards. No direct beams of light would be exposed to nearby residents of the general public. As such, the proposed Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare that could adversely affect residents or other sensitive receptors, and the Project would result in a less-than-significant impact.

The PEIR concluded that light and glare effects from individual projects would be less than significant. The proposed Project would have a less-than-significant impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the State's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. **Would the project:**	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
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)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☒
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☒
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment that, 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?	☐	☒

3.2.1 Discussion:

3.2.1.1 Environmental Setting

The California Department of Conservation (DOC) established a soil classification system that combines technical soil ratings and current land use to identify categories of Important Farmland. Currently, 98 percent of the State's private lands have been surveyed by the DOC to determine the status of agricultural resources (DOC, 2021a). The DOC also regulates the Land Conservation Act, which enables local governments (counties and cities) to enter into contracts (e.g. Williamson Act contracts) with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments that are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value (DOC, 2021b). As discussed under (a) and (b) below, no Important Farmland or Williamson Act contracts are located in the vicinity of the Project site or proposed staging areas.

3.2.1.2 Regulatory Setting

California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). The California Department of Conservation established the FMMP to monitor the conversion of the State's farmland to and from agricultural use and reports on the amount of land converted from agricultural to non-agricultural use. The FMMP maintains an inventory of state agricultural land and updates its Important Farmland Series Maps every 2 years. Important farmlands are divided into the following five categories on FMMP maps based on their suitability for agriculture:

- **Prime Farmland.** Prime Farmland is land with the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics able to sustain long-term production of agricultural crops. This land has produced irrigated crops at some time within the four years prior to the mapping date.
- **Farmland of Statewide Importance.** Farmland of Statewide Importance is land that meets the criteria for Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings such as greater slopes or lesser soil moisture capacity.
- **Unique Farmland.** Unique Farmland has even lesser quality soils and produces the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but also includes non-irrigated orchards and vineyards.
- **Farmland of Local Importance.** Farmland of Local Importance is land that is important to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.
- **Grazing Land.** Grazing Land is land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock.

3.2.1.3 Impacts Analysis

The PEIR included an assessment of agriculture and forestry impacts under its impact assessment of land use and agriculture in Section 3.9. Therefore, this assessment evaluates agriculture and forestry impacts using the latest CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist, which analyzes impacts to agriculture and forestry resources under one category and impacts to land use separately.

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

According to the DOC Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), the Project site and surrounding area is designated as Urban and Built-Up Land, which is land not included in any of the Farmland mapping categories (DOC, 2018). The Project site and proposed staging areas are not located within the vicinity of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. No designated Farmland would be converted by the proposed Project, and no impact would occur.

Section 3.9 (Impact 3.9-4) of the PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not convert any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance

to non-agricultural uses because the BMPs would be located primarily in high-density urban, commercial, industrial, and transportation areas. The proposed Project would also have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

Per the DOC Williamson Act Program, the Project site and proposed staging areas are not located on land enrolled in a Williamson Act contract (DOC, 2021b). Further, the Project site includes land that is zoned C-3 (General Commercial); no agricultural zoning would be affected by the proposed Project components (DRP, 2021). Neither Project construction nor operation would conflict with a Williamson Act contract or with zoning for agricultural use, and no impact would occur.

Section 3.9 (Impact 3.9-5) of the PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not conflict with existing land zoned for agricultural use as the structural BMPs would be constructed on urbanized land, primarily streets, sidewalks, and in parks or other city-owned lands. The proposed Project would also have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production?

The proposed Project would construct underground infiltration drywells in the northern section of the Project site, catch basins on the west and east side of Pacific Boulevard near the intersection of Hope Street, a diversion structure, and a pretreatment system on Hope Street adjacent north of the Project site. The Project site and proposed staging areas are not located on land that is zoned for forest land or timberland, and neither construction nor operation of the proposed Project would conflict with existing zoning at the site; no impact would occur.

Section 3.9 (Impact 3.9-6) of the PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not conflict with existing land zoned for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production as there is no land within the EWMP groups zoned as forest land or timberland. The structural BMPs would be constructed on urbanized land, primarily streets, sidewalks, and in parks or other city-owned lands. The proposed Project would also have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

As described in Section 3.2(c) above, the Project site and proposed staging areas are not located on forest land. None of the proposed Project components would contribute to the loss of forest land, nor would Project activities convert forest land to non-forest use; no impact would occur.

Section 3.9 (Impact 3.9-6) of the PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest land agricultural use as there is no land within the EWMP groups zoned as forest land or timberland. The structural BMPs would be constructed on urbanized land, primarily streets, sidewalks, and in parks or other city-owned lands. The proposed Project would also have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

e. Involve other changes in the existing environment that, 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?

As described in Sections II(a) and (c) above, the Project site and proposed staging areas would not convert any agricultural land to non-agricultural use, nor convert any forest land to non-forest use; no impact would occur.

Section 3.9 (Impact 3.9-6) of the PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not convert any farmland to non-agricultural uses because the BMPs would be located primarily in high-density urban, commercial, industrial, and transportation areas. The proposed Project would also have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.3 Air Quality

3. 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:**	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☒
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard?	☐	☒
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☒

3.3.1 Discussion:

3.3.1.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project site is in Walnut Park, an unincorporated community in Los Angeles County, within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Emissions from the construction and operation of the proposed Project would affect air quality in the immediate Project area and the surrounding region.

The Project area has a climate that is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool winters with a moderate amount of seasonal precipitation that occurs primarily during the winter months. The average summer (June to September) high and low temperatures in the Walnut Park area range from 85ºF to 61ºF. Average winter (December to March) high and low temperatures range from 72ºF to 48ºF. The average annual precipitation is approximately 13.7 inches with nearly 80 percent of the precipitation occurring between December and March (AreaVibes, 2021).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the local air districts classify an area as attainment, unclassified, or nonattainment depending on whether the monitored ambient air quality data shows compliance, insufficient data available, or non-compliance with the National and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS and CAAQS). The SCAB is currently designated as nonattainment of the State and federal ozone (O3) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) standards, the federal standard for Lead, and the State respirable particulate matter (PM10) standard. The SCAB is designated as attainment or unclassified for all other State and federal standards (USEPA, 2021; CARB, 2021).

3.3.1.2 Regulatory Setting

Air quality is regulated through regulations at the federal (USEPA), State (CARB), and local level (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD is primarily responsible for planning, implementing, and enforcing federal and State ambient air quality standards within this portion of the SCAB. As part of its planning responsibilities, SCAQMD prepares Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs) and Attainment Plans as necessary based on the attainment status of the air basins within its jurisdiction. The SCAQMD is also responsible for permitting and controlling stationary source criteria and air toxic pollutants as delegated by the USEPA. The Project, as primarily a construction project with no regulated stationary emission sources, is not directly subject to many regulations, but the CARB and SCAQMD rules that would apply to the proposed Project are:

CARB Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) Regulation (CARB, 2018)

- This regulation applies to any portable stationary equipment, such as generators, that may be used during construction. The PERP establishes a uniform program to regulate portable engines and portable engine-driven equipment units. Once registered in the PERP, engines and equipment units may operate throughout California without the need to obtain individual permits from local air districts, as long as the equipment is located at a single location for no more than 12 months.

SCAQMD Rules and Regulations (SCAQMD, 2021a)

- **Regulation 2 – Permits.** This regulation would apply to any portable stationary equipment not permitted under the PERP program and would require obtaining permits to construct and operate.
- **Rule 401 – Visible Emissions.** This rule prohibits discharge of air contaminants or other materials that are as dark or darker in shade as designated No. 1 on the

Ringelmann Chart, or at an equivalent opacity, for a period or periods greater than three minutes in one hour.

- **Rule 402 – Nuisance.** This rule prohibits discharge of air contaminants or other material that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public; or that endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such persons or the public; or that cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property.
- **Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust.** The purpose of this rule is to control the amount of particulate matter entrained in the atmosphere from man-made sources of fugitive dust. The rule prohibits emissions of fugitive dust from any active operation, open storage pile, or disturbed surface area to be visible beyond the emission source's property line. During Project construction, best available control measures identified in the rule (Table 1 of this rule) would be required to minimize fugitive dust emissions from proposed earth moving activities.

3.3.1.3 Impacts Analysis

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

SCAQMD and Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) have developed AQMPs to meet the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act. These plan address measures needed to gain attainment of federal ambient air quality standards. SCAQMD also completes other air quality plans to address the non-attainment of state ambient air quality standards. The latest approved AQMP is the 2016 AQMP (SCAQMD, 2021b).

There are no applicable emissions reduction measures in these plans, that are not already part of approved regulations. The project does not include stationary sources, so the regulations that affect the project's emissions sources are the state regulations that control off-road equipment and on-road vehicle fleets. The proposed Project would comply with all applicable SCAQMD rules and regulations and would be required to comply with applicable state off-road and on-road fleet regulations. Additionally, the proposed Project would not cause new growth; and would normally have very limited ongoing operations and maintenance activities. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct the applicable air quality plans.

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs are not land use projects and their implementation would not induce any additional growth within the EWMP areas in the County. As such, the proposed program would not conflict with, or obstruct, implementation of the AQMP and impacts would be less than significant. The proposed Project's impacts have been determined to be less than significant; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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?

Pollutant emission calculations related to the proposed Project construction activities includes the emissions from on-road vehicles and off-road equipment utilized during construction, and fugitive particulate matter emissions resulting from earthmoving activities and vehicle travel. Operation emissions are limited to intermittent maintenance activities, which are new events for this new stormwater collection system. Maintenance on the stormwater pre-treatment unit and catch basins are expected to take place once per month on average and the maintenance on the infiltration drywells and connector system maintenance is expected once every 3 months on average. Therefore, there is a total of 16 one-day maintenance events each year. These maintenance events include 6 workers (each with daily commute trips), one pickup truck, and a vacuum truck. No off-road equipment is forecast to be used during these maintenance events.

The proposed Project's construction would be completed using one shift per day on weekdays over a 6-month period starting in August 2022. The LACPW provided an estimate of the construction off-road equipment types that would be used, the amount of materials that would be hauled to and from the site, and the estimated number of construction employees for each work task (See Appendix B). The construction tasks would be phased so that they would not overlap.

The SCAQMD regional emissions significance thresholds for construction and operation are as follows (SCAQMD, 2019):

- Nitrogen Oxides (NO_X) – 100 lbs/day (Construction), 55 lbs/day (Operation)
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) – 75 lbs/day (Construction), 55 lbs/day (Operation)
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) – 550 lbs/day (Construction and Operation)
- Particulate Matter (PM10) – 150 lbs/day (Construction and Operation)
- Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) – 55 lbs/day (Construction and Operation)
- Sulfur Oxides (SO_X) – 150 lbs/day (Construction and Operation)

Given the significant reductions in fleet average emissions factors for both off-road equipment and on-road vehicles that have occurred due to ongoing USEPA and CARB diesel and gasoline engine and fuel standard regulations, it takes an increasingly large amount of daily work, in terms of horsepower hours per day and/or vehicle miles traveled, to exceed these significance thresholds. Specifically, USEPA/CARB off-road equipment engine tier standards (Tier 1 through 4) have over time reduced NO_X and PM emissions from off-road diesel engines by up to 90 percent in comparison to pre-regulation engines (Tier 0), and USEPA/CARB on-road vehicle engine standards have substantially reduced NO_X and PM emissions from diesel on-road engines and NO_X, VOC, and CO emissions from gasoline on-road engines. Fleet average for off-road equipment is a mix of equipment from Tier 0 through Tier 4, with the fleet average emissions during Project construction corresponding to near Tier 3 levels. Additionally, diesel and gasoline fuel standards enacted over the past 25 years

have substantially reduced SO_X emissions from diesel engines, and VOC emissions from gasoline engines.

An emissions estimate of the worst-case daily construction activity using unmitigated fleet average emissions factors is provided in Table 3-1. The uncontrolled fugitive dust emissions calculations include basic dust control measures that would be required to comply with SCAQMD Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust.

Table 3-1. Maximum Daily Unmitigated Project Construction Emissions

	VOC	CO	NOx	SOx	PM10	PM2.5
On-Road Vehicle Emissions	0.20	2.35	1.49	0.01	2.53	0.68
Off-Road Equipment Emissions	1.57	36.02	15.82	0.05	0.24	0.22
Fugitive Dust Emissions	--	--	--	--	2.93	1.34
Total Maximum Daily Emissions (lbs/day)	1.77	38.37	17.30	0.06	5.71	2.24
SCAQMD Regional Significance Thresholds (lbs/day)	75	550	100	150	150	55
Exceeds Thresholds?	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*

Source: Appendix B; SCAQMD, 2019.

Assuming fleet average equipment and vehicles emissions factors and given the maximum daily work requirements necessary to complete this Project within six months, the daily construction emissions are determined to be well below the SCAQMD regional emissions thresholds and would cause less-than-significant impacts.

The PEIR concluded that under conditions where multiple structural BMPs are constructed concurrently within the EWMP areas, it is anticipated that the total aggregate construction daily emissions would exceed the SCAQMD's significance threshold for criteria pollutants, even with implementation of mitigation measures. As such, the program's impacts could be significant and unavoidable and cumulatively considerable, resulting in a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact. However, the proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

An emissions estimate of the worst-case daily operation activity using unmitigated fleet average emissions factors is provided in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2. Maximum Daily Unmitigated Project Operation Emissions

	VOC	CO	NOx	SOx	PM10	PM2.5
On-Road Vehicle Emissions	0.11	0.19	0.26	0.00	0.08	0.02
SCAQMD Regional Significance Thresholds (lbs/day)	75	550	100	150	150	55
Exceeds Thresholds?	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*

Source: Appendix B; SCAQMD, 2019.

Assuming fleet average vehicles emissions factors and given the maximum daily work requirements the daily operation emissions are determined to be well below the SCAQMD regional emissions thresholds and would cause less-than-significant impacts.

The PEIR concluded that implementation of the proposed program would not result in substantial long-term regional emissions of criteria air pollutants. The proposed structural BMPs are not land use projects and, therefore, would not generate daily vehicle-exhaust emissions by the motor vehicles traveling to and from the individual project areas; and inspection and maintenance activities would occur only periodically throughout the year and would result in minimal emissions. Individual structural BMPs were determined to have less than significant operation regional emissions impacts without the need for mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were also determined to be less than significant; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

There are two specific impact issues that have been analyzed with respect to the proposed Project's potential to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, as follows:

- Localized short-term criteria pollutant concentration impacts; and
- Health-risk impacts from toxic air contaminant (TAC) emissions.

Localized Criteria Pollutant Impact Analysis

SCAQMD Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs) are used to determine if a project could exceed ambient air quality thresholds for nearby sensitive receptors. Unlike comparison with the SCAQMD regional emissions thresholds (Section 3.3(c)), the emissions that are compared to the LSTs are only the on-site emissions, that do not include off-site vehicle trip emissions. The LSTs were established by SCAQMD for each source receptor area (SRA) within their jurisdiction and represent on-site emission levels that could cause ambient air quality standard exceedances or substantial contributions to existing exceedances at given distances from the site to nearby receptor locations. SCAQMD identifies the Walnut Park area of Los Angeles County as being within SRA 12 (South Central Los Angeles County), and the nearest sensitive receptors are the adjacent residences located within 25 meters of the border of the Project site work areas. The nearest school is Walnut Park Elementary located approximately 100 meters south of the Project site.

The SCAQMD LST emissions thresholds that are applicable within SRA 12 for a one-acre construction project with a receptor distance of 25 meters are as follows (SCAQMD, 2009):

- NOx – 46 lbs/day (Construction and Operation)
- CO – 231 lbs/day (Construction and Operation)

- PM10 – 4 lbs/day (Construction), 1 lb/day (Operation)
- PM2.5 – 3 lbs/day (Construction), 1 lb/day (Operation)

Table 3-3 compares the maximum daily unmitigated construction emissions of the proposed Project with the SCAQMD's most conservative applicable LSTs.

Table 3-3. Maximum Unmitigated Localized Daily Construction Emissions

	CO	NOx	PM10	PM2.5
Maximum On-site Unmitigated Construction Emissions (lbs/day)	36.02	15.82	2.97	1.54
SCAQMD Localized Significance Thresholds (lbs/day)	231	46	4	3
Exceeds Thresholds?	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*

Source: Appendix B; SCAQMD, 2009

The proposed Project's maximum unmitigated worst-case daily on-site construction emissions have been estimated to be well below the SCAQMD LSTs. Therefore, proposed Project construction is determined to have less-than-significant localized impacts.

The PEIR concluded that the construction emissions generated by a new structural BMP project could potentially cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or state ambient air quality standards at the existing sensitive uses located in the vicinity of that project. For individual structural BMP projects that fit this scenario, mitigation would be applied to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. However, the proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant without mitigation; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

Table 3-4 compares the maximum daily unmitigated operation emissions of the proposed Project with the SCAQMD's most conservative applicable LSTs.

Table 3-4. Maximum Unmitigated Daily Operation Emissions

	CO	NOx	PM10	PM2.5
Maximum On-site Unmitigated Construction Emissions (lbs/day)	0.19	0.26	0.08	0.02
SCAQMD Localized Significance Thresholds (lbs/day)	231	46	1	1
Exceeds Thresholds?	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*

Source: Appendix B; SCAQMD, 2009

Project operations would have minimal daily emissions that would not have the potential to exceed LST thresholds. Therefore, proposed Project operation is determined to have less-than-significant localized impacts.

The PEIR concluded because trip-generating land uses are not associated with the proposed program and the amount of maintenance visits to the structural BMP sites would be minimal, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is

required. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant without mitigation; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

Toxic Air Contaminants (TAC) Health Risk Analysis

TAC emissions, primarily in the form of diesel particulate matter, would occur during the short-term construction period, and then intermittently during the limited operations maintenance activities required for the proposed Project. However, the amount of TAC emissions that would be emitted from the proposed Project's activities is minimal. However, due to the proximity of receptors a screening level health risk assessment (HRA) was performed. The on-site DPM emissions would increase during construction and operation. The construction DPM emissions are small and would occur over a short period (approximately six months); however, to be conservative these emissions were added to the increase in operation DPM emissions for the HRA, where 10 percent of the DPM emissions estimated from operation are conservatively assumed to be onsite and are included in the HRA. The construction emissions were amortized into the 30-year annual emissions assessed in the HRA. An initial screening level approach from SCAQMD risk assessment guidance (SCAQMD, 2017) was completed by determining a conservative worst-case concentration based on the annualized on-site DPM emissions increase of 0.915 pounds per year over 30 years, and a distance to sensitive residential receptor of 25 meters. The details of this screening level HRA are provided in Appendix B. The results of the HRA determined a worst-case cancer risk of 3.4 in a million, which is below the SCAQMD significance threshold of 10 in a million (SCAQMD, 2019). The worst-case chronic hazard index risk was determined to be 0.0008, which is well below the SCAQMD significance criteria of a hazard index risk of 1. DPM emissions do not have acute health risk reference exposure levels, so acute impacts are not evaluated. All risks have been determined to be below SCAQMD significance thresholds; therefore, it is concluded that the Project's TAC emissions would cause less-than-significant health risk impacts.

The PEIR concluded that since off-road heavy-duty diesel equipment would only be used temporarily during construction at each structural BMP site, construction would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial emissions of TACs and impacts would be less than significant. For operations, the PEIR concluded that health risks from TAC emissions would not occur. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

Some objectionable odors may be temporarily created during construction-related activities, such as from diesel exhaust and pavement repair activities. These odors would not affect a substantial number of people and would only occur in localized areas. Objectionable odors are not expected to occur from the proposed underground and contained Project operating facilities, including the pre-treatment system or during

maintenance events. Therefore, impacts related to objectionable odors during construction would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that odors from construction equipment would be a temporary source of nuisance to adjacent uses, but because they are temporary and intermittent in nature, would not be considered a significant environmental impact. BMPs that include retaining intermittent stormwater or dry weather flows on site may result in organic odors as water levels fluctuate and decomposition occurs, and if these facilities are near residential areas the odors could result in a severe nuisance. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.4 Biological Resources

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES **Would the project:**		Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
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 U.S. 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 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?	☐	☒

3.4.1 Discussion:

This section presents a project-specific description of plant and wildlife communities and special-status species, followed by an assessment of potential impacts to these resources from implementation of the proposed Project. Where applicable, PMMs that are designed to offset potential impacts to these resources have been identified from the PEIR. Readily available data sources from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and other available information were used in preparing this section.

3.4.1.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project is located on vacant land surrounded by residential buildings in Walnut Park, located approximately 5 miles south of Los Angeles. The area is surrounded by densely urbanized communities of Huntington Park, Florence-Graham and South Gate, as shown in Figure 2-1.

The proposed Project site location consists of 0.5 acre in the northeastern corner of Pacific Blvd. and Grand Ave. The topography of the area is relatively flat, sloping generally to the south east. The area is isolated from open space areas by urban development in all directions. Areas to the east, south, and west of the proposed Project site consist primarily of residential development.

Common Wildlife

Ornamental vegetation typically supports a limited number of resident and migratory wildlife species that have adapted to urban areas, as well as introduced non-native species. Wildlife identified near the Project site utilizing iNaturalist included a limited number of reptile, bird, and small mammal species.

Amphibians. No amphibians have been observed in the general vicinity.

Reptiles. Reptile species known from the general area include gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), southern alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarnata*), and side-blotched lizard (*Uta sansburiana*).

Birds. Birds commonly observed in the general vicinity include native species such as common raven (*Corvus corvax*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), California scrub jay (*Aphelocoma Zenaida macroura*). Non-native species include Eurasian collared-dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), and European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Mammals. The Project site is surrounded by development to the east, west, and south. The lack of connectivity to open space makes the potential for large mammals unlikely. Generally, the distribution of mammals within any given area is associated with the presence of such factors as access to perennial water, topographical and structural components (i.e., rock piles, vegetation, and stream terraces) that provide for cover and support prey base, and the presence of suitable soils for fossorial mammals.

Mammals known from the general area include fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), raccon (*Pryocyon lotor*), and Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*). These mammal species are commonly found in developed areas.

Endangered, Threatened, or Rare Species

Special-status taxa include plant and wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal or California Endangered Species Acts, taxa proposed for listing, Species of Special Concern, plants considered by the CNPS to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California and beyond, and other taxa that have been identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and CDFW as unique or rare and which have the potential to occur within the Project area.

Special-Status Plant Species. The proposed Project site was previously developed, though buildings were demolished and the site has remained as a vacant open lot. It is highly unlikely that special-status plant species could have persisted in such a heavily maintained condition.

