

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 3.17
(ID # 18862)**

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, June 07, 2022

FROM : FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT :

SUBJECT: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (FM) AND RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT: Riverside County Fire Department Lake Tamarisk Station 49 Replacement Project - Adoption of Mitigated Negative Declaration, Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program for Environmental Assessment Number 2022021, and Approval of the Native American Remains and Associated Items Treatment, Disposition, and Monitoring Agreement with Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, District 4. [\$16,157, 44% Fire Department Budget-General Fund, 44% DIF Eastern Riverside Co Fire Facility 30504 Fund, and 12% Solar 30300 Fund (Previously approved budget)] (FM Staff to File Notice of Determination)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the Project under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for Environmental Assessment Number 2022021, for the Riverside County Fire Department Lake Tamarisk Station 49 Replacement (Lake Tamarisk Station 49) Project, based on the findings incorporated in the Initial Study and the conclusion that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment with implementation of the mitigation measures contained therein, and the MND reflects the Board's independent judgment and analysis;

Continued on Page 2

ACTION:Policy, CIP


Rose Salgado, Director of Facilities Management


Bill Weiser, Fire Department Chief

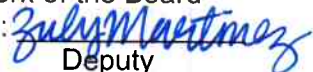

Aaron Gettis, Deputy County Counsel

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: June 7, 2022
xc: FM, Fire

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

2. Ratify the Native American Remains and Associated Items Treatment, Disposition, and Monitoring Agreement between the County of Riverside and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (Agua Caliente Band) for a not to exceed amount of \$16,157, associated with the construction of the Project and part of the requirements of the MMRP; and authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute the agreement on behalf of the County after Tribe and Counsel approval; and

3. Authorize the Director of Facilities Management, or designee, to administer the Tribal Monitoring Agreement with the Agua Caliente Band, in accordance with their terms and applicable Board policies.

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 16,157	\$ 16,157	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 7,109	\$ 7,109	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: Fire Department Budget-General Fund - 44%, DIF Eastern Riverside Co Fire Facility 30504 Fund - 44%, and Solar 30300 Fund - 12% (Previously approved budget)			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 2022/23	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

On April 27, 2021, Item 3.11, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved in-principle the Lake Tamarisk Station 49 Replacement Project. The Project consists of the construction of a new 8,896 square-foot fire station to replace the existing station. The Project site area, including parking and building footprint is on Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 808-170-034 which comprises one and a half acres of County-owned property.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000-21177) and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, Facilities management (FM) prepared and circulated the Initial Study/Mitigation Negative Declaration (MND) for the mandated 20-day public review period from April 30, 2022 to May 18, 2022. The County is required to adopt a reporting and monitoring plan for the mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study/MND to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The Initial Study/MND demonstrated that the Project would not have any significant impacts on the environment with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study/MND and Mitigation Monitoring Report Program (MMRP).

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Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15074, the County will consider all comments received during the review period prior to adoption of the Initial Study/MND. At the time of preparing this staff report, no comments were received. Pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6), the MMRP contained in the Initial Study/MND presented to the Board for adoption is designed to ensure compliance during Project implementation. Facilities Management recommends the Board approve and adopt the attached MND and MMRP to fulfill the requirements under CEQA. The documents supporting the CEQA determination are located at the Riverside County Department of Facilities Management at 3133 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507.

On November 17, 2021, and in accordance with Assembly Bill 52, local tribes were notified about the Project. One tribe requested consultation which took place on March 7, 2022. Formal consultation with this Tribe concluded on April 7, 2022. No other Tribes requested consultation within the 30-day notification period.

Mitigation Measures were developed in coordination with the Tribe to address concerns related to the accidental discovery of cultural resources at both the Lake Tamarisk Station 49 Replacement Project and the North Shore Station 49 Replacement Project. Compliance with these mitigation measures and the approval of the Tribal Monitoring Agreement will ensure that potential impacts from inadvertent discoveries of archeological resources do not occur and remain less than significant.

The attached Native American Remains and Associated Items Treatment, Disposition, and Monitoring Agreement in the not to exceed amount of \$16,157, will compensate Agua Caliente Band for the ongoing tribal monitoring during all grading, groundbreaking, excavation, and ground disturbing activities performed in conjunction with the project.

Construction of the Project is anticipated to occur in June of 2022.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The Lake Tamarisk Station 49 Replacement Project will provide the Fire Department with a facility that meets their current needs and allow them to better serve the community of Desert Center.

Additional Fiscal Information

The costs associated with this Board action of \$16,157 are part of the \$10 million project budget, previously approved on April 27, 2021 (Item 3.11).