Table 3-3 lists special-status plants, including federally and State listed and California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1 through 4 species that may occur or occurred historically in the Project vicinity. A record search using the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and the CNPS Online Inventory (CNPS, 2021) was performed for special-status plant taxa that are known to occur within or near the proposed Project area. The record search identified a total of eight special-status taxa that have been documented within the general region of the Project area. Each taxon was assessed for its potential to occur within the Project area based on the following criteria:

- **Present.** Taxa were observed within the Project area during the most recent survey or population has been acknowledged by CDFW, USFWS, or local experts.
- **High.** Both a documented recent record (within 10 years) exists of the taxa within the Project area or immediate vicinity (approximately 5 miles) and the environmental conditions (including soil type) associated with the taxa occur within the Project area.
- **Moderate.** Both a documented recent record (within 10 years) exists of the taxa within the Project area or the immediate vicinity (approximately 5 miles) and the environmental conditions associated with the taxa are marginal and/or limited within the Project area or the Project area is located within the known current distribution of the taxa and the environmental conditions (including soil type) associated with taxa presence occur within the Project area.
- **Low.** A historical record (over 10 years) exists of the taxa within the proposed Project area or general vicinity (approximately 10 miles) and the environmental conditions (including soil type) associated with taxa presence are marginal and/or limited within the Project area.
- **Not expected.** No habitat for the taxa occurs on site.

Based on an assessment of current habitat conditions and the results of the survey in the Project area, it was determined that the none of the four taxa listed in Table 3-5 have potential to occur.

Table 3-5. Known and Potential Occurrence of Special-Status Plant Taxa Within the Project Area

Taxa		Status	Blooming Period	Habitat Association and Elevation Limits	Potential to Occur in the Vegetation proposed Project area
Scientific Name	**Common Name**				
Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis	southern tarplant	Fed: none CA: S2 CRPR: 1B.1	Mar - Nov	Annual herb; prefers freshwater wetlands and vernal pools in valley grasslands with sandy loam substrate below 1,440 ft. elev.	Not expected. Suitable habitat not present. .

Table 3-5. Known and Potential Occurrence of Special-Status Plant Taxa Within the Project Area

Taxa		Status	Blooming Period	Habitat Association and Elevation Limits	Potential to Occur in the Vegetation proposed Project area
Scientific Name	**Common Name**				
Navarretia prostrata	Prostrate vernal pool navarretia	Fed: none CA: none CRPR: 1B.1	Apr-Jul	Annual herb; prefers vernal pools, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, and alkaline valley and foothill grassland, below 3,000 ft. elev.	Not expected. Suitable habitat not present.
Orcuttia californica	California Orcutt grass	Fed: End CA: End CRPR: 1B.1	Aor-Aug	Annual grasslike herb; found in vernal pools, below 2,000 ft. elev.	Not expected. Suitable habitat not present.
Sidalcea neomexicana	salt spring checkerbloom	Fed: none CA: S2 CRPR:2B.2	Aug – Oct	Perennial herb; prefers wetlands but occasionally found in non-wetlands of chaparral, yellow pine forest, coastal sage scrub, and riparian areas with sandy loam substrate below 4,560 ft. elev.	Not expected. Suitable habitat not present.

Federal Rankings:
FE – Federally Endangered
FT – Federally Threatened
FPT – Federally Proposed Threatened
State Rankings:
SE – State Endangered
S1 – Less than 6 existing occurrences OR less than 100 individuals
S2 – Between 6-20 existing occurrences OR between 1000-3000 individuals
S3 – Between 21-100 existing occurrences OR between 3000-10,000 individuals
.1 – Very threatened
.2 – Threatened
.3 – No current threats known
(Rank may be expressed as a range of values; hence S2S3 means the rank is somewhere between the two; adding ? to the rank, such as in S2?, represents more certainty than S2S3, but less than S2)

CRPR Rankings:
CRPR 1A – Presumed extinct in California
CRPR 1B – Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere
CRPR 2 – Rare or endangered in California, more common elsewhere
CRPR 3 – More information needed
CRPR 4 – Limited distribution (Watch List)
0.1 = Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
0.2 = Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)
0.3 = Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)

Sources: CDFW 2021 and CNPS, 2021

Special-Status Wildlife. The CNDDB was queried for occurrences of special-status wildlife taxa within and surrounding the United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical quadrangle in which the Project area occurs. The specific habitat requirements and the locations of known occurrences of each special-status wildlife taxa were the principal criteria used for inclusion in the list of taxa potentially occurring within the Project area. There are currently 13 special-status wildlife taxa that have been documented within 5 miles of the Project area. Each of the 13 taxa were assessed for its potential to occur within the Project area based on the following criteria:

- **Present.** Taxa (or sign) were observed in the Project area or in the same watershed (aquatic taxa only) during the most recent survey, or a population has been acknowledged by CDFW, USFWS, or local experts.
- **High.** Habitat (including soils) for the taxa occurs on site and a known occurrence occurs within the Project area or adjacent areas (within 5 miles of the site) within the past 20 years; however, these taxa were not detected during the most recent survey.
- **Moderate.** Habitat (including soils) for the taxa occurs on site and a known regional record occurs within the database search, but not within 5 miles of the site or within the past 20 years; or a known occurrence occurs within 5 miles of the site and within the past 20 years and marginal or limited amounts of habitat occurs on site; or the taxa's range includes the geographic area and suitable habitat exists.
- **Low.** Limited habitat for the taxa occurs on site and no known occurrences were found within the database search and the taxa's range includes the geographic area.
- **Not expected.** No habitat for the taxa occurs on site.

Table 3-6 summarizes the special-status wildlife taxa known to regionally occur and their potential for occurrence in the Project area.

Table 3-6. Known and Potential Occurrence of Special-Status Wildlife Species Within and Adjacent to the Project Area

Taxa		Status	Habitat Type	Comments	Occurrence Potential
Scientific Name	**Common Name**				
INVERTEBRATES					
Bombus crotchii	Crotch bumble bee	SCE	Occurs in grassland and scrub habitats in coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico. Food plants include milkweeds, lupines, phacelias, buckwheats, and sages.	Suitable food plants do not occur within the proposed Project.	Low. Not expected on Project site.
AMPHIBANS					
Spea hammondii	Western spadefoot	CSC	A primarily nocturnal amphibian, breeds in late December to mid May following rain events. They live in sandy areas with loos soil which include arroyos, fields and open plains.	The nearest CNDDB record for this species occurs approximately 5 miles to the west. There is no suitable habitat within the proposed Project area.	Not expected on Project site.
REPTILES					

Table 3-6. Known and Potential Occurrence of Special-Status Wildlife Species Within and Adjacent to the Project Area

Taxa		Status	Habitat Type	Comments	Occurrence Potential
Scientific Name	**Common Name**				
Anniella stebbenisi	Southern California legless lizard	CSC	Lives mostly underground in loose sandy soil. Forages in loose soil and leaf litter.	The nearest CNNDB record for this species is occurs nearby, but suitable soil conditions are not present on site.	Not expected on Project site.
Phrynosoma blainvillii	Coast horned lizard	CSC	Inhabits coastal sage scrub and chaparral in arid and semi-arid climate zones. Prefers friable, rocky, or shallow sandy soil and requires native ant food source.	The nearest CNDDB record for this species occurs approximately 5 miles to the south. There is no suitable habitat within the proposed Project area.	Not expected on Project site.
BIRDS					
Athene cunicularia (burrowing sites & some wintering sites)	Burrowing owl	BCC, CSC	Prefers open, dry perennial or annual grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, particularly California ground squirrels.	Nearest known record is approximately 8 miles northeast, dates from 1921. Habitat is no longer present and is presumed extirpated. There is potentially suitable habitat in the oil fields more than 1,500 feet north. No suitable habitat present in the proposed Project area.	Not expected on Project site.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis	Western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT, SE	Migratory species that breeds in low-to moderate elevation native forests along rivers and streams. They require large contiguous patches of multilayered riparian habitat for nesting.	Nearest known record is known from approximately 5 miles to the south, and dates from 1910. Habitat is no longer present and is considered extirpated. There is no potentially suitable breeding or foraging habitat in the proposed Project area or vicinity.	Not expected
Empidonax traillii extimus	Southwestern willow flycatcher	FE, SE	Migratory species that breeds in dense cottonwood and willow riparian habitats with saturated soils or streams. Typically also migrates through riparian habitat where prey items (flying insects) are common.	Nearest known record is approximately 8 miles northeast and dates from 1894. Habitat is no longer present and is presumed extirpated. There is no potentially suitable breeding or foraging habitat in the proposed Project area or vicinity.	Not expected

Table 3-6. Known and Potential Occurrence of Special-Status Wildlife Species Within and Adjacent to the Project Area

Taxa		Status	Habitat Type	Comments	Occurrence Potential
Scientific Name	Common Name				
Riparia riparia	Bank swallow	SE	Migratory species that breeds from Alaska through Texas, builds nests in nesting colonies along rivers and streams on vertical banks.	Nearest known record is known from approximately 5 miles to the north, and dates from 1894. Habitat is no longer present and is considered extirpated. There is no potentially suitable breeding or foraging habitat in the proposed Project area or vicinity.	Not expected
Vireo bellii pusillus (nesting)	Least Bell's vireo	FE, SE	Summer resident of southern California in low riparian habitats in vicinity of water or dry river bottoms below 2000 ft. elev. Nests are placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, mesquite, or baccharis.	Record from 1895 approximately 6 miles to east. Area has since been developed and is considered extirpated. No suitable habitat present in the proposed Project area or immediate vicinity.	Not expected
MAMMALS					
Antrozous pallidus	Pallid bat	CSC	Found in arid and semi arid regions with rocky outcropping to open sparsely vegetated grasslands near water.	Record from 1971 over a large area, approximately 3 miles to the north. The area is developed, and does not provide suitable habitat for this species.	Not expected
Eumops perotis californicus	Western mastiff bat	CSC	Occurs in many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including woodland, scrub, grasslands, palm oases, chaparral, and urban areas. Roosts in crevices of cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels (CDFW 1990). Breeds in tight rock crevices at least 35 inches deep and 2 inches wide or in taller buildings.	The proposed Project area is located within the known geographic range for this species and the nearest known record is approximately 4.5 miles southeast. Potential breeding habitat does not occur but roosting habitat is present within the taller trees to the southwest of the proposed Project site.	Low

Table 3-6. Known and Potential Occurrence of Special-Status Wildlife Species Within and Adjacent to the Project Area

Taxa		Status	Habitat Type	Comments	Occurrence Potential
Scientific Name	**Common Name**				
Nyctinomops macrotis	Big free-tailed bat	CSC	Found in rugged and rocky terrain, and roosts in rocky cliffs and rock fissures. Have been known to roost in buildings, pines, and desert shrubs.	Record from 1985 over a large area, approximately 5 miles to the north. The area is developed, and does not provide suitable habitat for this species.	Not expected
Taxidea taxus	American badger	CSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats. Requires sufficient food source, friable soils, and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents.	The nearest known record for this species is approximately 8 miles northeast. There is no suitable habitat within the proposed Project area but there is marginally suitable habitat in semi-natural areas 1,500 feet north.	Not expected

Federal Rankings:
FE = Federally Endangered
FT = Federally Threatened
FC = Federal Candidate for Listing

State Rankings:
SE= State Endangered
ST = State Threatened
CFP = California Fully Protected
CPF = California Protected Fur-bearer
SA = CDFW Special Animal
WL = CDFW Watch List
CSC = California Species of Special Concern

Sources: CDFW 2021.

3.4.1.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

Federal Endangered Species Act. The USFWS administers the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) that provides a process for listing species as either threatened or endangered, and methods of protecting listed species. Species are listed as either endangered or threatened under Section 4 of the FESA that defines “endangered” as any plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and “threatened” if a species is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. Section 9 of the FESA prohibits take of listed threatened or endangered species. Except as provided in Sections 7 and 10 of the FESA, take of listed threatened or endangered species is prohibited. The term “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in such conduct. Harm under the definition of take includes disturbance or loss of habitats used by a threatened or endangered species during any portion of its life history. Under the regulations of the FESA, the USFWS may authorize take when it is incidental to, but not

the purpose of, an otherwise lawful act. Pursuant to the FESA, USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service have designated critical habitat for several endangered and threatened species within Los Angeles County. Critical habitat is identified as a specific geographic area that contains features essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat may include an area that is not currently occupied by the species but that will be needed for its recovery.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-711) makes it unlawful to possess, buy, sell, purchase, barter or take any migratory bird listed in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 10. *Take* in the context of the MBTA is the possession or destruction of migratory birds, their nests or eggs. Disturbances that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort or the loss of habitats upon which these birds depend would be in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Should the nesting of any migratory bird occur on or adjacent to the project site during grading or construction activities, a USFWS-qualified biological monitor would have the authority to halt all work activities and notify the city and corresponding resource agency.

Clean Water Act Section 404. Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), USACE is responsible for regulating the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. In general, a permit must be obtained before the discharge of dredged or fill material can be placed in wetlands or other waters of the United States. USACE, at its discretion, issues several types of permits (Nationwide, Individual, or General) depending on the acreage and purpose of discharge of fill or dredged material into waters of the United States.

State

California Endangered Species Act. Administered by the CDFW, the California Endangered Species Act restricts the direct killing, harm, or take of State threatened, endangered, and candidate species.

3.4.1.3 Impacts Analysis

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?

A review of special-status plants known to occur in the area found that no sensitive species have the potential to occur in the proposed Project site.

While no special-status wildlife species are known from the proposed Project site, two species, also known from the area, were determined to have a low potential of occurrence (crotch bumble bee, and western mastiff bat).

No direct impacts to special-status wildlife would be expected as a result of project implementation because species with potential to occur are not expected in the direct impact footprint. Construction during the avian breeding season (March to September) could result in the displacement of breeding birds and the abandonment of active nests. The increased noise levels resulting from construction activities would likely

alter and/or preclude breeding activities for many common and sensitive bird species known to occur in the area. Potential indirect impacts include increased noise levels from heavy equipment, human disturbance, and disruption of breeding or foraging activity due to construction activities.

PMM BIO-5 would apply to the Project site and would reduce potential impacts to nesting birds to a level considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

> **PMM BIO-5:** If construction and vegetation removal is proposed between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for breeding and nesting birds and raptors within 500-feet of the construction limits to determine and map the location and extent of breeding birds that could be affected by the project. Active nest sites located during the pre-construction surveys shall be avoided until the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site for survival as determined by a qualified biologist.

The PEIR concluded that construction of structural BMPs may affect habitats that support special-status wildlife species; however, with implementation of the PMMs impacts would be less than significant. Operational impacts resulting from the combined effects of multiple BMPs limiting dry-weather flows were also determined to be less than significant with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMM BIO-5 incorporated and no additional mitigation measures are required; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities, identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS have been documented within or adjacent to the Project site. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impacts to these resources.

The PEIR concluded that impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities would be significant if BMPs occur within or adjacent to Significant Ecological Areas, riparian habitat, or other sensitive natural communities, but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation. The proposed Project would have no impact on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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?

No federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act were identified within the Project site based on aerial imagery and use of National Wetland Inventory. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact to wetlands.

The PEIR concluded that impacts to wetland habitats would be significant if projects impact native vegetation within jurisdictional drainages but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation. The proposed Project would have no impact on wetlands; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

There are no known established wildlife corridors within the Project site footprint. Construction activities associated with the proposed Project would occur over a six month period and be limited to daylight hours. Upon completion of construction-related activities, all disturbed areas would be revegetated at the Project site. Therefore, while daytime movement through the Project area may be affected for a short duration, the impacts to wildlife movement would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that the Project would not be expected to interfere with wildlife movement or any migratory corridor/linkage, would not be constructed within a native wildlife nursery site, or reduce open water features used by migratory birds, as structural BMPs would primarily be constructed within existing stormwater facilities or disturbed areas. As such, impacts would be less than significant. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The proposed Project would not result in the removal of any native trees. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that conflicts with local policies or ordinances would occur if oak trees within Los Angeles County were to be impacted, but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation. The proposed Project would have no impact on oak trees; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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?

There are no Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plans within the general area. No impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that conflicts with conservation plans are not anticipated, and that any projects affecting a Significant Ecological Area must undergo a performance review process for compliance, such that impacts would be less than significant. The proposed Project would have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.5 Cultural Resources

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:		Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
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 dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☒

3.5.1 Discussion:

This section describes the existing cultural resources in the Project area and discusses potential impacts associated with the proposed Project. Cultural resources are historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, historic-aged architectural or engineering features and structures. A discussion of potential impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources is provided below in Section 3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources.

3.5.1.1 Environmental Setting

The Project is in the unincorporated community of Walnut Park in Los Angeles County. The Project area is surrounded by commercial buildings and single-family residential homes.

Cultural Resources

A summary of the area's cultural setting is provided below and is organized according to Prehistoric, Historic, and Ethnohistoric Periods. The Prehistoric Period covers the era prior to sustained European contact (AD 1776), while the Historic Period covers the time subsequent to that contact. The Ethnohistoric Period presents information regarding the Native American inhabitants of the region, as understood through historical accounts and information given to anthropologists by Native Californians during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Prehistoric Period. Due to the extensive remodeling of the Los Angeles Basin by non-indigenous settlers, comparatively little is known about the prehistoric inhabitants of the region. Nevertheless, a broad characterization of past human existence in California does exist and is instrumental in shaping our understanding of potential impacts of the proposed Project on older cultural material deposits that may lay intact below the modern ground surface within the Project area.

Broadly speaking, the earliest occupation of the region occurred during the Paleoindian phase, which lasted from about 12,000 to 7,500 years before present (BP). This phase was marked by rapid mobility across the landscape as small bands of humans hunted megafauna and subsisted on available terrestrial and marine food resources. From 7,500 to 3,500 BP, a period of climatic warming and drying conditions affected much of the western hemisphere. Local Native American traditions thus reflected a growing pattern of milling stone tools and although still quite mobile, seasonal plant and animal resource

procurement cycles began. Then, from 3,500 to 1,000 BP, the climate became much cooler and moister. The emergence of shell beads, more refined projectile point production, and the continued expansion of milling stone technologies is noted throughout the region. Marked territoriality and the development of more sophisticated forms of trade, exchange, and ritual systems emerge.

Between 1,000 and 180 BP (roughly the time of European arrival), the region experienced an overall increase in Native American population, although this increase was marked by severe loss and recovery of those population numbers. Meanwhile, the entire California region underwent a series of devastating drought conditions that lasted several hundred years each. It is hypothesized by researchers that these conditions gave rise to the social, economic, political, and religious systems that were witnessed at the time of European arrival. Complex inter-related mechanisms of ethnic identity, linguistic affiliation, kinship, and ritual practices emerged in order to ensure group access to key resources during a time of stressed environmental conditions that limited food supply.

Ethnographic Period. The Project area is situated within the ethnohistoric and linguistic boundaries of the Tongva tribal group (Bean and Smith, 1978; Johnson and Lorenz, 2006). The earliest recorded contact with the Tongva occurred in A.D. 1520 when Spanish explorers visited Santa Catalina Island, off the coast of present-day Santa Monica. However, the Tongva nation occupied a large area that extended west from the coast inland to the San Gabriel Mountains, northwest to Topanga Canyon, and south to Huntington Beach. During the Mission Period (ca. A.D. 1769 to 1821), many Tongva were taken to the San Fernando and San Gabriel Missions. The names Gabrieleño and Fernandeño Tongva are derived from this period.

Examination of Mission baptismal records and historical accounts written by early anthropologists who lived among the Tongva indicate that several large village sites are located within the Los Angeles Basin. It is also evident that village locations were strategically placed along major coastal bays and inlets, as well as along major tributaries and seasonally resource rich 1st and 2nd order streams of the inland foothills and mountains. The Tongva depended mainly on marine and terrestrial food resources, including fish, deer, acorns and pine nuts, while diverse plant and tree resources were used for medicinal uses (Tongvapeople.org, 2021).

Historic Period. The earliest historic period occupation of the Project area by Europeans is associated with Mission San Gabriel in 1771, which was set up by the Spanish from an outpost in Arizona, followed by the Franciscan monks who established the San Fernando Mission Rey de Espana in 1797 (Los Angeles County, 2021). Following the end of the Mexican War of Independence in 1821, the missions were secularized, and the land reallocated to wealthy elites by the Mexican government. Gold was found in Placerita Canyon in 1842 resulting in a small-scale gold rush. In 1848, Los Angeles County, along with the rest of California, became a U.S. territory in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (Los Angeles County, 2021). In 1876, the Southern Pacific Railroad established a station in Saugus along a new rail line to Los Angeles. Oil was discovered in the region in 1936 (Los Angeles County, 2021).

Records Search

Per PMM CUL-2 (see text below), Aspen cultural resources specialists conducted a Phase I cultural resources inventory of the Project area. This background research included obtaining information from the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), located at California State University, Fullerton, concerning previously conducted cultural resources surveys and previously recorded sites in the Project area and reviewing available historic aerial photographs. The record search included the Project area and a ½ -mile radius around the Project area boundary (study area).

> **PMM CUL-2:** Implementing agencies shall ensure that individual EWMP projects that require ground disturbance shall be subject to a Phase I cultural resources inventory on a project-specific basis prior to the implementing agency's approval of project plans. The study shall be conducted or supervised by a qualified archaeologist, defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeology, and shall be conducted in consultation with the local Native American representatives expressing interest. The cultural resources inventory shall include a cultural resources records search to be conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center; scoping with the NAHC and with interested Native Americans identified by the NAHC; a pedestrian archaeological survey where deemed appropriate by the qualified archaeologist; and formal recordation of all identified archaeological resources on California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms and significance evaluation of such resources presented in a technical report following the guidelines in *Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format*, Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation, State of California, 1990.
>
> If potentially significant archaeological resources are encountered during the survey, the implementing agency shall require that the resources are evaluated by the qualified archaeologist for their eligibility for listing in the CRHR and for significance as a historical resource or unique archaeological resource per CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. Recommendations shall be made for treatment of these resources if found to be significant, in consultation with the implementing agency and the appropriate Native American groups for prehistoric resources. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), preservation in place shall be the preferred manner of mitigation to avoid impacts to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources. Methods of avoidance may include, but shall not be limited to, project reroute or redesign, project cancellation, or identification of protection measures such as capping or fencing. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, the qualified archaeologist shall develop additional treatment measures, which may include data recovery or other appropriate measures, in consultation with the implementing agency, and any local Native American representatives expressing interest in prehistoric or tribal resources. If an archaeological site does not qualify as an historical resource but meets the criteria for a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 21083.2, then the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2.

The results of the records search indicate that 16 previous cultural resources surveys were completed outside of the Project area but within the ½ -mile search radius (see Table 3-7). One previously recorded cultural resource was identified outside the Project area but within the ½ -miles search radius (see Table 3-8). No previously identified cultural resources have been recorded in the Project area.

Table 3-7. Previous Studies within ½ -mile of the Project Area

Report No.	Author	Year	Study	Company	# of New Resources	Inside or Outside Project Area
LA-02577	Wlodarski, Robert J.	1992	Results of a Records Search Phase Conducted for the Proposed Alameda Corridor Project, Los Angeles County, California	Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research, Team	8	Outside
LA-02644	Wlodarski, Robert J.	1992	The Results of a Phase 1 Archaeological Study for the Proposed Alameda Transportation Corridor Project, Los Angeles County, California	Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research, Team	2	Outside
LA-02950	Anonymous	1992	Consolidated Report: Cultural Resource Studies for the Proposed Pacific Pipeline Project	Peak & Associates, Inc.	22	Outside
LA-04470	Unknown	1999	Negative Phase I Archaeological Survey and Impact Assessment of .65 Acre for the Latchford Glass Phase Ii Project Los Angeles County, California	Conejo Archaeological Consultants	0	Outside
LA-04625	Starzak, Richard	1994	Historic Property Survey Report for the Proposed Alameda Corridor From the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to Downtown Los Angeles in Los Angeles County, California	Myra L. Frank & Associates	24	Outside
LA-04737	Maki, Mary K.	1999	Negative Phase I Archaeological Survey and Impact Assessment of .9 Acres for the 7300 Roseberry Avenue Housing Project Cdc Project No. Jj7101, Hmd001, G89101 Florence, Los Angeles County, California	Conejo Archaeological Consultants	0	Outside
LA-04834	Ashkar, Shahira	1999	Cultural Resources Inventory Report for Williams Communications, Inc. Proposed Fiber Optic Cable System Installation Project, Los Angeles to Anaheim, Los Angeles and Orange Counties	Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc.	3	Outside

Table 3-7. Previous Studies within ½ -mile of the Project Area

Report No.	Author	Year	Study	Company	# of New Resources	Inside or Outside Project Area
LA-07667	Maki, Mary K.	2004	Phase 1 Archaeological Investigation of 18.3 Acres for the Florence & Alameda Commercial Center Project Walnut Park, Los Angeles County, California	Conejo Archaeological Consultants	0	Outside
LA-07952	Livingstone, David M., McDougall, Dennis, Goldberg, Susan K., and Nettles, Wendy M.	2006	Trails to Rails: Transformation of a Landscape: History and Historical Archaeology of the Alameda Corridor, Volume 1	Applied EarthWorks, Inc.	71	Outside
LA-08255	Arrington, Cindy and Nancy Sikes	2006	Cultural Resources Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the Qwest Network Construction Project State of California: Volumes I and Ii	SWCA Environmental Consultants, Inc.	0	Outside
LA-09187	Bonner, Wayne H.	2007	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for T-Mobile Canidate LA03049C (Liberty Plaza), 8308 Long Beach Boulevard, South Gate, Los Angeles	Michael Brandman Associates	2	Outside
LA-09640	Maki, Mary K.	2008	Alameda Seniors Housing Project, Huntington Park	Conejo Archaeological Consultants	0	Outside
LA-09641	Smith, Francesca and Caprice D. Harper	2008	Cultural Resources Initial Technical Report and Phase I Site Investigation Proposed South Region Middle School No. 3 Project, Walnut Park, Los Angeles County, California.	SWCA Environmental Consultants	2	Outside
LA-09642	Smith, Francesca and Caprice D. Harper	2008	Cultural Resources Intensive Survey Report, Proposed South Region Middle School No. 3 Project, Walnut Park, Los Angeles County, California.	SWCA Environmental Consultants	2	Outside
LA-10524	Horne, Melinda C., M. Colleen Hamilton, and Susan K. Goldberg	2000	Alameda Corridor Project Treatment Plan for Historic Properties Discovered During Project Implementation, second draft. Addendum to Finding of Effect (February 21 1995; October 27, 1998)	Applied Earthworks	4	Outside
LA-12304	Bonner, Wayne and Crawford, Kathleen	2013	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for AT&T Mobility LLC Candidate LA0422 (Florence Ave/Miles Ave) 2835 Florence Avenue, Huntington Park, Los Angeles County, California, CASPR No. 3551261493	EAS	5	Outside

Table 3-8. Previously Recorded Resources within ½ -mile of the Project Area

Primary No.	Trinomial	Age	Description	Recording Events	Report No.	Inside or Outside Project Area
P-19-002840	CA-LAN-2840H	Historic	Evaluation of the Archaeological Resources and Potential Impact of the Development of Baldwin Hills County Regional Park	2000 (J. Paniagua, H. Brewer, Applied Earthworks)	LAN-07952	Outside

Aspen's cultural resources specialist also review historic aerial photographs, available online at the University of Santa Barbara Library's website. Three houses appear on a 1928 photograph; however, these houses appear to have been demolished between 1990 and 2002.

Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File Search

Aspen's cultural resources specialist requested a search of the Sacred Lands File Database from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), located in Sacramento. The record search of the NAHC Sacred Lands File was completed with negative results (i.e., no records found). This information is also included in Section 3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources below.

Pedestrian Survey

Aspen archaeologist, Elliot D'Antin B.A., surveyed the Project area on April 7, 2021, closely examining all exposed ground surfaces and nearby soil exposures. Aspen's intensive pedestrian survey was conducted using systematic, parallel transects spaced no more than 5-meters apart within the Project area. For prehistoric resources, surveyors examined the ground surface searching visually for evidence of cultural material, which typically includes fragments of economically important stone materials used in the production of cutting and hunting tools (e.g., chert, rhyolite, quartzite, obsidian), stone tools used for grinding/pounding plants or animals (e.g., metates, manos, pestles, bedrock milling surfaces), evidence of rock art, remains of dietary materials that may have been consumed in the past (e.g., fragments of bone), and features such as shelters and trails.

For historic resources the ground surfaces were scanned for sites and items related to the historic contexts referenced above, such as aged roadbeds, property markers, standing or fallen wooden posts/fencing, structural remains of buildings, cairns, wells, irrigation systems, prospects, metal or tin debris (e.g., tin cans, abandoned machinery or vehicles), and any other historic feature or structure.

No prehistoric or historic aged resources were identified during the field survey.

3.5.1.2 Regulatory Setting

State

California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) (1970). CEQA Guidelines define significant cultural resources under two regulatory designations: historical resources and unique archaeological resources. A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). A resource must meet at least one of four criteria (PRC §5024.1; 14 CCR §15064.5[a][3]). Historical resources must also possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (14 CCR 4852[c]).

Additionally, CEQA states that it is the responsibility of the lead agency to determine whether a project will have a significant effect on "unique" archaeological resources. An archaeological artifact, object, or site can meet CEQA's definition of a unique archaeological resource even if it does not qualify as a historical resource (PRC 21083.2[g]; 14 CCR 15064.5[c][3]).

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. This code establishes that any person, who knowingly mutilates, disinters, wantonly disturbs, or willfully removes any human remains in or from any location without authority of law is guilty of a misdemeanor. It further defines procedures for the discovery and treatment of Native American human remains. All work at the site of discovery must cease immediately, and notification made to the County Coroner. Within 48 hours of discovery, the coroner must determine if the remains are Native American in origin. If this is determined, then the coroner must then notify the NAHC by telephone within 24 hours. Furthermore, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that any person who knowingly mutilates or disinters, wantonly disturbs, or willfully removes any human remains in or from any location other than a dedicated cemetery without authority of law is guilty of a misdemeanor, except as provided in PRC Section 5097.99. Any person removing any human remains without authority of law or written permission of the person or persons having the right to control the remains under PRC Section 7100 has committed a public offense that is punishable by imprisonment (Health and Safety Code §7051).

Local

The Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks and Records Commission (Commission) considers and recommends to the Board of Supervisors local historical landmarks defined to be worthy of registration by the State of California, either as California Historical Landmarks or as Points of Historical Interest. The Commission also may comment for the Board on applications relating to the NRHP. The Commission also is charged with fostering and promoting the preservation of historical records. In its capacity as the memorial plaque review committee of the County of Los Angeles, the Commission screens applications for donations of historical memorial plaques and recommends to the Board plaques worthy of installation as County property. In 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Historic Preservation Ordinance (HPO) that:

- Specifies criteria and procedures for the designation of landmarks and historic districts;

- Prohibits work, including demolition, on property nominated but not yet designated as a landmark or historic district;
- Encourages adaptive reuse of landmarks and historic district contributors by providing relief from parking requirements;
- Provides for the enhancement of historic districts by the establishment of development guidelines and standards, and by allowing streetscape improvements that are compatible with the areas historic character;
- Specifies criteria and procedures for reviewing proposed work on designated landmarks or on property within historic districts;
- Requires maintenance of landmarks and historic district contributors to prevent deterioration; and
- Establishes penalties for unauthorized work, including demolition, on landmarks or historic district contributors.

3.5.1.3 Impact Analysis

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

Neither the record search nor the pedestrian survey identified any known cultural resources within the Project area. A review of historic aerial photographs did reveal that three homes once stood on the Project site as indicated by a 1928 photograph. It is possible that previously unrecorded historical resources could be discovered and damaged or destroyed during ground disturbing work, which would constitute a significant impact absent mitigation. Implementation of PMM CUL-4 (see text below) would ensure that unanticipated discoveries of historical resources are evaluated by a qualified archaeologist, who meets the Secretary of the Interiors Professional Qualifications and Standards, and are protected, thereby reducing this impact to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

PMM CUL-4: During project-level construction, should subsurface archaeological resources be discovered, all activity in the vicinity of the find shall stop and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the significance of the find according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If any find is determined to be significant, the archaeologist shall determine, in consultation with the implementing agency and any local Native American groups expressing interest, appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), preservation in place shall be the preferred means to avoid impacts to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources. Methods of avoidance may include, but shall not be limited to, project reroute or redesign, project cancellation, or identification of protection measures such as capping or fencing. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, the qualified archaeologist shall develop additional treatment measures, such as data recovery or other appropriate measures, in consultation with the implementing agency and any local Native American representatives expressing interest in prehistoric or tribal resources. If an archaeological site does not qualify as an historical resource but meets the

criteria for a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 21083.2, then the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2.

The PEIR concluded that, if projects impact known or previously unknown historical resources, program-level impacts to historic resources would be significant and unavoidable after mitigation because the degree of impact and the applicability, feasibility, and success of the mitigation measures cannot be accurately predicted for each specific project. The proposed Project's site-specific impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMM CUL-4 incorporated and no additional mitigation measures are required; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

No unique archaeological resources have been identified in the Project area as a result of the record search or pedestrian survey. However, the proposed Project has potential to disturb native soils (see Project Description, Section 2.4.3). Thus, it is possible that previously unknown buried archaeological resources could be discovered and damaged or destroyed during ground disturbing work, which would constitute a significant impact absent mitigation. Implementation of PMM CUL-4 (text provided under Part (a) above) would evaluate and protect unique archaeological resources that may be discovered during ground disturbing work, thereby reducing this impact to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

The PEIR concluded that structural BMPs which involve grading, trenching, excavation, vegetation removal, or other forms of ground disturbance could significantly impact archaeological resources but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMM CUL-4 incorporated and no additional mitigation measures are required; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

A review of the record search results, and a pedestrian survey, of the Project area indicates that there are no known human burials or cemeteries located in the Project area. However, it is possible that previously unknown human remains could be discovered and damaged or destroyed during ground disturbance, which would constitute a significant impact absent mitigation. Implementation of PMM CUL-4 (see text under Part (a) above) and PMM CUL-7 (see text below) would reduce this impact to less than significant after mitigation.

> **PMM CUL-7:** The implementing agency shall require that, if human remains are uncovered during project construction, work in the vicinity of the find shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted to evaluate the remains, following the procedures and protocols set forth in Section 15064.5 (e)(1) of the CEQA

Guidelines. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the Coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, subdivision (c), and Public Resources Code 5097.98 (as amended by AB 2641). The NAHC will then designate a Most Likely Descendant of the deceased Native American, who will engage in consultation to determine the disposition of the remains.

The PEIR concluded that ground disturbance during construction could impact human remains which could be inadvertently damaged resulting in a significant impact; however, this impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMM CUL-7 incorporated and no additional mitigation measures are required; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in a substantially more severe impact than shown in the PEIR.

3.6 Energy

6. ENERGY Would the project:	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
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?	☐	☒

3.6.1 Discussion:

This section addresses the potential impacts relating to energy use associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project. It includes a description of existing conditions and an evaluation of potential impacts relating to energy. The PEIR included an assessment of energy impacts under its impact assessment of utilities, service systems, and energy. When the PEIR was published in 2015, energy was not included as a separate environmental factor in CEQA law. In 2019, CEQA required energy to be analyzed as an environmental factor. Therefore, this assessment evaluates energy impacts.

3.6.1.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project is located within the southwestern area of Los Angeles County. Southern California Edison (SCE), which is the primary electricity supplier for much of Southern California, provides electricity to Walnut Park. Additionally, LADWP provides over 23 million megawatt-hours for approximately 1.4 million customers in the City of Los Angeles and Owens Valley. SCE and LADWP continue to increase efforts to use additional renewable energy resources (LACPW, 2015).

3.6.1.2 Regulatory Setting

2005 California Energy Action Plan II. The California Energy Action Plan II is the State's principal energy planning and policy document. The plan identifies state-wide energy goals, describes a coordinated implementation plan for state energy policies, and identifies specific action areas to ensure that California's energy is adequate, affordable, technologically advanced, and environmentally sound. In accordance with this plan, the first priority actions to address California's increasing energy demands are energy efficiency and demand response (i.e., reduction of customer energy usage during peak periods in order to address system reliability and support the best use of energy infrastructure). Additional priorities include the use of renewable sources of power and distributed generation (i.e., the use of relatively small power plants near or at centers of high demand). To the extent that these actions are unable to satisfy the increasing energy and capacity needs, clean and efficient fossil-fired generation is supported.

The Energy Action Plan II includes the following energy efficiency action specific to water supply systems:

- Identify opportunities and support programs to reduce electricity demand related to the water supply system during peak hours and opportunities to reduce the energy needed to operate water conveyance and treatment systems.

3.6.1.3 Impact Analysis

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

Construction of the proposed Project would require the use of heavy equipment to excavate the ground and construct the components such as drywells, catch basins, stormwater pretreatment system, and recreational facilities. Construction equipment and worker vehicles would require the use of non-renewable fuels such as gasoline and diesel. However, construction would be temporary (approximately six months), nighttime construction lighting would be temporary, and the use of heavy equipment would cease once the Project is in operation. During operation, the Project would include lighting and an irrigation system, requiring minor amounts of electricity from the utility grid. Some lighting would be solar-powered and not require electricity from the grid. Regular maintenance activities would require equipment such has vacuum trucks and pickup trucks to transport maintenance workers to inspect and clean the pre-treatment unit, catch basins, infiltration drywells, and connector system and clear debris and trim the bioswale vegetation. The amount of electricity needed is anticipated to be extremely minor compared to the overall use and demand in the County, and the use of energy for equipment, maintenance truck trips, and lighting would be considered necessary for safety and proper operation of the Project and would not be wasteful. As such, the Project's impacts regarding the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy during construction and operation would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded in Section 3.14 (Impact 3.14-5) that construction of individual BMPs would require the use of non-renewable energy in the form of gasoline and diesel but would not be at such a large scale that it would be wasteful. Impacts to energy supplies for construction would be less than significant. Energy use for maintenance of Project components would be minor compared to the countywide use of energy, and impacts to energy supplies for operation would be less than significant. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The amount of energy used for the construction and operation of the proposed Project would be considered minor when compared to the County-wide use of electricity. Furthermore, electricity used for the proposed Project would support water conservation and water quality improvement efforts. The proposed Project would support the goals and objectives of the 2015 PEIR by improving water quality in the Los Angeles River, addressing the County's stormwater permit requirements,

achieving water quality objectives for the Project drainage area, and enhancing recreational opportunities and increasing public awareness of water quality and conservation issues. The proposed Project would directly assist the County to comply with the MS4 Permit and reduce TMDLs. Impacts would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that construction of individual BMPs would support water conservation efforts and water quality requirements of the MS4 Permit, which would not result in wasteful consumption or conflict with applicable energy efficiency policies or standards, and impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.7 Geology and Soils

7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS **Would the project:**	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a. Expose people or structures to 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 geologic units 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 risks to life or property?	☐	☒
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☒
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒

3.7.1 Discussion:

3.7.1.1 Environmental Setting

Regional and Local Geology

The proposed Project is situated within the coastal plain of Los Angeles County in the Los Angeles Basin geologic province of Southern California. The site is approximately 12.3 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The site is underlain by young alluvial fan deposits consisting of marine and continental sedimentary rocks, alluvium, lake, playa, and terrace deposits (DOC, 2021a; 2021b). The Inglewood Fault Zone traverses north-south approximately 4.5 miles southwest of the Project site (DOC, 2021c).

Seismicity and Ground Shaking

Seismicity is defined as the geographic and historical distribution of earthquake activity. Seismic activity may result in geologic and seismic hazards including seismically induced fault displacement and rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, lateral spreading, landslides and avalanches, and structural hazards. Based on historical seismic activity and fault and seismic hazards mapping, Los Angeles County is considered to have a relatively high potential for seismic activity. The most-recent significant earthquake that occurred in the

vicinity of the Project site was the 1994 Northridge earthquake (Magnitude 6.7), located approximately 25 miles northwest.

The intensity of the seismic shaking, or strong ground motion, during an earthquake is dependent on the distance between the Project area and the epicenter (point at the Earth's surface directly above the initial movement of the fault at depth) of the earthquake, the magnitude (seismic energy released) of the earthquake, and the geologic conditions underlying and surrounding the Project area. Earthquakes occurring on faults closest to the Project area would most likely generate the largest ground motion. A commonly used benchmark is peak horizontal ground acceleration (ground shaking) that is provided for a probability of occurrence and is represented as a fraction of the acceleration of gravity (g). The California Geological Survey estimates a peak ground acceleration of 0.717g with a 2 percent probability of being exceeded in 50 years for the Project area (DOC, 2021d).

Fault Systems

The Inglewood (Newport-Inglewood) fault, located approximately 4.5 miles southwest of the Project site, is right-lateral local reverse slip fault 47 miles in length extending from Culver City to Newport Beach. Its most recent surface rupture was in 1933, and it can produce strong earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 to 7.4 (SCEDC, 2021). The Project site is not within the Alquist-Priolo fault zone (DOC, 2021c). The purpose of the Alquist-Priolo fault zone is to ensure public safety by prohibiting the siting of most structures for human occupancy across traces of active faults that pose a potential hazard to structures from surface faulting or fault creep.

Soils

Preliminary geotechnical boring results at the Project site reveal soil types consisting of silty sand, sandy silt, poorly graded sand with silt, and poorly graded sand with silt and gravel. The mapped soil in the Project area consists of Hueneme, drained-San Emigdio complex. This soil is somewhat poorly drained, has a low runoff class rating, and is derived from discontinuous human-transported material over mixed alluvium from granite and/or sedimentary rock (NRCS, 2021).

Liquefaction

Liquefaction is a seismic event in which loose, waterlogged, fine-grained soil behaves similarly to a fluid in response to high-intensity ground shaking. Liquefaction occurs when the following exists: (1) shallow groundwater; (2) low-density, fine, clean sandy soil; and (3) high-intensity ground motion. This phenomenon can result in major damage to buildings located on top of the surface, as the soil can no longer support the weight above it. Typically, liquefaction occurs in areas where groundwater is less than 50 feet from the surface and where the soil consists predominantly of poorly consolidated sands.

The Project site has soils consisting of silty sand, and shallow groundwater. According to mapping by the California Department of Conservation, the Project site is within a liquefaction zone (DOC, 2021c).

Landslides

A landslide is a mass movement of rock, debris, or earth down a slope and can occur very slowly or very suddenly, with potentially disastrous results. Landslides commonly occur when forces acting downslope (mainly due to gravity) exceed the strength of the materials that compose the slope. Landslides can be initiated in already unstable slopes on the verge of movement by weather, changes in water level, erosion, earthquakes, and human disturbances (USGS, 2021). The proposed Project is located in a relatively flat, developed, and paved area and is not within a landslide zone (DOC, 2021c).

Subsidence

Land subsidence is normally the result of fluid removal such as groundwater and/or oil extraction that creates subsurface voids, resulting in the sinking of land. When fluid is withdrawn, the pressure overlying the ground surface increases. Sediments are then compacted due to overlying pressures no longer being compensated by supporting subsurface fluids.

No oil wells are located within 1 mile of the Project site (CalGEM, 2021).

Collapsible Soils

Collapsible soils are soils that experience a decrease in volume and associated settlement as a result of a change in soil structure associated with wetting of partially saturated subsoil. Typically, collapsible soils occur predominantly at the base of mountains, where Holocene-age alluvial fan and wash sediments have been deposited during rapid runoff events. Collapsible soil is not present at the proposed Project area.

Paleontology

In compliance with PMM CUL-5 (see text below), a vertebrate paleontology records search was requested from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (Bell, 2021). While the search did not identify any known vertebrate fossil localities directly within the Project area, several localities are located in proximity to the Project area, occurring in the same sedimentary deposits, either on the surface or at depth, at the Project area.

> **PMM CUL-5:** For individual structural BMP projects that require ground disturbance, the implementing agency shall evaluate the sensitivity of the project site for paleontological resources. If deemed necessary, the implementing agency shall retain a qualified paleontologist to evaluate the project and provide recommendations regarding additional work, potentially including testing or construction monitoring.

3.7.1.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for providing aid in the event of an earthquake that results in significant damage. The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program is a nationwide program designed to reduce the risk to lives and property resulting from earthquakes in the United States. It is managed as a

collaborative effort between FEMA, the National Institute of Hazards and Technology, the National Science Foundation, and the USGS.

State of California

The State of California has established a variety of regulations and requirements related to seismic safety and structural integrity, including the California Building Code, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act.

California Building Code. The California Building Code (CBC) is included in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations and is a portion of the California Building Standards Code. The CBC incorporates the Uniform Building Code (now International Building Code), a widely adopted model building code in the United States. The CBC contains specific requirements for seismic safety, excavation, foundations, retaining walls and site demolition. It also regulates grading activities, including drainage and erosion control.

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. The Alquist-Priolo Act was passed to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting associated with surface fault rupture to structures for human occupancy. It prohibits the siting of structures designed for human occupancy across active faults and regulates construction within fault zones. The law requires the State of California to establish regulatory zones around surface traces of active faults and to issue the appropriate maps. It also requires a geologic investigation in the event of new construction, to ensure that it would not be located on a fault zone.

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act addresses seismic hazards such as strong ground shaking, soil liquefaction, and earthquake-related landslides. This act requires the State of California to identify and map areas that are at risk for these (and related) hazards. Cities and counties are also required to regulate development in the mapped seismic hazard zones. The primary method of regulating construction in these areas is through the permit process, and a permit cannot be issued until a geological investigation is completed.

The California Public Resources Code (PRC). PCR Section 5097.5 affirms that no person shall willingly or knowingly excavate, remove, or otherwise destroy a vertebrate paleontological site or paleontological feature without the express permission of the overseeing public land agency. It further states under PRC Section 30244 that any development that would adversely impact paleontological resources shall require reasonable mitigation. These regulations apply to projects located on land owned by or under the jurisdiction of the State or any city, county, district, or other public agency (PRC §5097.5). The importance of paleontological resources is based on their scientific and educational value. The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) identifies vertebrate fossils, their taphonomic and associated environmental data, and fossiliferous deposits as scientifically significant nonrenewable paleontological resources (SVP, 2010). Botanical and invertebrate fossils and assemblages may also be significant. Absent specific agency guidelines, most professional paleontologists in California adhere to guidelines set forth in “Standard Procedures for the Assessment and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts to Paleontological Resources” (SVP, 2010). These categories include high, undetermined, low, and no potential.

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3.7.1.3 Impact Analysis

a. Expose people or structures to 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.

The proposed Project is not located within the Alquist-Priolo zone and is located approximately 4.5 miles away from the Inglewood fault, and as a result, would have less than significant impacts regarding rupture of a known earthquake fault.

(ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Although the proposed Project is located in a generally seismically active area and may experience strong seismic ground shaking as a result of an earthquake, the Project would not construct habitable structures that would expose people to hazards related to strong seismic ground shaking. Although it is possible that the proposed Project structures could be damaged by strong seismic ground shaking, it is not likely to result in a substantial risk of loss of life or injury to humans. Impacts would be less than significant.

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

The proposed Project is located within a liquefaction hazard zone and would be constructed on soil with silty sand. However, it would not construct habitable structures that would expose people to liquefaction hazards. Although it is possible that the proposed Project structures could be damaged by an earthquake and/or liquefaction event, it is not likely to result in a substantial seismic-related risk to humans. Impacts would be less than significant.

(iv) Landslides?

The proposed Project is not located within a mapped landslide zone, as the site is relatively flat, paved, and developed. Therefore, the proposed Project would have less-than-significant impacts regarding the Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone, seismic ground shaking, ground failure, liquefaction, or landslides. (Is this impact no impact or less-than-significant?)

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would be designed to minimize or avoid damage from fault rupture and seismic events, resulting in less-than-significant impacts from seismic-related hazards. As discussed above, the proposed Project would also have a less-than-significant seismic-related risk; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

c. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

The proposed Project would potentially increase the risk of topsoil erosion during excavation and installation of Project components, which would be controlled through the use of standard erosion control BMPs (e.g., silt fence, straw waddles), as required by the 2012 MS4 Permit. The site would then be improved with native vegetation, artificial turf, concrete, and decomposed granite following construction. The majority of the site would minimize the potential for erosion, as the southern half of the Project site would be paved with a concrete splash plaza and concrete stage, and the northern half of the site would be largely covered by artificial turf. The proposed Project would reduce erosion potential compared to existing conditions, as the existing site is unpaved and only consists of weedy vegetation. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less-than-significant impact resulting from erosion or topsoil loss.

The PEIR concluded that structural BMPs would generally serve to slow down or fully retain stormwater runoff, which would minimize soil erosion and loss of topsoil to less-than-significant levels. As discussed above, the proposed Project would also have a less-than-significant impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

c. Be located on geologic units 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?

The proposed Project is not located within 1 mile of any oil fields or wells, and as such, would not likely experience subsidence. Additionally, the proposed Project's infiltration wells would have the potential to reduce the risk of subsidence because it may potentially provide stormwater recharge to the Central Groundwater Basin. Although Project site is located on potentially unstable soils and in a mapped liquefaction zone, the proposed Project would not introduce any habitable structures that could harm people. The drywells, catch basins, and associated infrastructure would be underground and would not collapse or substantially contribute to soil instability. The proposed recreational amenities also would not introduce a substantial risk to soil instability, as none of the structures would be permanently inhabited. According to the Project-specific preliminary geotechnical results, the Project site has soils with high infiltration rates that are suitable for stormwater infiltration and drywell installation (DPR, 2020). Therefore, the proposed Project is in conformance with PMMs GEO-1 and HYDRO-1 (see text of measures below), and a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated from geologic units or soils that are unstable would occur.

PMM GEO-1: Prior to approval of infiltration BMPs, implementing agencies shall conduct a geotechnical investigation of each infiltration BMP site to evaluate infiltration suitability. If infiltration rates are sufficient to accommodate an infiltration BMP, the geotechnical investigation shall recommend design measures necessary to prevent excessive lateral spreading that could destabilize neighboring structures. Implementing agencies shall implement these measures in project designs.

PMM HYDRO-1: Prior to approving an infiltration BMP, the Permittee shall conduct an evaluation of the suitability of the BMP location. Appropriate infiltration BMP sites should avoid areas with low permeability where recharge could adversely affect neighboring subsurface infrastructure.

The PEIR concluded that project-level geotechnical investigations would be required to identify site-specific design criteria to abate geologic hazards. Consistent with PEIR requirements, a geotechnical report was prepared for the proposed Project. The proposed Project was determined to have a less-than-significant impact from unstable geologic units or soils with PMM HYDRO-1 implemented. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The Project area is underlain by well-drained sandy and silty soil, which are not considered expansive. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact related to expansive soils.

The PEIR concluded that project-level geotechnical investigations would be required to ensure that structural BMPs are constructed in a manner that avoids impacts from expansive soils. Consistent with PEIR requirements, a geotechnical report was prepared for the proposed Project. The proposed Project was determined to have no impact related to expansive soils. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The proposed Project includes the construction of a small restroom building that would require connection to the sewage system. The proposed Project would connect to existing off-site utilities on Hope Street and Grand Avenue and would not require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. A geotechnical investigation has been performed consistent with PMM HYDRO-1 (see text in Part (c) above), which indicates that the soils at the Project site are capable of adequately supporting the Project design (DPR, 2020). Therefore, the proposed Project is in conformance with PMM HYDRO-1 and would have no impact with regard to wastewater disposal systems.

The PEIR concluded that none of the structural BMPs would include facilities that require the use of septic systems or alternate wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater. As discussed above, the proposed Project would not involve septic tanks and would have no impacts to wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The proposed Project has potential to impact previously unknown paleontological resources or unique geologic features that could be discovered and damaged or destroyed during ground disturbance, which would constitute a significant impact absent mitigation. Implementation of PMM CUL-6 (see text below) would identify and protect unanticipated discoveries of unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features, thereby reducing this impact to less than significant after mitigation.

> **PMM CUL-6:** In the event that paleontological resources are discovered during construction, the implementing agency shall notify a qualified paleontologist. The paleontologist will evaluate the potential resource, assess the significance of the find, and recommend further actions to protect the resource.

The PEIR concluded that ground-disturbing construction activities could result in inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources, which could be a significant impact, but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMM CUL-6 incorporated; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.8 Greenhouse Gases

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS **Would the project:**	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☒
b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purposes of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☒

3.8.1 Discussion:

While climate change has been a concern since at least 1998, as evidenced by the establishment of the United Nations and World Meteorological Organization's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), efforts devoted to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction, and climate change research and policy have increased dramatically in recent years.

Global climate change (GCC) is expressed as changes in the average weather of the Earth, as measured by change in wind patterns, storms, precipitation, and temperature. Much scientific research has indicated that the human-related emissions of GHGs above natural levels are likely a significant contributor to GCC.

Because the direct environmental effect of GHG emissions is the increase in global temperatures, which in turn has numerous indirect effects on the environment and humans, the area of influence for GHG impacts associated with the proposed Project would be global. However, those cumulative global impacts would be manifested as impacts on resources and ecosystems in California.

GHGs are gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and are emitted by natural processes and human activities. Examples of GHGs that are produced both by natural processes and by industry include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O). The accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere regulates the Earth's temperature. GHGs have varying amounts of global warming potential (GWP). The GWP is the ability of a gas or aerosol to trap heat in the atmosphere. By convention, CO_2 is assigned a GWP of 1. In comparison, CH_4 per the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report has a GWP of 28, which means that it has a global warming effect 28 times greater than CO_2 on an equal-mass basis. To account for their GWP, GHG emissions are often reported as CO_2e (CO_2 equivalent). The CO_2e for a source is calculated by multiplying each GHG emission by its GWP, and then adding the results together to produce a single, combined emission rate representing all GHGs.

All levels of government have some responsibility for the protection of air quality, and each level (federal, State, and regional/local) has specific responsibilities relating to air quality regulation. Regulation of GHGs is a relatively new component of air quality. Several legislative actions have been adopted to regulate GHGs on a federal, State, and local level. There are a few State and local GHG emissions reduction goals and policies

that may apply to the proposed Project; however, there are no federal, State, or local regulations that directly apply to the proposed Project's construction and operation.

3.8.1.1 Regulatory Setting

The State of California is leading the way in the United States with respect to GHG reductions. Several legislative and municipal targets for reducing GHG emissions below 1990 levels have been established. Key plans, policies, and regulations examples include:

- Senate Bill 32 (SB 32)
  - 1990 GHG emissions levels by 2020
  - 40 percent below 1990 GHG emissions levels by 2030
- Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32)
  - 80 percent below 1990 GHG emissions levels by 2050
- California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan
  - Building Decarbonization
  - Low Carbon Fuel Standards
  - Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program
- Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan 2020

3.8.1.2 Impact Analysis

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

The proposed Project would generate GHG emissions through construction activities. The period of construction would be short-term (six months), and construction-phase GHG emissions would occur directly from the off-road equipment used at the Project site and the on-road motor vehicles needed to mobilize crew, equipment, and materials. Operation emissions are limited to intermittent maintenance activities, which are new events for this new stormwater collection system. Maintenance on the stormwater pre-treatment unit and catch basins are expected to take place once per month on average and the maintenance on the infiltration drywells and connector system maintenance is expected once every three months on average. Therefore, there is a total of 16 one-day maintenance events each year. These maintenance events include six workers (each with daily commute trips), one pickup truck, and a vacuum truck. No off-road equipment is forecast to be used during these maintenance events.

The SCAQMD has established a GHG significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per year ($MTCO_2e/yr$) for industrial projects (SCAQMD, 2019), and has recommended a threshold of 3,000 $MTCO_2e/yr$ other project types (SCAQMD, 2008). For this project, which is not an industrial project, a

threshold of 3,000 metric tons per year is used for significance determination. This threshold is based on project-life amortized average annual emissions.

The proposed Project's estimated amortized annual emissions are summarized in Table 3-9. Appendix B includes the GHG emissions estimate calculations for proposed Project construction.

Table 3-9. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Construction Emissions Source	GHG Emissions ($MTCO_2e$)
On-road Vehicles	28
Off-road Equipment	26
Subtotal	55
Amortized Annual Construction Emissions [1]	1.8
Operations Emissions	2.4
Total Annual Emissions	4.3
SCAQMD GHG Emissions Significance Threshold	3,000
Exceeds Thresholds?	**No**

Source: Appendix B; SCAQMD, 2019

1 – Amortized emissions are the construction emissions divided over the project life (30 years per SCAQMD guidance).

Table 3-5 shows that the proposed Project's construction would have GHG emissions that are well below the GHG emissions significance criteria; therefore, the proposed Project would have less-than-significant GHG emissions impacts.

The PEIR concluded that GHG emissions generated by the structural BMPs in the EWMP areas would not exceed SCAQMD's emissions thresholds, and impacts would be less than significant. As discussed above, the proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

GHG emissions for the proposed Project would be generated from off-road equipment uses and on-road vehicle trips during construction, and on-road equipment during operation maintenance events. The GHG emissions for the proposed Project, as shown above in Table 3-5, are expected to be minimal both during construction and operation of the proposed Project. Several state, regional, and local plans have been developed which set goals for the reduction of GHG emissions over the next few years and decades. However, no regulations or requirements have been adopted by relevant public agencies to implement those plans for specific projects, within the meaning of CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4(b)(3)[1]. However, there are GHG emissions reduction measures contained in state and local plans, strategies, policies, and regulations that directly or indirectly affect the proposed Project's construction and operation emissions source sectors or specific types. A summary of Project

[1] Center for Biological Diversity v. Cal. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife [Newhall Ranch] [2015] 62 Cal.4th 204, 223

compliance with all potentially applicable GHG emissions reductions measures is provided in Table 3-10.

Table 3-10. Applicable GHG Emissions Reduction Strategies

Strategy	Compliance with Strategy
State AB 32 Plan Strategies (CARB, 2017)	
Vehicle Climate Change Standards	These are CARB enforced standards; vehicles that access the project site and are required to comply with the standards and would comply with these strategies.
Limit Idling Time for Commercial Vehicles	The construction contractor and maintenance crews would be required to comply with applicable idling regulations.
Use of Low Carbon or Alternative Fuels (Low Carbon Fuel Standard)	The Project's primary source of GHG emissions is from transportation fuel use. The construction equipment and vehicles and operation maintenance vehicles would use California fuels that are subject to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard regulations. While these regulations are new and have not yet caused a large penetration of low carbon/renewable fuels, over the Project life the project's GHG emissions from transportation and onsite equipment would be reduced as low carbon fuel availability use increases statewide.
Waste Reduction/Increase Recycling (including construction and demolition waste reduction)	Solid waste generated during construction of the proposed Project would be minimal and would be disposed of in accordance with the County of Los Angeles requirements, which enforces a diversion rate of 65% for C&D debris as stated in the 2016 California Green Building Standards Code.
Increase Water Use Efficiency	Not directly applicable to the proposed Project, as there would be little water use for construction or an increase in water use for future operation requirements at the Project site.
Electricity Use/Renewables Performance Standard	The Project's electricity would come from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, a California publicly owned utility that is subject to the Renewables Performance Standard that requires increasing renewable energy procurement targets over time and so reduces GHG emissions from electricity generation. Therefore, the electricity used at the site would comply with state electricity sector GHG reduction strategies.
County of Los Angeles Plans and Strategies	
County of Los Angeles Community Climate Action Plan (County of Los Angeles, 2015)	The Project would be designed to include all applicable and feasible actions listed in the County's Climate Action Plan. This includes complying with action LUT-9 (Idle Restriction Goal) that is a CARB regulatory requirement; action WAW-2 (Recycled Water Use, Water Supply Improvement Programs, and Storm Water Runoff) where the Project would be consistent with this measure by expanding the Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater catchment to more facilities where feasible in the County.

In summary, the proposed Project would conform to State and local GHG emissions reduction/climate change regulations and policies/strategies; therefore, the proposed Project would have less-than-significant impacts.

The PEIR concluded that implementation of structural BMPs in the EWMP areas would not generate substantial amounts of GHG emissions that would hinder the State's ability to achieve its GHG emission reduction goals under AB 32, or conflict with County reduction measures and plans. The proposed Project would also conform to State and County GHG emission reduction measures and policies; thus, impacts from the proposed Project would be less than significant. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS **Would the project:**		Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☒
b.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☒
c.	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☒
d.	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☒
e.	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use 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?	☐	☒

3.9.1 Discussion:

3.9.1.1 Environmental Setting

Hazardous materials are substances that have the capacity to cause harm or a health hazard during normal exposure or an accidental release, and are characterized as being toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, an irritant, or strong sensitizer. The term “hazardous substances” encompasses chemicals regulated by both the US Department of Transportation’s hazardous materials regulations and the USEPA’s hazardous waste regulations, including emergency response. Hazardous wastes require special handling and disposal because of their potential to damage public health and the environment. A designation of “acutely” or “extremely” hazardous refers to specific listed chemicals and quantities.

Activities and operations that use or manage hazardous or potentially hazardous substances could create a hazardous situation if release of these substances were to occur. The type of substance, quantity used or managed, and the nature of the activities and operations affect the probable frequency and severity of consequences from a hazardous situation. Federal, State and local laws regulate the use and management of hazardous or potentially hazardous substances. This section considers the potential for

human health hazards or exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards from the proposed Project.

Installation of the catch basins, pre-treatment system, infiltration drywells, recreational amenities, and other proposed Project components would occur within Walnut Park Pocket Park and within Pacific Boulevard, Hope Street, and Grand Avenue where surrounding land uses include residential and commercial. Construction and operation would require the use of heavy equipment machinery, which requires petroleum fuels and lubricants to operate. The use of these potentially hazardous materials requires special handling and precautions during routine fueling operations and equipment maintenance.

Hazardous Materials Sites

Searches were conducted to identify hazardous sites within a one-mile radius of the Project site pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 (Cortese List) for identifying hazardous material/waste sites. Presented below is a summary of the results of the searches of the hazardous materials/waste site databases:

- **EnviroStor** (Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC]): Tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement, and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known or suspected contamination issues. EnviroStor provides information of approximately 13,000 sites, facilities, and reports (DTSC, 2021a). 25 sites are located within 1 mile of the Project site (DTSC, 2021b).
- **GeoTracker** (State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB]). GeoTracker is the SWRC's data management system for sites that impact, or have the potential to impact, water quality in California, with an emphasis on groundwater. GeoTracker contains records for sites that require cleanup, such as Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Sites, Department of Defense Sites, and Cleanup Program Sites. GeoTracker also contains records for various unregulated projects as well as permitted facilities including irrigated lands, oil and gas production, operating permitted underground storage tanks, and land disposal sites (SWRCB, 2021a). 40 sites are located within 1 mile of the Project site (SWRCB, 2021b).

Furthermore, UltraSystems Environmental, Inc. conducted a limited Phase II environmental site assessment in April 2019, which found no health or environmental concerns.

Wildfires and Fire Hazard Safety Zones

Wildland fires represent a substantial threat in the state, particularly during the hot, dry summer months in wildland areas. Wildland fires may be started by natural processes, primarily lightning, or by human activities. California law requires the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to identify areas (zones) based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail there. Consequently, CAL FIRE has established a fire hazard severity classification system to assess wildland fire potential. The fire hazard severity classification system identifies fire hazard severity zones (FHSZ), depicted on CAL FIRE maps, which consider potential fire intensity and speed, production and spread of embers, fuel loading, topography, and climate (e.g., temperature and the potential for strong winds) (CAL FIRE, 2021a).

The fire hazard classification system provides three classes of FHSZs: Moderate, High, and Very High. Wildland fire protection in California is the responsibility of either the State, local government, or the federal government. State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) includes those areas where the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires falls primarily on the State; incorporated cities and federal ownership are not included. Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs) include incorporated cities, cultivated agriculture lands, and portions of the desert. LRA fire protection is typically provided by city fire departments, fire protection districts, counties, and by CAL FIRE under contract to local governments. Federal Responsibility Areas are those located on federal lands not otherwise included in SRAs and LRAs (CAL FIRE, 2021a). The proposed Project is located within an LRA, and as such, the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) would provide fire protection services for the Project.

3.9.1.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

At the federal level, the principal agency regulating the generation, transport and disposal of hazardous *materials* is the USEPA, under the authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The USEPA regulates hazardous *waste sites* under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act. Applicable federal regulations are contained primarily in Titles 29, 40, and 49 of the CFR.

State

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the California Office of Emergency Services establish rules governing the use of hazardous materials. Chemical suppliers are responsible for complying with all applicable packaging, labeling and shipping regulations.

Within CalEPA, DTSC has primary regulatory responsibility, with delegation of enforcement to local jurisdictions that enter into agreements with the state agency, for the generation, transport and disposal of hazardous materials under the authority of the Hazardous Waste Control Law. In 1993, Senate Bill (SB) 10821 assigned to CalEPA the authority and responsibility to establish a unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management regulatory program (known as the Unified Program) under Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.11. The purpose of the Unified Program is to consolidate, coordinate, and make consistent, both locally and statewide, six different hazardous materials and hazardous waste regulatory programs. State regulations applicable to hazardous materials are indexed in Title 26 of the CCR.

Local

Local agencies (e.g. county health departments and fire departments) regulate hazards and hazardous materials exercising their police powers under existing State regulations for the monitoring and enforcement of those regulations. In Los Angeles County, Environmental Health is an enforcement agency operating as part of the Department of Public Health and is responsible for water, sewage and solid waste.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Health Hazardous Materials Division became a Certified Unified Program Agency in 1997 and is tasked to administer the

following programs within Los Angeles County: the Hazardous Waste Generator Program, the Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Program, the California Accidental Release Prevention Program, the Aboveground Storage Tank Program, and the Underground Storage Tank Program.

In 1998, the County of Los Angeles adopted the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan, which provides emergency planning to the Project area. The intent of this plan is to increase cooperation and coordination between relevant government agencies and jurisdictions in order to increase efficiency and minimize losses (LACPW, 2015).

3.9.1.3 Impact Analysis

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

Urban runoff may contain sediment, fuel oils, grease, and chemicals from motor vehicles, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, bacteria from pet waste, heavy metals, etc. (LACPW, 2015), which would accumulate within the stormwater capture system, generally within the stormwater pre-treatment system. This Project would help to minimize the impact of these materials compared to existing conditions by reducing contaminant loading to receiving waters. Vegetation and microbial activity in soil would work to biodegrade the typical fuels, oil, and grease in local urban runoff (LACPW, 2015).

Construction would involve the use of heavy equipment, which utilizes fuels and lubricants; however, the quantities involved would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment, as construction activities would be temporary and relatively minor. No hazardous materials would be routinely transported or disposed of during construction.

Maintenance activities would include removing accumulated sediment and debris from the pre-treatment unit and cleaning of the infiltration drywells and connector system. As such, maintenance activities could result in the release of these materials during routine transport, disposal, or use. The LACPW would be required to comply with all applicable federal, State, and local laws and regulations that pertain to the transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials and waste. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that impacts associated with hazardous waste would be less than significant given that the implementing agency and its contractor would be required to comply with all relevant and applicable federal, State, and local laws and regulations that pertain to the transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous material and waste. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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?

The proposed Project would require the use of heavy equipment, such that a potential exists for the release of fuels and/or lubricants during construction and/or operation. However, the LACPW or its contractor would have an approved Spill Prevention Countermeasure and Control Plan, which is a standard BMP that would be included as a special provision in the construction contract(s), to address any release that may occur.

Furthermore, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, LACPW would implement PMM HAZ-1 (see text below) which requires preparation of a BMP Maintenance Plan to identify the frequency and procedures for removing and replacing accumulated debris, surface soils, and/or media to ensure constituent concentrations do not represent a hazardous condition or have the potential to migrate further and impact groundwater.

> **PMM HAZ-1:** Implementing agencies shall prepare and implement maintenance practices that include periodic removal and replacement of surface soils and media that may accumulate constituents that could result in further migration of constituents to sub-soils and groundwater. A BMP Maintenance Plan shall be prepared by Implementing Agencies upon approval of the BMP projects, that identifies the frequency and procedures for removal and/or replacement of accumulated debris, surface soils and/or media (to depth where constituent concentrations do not represent a hazardous condition and/or have the potential to migrate further and impact groundwater) to avoid accumulation of hazardous concentrations and the potential to migrate further to sub-soils and groundwater. The BMP Maintenance Plan may consist of a general maintenance guideline that applies to several types of smaller distributed BMPs. For smaller distributed BMPs on private property, these plans may consist of a maintenance covenant that includes requirements to avoid the accumulation of hazardous concentrations in these BMPs that may impact underlying subsoils and groundwater. Structural BMPs shall be designed to prevent migration of constituents that may impact groundwater.

Therefore, the proposed 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 materials into the environment. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

The PEIR concluded that contaminants in the runoff water or as discrete concentrated spills could accumulate in the soils and vegetation of structural BMPs. Potential impacts from spills or contaminant accumulation would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts have been determined to be less than significant with a PMM HAZ-1 incorporated, and no additional mitigation measures are required. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

Walnut Park Elementary School (2642 Olive Street, Walnut Park, CA) is located within 0.25 mile of the Project site (approximately 0.1 mile southeast of the Project site).

The proposed Project would not require the use of hazardous materials or acutely hazardous materials, other than fuel and lubricants associated with operation of typical construction equipment. The LACPW or its contractor would have an approved Spill Prevention Countermeasure and Control Plan, which is a standard BMP and would be required as a special provision in all construction contracts, to address any releases that may occur during construction or operation activities. Furthermore, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, PMM HAZ-1 (see text in Part (a) above), requires preparation of a BMP Maintenance Plan to identify the frequency and procedures for removing and replacing accumulated debris, surface soils, and/or media to ensure constituent concentrations do not represent a hazardous condition or have the potential to migrate further and impact groundwater. Air quality emissions are discussed above in Section 3.3 (Air Quality). Therefore, the proposed Project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste that could impact schools in the local area. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

The PEIR concluded that individual BMP projects would be required to comply with regulations that would avoid or minimize the potential for releases of hazardous materials, and the potential impacts to nearby schools would be less than significant. As discussed above, although one school is located within 0.25 mile of the Project site, the Project would implement PMM HAZ-1 (preparation and implementation of a BMP Maintenance Plan) and a Spill Prevention and Countermeasure and Control Plan (a standard construction BMP) during construction and comply with applicable laws and regulations. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The proposed Project is not a listed hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and none of the proposed improvements would cause the Project site to be listed as a hazardous materials site. However, it is possible there could be an unknown hazardous materials site not yet included in the databases.

Considering the number of listed sites identified in the immediate Project area (25 EnviroStor-listed sites and 40 GeoTracker-listed sites), contaminated soil and/or groundwater could be encountered during excavation posing a health hazard to construction crews, the public, and the environment. To determine if undiscovered hazardous materials were on site, a limited Phase II environmental site assessment (ESA) was conducted for the proposed Project. The ESA found low concentrations of tetrachloroethene, xylenes, Title 22 metals, m- and p-xylenes, and o-xylene; however, concentrations of all these substances are several orders of magnitude below health-based and other regulatory thresholds (UltraSystems, 2019). No other potential contaminants were detected in the soil or soil gas samples collected from the site. The

environmental condition of the site was determined to be "protective of human health and the environment" (UltraSystems, 2019). Impacts would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that exposure to hazardous materials could be potentially significant if a BMP were to be located on a hazardous materials site, but implementation of mitigation would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

No airports are located within 2 miles of the Walnut Park Pocket Park. The nearest airport, Hawthorne Municipal Airport, is located over 6 miles southwest of the Project site; therefore, the Project is not located within two miles of a public airport or public use airport**.** The proposed Project would result in aboveground features that would not be tall enough to encroach into airspace. As such, the proposed Project would have no impact on public airports.

The PEIR concluded that the location of some structural BMPs, such as detention basins, could increase hazards to aircraft if they attract wildlife on or near airports; however, these impacts could be reduced to less than significant with mitigation. The proposed Project was determined to have no impact to an airport. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The proposed Project includes construction of stormwater capture system within an approximately six-month construction period. The proposed Project would not cause any changes that would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Some construction activities would occur within Hope Street and Pacific Boulevard, which would require temporary lane closures or blocking of emergency access. As required by the adopted PMM TRAF-1 (see text below), LACPW's Traffic Division would prepare a construction traffic control plan to reduce any impact to emergency access to a less-than-significant level with mitigation incorporated.

> **PMM TRAF-1:** For projects that may affect traffic, implementing agencies shall require that contractors prepare a construction traffic control plan. Elements of the plan should include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:
>
> - Develop circulation and detour plans to minimize impacts to local street circulation. Use haul routes minimizing truck traffic on local roadways to the extent possible.

- To the extent feasible, and as needed to avoid adverse impacts on traffic flow, schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.
- Install traffic control devices as specified in Caltrans' Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones where needed to maintain safe driving conditions. Use flaggers and/or signage to safely direct traffic through construction work zones.
- Coordinate with facility owners or administrators of sensitive land uses such as police and fire stations, hospitals, and schools. Provide advance notification to the facility owner or operator of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities.

The PEIR concluded that effects on emergency response from temporary lane or roadway closures and blocked access to driveways could be significant but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMM TRAF-1 incorporated, and no additional mitigation measures are required. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The proposed Project is not located within a moderate, high , or very high FHSZ and is over 5 miles away from areas classified as very high FHSZs (CAL FIRE, 2021b). The proposed Project includes construction of a stormwater capture system consisting of primarily underground components, with the exception of aboveground recreational equipment and amenities. Construction and operation of the proposed Project would involve use of heavy equipment with engines and exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, exposing people or structures to risk of fire. Adherence to federal and State regulations, such as Caltrans' California Vehicle Code, which require spark arrester protection on vehicles, would reduce the potential to ignite a wildland fire. Furthermore, the County would use BMPs to limit the potential to ignite a fire, such as prohibiting smoking at the Project site. Additionally, four fire stations are located within 2 miles of the Project site: LACoFD Station 164 (approximately 1 mile northwest), LACoFD Station 165 (approximately 1 mile northeast), LACoFD Station 16 (approximately 1.3 miles west), and LACoFD Station 65 (approximately 1.9 miles southwest). Because the proposed Project is not located within a FHSZ, is in the proximity of several fire stations, and would implement BMPs and comply with federal and State regulations, it is not anticipated to introduce a substantial risk of wildfire. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Impacts would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that effects on wildfire from BMP construction would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with adherence to California Department of Transportation and California Vehicle Code requirements for spark arrestors on vehicles. The proposed Project would adhere to these requirements, and impacts were determined to be less than significant. Therefore, the proposed Project would not

create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY **Would the project:**	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater 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 that would:	☐	☒
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite;	☐	☒
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☒
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☒
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?	☐	☒

3.10.1 Discussion:

3.10.1.1 Environmental Setting

Climate and Hydrology. The proposed Project is within the California Climate Zone 8 that is influenced by the Pacific Ocean, resulting in a mild climate. Average temperatures range from mid-50 to mid-70 degrees Fahrenheit (CEC, 2021). The Project is located within the South Coast Hydrologic Region. Average precipitation in this region is 17.6 inches (DWR, 2020).

Walnut Park Pocket Park is located within the densely urbanized Los Angeles River Watershed area of Los Angeles County. A hydrology study by Los Angeles County determined that the total drainage area contributing to Walnut Park Pocket Park is approximately 31 acres in area and would produce an 85th percentile 24-hour storm volume of approximately 1.4 acre-feet and flow rate of 4.3 cubic feet per second (cfs) (LACPW, 2020).

Floodplains. According to the FEMA flood insurance map, the Project site is within an "Area of Minimal Flood Hazard" and is not within a FEMA-designated floodplain (FEMA, 2008).

Water Quality. The Project area is within the jurisdiction of the LARWQCB. The LARWQCB, under the authority of the SWRCB assesses surface water quality and, under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), prepares a list of waters (the 303(d) list of water quality limited segments) considered to be impaired. Impairment may result from both point-source and non-point source pollutants. See the regulatory setting below for additional information on the CWA.

Reach 2 of the Los Angeles River, into which the Project site drains, has been identified by the LARWQCB as impaired by varying pollutants, which adversely affect the beneficial uses of those waters. Impairments to the Los Angeles River (Reach 2) include ammonia, coliform bacteria, copper, lead, nutrients, oil, and trash (SWRCB, 2010). Beneficial uses of the Los Angeles River from Carson to Figueroa Street (Reach 2) include Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN), industrial service supply (IND), groundwater recharge (GWR), warm freshwater habitat (WARM), and wildlife habitat (WILD). MUN and IND are potential beneficial uses. (LARWQCB, 2014).

The SWRCB has developed Los Angeles Watershed TMDLs for metals and bacteria. TMDLs are established to develop an implementation plan to achieve water quality standards.

Groundwater. The Project site is underlain by the Central Subbasin (Central Basin) of the Coastal Plain of Los Angeles Groundwater Basin. The Central Basin is bounded on the north by a surface divide called the La Brea high, and on the northeast and east by less permeable Tertiary rocks of the Elysian, Repetto, Merced, and Puente Hills. The southeast boundary between Central Basin and Orange County Groundwater Basin roughly follows Coyote Creek, which is a regional drainage province boundary. The southwest boundary is formed by the Newport-Inglewood fault system and the associated folded rocks of the Newport-Inglewood uplift. Average precipitation throughout the subbasin ranges from 11 to 13 inches with an average of approximately 12 inches. Historically, groundwater flow in the Central Basin has been from recharge areas in the northeast part of the subbasin. However, pumping has lowered the water level in the Central Basin. Total storage capacity is roughly 13,800,000 acre-feet. Groundwater quality is influenced in part by seawater intrusion, but in general, groundwater quality is good (DWR, 2004).

According to the Geotechnical Investigation for Low Impact Development Feasibility report for the proposed Project, the historic high groundwater at the site is approximately 25 feet below ground surface (bgs). Four active wells are located within 1 mile of the Project site. An increase of approximately 50 feet was observed from 1965 to present day. However, groundwater was not encountered during subsurface explorations, and historic trends suggest a low potential for the rising of local groundwater to affect the long-term performance of the proposed infiltration system (LACPW GMED, 2020).

3.10.1.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 303 of the CWA requires states to adopt water quality standards for all surface water of the United States. In 1972, the CWA was amended to provide that the discharge of pollutants to waters of the US from any point source is unlawful unless the discharge is in compliance with an NPDES permit. The 1987

amendments to the CWA added Section 402(p), which establishes a framework for regulating municipal and industrial stormwater discharges, including discharges associated with construction activities, under the NPDES program. The SWRCB and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) are responsible for ensuring implementation and compliance with the provisions of the federal CWA.

Discharges from point sources are covered under the Industrial General Permit administered by the RWQCB. Discharges from construction activity are covered under the California General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (Construction General Permit). Both are described further below under State Regulations.

Section 401 of the CWA requires that any activity that may result in a discharge into waters of the United States be certified by the RWQCB. This certification ensures that the proposed activity not violate State and/or federal water quality standards.

Section 404 of the CWA authorizes the US Army Corps of Engineers to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material to the waters of the United States and adjacent wetlands. Discharges to waters of the United States must be avoided where possible, and minimized and mitigated where avoidance is not possible. Permits are issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to assess surface water quality and prepare a list of waters (the 303(d) list of water quality limited segments) considered to be impaired by not meeting water quality standards and not supporting their beneficial uses. Impairment may result from point-source pollutants or non-point source pollutants. The SWRCB, through its nine regional boards, assesses water quality and establishes Total Maximum Daily Load programs for streams, lakes and coastal waters that do not meet water quality standards.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA administers the National Flood Insurance Program, which subsidizes flood insurance to communities that limit development in floodplains. As part of this program, FEMA maps all United States areas that fall within a 100-year floodplain (i.e., areas with a greater than 1 percent annual probability of flooding).

Code of Federal Regulations Title 40 Part 146 - Underground Injection Control Program. This program sets forth technical criteria and standards for the Underground Injection Control Program, which includes dry wells. The proposed infiltration wells could be considered Class V injection wells, which are used to drain stormwater runoff into a subsurface formation. Generally, Class V wells inject non-hazardous fluids into or above formations that contain underground sources of drinking water, as is the case for the proposed Project. Requirements include submitting inventory information about the wells to the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) or SWRCB, and prohibitions on contaminating drinking water.

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Low Impact Development (LID) Standards. Los Angeles County LID standards included requirements for infiltration wells which include:

- Requirements for a geotechnical investigation to ensure slope stability, proper infiltration, and to prevent groundwater contamination.
- Pretreatment of stormwater.
- Design and maintenance features such as sizing, setbacks, geometry, access, cleaning and inspections.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The SWRCB and the nine RWQCBs have State authority to regulate water quality under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne) and CCR Title 27 Sections 22560 through 22565. The SWRCB and the RWQCBs have the authority under this act to regulate waste discharge to surface waters or land. In addition, the Porter-Cologne Act establishes a regulatory program to protect water quality and to protect beneficial uses of state waters.

County of Los Angeles General Plan. Applicable goals and policies for local water resources include (County of Los Angeles, 2015):

- **Policy C/NR 5.1:** Support the Low Impact Development philosophy, plan and design public and private development with hydrologic sensitivity, including limits to straightening and channelizing natural flow paths, removal of vegetative cover, compaction of soils, and distribution of naturalistic BMPs at regional, neighborhood, and parcel-level scales.
- **Policy C/NR 5.2:** Require compliance by all County departments with adopted Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, General Construction, and point source NPDES permits.
- **Policy C/NR 5.6:** Minimize point and non-point source water pollution.
- **Policy C/NR 7.2:** Support the preservation, restoration, and strategic acquisition of available land for open space to preserve watershed uplands, natural streams, drainage paths, wetlands, and rivers, which are necessary for the healthy function of watersheds.

County of Los Angeles Stormwater Pollution Control Requirements for Construction Activities

To comply with the Phase II General Construction Permit, the County of Los Angeles has established a set of BMPs with which all permitted construction activities on unincorporated county lands must comply. The BMPs, which are based on the state's Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook (Caltrans, 2003), are as follows:

- Eroded sediments and other pollutants must be retained on site and may not be transported from the site via sheet flow, swales, area drains, natural drainage courses, or wind.
- Stockpiles of earth and other construction related materials must be protected from being transported from the site by the forces of wind or water.
- Fuels, oils, solvents and other toxic materials must be stored in accordance with their listing and are not to contaminate the soil and surface waters. All approved storage containers are to be protected from the weather. Spills must be cleaned

up immediately and disposed of in a proper manner. Spills may not be washed into the drainage system.

- Non-stormwater runoff from equipment and vehicle washing and any other activity shall be contained at the project site.
- Excess or waste concrete may not be washed into the public way or any other drainage system. Provisions shall be made to retain concrete wastes on site until they can be disposed of as solid waste.
- Trash and construction related solid wastes must be deposited into a covered receptacle to prevent contamination of rainwater and dispersal by wind.
- Sediments and other materials may not be tracked from the site by vehicle traffic. The construction entrance roadways must be stabilized so as to inhibit sediments from being deposited into the public way. Accidental depositions must be swept up immediately and may not be washed down by rain or other means.
- Any slopes with disturbed soils or denuded of vegetation must be stabilized so as to inhibit erosion by wind and water. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works may identify and require additional BMPs, as appropriate.

3.10.1.3 Impact Analysis

a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

Potential water pollutants could be generated including soil sediment and petroleum-based fuels or lubricants associated with equipment used during Project construction. Project construction would result in temporary excavation and grading for installation of Project components. If not properly addressed, stormwater pollution and erosion may occur, which could affect surface water quality. Impacts to water quality during construction would be minimized through implementation of standard erosion control measures (e.g., silt fence, straw waddles) per the MS4 Permit, and implementation of a Spill Prevention Countermeasure and Control Plan during construction, which is a standard BMP that would be included as a special provision in the construction contract(s).

The proposed Project design includes erosion control features to reduce the potential for water quality impacts, including vegetative cover and drainage features within the park. Site inspections would occur at least annually to maintain proper drainage, remove debris, and identify necessary maintenance for the infiltration system and pre-treatment system. Additionally, the proposed Project would improve the existing site by providing artificial turf, concrete, and decomposed granite, which would reduce the potential for erosion during operation.

Potential water pollutants could be generated by the collection of urban runoff and stormwater prior to injection into the subsurface via infiltration wells. However, the proposed Project design includes features to remove the pollutants prior to injection, which would substantially reduce this impact. Stormwater flows would pass through a stormwater pretreatment system, consisting of either a hydrodynamic separator or

baffle box, to remove trash, sediment, oil, and other pollutants. The treated stormwater would then be sent to the infiltration drywells. A monitoring system would be utilized to remotely monitor the volume and water quality conditions of runoff captured and treated by the Project's stormwater components.

PMMs HYDRO-2 and HYDRO-3 (below) address water quality by requiring site-specific pre-treatment technologies and data searches of contaminated groundwater (see text below). Site-specific treatment technologies have been incorporated into the proposed Project design. A regulatory database review for the Project site was conducted; it was determined that there are no contaminated groundwater plume or leach fields present or within close proximity to the Project site (PMM HYDRO-3) (Partner, 2016). Furthermore, both ESAs completed for the proposed Project have adequately addressed the measures identified in PMMs HYDRO-2 and HYDRO-3, ensuring that the proposed Project is in compliance with these measures (Partner, 2016; UltraSystems, 2019).

The purpose of the Project is to contribute to compliance with the 2012 MS4 Permit for Los Angeles County, which gives Permittees the option of implementing an innovative approach to permit compliance through development of an EWMP which includes this proposed Project. The EWMP projects are intended to improve runoff water quality.

The Project would comply with PMMs HYDRO-2 and HYDRO-3 and include proper implementation and maintenance to improve water quality. Adverse impacts to State and federal groundwater standards/requirements resulting from the operation of the proposed Project is not expected. With proper implementation and maintenance, the potential for the proposed Project to violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements would be minimal. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The long-term impact to water quality would be beneficial.

PMM HYDRO-2: Prior to approving an infiltration BMP, the Permittee shall identify pretreatment technologies, type, and depth of filtration media; depth to groundwater; and other design considerations necessary to prevent contaminants from impacting groundwater quality. The design shall consider stormwater quality data within the BMP's collection area to assess the need and type of treatment and filtration controls. Local design manuals and ordinances requiring minimum separation distance to groundwater shall also be met as part of the design.

PMM HYDRO-3: Prior to the installation of an infiltration BMP, the Permittee shall conduct a regulatory database review for contaminated groundwater sites within a quarter mile of the proposed infiltration facility. The review shall include locations of on-site wastewater treatment systems that could be affected by the BMP. The Permittee shall identify whether any contaminated groundwater plumes or leach fields are present within close proximity to the BMP location that could be affected by infiltrated water and whether coordination with the local and state environmental protection overseeing agency and responsible party is warranted prior to final design of infiltration facility.

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would have no adverse impact to water quality, and implementation of mitigation would ensure compliance with water quality standards and waste discharge requirements. The proposed Project would have a less-than-significant impact associated with water quality standards and discharge requirements with PMM HYDRO-2 and PMM HYDRO-3 incorporated, and the overall impact to water quality would be beneficial. No additional mitigation measures are required. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The proposed Project would not involve any withdrawals from an aquifer or groundwater table and would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. The proposed Project's infiltration drywells would increase groundwater storage by allowing captured stormwater to be infiltrated into the underlying Central Basin. Furthermore, PMM GEO-2 would ensure coordination with local groundwater managers to manage groundwater levels. LACPW has and would continue to coordinate with the Water Replenishment District. As a result of Project recharge and PMM GEO-2, this impact is less than significant after mitigation.

> **PMM GEO-2:** Prior to installing BMPs designed to recharge the local groundwater supplies, the Implementing Agency shall notify local groundwater managers, including the Upper Los Angeles River Area Water Master, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California, or the San Gabriel Water Master as well as local water producers such as local municipalities and water companies. The Implementing Agency shall coordinate BMP siting efforts with groundwater managers and producers to mitigate high groundwater levels while increasing local water supplies.

The PEIR concluded that adverse effects from groundwater recharge in areas with limited permeability could be potentially significant if BMPs are inappropriately located or managed but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMM GEO-2 incorporated, and no additional mitigation measures are required. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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 that would:

> No stream, river, or other major water body exists within the Project site, and as such, the Project would not alter the course of any streams or rivers.

Although the proposed Project would install pavement over an existing undeveloped area, it would include predominantly permeable pavement, decomposed granite paths, vegetated bioswale for roof runoff, and native landscaping, reducing the amount of runoff resulting from alteration of the existing drainage patterns onsite.

i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite?

The proposed Project would install stormwater capture components at grade or belowground within existing streets and a vacant lot, which would require temporary ground disturbance that could result in some erosion. The proposed Project would implement standard erosion BMPs (e.g., silt fence, straw waddles, etc.) as required by the 2012 MS4 Permit. After installation of the belowground components, the proposed Project would provide improved soil stability to the existing site by installing pavement, artificial turf, and recreational facilities over most of the site's ground surface. These improvements would reduce the site's potential for erosion by paving over exposed soil. Furthermore, the paved surfaces would largely be permeable and allow water infiltration. As such, the Project's components would not substantially alter the drainage pattern currently present on site; substantial erosion or siltation resulting from the alteration of drainage patterns would not occur. Impacts would be less than significant.

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

The proposed Project would install a stormwater capture system that would capture surface flows and infiltrate them underground, reducing the existing level of surface runoff. It would also include permeable surfaces, a vegetated bioswale for roof runoff, and native landscaping to improve stormwater infiltration. These features would minimize surface runoff and reduce the amount of flooding on- and offsite. Impacts would be less than significant.

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

The proposed Project would capture and infiltrate surface runoff, reducing the existing levels of runoff. It would also include permeable surfaces that would prevent a majority of runoff such that it would not exceed the capacity of stormwater drainage systems. Impacts would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that erosion impacts resulting from the alteration of existing drainage patterns from individual projects would be less than significant. The proposed Project would have less-than-significant impacts on drainage patterns; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not

discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The proposed Project is located on relatively flat land approximately 12 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. There are no nearby lakes. As such, the Project would result in no impact regarding a tsunami or seiche zone. The Project is also within an Area of Minimal Flood Hazard (FEMA, 2008) and would not be susceptible to flood hazards. The proposed Project would be constructed within existing adjacent streets and a vacant unimproved lot with exposed soil and weedy vegetation. As described in X(c), the proposed Project would improve soil stability to the existing site by installing pavement, artificial turf, and recreational facilities over most of the site's ground surface. These paved surfaces would largely be permeable and consist of permeable pavement, decomposed granite paths, vegetated bioswale for roof runoff, and native landscaping to improve stormwater infiltration. As such, flooding would not substantially increase. The proposed Project would have no impact regarding the risk of release of pollutants due to project inundation from a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone.

The PEIR concluded that the risk to structural BMPs from a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow would be less than significant. The proposed Project would have no impact associated with seiche, tsunami, or flood zone. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

As described in Section 2 (Project Description), the primary objective of the proposed Project is to meet the runoff and water quality goals of the EWMP. The pre-treatment system and underground infiltration drywells would reduce the amount of bacteria and metal pollutants being discharged into the Los Angeles River; improve water quality in the Los Angeles River, assist the County in addressing stormwater permit requirements, achieve water quality objectives for the Project drainage area, and enhance recreational opportunities that would increase public awareness of water quality and water conservation issues. The proposed Project would effectively reduce bacteria and metal pollutants in stormwater entering the Los Angeles River. Through proper implementation, the proposed Project would ultimately improve water quality in the region, and no impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would improve water quality of detained stormwater and reduce potential sources of polluted runoff, thereby having a beneficial effect. The proposed Project would also have a beneficial effect on water quality; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not

discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.11 Land Use Planning

11. LAND USE PLANNING **Would the project:**		Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
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?	☐	☒

3.11.1 Discussion:

3.11.1.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project would be located in Walnut Park, which is an unincorporated community within Los Angeles County.

3.11.1.2 Regulatory Setting

The Project site would be subject to the policies and ordinances of the Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan and the County's Zoning Ordinance (Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code). No adopted habitat conservation plans are applicable to the Project site or proposed staging areas (LACPW, 2015).

3.11.1.3 Impact Analysis

a. Physically divide an established community?

A community may be divided if a project were to introduce a physical barrier through that community. The proposed Project would construct and operate an underground stormwater capture system within a vacant lot, with components extending at or under ground level into the adjacent streets (i.e., catch basins at ground level on the west and east side of Pacific Boulevard, a diversion structure under Pacific Boulevard and Hope Street, and a stormwater pretreatment system under Hope Street). The Project would also install aboveground recreational amenities within the boundaries of the lot. Although the proposed Project would require traffic detours and lane closures during the six-month construction period, none of the proposed Project components would create a permanent barrier that could divide the residential community or commercial area. The proposed Project would not physically divide an established community, and no impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not physically divide an established community. The proposed Project would also have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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?

As described above, the proposed Project would be subject to the policies and ordinances of the Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan and the County's Zoning Ordinance. According to the Department of Regional Planning's Zoning Map for the Walnut Park area, the Project components would be located within Zone C-3 (General Commercial) (DRP, 2021).The County has designed the proposed Project to comply with local zoning codes (LACPW, 2015). Further, the County would implement LID features (e.g., continuous permeable pavement, decomposed granite paths, vegetated bioswale, and native planting) that support implementation of the County's LID Ordinance, which protects surface and ground water quality within the County's watersheds (LACPW, 2015). Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations, and no impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that each structural BMP would be subject to land use zoning and General Plan designations adopted by the local municipality, and that these BMPs would complement the Los Angeles County's land use goals and policies; no impact related to conflicts with land use plan, policy, or regulation would occur. As described above, the proposed Project would not conflict with applicable County land use plans, policies, or regulations and no impacts would occur. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.12 Mineral Resources

12. MINERAL RESOURCES **Would the project:**	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?	☐	☒
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☒

3.12.1 Discussion:

3.12.1.1 Environmental Setting

Mineral resources may include metals such as gold, silver, iron and copper, as well as construction aggregate. The Los Angeles County General Plan defines mineral resources as commercially viable aggregate or mineral deposits, such as sand, gravel, and other construction aggregate (County of Los Angeles, 2015).

Mineral resource areas are classified by the State of California as Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ). Four zones have been identified depending on whether mineral resources, primarily sand and gravel, are known to be present, or absent, or for which additional information is necessary. The California Department of Conservation and County of Los Angeles indicate that the Project area is not within an MRZ (DOC, 2010; County of Los Angeles, 2014). The nearest MRZ is approximately 3 miles north of the Project site (County of Los Angeles, 2014).

3.12.1.2 Regulatory Setting

California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975 (Public Resources Code, Sections 2710-2796). SMARA provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy with the regulation of surface mining operations to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition. SMARA also encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the State's mineral resources.

Los Angeles County General Plan. The Los Angeles County General Plan (County of Los Angeles, 2015) has several policies relevant to mineral resources and this project:

- **Policy C/NR 10.1:** Protect MRZ-2s and access to MRZ-2s from development and discourage incompatible adjacent land uses.
- **Policy C/NR 10.2:** Prior to permitting a use that threatens the potential to extract minerals in an identified Mineral Resource Zone, the County shall prepare a statement specifying its reasons for permitting the proposed use, and shall forward a copy to the State Geologist and the State Mining and Geology Board for review, in accordance with the Public Resources Code, as applicable.

- **Policy C/NR 10.5:** Manage mineral resources in a manner that effectively plans for access to, development and conservation of, mineral resources for existing and future generations.
- **Policy C/NR 10.6:** Require that new non-mining land uses adjacent to existing mining operations be designed to provide a buffer between the new development and the mining operations. The buffer distance shall be based on an evaluation of noise, aesthetics, drainage, operating conditions, biological resources, topography, lighting, traffic, operating hours, and air quality.
- **Policy C/NR 11.1:** Require mineral resource extraction and production activities and drilling for and production of oil and natural gas to comply with County regulations and state requirements, such as SMARA, and DOGGR regulations.
- **Policy C/NR 11.2:** Require the reclamation of abandoned surface mines to productive second uses.
- **Policy C/NR 11.3:** Require appropriate levels of remediation for all publicly-owned oil and natural gas production sites based on possible future uses.
- **Policy C/NR 11.4:** Require that mineral resource extraction and production operations, as well as activities related to the drilling for and production of oil and natural gas, be conducted to protect other natural resources and prevent excessive grading in hillside areas.
- **Policy C/NR 11.5:** Encourage and support efforts to increase the safety of oil and gas production and processing activities, including state regulations related to well stimulation techniques such as hydraulic fracturing or "fracking."

3.12.1.3 Impact Analysis

a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?

According to the California Department of Conservation and Los Angeles County, the proposed Project is not located within a mapped MRZ. As there are no known mineral resources located within the proposed Project footprint, the construction and operation of the proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of mineral resources. No impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that effects on mineral resources from individual BMPs located within a designated MRZ would be less than significant, given that these projects would need to comply with local and County General Plan zoning restrictions. The proposed Project was determined to have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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?

The County identifies four major MRZs within or partially within the unincorporated areas, which include Irwindale Production Area, Little Rock Creek Fan, Soledad Production Area, and Sun Valley Production Area (County of Los Angeles, 2015). The proposed Project is not located in any of these MRZs or areas designated for oil and gas resources (County of Los Angeles, 2014). There are no other mapped or known mineral resources located within the proposed Project footprint. The proposed Project would not alter the availability of any mineral resource, including oil resources, that may be beneath the surface. The proposed Project would result in no impact.

The PEIR concluded that effects on oil and gas resources from individual BMPs would be less than significant, given that these projects would need to comply with local and County General Plan zoning restrictions. The proposed Project would result in no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.13 Noise

13. NOISE **Would the project:**	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
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 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?	☐	☒

3.13.1 Discussion:

General Information on Noise

The following is a brief background on the fundamentals of environmental acoustics. Although extremely loud noises can cause temporary or permanent damage, the primary environmental impact of noise is annoyance. The objectionable characteristic of noise often refers to its loudness. Loudness represents the intensity of the sound wave, or the amplitude of the sound wave height measured in decibels (dB). Decibels are calculated on a logarithmic scale; thus, a 10-dB increase represents a 10-fold increase in acoustic energy or intensity, while a 20 dB increase represents a 100-fold increase in intensity. Decibels are the preferred measurement of environmental sound because of the direct relationship between a sound's intensity and the subjective "noisiness" of it. The A-weighted decibel system (dBA) is a convenient sound measurement technique that weights selected frequencies based on how well humans can perceive them.

Noise Effects on Humans. The range of human hearing spans from the minimal threshold of hearing (approximately 3 dBA) to that level of noise that is past the threshold of pain (approximately 120 dBA). Generally, a change in sound level of 3 dB is just barely noticeable, while a change of 5 dB is clearly noticeable. A change of 10 dB is perceived as a doubling (or halving) of sound level. Noise levels are generally considered low when they are below 45 dBA, moderate in the 45 to 60 dBA range, and high above 60 dBA. Noise levels greater than 85 dBA can cause temporary or permanent hearing loss if exposure is sustained.

Ambient environmental noise levels can be characterized by several different descriptors. Energy Equivalent or Energy Average Level (Leq) describes the average or mean noise level over a specified period of time. Leq provides a useful measure of the impact of fluctuating noise levels on sensitive receptors over a period of time. Other descriptors of noise incorporate a weighting system that accounts for human's susceptibility to noise irritations at night. Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is a measure of cumulative noise exposure over a 24-hour period, where a 5 dB penalty is added to evening hours

(7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) and a 10 dB penalty is added to night hours (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.). Day/Night Average Noise Level (Ldn) is essentially the same as CNEL, with the exception that the evening penalty is dropped.

Noise Propagation. In air, sound from a point source radiates according to inverse square laws either spherically or hemispherically from the source, depending upon whether the noise source is near a reflecting surface such as the ground. Consequently, sound will decrease at a rate of 6 dB per doubling of distance from a point source. Additional decreases will occur due to sound absorption in the air, interaction with the ground, and shielding by intervening obstacles such as terrain (hills), wall, or buildings. A noise source which is relatively long, such as a constant stream of traffic, is called a line source, and the sound spreads cylindrically, at a rate of 3 dB per doubling of distance.

General Information on Vibration

Vibration from objects in contact with the ground will propagate energy through the ground and can be perceptible by humans and animals in the form of perceptible movement or in the form of rumbling sound caused by the vibration of room surfaces. The latter is described as ground-borne noise. High levels of vibration can result in architectural damage and structural damage depending upon the amplitude of the vibration and the fragileness of the building or structure.

Vibration is an oscillatory motion through a solid medium, in which the motion's amplitude can be described in terms of displacement, velocity, or acceleration. When assessing damage potential, vibration is often measured and reported in terms of peak particle velocity (PPV). For evaluating human response, the accepted manner to measure and report vibration is in terms of the root mean square amplitude. Like noise, vibration is normally expressed in terms of decibels (VdB) with a reference velocity of $1x10^{-6}$ inches per second (in/sec).

3.13.1.1 Environmental Setting - Noise Environment of the Proposed Project Area

The Project is within an undeveloped lot in a highly urbanized setting in the community of Walnut Park, with elements extending along Pacific Boulevard, Hope Street, and Grand Avenue, which includes commercial and residential land uses. The dominant noise source is traffic along Pacific Boulevard. To quantify the existing noise conditions of the Project area, short-term (15 minute) noise measurements were taken using a sound level meter Type 1 (3M Sound Examiner SE-402) at three locations. Figure 3-1 provides the locations of noise measurements. Table 3-11 provides the recorded ambient noise conditions in the proposed Project area. As demonstrated in Table 3-11, the existing average ambient noise levels in the Project area range between 55 and 63 dBA Leq.

Figure 3-1. Sound Measurement Locations

Sensitive Receptors

Land uses considered to be noise sensitive generally include residential, educational and health facilities, research institutions, certain recreational and entertainment facilities (typically, indoor theaters and parks for passive activities), and churches. The closest sensitive receptors to the Project site include residences immediately adjacent north, east, and south and students at the Walnut Park Elementary School, located approximately 0.1 mile southeast of the Project site.

Table 3-11. Ambient Noise Levels Representative of the Project Area

Location	Time & Duration	Leq	Lmax	Lmin	Noted Sources
1: 2620 Hope Street – closest residence north of proposed Project	10:17 a.m. 15 min.	58.6	72.5	42.0	Birds, planes, cars on Pacific Boulevard and Hope Street, neighbors working in yard, helicopter, dogs barking, pedestrians
2: 2564 Grand Avenue – closest residence across Pacific Boulevard	10:37 a.m. 15 min.	62.5	76.2	42.9	Dogs barking, traffic on Pacific Boulevard, music from car, planes, birds, traffic signal beeping
3: Northernmost corner of Walnut Park Elementary School	11:12 a.m. 15 min.	55.9	69.9	41.5	Pedestrians, sprinklers, distant traffic on Pacific Boulevard, planes, cars, birds, dog barking in distance

Source: Aspen, 2021.
Notes: All measurements are in dBA and were taken on May 7, 2021.

3.13.1.2 Regulatory Setting

The proposed Project is located within Los Angeles County in unincorporated Walnut Creek. Limitation on noise from construction and operation are dictated in the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances, Title 12 – Environmental Protection, Chapter 12.08 – Noise Control (County of Los Angeles, 1987).

Construction. Noise Ordinance Section 12.08.440, Construction Noise, prohibits the operation of any tools or equipment used in construction, drilling, repair, alteration, or demolition work between weekday hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., or anytime on Sundays or holidays, if the sound creates a noise disturbance across a residential or commercial real-property line, except for emergency work of public service utilities or by variance issued by the health officer. The maximum noise during construction at residential structures shall not exceed the levels listed in Table 3-12. For business structures, the mobile equipment limit is 85 dBA daily, including Sunday and legal holidays (County of Los Angeles, 1978).

Table 3-12. Residential Structure Construction Noise Limits

Equipment Type	Single-Family Residential	Multi-Family Residential	Semiresidential / Commercial
Mobile Equipment [1] Daytime (7 a.m. – 8 p.m.), except Sun. & holidays Nighttime (8 p.m. – 7 a.m.), all day Sun. & holidays	75 dBA 60 dBA	80 dBA 64 dBA	85 dBA 70 dBA
Stationary Equipment Daytime (7 a.m. – 8 p.m.), except Sun. & holidays Nighttime (8 p.m. – 7 a.m.), all day Sun. & holidays	60 dBA 50 dBA	65 dBA 55 dBA	70 dBA 60 dBA

Source: County of Los Angeles, 1978.
1 – Mobile Equipment. Maximum noise levels for nonscheduled, intermittent, short-term operation (less than 10 days) of mobile equipment.
2 – Stationary Equipment. Maximum noise level for repetitively scheduled and relatively long-term operation (periods of 10 days or more) of stationary equipment.

Section 12.08.440, Part C, states that all mobile or stationary internal-combustion-engine powered equipment or machinery shall be equipped with suitable exhaust and air-intake silencers in proper working order. Additionally, Section 12.08.510 – Stationary nonemergency signaling devices, states that the sounding or permitting the sounding of any electronically amplified signal from any stationary bell, chime, siren, whistle, or similar device intended primarily for nonemergency purposes, from any place, for more than 10 consecutive seconds in any hourly period is prohibited. Warning devices necessary for the protection of public safety are exempted (Section 12.08.570).

However, exemptions to the noise ordinance are described under Section 12.08.570. Per Section 12.08.570, Part H, public health and safety activities are exempt, including all transportation, flood control, and utility company maintenance and construction operations at any time on public right-of-way, and those situations which may occur on private real property deemed necessary to serve the best interest of the public and to protect the public's health and well-being, including but not limited to street sweeping, debris and limb removal, removal of downed wires, restoring electrical service, repairing traffic signals, unplugging sewers, snow removal, house moving, vacuuming catchbasins, removal of damaged poles and vehicles, repair of water hydrants and mains, gas lines, oil lines, sewers, etc. The proposed Project would therefore be exempt from the County's noise ordinances.

Vibration. Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances Section 12.08.560 – Vibration, prohibits the operation of any device that creates vibration that is above the vibration perception threshold of any individual at or beyond the property boundary of the source if on private property, or at 150 feet from the source if on a public space or public right-of-way. The perception threshold is stated as a motion velocity of 0.01 in/sec over the range of 1 to 100 Hertz.

As documented in the PEIR, the thresholds for groundborne vibration are based on guidelines developed by Caltrans in the *Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual* (Caltrans, 2020). Tables 3-13 and 3-14 present the thresholds applied

to the proposed Project. Transient sources include a single isolated event, such as blasting or drop balls. Continuous/frequent intermittent sources include impact pile drivers, vibratory pile drivers, and vibratory compaction equipment.

Table 3-13. Guideline Vibration Damage Potential Threshold Criteria

Structures and Condition	Maximum Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) (in/sec)	
	Transient Sources	Continuous/Frequent Intermittent Sources
Extremely fragile historic buildings, ruins, ancient monuments	0.12	0.08
Fragile buildings	0.2	0.1
Historic and some old buildings	0.5	0.25
Older residential structures	0.5	0.3
New residential structures	1.0	0.5
Modern industrial/commercial buildings	2.0	0.5

Source: CalTrans, 2020 – Table 19.

Table 3-14. Guideline Vibration Annoyance Potential Threshold Criteria

Human Response	Maximum Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) (in/sec)	
	Transient Sources	Continuous/Frequent Intermittent Sources
Barely perceptible	0.04	0.01
Distinctly perceptible	0.25	0.04
Strongly perceptible	0.9	0.10
Severe	2.0	0.4

Source: CalTrans, 2020 – Table 20.

Operation. Noise Ordinance Section 12.08.390 provides the exterior noise standards that shall apply to all receptor properties within a designated noise zone, as shown in Table 3-15.

Table 3-15. Exterior Noise Limits

Noise Zone	Land Use (Receptor Property)	Time Interval	Exterior Noise Level (dB)
I	Noise-sensitive area	Anytime	45
II	Residential properties	Nighttime (10 p.m. – 7 a.m.) Daytime (7 a.m. – 10 p.m.)	45 50
III	Commercial properties	Nighttime (10 p.m. – 7 a.m.) Daytime (7 a.m. – 10 p.m.)	55 60
IV	Industrial properties	Anytime	70

Source: County of Los Angeles, 1978.

Additional cumulative noise limits are identified in Section 12.08.390, Part B of the County ordinance (County of Los Angeles, 1978).

3.13.1.3 Impact Analysis

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

Construction of the proposed Project would occur Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., during the six-month construction period. Therefore, the days and hours of construction would comply with the requirements of Noise Ordinance Section 12.08.440.

Construction activities have the potential to temporarily increase noise levels in the Project area. Construction would produce intermittent high-noise levels throughout construction. Noise levels would fluctuate depending on the construction activity, equipment type, duration of use, and the distance between the noise source and receiver. Table 3-12 provides the estimated noise levels of construction equipment, similar to what may be required to construct the proposed Project based on the

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Roadway Construction Noise Model. Equipment and operation noise levels in this inventory are expressed in terms of Lmax noise levels.

Table 3-16. Noise Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment	Measured Lmax[1], dBA (at 50 feet)
Asphalt Roller	80
Asphalt Paver	77
Backhoe	78
Chainsaw	84
Chipper[2]	N/A
Compactor	83
Crane	81
Dozer	82
Dump Truck	76
Excavator	81
Generator	81
Grader[2]	N/A
Pavement Saw Cutter[2]	N/A
Paver	77
Pickup Truck	75
Street Sweeper	82
Truck bucket auger	84

Source: FHWA, 2017.
Notes: 1 – Lmax: maximum A-weighted sound level (dBA, slow).
2 – Information on this equipment is not provided in the FHWA Roadway Construction Noise Model inventory.

As shown in Table 3-12, maximum noise levels associated with these individual pieces of equipment range from 75 to 84 dBA Lmax at 50 feet. Intermittent temporary noise levels at construction staging areas along Hope Street and Grand Avenue would also likely generate similar intermittent levels. These maximum construction-related noise levels would attenuate at an average rate of 6 dBA every doubling of distance for stationary sources depending on adjacent surfaces and noise spreading (FTA, 2018). The nearest residential receptor to the Project work areas would be approximately immediately adjacent east of the proposed pocket park. At 0 feet, peak unmitigated noise levels would intermittently range between approximately 75 to 84 dBA Lmax, which exceed ambient noise levels (Table 3-7) and County limits for single-family residential daytime noise levels (Table 3-8). Intermittent temporary noise levels at the work areas would also likely generate similar intermittent levels or slightly higher if more than one piece of equipment is operating at a given time.

Implementation of mitigation measures such as using noise barriers, curtains, or shields and locating noise-generating construction activities as far as possible from the nearest noise-sensitive land uses would reduce construction noise levels. For example, the use of noise barriers such as noise control curtains can provide up to a

25-dB reduction (Kinetics Noise Control, 2021). Table 3-13 presents the loudest (worst-case) mobile and stationary construction equipment and how mitigation would reduce maximum noise levels to below thresholds.

Table 3-17. Maximum Mobile and Stationary Noise Levels

Equipment	Measured Lmax[1], dBA (at 50 feet)	dBA Reduction from Mitigation[2]	Lmax After Mitigation Applied	Threshold, dBA	Exceeds Thresholds?
Chainsaw	84	25	59	75	No
Generator	81	25	56	60	No
Truck bucket auger	84	25	59	75	No

Source: FHWA, 2017.
Notes: 1 – Lmax: maximum A-weighted sound level (dBA, slow).
2 – Mitigation methods include design measures such as using noise barriers, curtains, or shields; locating stationary noise-generating sources as far as possible from the nearest noise-sensitive land uses; etc.

For the infiltration wells and the proposed pocket park, the mobile equipment construction noise limit of 75 dBA (7 a.m. – 8 p.m.) for single-family residences could be applied (see Table 3-8). Treating the main Project site within the pocket park as stationary equipment (six-month timeframe) would result in a construction noise limit of 60 dBA (7 a.m. – 8 p.m.) for single-family residences (see Table 3-8). Along Pacific Boulevard, where it is semi-residential/commercial, these noise limits would increase to 70 dBA.

Implementation of PMMs NOISE-1 and NOISE-2 (below) would reduce construction noise levels.

PMM NOISE-1: The implementing agencies shall implement the following measures during construction, as needed:

- Include design measure necessary to reduce the construction noise levels, including noise barriers, curtains, or shields.
- Place noise-generating construction activities (e.g., operation of compressors and generators, cement mixing, general truck idling) as far as possible from the nearest noise-sensitive land uses.
- Locate stationary construction noise sources as far from adjacent noise-sensitive receptors as possible.
- If construction occurs near a school, the construction contractor shall coordinate with the school administration to limit disturbance to the campus. Efforts to limit construction activities to non-school days shall be encouraged.
- For the centralized and regional BMP projects located adjacent to noise-sensitive land uses (schools, residences), identify a liaison for these off-site sensitive receptors, such as residents and property owners, to contact with concerns regarding construction noise and vibration. The liaison's telephone number(s) shall be prominently displayed at construction locations.

- For the centralized and regional BMP projects located adjacent to noise-sensitive land uses, notify in writing all landowners and occupants of properties adjacent to the construction area of the anticipated construction schedule at least two weeks prior to groundbreaking.

PMM NOISE-2: All structural BMPs that employ mechanized stationary equipment that generate noise levels shall comply with the applicable noise standards established by the implementing agency with jurisdiction over the structural BMP site. The equipment shall be designed with noise-attenuating features (e.g., enclosures) and/or located at areas (e.g., belowground) where nearby noise-sensitive land uses would not be exposed to a perceptible noise increase in their noise environment.

Due to the proximity of the proposed infiltration wells and recreational facilities to single-family residences, it is unlikely that construction equipment could be located farther away from adjacent noise-sensitive receptors. Use of noise barriers such as noise control curtains can provide up to a 25-dB reduction (Kinetics Noise Control, 2021). With adherence to the measures contained within PMM NOISE-1, peak intermittent noise levels would be reduced at the nearest residences to comply with the construction noise performance standards defined in Noise Ordinance Section 12.08.440 (and presented in Table 3-8 for single-family residences). It is possible noise levels could temporarily and intermittently exceed the local noise ordinance slightly resulting in a significant, unavoidable impact. However, noise impacts would be temporary, lasting approximately six months, and would cease when construction is completed. Furthermore, implementation of PMMs NOISE-1 and NOISE-2 would reduce construction noise impacts. The proposed Project would not permanently increase ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project.

Project operation includes underground components such as the drywells, catch basins, and diversion system, as well as a new pocket park with features including play equipment, a splash pad, exercise stations, picnic area, and open turf field. As shown in Table 3-11, the most stringent (nighttime) exterior noise limit is 45 dB for residential properties (Noise Zones I and II). The proposed Project's underground components would not produce any perceptible noise, and the only noise emitted from the park would be from visitors, which would be temporary and intermittent during park hours. O&M activities would not generate permanent increase in ambient noise levels. Operational impacts would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that noise effects from construction of individual projects could exceed local noise standards under certain scenarios (e.g., where established numerical noise standards for construction noise levels cannot be achieved), even with implementation of PMM NOISE-1 and PMM NOISE-2, resulting in a significant and unavoidable impact. Operational noise levels would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's construction impacts were determined to be significant and unavoidable; operational noise impacts were determined to be less than significant. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Vibration-sensitive land uses include high-precision manufacturing facilities or research facilities with optical and electron microscopes. None of these occur in the Project area. Therefore, the significance threshold for "excessive groundborne vibration" depends on whether a nuisance, annoyance, or physical damage to any structure could occur.

Caltrans guidance (see Table 3-10) states that the vibration damage potential threshold for continuous/frequent intermittent sources (e.g., vibratory compaction equipment) is 0.3 in/sec PPV for older residential structures and 0.5 in/sec for new residential structures. With respect to vibration annoyance potential, maximum PPV of 0.01 in/sec is barely perceptible, 0.04 is distinctly perceptible, 0.10 is strongly perceptible (begin to annoy people), and 0.4 would result in a severe human response (see Table 3-10). As described in Table 3-12, construction equipment would include the use of cranes, chainsaw, dozer, excavator, generator, street sweeper, auger, and various trucks that would generate ground-borne vibration. Operation of a large dozer (bulldozer) would result in construction vibration levels of 0.098 in/sec PPV at 25 feet, and a small dozer would result in construction vibration levels of 0.003 in/sec PPV at 25 feet (FTA, 2018 – Table 7-4). Loaded trucks result in vibration levels of 0.076 in/sec PPV at 25 feet. These vibration levels would be below the vibration damage potential threshold for older residential structures (0.3 in/sec PPV). Therefore, the proposed Project impacts on exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that vibration impacts from individual projects would be less than significant. The proposed Project would also have a less-than-significant impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The Project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The nearest airport, Hawthorne Municipal Airport, is located over 6 miles southwest of the Project site. Therefore, the Project would not expose the construction workers to excessive noise levels associated with airport operations, and no impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not expose people to excessive airport-related noise levels; the impact is less than significant. The proposed Project would have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.14 Population and Housing

14. POPULATION AND HOUSING **Would the project:**	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
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 housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☒

3.14.1 Discussion:

3.14.1.1 Environmental Setting

The population and housing study area for the proposed Project includes the unincorporated community of Walnut Park and Los Angeles County. Table 3-18 provides US Census Bureau data for population, housing, and employment for these geographic areas.

Table 3-18. Population, Housing, and Employment

Location	Population	Housing Units	Employment Rate[2]
Walnut Park CDP[1]	15,896	N/A	63.9%
Los Angeles County	10,039,107	3,579,329	64.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019
1 – Census Designated Place (CDP) is a concentration of population identified by the United States Census Bureau for statistical purposes. CDPs are delineated for each decennial census as the statistical counterparts of incorporated places, such as cities, towns, and villages.
2 – Civilians employed, 16 years of age or over, 2015-2019.

The proposed Project includes a stormwater capture system designed to capture and infiltrate urban dry-weather and wet-weather runoff as well as construction of an approximately 0.5-acre park. It would not construct additional housing units, nor would it remove any existing housing units from the available supply.

3.14.1.2 Regulatory Setting

Local

Walnut Park Neighborhood Plan. The Walnut Park Neighborhood Plan includes the following implementation program:

- **Housing**. Incorporate aesthetic consideration in the buffer and transition areas between commercial and residential areas.

3.14.1.3 Impact Analysis

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)?

Construction activities would be considered short-term and temporary, lasting approximately six months. Given the population size of Los Angeles County, it is likely that there is a considerable construction workforce. The proposed Project would require approximately 10 to 12 personnel at peak construction periods, with fewer personnel needed for most construction workdays. It is assumed that these construction personnel would come from within Los Angeles County or adjacent areas and would not generate a permanent increase in population levels or decrease available housing. No impacts to existing or future population growth levels would occur from construction of the proposed Project.

The proposed Project would not include the construction of new homes or businesses that would introduce a new population to the area. The proposed Project would also not indirectly introduce new housing or population to the area with the construction of the proposed Project.

Operation of the proposed Project would not require new employees. As noted in Section 2.4.2 (Operations and Maintenance), approximately six existing County personnel would conduct regular maintenance activities. Because no new homes or businesses would be constructed, and the proposed Project would not require additional workers to relocate from outside the area, the proposed Project would generate no direct increase in the permanent population of the area. No impacts would occur.

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not impact population growth. The proposed Project would also have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The proposed Project would not remove existing housing units from the available supply in the region. As no housing is being removed, no displacement could occur which could otherwise require the construction of replacement housing. As such, there would be no impact.

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not impact housing, necessitate construction of additional housing, or displace people. The proposed Project would also have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.15 Public Services

15. PUBLIC SERVICES Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a) Fire protection?	☐	☒
b) Police protection?	☐	☒
c) Schools?	☐	☒
d) Parks?	☐	☒
e) Other public facilities?	☐	☒

3.15.1 Discussion:

3.15.1.1 Environmental Setting

Fire protection in the region is provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). The nearest fire stations to the Project site are LACoFD Station 164 (6301 S. Santa Fe Ave., Huntington Park), which is approximately 1 mile northwest and Station 165 (3255 Saturn Ave., Huntington Park), approximately 1 mile northeast. In 2019, LACoFD responded to a total of 398,981 incidents, 333,973 of which were requests for emergency medical services (LACoFD, 2020).

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) provides law enforcement services to the County's 90 unincorporated communities as well as to 40 contract cities (LASD, 2021a). The Project area is served by the Century Sheriff's Station (11703 S. Alameda Street, Lynwood), approximately 2.9 miles south of the Project (LASD, 2017b).

One school is located in close proximity to the Project site. Walnut Park Elementary School is approximately 0.1 mile southeast of the Project site (2642 Olive Street, Walnut Park).

The Project would construct a new pocket park in a currently vacant and undeveloped lot. Walnut Park is considered a park-poor area of the County, with approximately 0.1 acre of local parkland per 1,000 people, compared to the countywide average of 3.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 people (DPR, 2020).

Libraries within 2 miles of the Project include Huntington Park Library (6518 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park), Florence Library (7600 Graham Avenue), and Graham Library (1900 East Firestone Boulevard, Los Angeles).

3.15.1.2 Regulatory Setting

Local

Los Angeles County General Plan Public Services and Facilities Element. The Los Angeles County General Plan has multiple goals and policies relevant to public services and this Project.

Goal PS/F 1: A coordinated, reliable, and equitable network of public facilities that preserves resources, ensures public health and safety, and keeps pace with planned development.

- Policy PS/F 1.3: Ensure coordinated service provision through collaboration between County departments and service providers.

Goal PS/F 2: Increased water conservation efforts.

- Policy PS/F 2.1: Support water conservation measures.

Goal PS/F 3: Increased local water supplies through the use of new technologies.

- Policy PS/F 3.1: Increase the supply of water through the development of new sources, such as recycled water, gray water, and rainwater harvesting.
- Policy PS/F 3.2: Support the increased production, distribution and use of recycled water, gray water, and rainwater harvesting to provide for groundwater recharge, seawater intrusion barrier injection, irrigation, industrial processes, and other beneficial uses.

3.15.1.3 Impact Analysis

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

a. Fire protection?

The proposed Project is designed to improve water quality in the Project's drainage area by constructing a stormwater capture system. Construction and operation of the proposed Project would not affect the area's population, and as such, the Project would not create a need for new or altered fire protection facilities. However, temporary lane closures and traffic detours along Pacific Boulevard and Hope Street could adversely affect emergency service and response times during construction. Potential impacts to fire protection would be reduced through implementation of adopted PMM PS-1 (see text below), which requires the County to provide reasonable advance notice to service providers such as fire, police, and emergency medical services as well as to local businesses, homeowners, and other residents adjacent to and within areas potentially affected by a proposed Project about the nature, extent, and duration of construction activities (LACPW, 2015). Interim updates would be provided to inform service providers and adjacent land uses of the status of the construction activities (LACPW, 2015). Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less-than-significant impact after mitigation PMM PS-1 on fire protection services and would not require the need for an increase in services to the Project area.

PMM PS-1: The Permittee implementing the EWMP project shall provide reasonable advance notification to service providers such as fire, police, and emergency medical services as well as to local businesses, homeowners, and

other residents adjacent to and within areas potentially affected by the proposed EWMP project about the nature, extent, and duration of construction activities. Interim updates should be provided to inform them of the status of the construction activities.

The PEIR concluded that individual BMP projects could potentially disrupt the provision of fire services during construction activities, but impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMM PS-1 incorporated; no additional mitigation measures are required. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

b. Police protection?

As discussed under Section 3.15(a), construction and operation of the proposed Project would not affect the area's population, and as such, the proposed Project would not create a need for new or altered police or sheriff facilities. The proposed Project would construct a pocket park that would include security cameras, lighting, and an office office/storage building with security monitoring onsite. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less-than-significant impact on police or sheriff protection services and would not require the need for an increase in services to the Project area.

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not significantly affect police protection services. The proposed Project would also have a less-than-significant impact. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

c. Schools?

As discussed under Section 3.15(a), construction and operation of the proposed Project would not affect the area's population, and as such, the proposed Project would not create a need for new or altered school facilities. Impacts related to access of the school during construction (i.e., performance of the circulation system) are addressed under Transportation, Section 3.17(a). The Project would result in no impact regarding the need for new or physically altered school facilities.

The PEIR concluded that structural BMPs would not increase the population in the area or generate additional students, and impacts would be less than significant. The proposed Project would not affect school operations or create a need for new or altered school facilities. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

d. Parks?

Walnut Park is one of the most park-poor communities in Los Angeles County. The proposed Project would construct a new pocket park in a vacant lot, providing

recreational and aesthetic enhancements. Other park facilities within 2 miles of the proposed Project include Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (7600 Graham Avenue, Los Angeles), Salt Lake Park (3401 E. Florence Avenue, Huntington Park), Raul R. Perez Park (6208 Alameda Street, Huntington Park), El Parque Nuestro (1675 Gage Avenue, Los Angeles), State Street Park (9200 State Street, South Gate). Construction of the pocket park would not preclude access to these surrounding parks or require the provision of new or physically altered parks elsewhere. Once operational, the Project would provide a new park for the community and include play equipment, exercise stations, a splash pad, picnic area, and turf field. Additionally, the proposed stormwater capture and infiltration elements within the park would be placed underground, which would not obstruct or reduce access to the park. No impact would occur, and the proposed Project would enhance recreational opportunities in the community.

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not significantly affect existing parks or recreational facilities. The proposed Project would also have no impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

e. Other public facilities?

Construction and operation of the proposed Project would not affect the area's population, and thus would not increase the demand for public libraries, hospitals, or other public facilities. The proposed Project would not impact other existing public facilities, nor require the construction of new public facilities. No impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that structural BMPs would not result in the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, and no significant impacts would occur. The proposed Project would not impact public facilities or require the construction of new public facilities. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.16 Recreation

16. RECREATION **Would the project:**		Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a.	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.	Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☒

3.16.1 Discussion:

3.16.1.1 Environmental Setting

Walnut Park is considered a park-poor area of the County, with approximately 0.1 acre of local parkland per 1,000 people, compared to the countywide average of 3.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 people (DPR, 2020). As described in Section 3.15(d), other park facilities within 2 miles of the proposed Project include Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (7600 Graham Avenue, Los Angeles), Salt Lake Park (3401 E. Florence Avenue, Huntington Park), Raul R. Perez Park (6208 Alameda Street, Huntington Park), El Parque Nuestro (1675 Gage Avenue, Los Angeles), State Street Park (9200 State Street, South Gate). The proposed Project would be located on a vacant lot east of Pacific Boulevard, south of Hope Street, and north of Grand Avenue.

3.16.1.2 Regulatory Setting

Local

County of Los Angeles General Plan Parks and Recreation Element. The Los Angeles County General Plan has multiple goals and policies relevant to recreation and this Project.

Goal P/R 1: Enhanced active and passive park and recreation opportunities for all users.

- Policy P/R 1.2: Provide additional active and passive recreation opportunities based on a community's setting, and recreational needs and preferences.
- Policy P/R 1.3: Consider emerging trends in parks and recreation when planning for new parks and recreation programs.
- Policy P/R 1.10: Ensure a balance of passive and recreational activities in the development of new park facilities.

Goal P/R 2: Enhanced multi-agency collaboration to leverage resources.

- Policy P/R 2.1: Develop joint-use agreements with other public agencies to expand recreation services.

- Policy P/R 2.6: Participate in joint powers authorities to develop multi-benefit parks as well as regional recreational facilities.

Goal P/R 3: Acquisition and development of additional parkland.

- Policy P/R 3.1: Acquire and develop local and regional parkland to meet the following County goals: 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents in the unincorporated areas and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the total population of Los Angeles County.
- Policy P/R 3.3: Provide additional parks in communities with insufficient local parkland as identified through the gap analysis.

3.16.1.3 Impact Analysis

a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

The proposed Project would construct an underground stormwater capture system and pocket park. As discussed in XIV(a), construction and operation would not directly or indirectly cause population growth such that the demand of existing parks would increase. Since the proposed Project site is currently a vacant lot, there is no change to the current use of nearby parks, and once operational, the Project would provide a new park for the community. As such, the proposed Project would provide beneficial impacts by providing a new park and recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that the structural BMPs would not significantly affect existing recreational facilities. The proposed Project would also have no impact. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The proposed Project involves construction of an underground stormwater capture system and pocket park. Following installation of the underground stormwater capture components, recreational amenities and aesthetic features would be incorporated into a vacant lot within the Project's footprint. The Project would not expand the existing lot size. Construction and installation of park amenities would include play equipment, exercise stations, a splash pad, picnic area, decomposed granite walking paths, a turf field, and bioswale. Construction would be limited and temporary, lasting approximately six months. During operation, maintenance would be relatively minimal, involving lawn mowing, restroom and trash cleaning, and vegetation trimming. The splash pad would require seasonal maintenance, equipment and lighting would require annual inspections, and paving would require annual washing and vacuuming. Environmental impacts resulting from construction and maintenance of recreational facilities are expected to be minimal in comparison with overall construction activities within the County, given that the park is small in size, and no substantial structures would be constructed. Because the proposed Project would provide a new park for

local residents, it would not require the construction of new recreational facilities. Proposed enhancements within the pocket park would not create a substantial adverse physical effect on the environment, and impacts would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that structural BMPs would not result in the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, and no significant impacts to the physical environment would occur. As discussed above, the proposed Project would less-than-significant effect on the physical environment during construction and operation of the pocket park. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.17 Transportation

17. TRANSPORTATION **Would the project:**		Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a.	Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☒
b.	Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☒
c.	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☒
d.	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☒

3.17.1 Discussion:

The 2015 PEIR analyzed transportation and circulation impacts based on the CEQA Appendix G checklist prior to the 2019 CEQA Guidelines update, which included an evaluation of level of service. Beginning on July 1, 2020, Senate Bill 743 required agencies analyzing transportation impacts of new projects to evaluate vehicle miles traveled (VMT) instead of level of service (OPR, 2021). VMT is a measure of the transportation system's impact on the climate, environment, and human health, while providing indication of accessibility within a particular geographical area. Lower VMT indicates areas requiring less driving and better access to daily destinations such as jobs and services (OPR, 2021). The following section includes this evaluation of transportation impacts based on the updated CEQA Appendix G checklist, replacing the use of level of service analysis with VMT.

3.17.1.21 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project would be located in a vacant lot on 2614 Hope Street, Walnut Park and adjacent streets on Pacific Boulevard and Grand Avenue, as shown in Figure 2-1. Regional access to the Project site and proposed staging area would primarily occur via Pacific Boulevard, Hope Street, and Grand Avenue, which connect to Interstate 105 (I-105), I-110, I-10, and I-710. Local roadways directly accessing the Project site include Hope Street and Grand Avenue, with Grand Avenue being utilized to access the proposed staging area. Temporary construction activities would directly affect the following street segments:

- Pacific Boulevard (between Flower Street and Olive Street): 5-lane divided (turn lane) primary roadway providing north-south access to the proposed Project, Hope Street, Grand Avenue, and commercial properties.
- Hope Street (between Pacific Boulevard and Seville Avenue): 2-lane undivided local roadway providing east-west access to the northern portion of the proposed Project, commercial properties, and residences.

- Grand Avenue (between Pacific Boulevard and Seville Avenue): 2-lane undivided local roadway providing access to the proposed Project, commercial properties, and residences.

Project Trips

For the purposes of this discussion, a trip is a one-direction trip to or from the Project site and/or staging area. During the 6-month construction period, a maximum of 12 workers (peak workforce) would drive to and from the site or staging area each day. Trips would also be generated during construction for delivery/removal of equipment and materials. To evaluate a worst-case scenario for this assessment, a maximum number of 36 daily round trips may occur during peak construction (12 passenger vehicles, 2 delivery trips, and 22 heavy haul trips). These maximum daily trip assumptions are consistent with air quality emission estimates generated for the proposed Project (see Appendix B).

Operations and maintenance (O&M) activities would require a limited number of personnel and trips per year. To evaluate a worst-case scenario for this assessment, a maximum number of 2 daily trips may occur during O&M (6 workers, 1 pickup truck, and 1 vacuum truck), with these trips anticipated to only occur 16 times per year[2]. O&M trips would utilize the same local roadways as construction trips.

3.17.1.2 Regulatory Setting

State

For purposes of CEQA analyses, the State of California revised the approach for evaluating transportation impacts by de-emphasizing the metrics of vehicle delay and levels of service and instead requiring an evaluation of a project's impacts on VMT. This change was implemented as a result of Senate Bill 743 and became policy on July 1, 2020.

In response to the new policy, Caltrans prepared a document titled *Vehicle Miles Traveled – Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide* (Caltrans, 2020). This document replaces the *Guide for the Preparation of Traffic Impact Studies* (Caltrans, 2002). The newer Caltrans guide does not provide significance criteria for evaluating a project's VMT impacts, but instead indicates that the local lead agency has discretion to choose the most appropriate methodology to evaluate a project's VMT impacts. In addition to the CEQA analysis guidelines, the operation of any vehicle on the public roadways is subject to the regulatory requirements of the California Vehicle Code.

Regional

Regional planning for the Project area is conducted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), which is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for a six-county region, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San

[2] Maintenance of the stormwater pre-treatment unit and catch basins are expected to take place once per month on average (12 times per year), and the maintenance of the infiltration drywells and connector system is expected once every 3 months on average (4 times per year). This totals 16 maintenance events per year.

Bernardino, Ventura, and Imperial Counties. SCAG is responsible for preparing a Regional Transportation Plan.

3.17.1.3 Impact Analysis

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

Based on the worst-case number of trips generated by construction and O&M activities provided above, the proposed Project would cause minor temporary increases to daily traffic volumes along the affected roadways providing access to work areas. Construction would only last approximately six months, with maximum construction traffic only occurring periodically during this period. Temporary construction and O&M-related trips are not considered to significantly decrease capacity levels over existing conditions on any utilized roadways.

Construction of the proposed Project would temporarily interfere with existing traffic flows on Pacific Boulevard, Hope Street, and Grand Avenue during the workday (Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., during the six-month construction period). During construction, temporary impacts would occur from traffic disruptions and lane blockages within and adjacent to affected roadway segments of Pacific Boulevard, Hope Street, and Grand Avenue. Impacts to all of these streets would be caused by traffic disruptions as workers, materials, and equipment are transported to the Project site and proposed staging area. Additionally, trenching would be required on Pacific Boulevard and Hope Street to install the underground catch basins, diversion structure, and pre-treatment unit. Connections to existing utilities would occur on Hope Street and Grand Avenue. Temporary construction activities may also intermittently reduce, disrupt, or temporarily eliminate access to sidewalks and bicycle use of the affected roadway segments. Additionally, temporary lane closures could slow public transit and/or school bus movements or disrupt bus stops.

To minimize or avoid impacts to the circulation system, including bicycle, public transit, and pedestrian movements, the construction contractor would reduce traffic impacts by including adaptive scheduling (i.e., performing work during off-peak traffic hours). Additionally, LACPW's Traffic Division would prepare traffic control plans during the final design phase, as required by PMM TRAF-1 to ensure proper detours and safe travel through construction areas for bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles (see text below). PMM TRAF-1 further requires coordination with affected agencies (such as schools) to minimize impacts associated with delays of bus transit service.

PMM TRAF-1: For projects that may affect traffic, implementing agencies shall require that contractors prepare a construction traffic control plan. Elements of the plan should include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Develop circulation and detour plans to minimize impacts to local street circulation. Use haul routes minimizing truck traffic on local roadways to the extent possible.
- To the extent feasible, and as needed to avoid adverse impacts on traffic flow, schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.

- Install traffic control devices as specified in Caltrans' Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones where needed to maintain safe driving conditions. Use flaggers and/or signage to safely direct traffic through construction work zones.
- Coordinate with facility owners or administrators of sensitive land uses such as police and fire stations, hospitals, and schools. Provide advance notification to the facility owner or operator of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities.

Adherence to adopted PMM TRAF-1 would ensure temporary roadway and traffic flow disruptions during proposed Project construction would not conflict with any applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Impacts would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that construction traffic associated with structural BMPs and disruptions to sidewalk access, bicycle use, and public transit would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were also determined to be less than significant with PMM TRAF-1 incorporated, and no additional mitigation measures are required. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

Under the worst-case scenario, the proposed Project would generate a maximum of 48 daily one-way trips during peak construction activities for a period of six months and a maximum number of 24 daily one-way trips for each maintenance event, up to 16 times per year. Construction trips would cease after the approximately six-month construction period, and maintenance trips would be temporary and intermittent. Neither activity would permanently increase long-term VMT in the area, and less-than-significant impacts regarding VMT are anticipated. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b). Impacts would be less than significant.

Because the 2015 PEIR was certified prior to the VMT analysis requirement in 2020, the PEIR did not evaluate VMT impacts. However, because the project would not result in significant VMT impacts, the project would not create a new significant impact in light of the updated CEQA Appendix G checklist question regarding VMT impacts under CEQA Guidelines Section 15065.3, 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)?

The proposed Project does not include any new public roads or permanent changes to roadway features, with the exception of installing manholes along Pacific Boulevard and Hope Street. Construction would temporarily impact Pacific Boulevard, Hope

Street, and Grand Avenue due to temporary lane closures/blockages, detours, construction vehicle ingress/egress, and/or construction activities that could potentially increase hazards to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Additionally, the proposed Project would affect small sidewalk sections and roadway shoulders that may be used by bicyclists along the affected roadway segments (Note: There are no dedicated bike lanes along Pacific Boulevard, Hope Street, or Grand Avenue). These conflicts could result in safety hazards; however, the impacts would be less than significant with adherence to PMM TRAF-1 (see text in Part (a) above), which requires preparation of a Construction Traffic Control Plan. PMM TRAF-1 is proposed to reduce potential impacts to the circulation system along impacted street segments. Impacts to the circulation network related to hazards from temporary lane closure and intersection disruptions would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that impacts associated with changes to roadway features would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were also determined to be less than significant with PMM TRAF-1 incorporated, and no additional mitigation measures are required. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

d. Result in inadequate emergency access?

The temporary disruption to travel lanes during construction would potentially increase the response times for emergency vehicles (police, fire, and ambulance/paramedic units) or disrupt access to adjacent commercial and residential properties. The impacts would be significant if the construction activities would restrict access to or from adjacent land uses with no suitable alternative access or if the construction activities would restrict the movements of emergency vehicles and if there would be no reasonable alternative access routes available. However, these potential impacts would be less than significant with adherence to PMM TRAF-1 (see text in Part (a) above), which requires preparation of a Construction Traffic Control Plan. PMM TRAF-1 is proposed to reduce potential impacts to the circulation system along impacted street segments, including coordinating with emergency service providers and ensuring access is provided to all properties along the work area. Impacts to the circulation network related to disrupting emergency vehicle response times and access due to temporary lane closure and intersection disruptions would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

The PEIR concluded that impacts associated with inadequate emergency access would be less than significant. The proposed Project's impacts were also determined to be less than significant with PMM TRAF-1 incorporated, and no additional mitigation measures are required. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES		
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☒
b. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒

3.18.1 Discussion:

Since certification of the EWMP PEIR, the CEQA Guidelines were amended in 2019 to evaluate impacts on tribal cultural resources and focuses on whether projects would affect the significance of listed or eligible for listing tribal cultural resources. This section addresses the potential impacts related to tribal cultural resources associated with the implementation of the proposed Project.

3.18.1.1 Environmental Setting

Tribal cultural resources (TCR) are a newly defined class of resources under state law. TCRs include sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, and sacred places or objects that have cultural value or significance to a Tribe. To qualify as a TCR, the resource must either: (1) be listed on, or be eligible for listing on, the California Register of Historical Resources or other local historic register; or (2) constitute a resource that the lead agency, at its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, determines should be treated as a TCR (PRC § 21074(a)(2)). Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with a geographic area can provide lead agencies with expert knowledge of TCRs.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 requires that the CEQA Lead Agency send a formal notice and invitation to consult about a proposed project to all tribal representatives who have requested such notice for projects initiated July 1, 2015 and after. The PEIR was certified on May 23, 2015, prior to the initiation of AB 52 and thus AB 52 consultation does not apply to the proposed Project.

Impacts to TCRs are based on the information received from the SCCIC record search, the results of the pedestrian survey as described above in Section 3.5 Cultural Resources, and the NAHC Sacred Lands File Search.

Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File Search

Aspen's cultural resources specialist requested a search of the Sacred Lands File Database from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), located in Sacramento. The record search of the NAHC Sacred Lands File was completed with negative results (i.e., no records found).

3.18.1.2 Impact Analysis

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource 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)?

As described above in Section 3.5 Cultural Resources, the SCCIC record search completed as part of PMM CUL-2 did not identify any previously recorded TCRs within the proposed Project area. Additionally, the NAHC Sacred Lands File search conducted as part of PMM CUL-2 was negative for the presence of any sacred lands within the Project area or surrounding vicinity, and the pedestrian survey did not identify any new prehistoric resources. Therefore, the proposed Project will not impact any known TCRs.

While the PEIR was certified prior to the adoption of AB 52, and did not include an evaluation of TCRs, the PEIR concluded that impacts associated with historical resources, including tribal resources, would remain significant and unavoidable after implementation of PMMs CUL-1 through CUL-4 at the program-level analysis, but impacts associated with each individual EWMP project would be dependent on its location.

As with any project where ground disturbing activity is proposed, there is the possibility of encountering unknown buried prehistoric resources that could be found to be eligible for the CRHR and considered a TCR. Project operation would require temporary and intermittent maintenance activities to ensure the functionality of project components and would not adversely affect TCRs. Therefore, the proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMMs CUL-2 and CUL-4 incorporated (see text below), and no additional mitigation measures are required.

PMM CUL-2: Implementing agencies shall ensure that individual EWMP projects that require ground disturbance shall be subject to a Phase I cultural resources inventory on a project-specific basis prior to the implementing agency's approval of project plans. The study shall be conducted or supervised by a qualified archaeologist, defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeology, and shall be conducted in consultation with the local Native American representatives expressing interest. The cultural resources inventory shall include a cultural resources records search to be conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center; scoping with

the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and with interested Native Americans identified by the NAHC; a pedestrian archaeological survey where deemed appropriate by the qualified archaeologist; and formal recordation of all identified archaeological resources on California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms and significance evaluation of such resources presented in a technical report following the guidelines in *Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format*, Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation, State of California, 1990.

If potentially significant archaeological resources are encountered during the survey, the implementing agency shall require that the resources are evaluated by the qualified archaeologist for their eligibility for listing in the CRHR and for significance as a historical resource or unique archaeological resource per CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. Recommendations shall be made for treatment of these resources if found to be significant, in consultation with the implementing agency and the appropriate Native American groups for prehistoric resources. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), preservation in place shall be the preferred manner of mitigation to avoid impacts to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources. Methods of avoidance may include, but shall not be limited to, project reroute or redesign, project cancellation, or identification of protection measures such as capping or fencing. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, the qualified archaeologist shall develop additional treatment measures, which may include data recovery or other appropriate measures, in consultation with the implementing agency, and any local Native American representatives expressing interest in prehistoric or tribal resources. If an archaeological site does not qualify as an historical resource but meets the criteria for a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 21083.2, then the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2.

PMM CUL-4: During project-level construction, should subsurface archaeological resources be discovered, all activity in the vicinity of the find shall stop and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the significance of the find according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If any find is determined to be significant, the archaeologist shall determine, in consultation with the implementing agency and any local Native American groups expressing interest, appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), preservation in place shall be the preferred means to avoid impacts to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources. Methods of avoidance may include, but shall not be limited to, project reroute or redesign, project cancellation, or identification of protection measures such as capping or fencing. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, the qualified archaeologist shall develop additional treatment measures, such as data recovery or other appropriate measures, in consultation with the implementing agency and any local Native American representatives expressing interest in prehistoric or tribal resources. If an archaeological site does not qualify as an historical resource but meets the

criteria for a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 21083.2, then the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2.

Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

As described above in Section 3.5 Cultural Resources, the SCCIC record search conducted as part of PMM CUL-2 did not identify any previously recorded TCRs within the proposed Project area. Additionally, the NAHC Sacred Lands File search conducted as part of PMM CUL-2 was negative for the presence of any sacred lands within the Project area or surrounding vicinity, and the pedestrian survey did not identify any new prehistoric resources. Therefore, the proposed Project will not impact any known TCRs.

While the PEIR was certified prior to the adoption of AB 52 and did not include an evaluation of TCRs, the PEIR concluded that impacts associated with historical resources, including tribal resources, would remain significant and unavoidable after implementation of PMMs CUL-1 through CUL-4 at the program-level analysis, but impacts associated with each individual EWMP project would be dependent on its location.

As with any project where ground disturbing activity is proposed, there is the possibility of encountering unknown buried prehistoric resources that could be found to be significant by the CEQA lead agency and considered a TCR. Therefore, the proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMMs CUL-2 and CUL-4 incorporated (text provided in Part (a) above), and no additional mitigation measures are required. Project operation would require temporary and intermittent maintenance activities to ensure the functionality of project components and would not adversely affect TCRs.

Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS **Would the project:**	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☒
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☒
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☒
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☒
e. Comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☒

3.19.1 Discussion:

3.19.1.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project is located in South Central Los Angeles County. Surface and groundwater quality in the Project area is under the jurisdiction of the LARWQCB, while the Los Angeles County Flood Control District manages the majority of the County's drainage infrastructure. Water supply for the County includes local surface and groundwater, imported surface water, captured and recharged stormwater, and recycled water (LACPW, 2015). The County is also served by various landfills and recycling centers that are operated by incorporated cities, the County itself, and private facility operators.

3.19.1.2 Regulatory Setting

State

Protection of Underground Infrastructure. The California Government Code Section 4216-4216.9 "Protection of Underground Infrastructure" requires an excavator to contact a regional notification center (e.g., Underground Services Alert or Dig Alert) at least two days prior to excavation of any subsurface installations. Any utility provider seeking to begin a project that could damage underground infrastructure can call Underground Service Alert, the regional notification center for Southern California, which would in turn notify the utilities of potentially buried lines within 1,000 feet of the project excavation. Representatives of the utilities are then required to mark the specific location of their facilities within the work area prior to the start of excavation activities in the area.

California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989. The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Public Resources Code, Division 30) enacted through AB 939 emphasizes conservation of natural resources through reduction, recycling, and reuse of solid waste. AB 939 requires that all cities and counties divert 25 percent of solid waste streams from landfills by 1995 and 50 percent by 2000. In accordance with AB 939, each local agency must submit an annual report to the California Integrated Waste Management Board summarizing its progress in diverting disposed of solid waste.

Local

Enhanced Watershed Management Programs. The MS4 Permit allows Permittees the flexibility to develop EWMPs to implement the requirements of the Permit on a watershed scale through customized strategies, control measures, and BMPs. Participation in an EWMP is voluntary and allows a Permittee to address the highest watershed priorities, including complying with the requirements of Receiving Water Limitations and Total Maximum Daily Load Provisions. Customized strategies, control measures, and BMPs will be implemented on a watershed basis, where applicable, through each Permittee's stormwater management program and/or collectively by all participating Permittees through an EWMP. An EWMP comprehensively evaluates opportunities, within the participating Permittees' collective jurisdictional area in a Watershed Management Area, for collaboration among Permittees and other partners on multi-benefit regional projects that, wherever feasible, retain (i) all nonstormwater runoff and (ii) all stormwater runoff from the 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event for the drainage areas tributary to the projects, while also achieving other benefits including flood control and water supply, among others. An EWMP shall ensure that existing requirements to comply with technology-based effluent limitations and core requirements (e.g., including elimination of nonstormwater discharges of pollutants through the MS4, and controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater to the maximum extent practicable) are not delayed.

County of Los Angeles Low Impact Development Manual. The County prepared the 2014 Low Impact Development Standards Manual (LID Standards) to comply with the requirements of the NPDES MS4 Permit for stormwater and nonstormwater discharges from the MS4 within the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles County (CAS004001, Order No. R4-2012-0175), referred to as the 2012 MS4 Permit. The LID Standards provide guidance for the implementation of stormwater quality control measures in new development and redevelopment projects in unincorporated areas of the County with the intention of improving water quality and mitigating potential water quality impacts from stormwater and non-stormwater discharges. The November 2013 LID Ordinance became effective December 5, 2013.

Los Angeles County Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Program. On January 1, 2011, Los Angeles County adopted the Green Building Standards Code, which sets forth recycling requirements for construction and demolition projects in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. These requirements apply to any project requiring a construction, demolition or grading permit. According to the requirements, nonresidential construction projects consisting of commercial, industrial, or retail structures, as well as all tenant improvements, irrespective of the square footage, must recycle a minimum of 65 percent of the debris generated by weight.

3.19.1.3 Impact Analysis

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?

The proposed Project would construct an underground stormwater capture system to improve water quality in the Los Angeles River Watershed. Construction would cause short-term effects on the environment, which are discussed throughout this Addendum. However, implementation of the proposed Project would not require the construction of new or expanded wastewater or stormwater drainage facilities, as the project itself would capture, treat, and infiltrate surface flows from dry-weather and wet-weather runoff for infiltration through drywells. No impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that individual projects would improve existing storm drainage facilities, and construction impacts would be less than significant. The proposed Project would not adversely impact wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage facilities; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

Construction and operation of the proposed Project would not substantially increase water demand. Although construction may require some minor water usage (e.g., dust control), construction would be completed in approximately six months. As such, water demand during construction is not expected to be substantial enough to require new or expanded water supply resources. Furthermore, the proposed Project would replenish groundwater supplies through stormwater infiltration. The proposed Project would also construct a pocket park with features requiring water, including restrooms, drinking fountains, landscaping, and a splash pad. Water used for restrooms and drinking fountains are expected to be minimal compared to the overall demand for water in the County. Irrigation for landscaping is not expected to substantially increase demand for water because native drought-tolerant vegetation would be used, and the irrigation system would include efficient features such as smart controllers, rain sensors, flow sensors, and micro-irrigation drip, bubbler, and spray equipment. Lastly, the splash pad would use a filtered recirculating plumbing system to minimize potable water consumption. The proposed Project would not create a substantial increase in demand for water, and it is expected that water supplies would be available for the reasonably foreseeable future. Project impacts to existing water supplies are anticipated to be less than significant.

The EWMP fwould not increase water demand or involve changes to entitlements, and therefore the PEIR concluded that impacts to water supply would be less than significant. The proposed Project was found to have a less-than-significant impact on water supply; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant

impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

Construction of the proposed Project is not expected to generate substantial amounts of wastewater. The peak workforce would consist of approximately 12 workers. Portable toilets would likely to be provided by a licensed supplier during construction, and temporary wastewater generated during construction would last for approximately six months. The proposed Project would construct a restroom facility, requiring connection to the public sewage system. The restroom would serve local residents and would create a negligible increase in demand for wastewater treatment, given the small size of the restroom and proposed pocket park. Neither construction nor operation of the proposed Project would create a substantial additional demand on the wastewater treatment provider for the Project area. Impacts would be less than significant.

The PEIR concluded that impacts to wastewater treatment would be less than significant. The proposed Project was also found to have a less-than-significant impact; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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?

Construction activities associated with the proposed Project would include excavation and trenching, which would require the import and export of materials listed in Appendix B, Table B-4. The largest potential source of solid waste during construction would be excavated soil from excavation for the infiltration drywells. Although the County anticipates that most clean soil would be recycled, reused offsite, or stockpiled and reused as backfill, it is assumed that a portion of soil would be disposed in landfills (LACPW, 2015). The quantities anticipated would not result in an exceedance of the permitted capacity of local landfills. Impacts related to insufficient landfill capacity would be less than significant. Furthermore, potential impacts associated with solid waste would be reduced through LACPW's implementation of adopted PMM UTIL-3 (see text below), which requires the County to encourage construction contractors to recycle construction materials and divert insert solids (e.g., asphalt, brick, concrete, dirt, fines, rock, sand, soil, and stone) from disposal in a landfill, where feasible (LACPW, 2015).

> **PMM UTIL-3:** Implementing agencies shall encourage construction contractors to recycle construction materials and divert inert solids (asphalt, brick, concrete, dirt, fines, rock, sand, soil, and stone) from disposal in a landfill where feasible. Implementing agencies shall incentivize construction contractors with waste minimization goals in bid specifications where feasible.

The PEIR concluded that impacts associated with solid waste disposal during construction of individual projects would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were also determined to be less than significant with PMM UTIL-3 incorporated, and no additional mitigation measures are required. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The proposed Project would comply with all federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including the Los Angeles County Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Program (LACPW, 2015). Impacts regarding noncompliance with solid waste regulations would not occur. No impact would occur.

The PEIR concluded that construction of individual BMPs would comply with all federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. The proposed Project would also comply with these statues and regulations; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

3.20 Wildfire

20. WILDFIRE If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Subsequent/ Supplemental EIR: New Significant Effects or Substantially More Severe Effects	Addendum: None of the Conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 Would Occur
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?	☐	☒

3.20.1 Discussion:

This section addresses the Project's potential impacts relating to wildfire hazards associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project. It includes a description of existing conditions and an evaluation of potential impacts relating to wildfire. The PEIR included an assessment of wildfire hazards under its impact assessment of hazards and hazardous materials. When the PEIR was published in 2015, wildfire was not included as a separate environmental factor in CEQA law. In 2019, CEQA required Wildfire to be analyzed as an environmental factor. Therefore, this assessment evaluates wildfire impacts.

3.20.1.1 Environmental Setting

As described in Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, wildland fires represent a substantial threat in the state and may be started by natural processes, primarily lightning, or by human activities. CAL FIRE has established a fire hazard severity classification system to assess wildland fire potential. The fire hazard severity classification system identifies FHSZ, depicted on CAL FIRE maps, which consider potential fire intensity and speed, production and spread of embers, fuel loading, topography, and climate (e.g., temperature and the potential for strong winds) (CAL FIRE, 2021a).

The fire hazard classification system provides three classes of FHSZs: Moderate, High, and Very High. Refer to Section 3.9 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) for a description of State, local, and federal responsibility areas. The proposed Project is located within an LRA, and as such, LACoFD would provide fire protection services for the Project.

As described in Section 3.15 (Public Services) fire protection in the region is provided by LACoFD. The nearest fire stations to the Project site are LACoFD Station 164, which is approximately 1 mile northwest (6301 S. Santa Fe Ave., Huntington Park) and Station

165, approximately 1 mile northeast (3255 Saturn Ave., Huntington Park). In 2019, LACoFD responded to a total of 398,981 incidents, 333,973 of which were requests for emergency medical services (LACoFD, 2020).

3.20.1.2 Regulatory Setting

State

SB 1241. SB 1241 requires the California Office of Planning and Research to coordinate with CAL FIRE to transmit to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency proposed changes to the CEQA initial study checklist. These changes include questions related to fire hazard impacts for projects in state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones (California Legislature, 2012).

3.20.1.3 Impact Analysis

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

As described in Section 3.9(g), the proposed Project would not cause any changes that would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. During construction, the catch basins, diversion structure and system, and pretreatment unit would be installed within Pacific Boulevard and Hope Street, requiring temporary lane closures that may block emergency access within these streets. After installation of the underground components, Pacific Boulevard and Hope Street would be restored to pre-construction conditions. Maintenance of the pre-treatment unit below Hope Street would require intermittent partial lane closures for maintenance, which would occur no more frequently than once per month on average. LACPW's Traffic Division would prepare a construction traffic control plan to reduce any impact to emergency access to a less-than-significant level as required by the adopted PMM TRAF-1 (see Section 3.9(g) for the full text).

The PEIR concluded that effects on emergency response from temporary lane or roadway closures and blocked access to driveways could be significant but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation. The proposed Project's impacts were determined to be less than significant with PMM TRAF-1 incorporated, and no additional mitigation measures are required. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new significant impact not discussed in the PEIR or result in substantially more severe impacts than shown in the PEIR.

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

The proposed Project is located in a highly urbanized setting that is relatively flat and not near any wildlands or within the wildland-urban interface. It is also not located within a moderate, high, or very high FHSZ and is over 5 miles away from the nearest area classified as very high FHSZ (CAL FIRE, 2021b). Although construction would involve equipment and vehicles that could ignite dry vegetation, the Project would comply with federal and State regulations for construction fire safety, such as requiring

spark arrester protection on vehicles to reduce the potential of ignition. The LACPW would use BMPs to limit the potential to ignite a fire, such as prohibiting smoking at the Project site. Furthermore, four fire stations are located within 2 miles of the Project site: LACoFD Station 164 (approximately 1 mile northwest), LACoFD Station 165 (approximately 1 mile northeast), LACoFD Station 16 (approximately 1.3 miles west), and LACoFD Station 65 (approximately 1.9 miles southwest), providing sufficient fire protection services in the event of a fire during construction or operation. The proposed pocket park would have play equipment, exercise stations, a splash pad, and picnic area, none of which would pose a risk of fire. The proposed Project would not introduce a new risk of fire hazards, as open flames, dry vegetation, or other flammable materials would not be present on site. The proposed office/storage building would provide on-site security monitoring that could deter illegal activities that may pose a fire hazard. The Project area is highly unlikely to support favorable conditions for a wildfire, and the Project would further implement fire safety measures to minimize or prevent accidental fires. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact on exacerbating wildfire risks and exposing people to pollutants from 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?

The Project would require utility extensions to connect to nearby utilities on Hope Street and Grand Avenue, and would not construct or maintain new roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities that would exacerbate fire risks. Maintenance of the stormwater capture components would require regular maintenance involving the use of vacuum trucks, pickup trucks, manhole lifts, and traffic control devices in an urbanized area. As described in Section 3.20(b), the Project would implement fire safety measures during construction and operation to minimize the potential for fires. As a result, the Project would result in a less-than-significant impact.

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?

As described in Section 3.9(h), the proposed Project is not located within a moderate, high, or very high FHSZ and is over 5 miles away from areas classified as very high FHSZs (CAL FIRE, 2021b). The proposed Project includes construction of a stormwater capture system consisting of primarily underground components, with the exception of aboveground recreational equipment and amenities. Construction and operation of the proposed Project would involve use of heavy equipment with engines and exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, exposing people or structures to risk of fire. Adherence to federal and State regulations, such as the requirement of the California Department of Transportation and California Vehicle Code, which require spark arrester protection on vehicles, would reduce the potential to ignite a wildland fire. Furthermore, the LACPW would use BMPs to limit the potential to ignite

a fire, such as prohibiting smoking at the Project site. Additionally, four fire stations are located within 2 miles of the Project site: LACoFD Station 164 (approximately 1 mile northwest), LACoFD Station 165 (approximately 1 mile northeast), LACoFD Station 16 (approximately 1.3 miles west), and LACoFD Station 65 (approximately 1.9 miles southwest). Because the proposed Project is not located within a FHSZ, is in the proximity of several fire stations, and would implement BMPs and comply with federal and State regulations, it is not anticipated to introduce a substantial risk of wildfire. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

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