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Attachments:

- Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Notice of Determination
- Native American Remains and Associated Items Treatment, Disposition, and Monitoring Agreement with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

RS:SP:MS:SC:mg FM08270011226 MT Item #18862
G:\Project Management Office\FORM 11'S\FORM 11's_In Process\18862_D4 - 011226 - RivCo Fire Lake Tamarisk Stn No. 49
Rplmnt Proj - Adopt MND-MMRP & Tribal Agmt-AguaCaliente_060722.doc

Meghan Hahn
Meghan Hahn, Senior Management Analyst

5/13/2022

Frankie Z. Ezzat
Frankie Z. Ezzat, Director of Budget

5/23/2022



INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FIRE STATION #49 PROJECT
Community of Lake Tamarisk,
Riverside County, California



April 2022

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SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

Biological Resources

- BIO-1** To maintain compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, if ground-disturbing and/or vegetation clearance activities are scheduled to occur during the avian nesting season (typically February 15 through August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey within the Project impact footprint and a 500-foot buffer where legal access is granted around the disturbance footprint. Surveys shall be conducted within 3 days prior to initiation of ground-disturbing activities. If an active nest is detected during the nesting bird survey, avoidance buffers shall be implemented as determined by a qualified biologist (typically 300 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors and special-status species). The buffer shall be of a distance to ensure avoidance of adverse effects to the nesting bird by accounting for buffering topography and buildings, ambient conditions, species, nest location, and activity type. All nests shall be monitored as determined by the qualified biologist until nestlings have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The qualified biologist shall halt all construction activities within proximity to an active nest if it is determined that the activities are harassing the nest and may result in nest abandonment or take. The qualified biologist shall also have the authority to require implementation of avoidance measures related to noise, vibration, or light pollution if indirect impacts are resulting in harassment of the nest.
- BIO-2** A qualified biologist (someone with at least 5 years of conducting surveys for the species) will conduct a desert tortoise survey one week prior to the start of construction. The survey will consist of 10-meter-wide belt transects that covers the Project site and an adequate buffer (up to 500- feet) to ensure 100% coverage of the site and adjacent areas of influence. Any individuals, burrows constructed by the species, scat, and carcasses will be recorded and mapped using ESRI ArcGIS mobile application with submeter accuracy. Any desert tortoise burrows found within 100-feet of the Project will be flagged for avoidance. The survey will then be repeated 72 hours prior to the start of construction.

Cultural Resources

- CR-1** Prior to the seeking and/or issuance of a grading permit, the County and consulting Tribes will co-create a Tribal Monitoring Agreement (Agreement) that (1) assures a Tribal Monitor will be present during all grading, excavation, and ground-disturbing activities within the Project Area of Potential Effect and (2) discusses and delineates subjects including, but not limited to, (a) the monitors' scheduling; (b) the monitors' duties and/or SOW; (c) monitors' compensation by the applicant (Riverside County Facilities Management); (d) safety requirements; and (e) the protocols and stipulations that the County contractor, and Tribal Monitor, will follow in the event of inadvertent cultural resources discoveries. Stipulations for treatment and final disposition of any cultural resources, with the exception of human remains, funerary objects, and sacred objects are addressed in Mitigation Measure **CR-4**.
- CR-2:** The Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to stop and redirect grading in order to identify and preliminarily evaluate any cultural resource(s) discovered on the property. If the resource(s) is determined to hold potential significance, a 25-foot buffer shall be established and the relevant Tribes shall be immediately contacted by the Project supervisor to come to the Project site. The Tribal Monitor shall, in consultation with the consulting Tribes, determine the significance of the resource(s) and whether additional monitoring by an archaeologist or a tribal monitor needs to occur.
- CR-3:** In the event that Native American cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during the course of ground-disturbing activity for this Project, the following procedures will be carried out for treatment and disposition of the discoveries:

Temporary Curation and Storage: During the course of construction, all discovered resources shall be temporarily curated in a secure location onsite or at the offices of the Project Archaeologist. The removal of any

artifacts from the Project site will need to be thoroughly documented via inventory and conducted with Tribal Monitor(s) oversight of the process.

Treatment and Final Disposition: The County/applicant/contractor shall relinquish ownership of all cultural resources, including sacred items, unassociated funerary objects/burial goods, all archaeological artifacts, and non-human remains as part of the required mitigation for impacts to cultural resources. The County/applicant/contractor shall relinquish the artifacts through one or more of the following methods and provide the County with evidence of same:

- a. Accommodate the process for onsite reburial of the discovered items with the consulting Tribes. This shall include measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts. Reburial shall not occur until all cataloguing and basic recordation have been completed. A reburial site shall be documented as a new site and recorded with the Eastern Information Center;
- b. A curation agreement with an appropriately qualified repository within Riverside County that meets federal standards per 36 CFR Part 79 whereby the collections and associated records shall be transferred, including title, and accompanied by payment from the County/applicant of the fees necessary for permanent curation;
- c. On request by the consulting Tribe for repatriation of the discovered items, the County shall relinquish ownership and shall deliver the items to the custody of the consulting Tribe. For purposes of conflict resolution, if the consulting Tribes cannot come to an agreement as to the disposition of cultural materials, they shall be curated at the Western Science Center or Riverside Metropolitan Museum by default; and
- d. At the completion of any and all ground disturbing activities on the Project site, a Phase IV Monitoring Report shall be written by the Project Archaeologist and submitted to the County within 120 days of the completion of ground-disturbing activities related to the Project. This report shall (1) document monitoring activities conducted by the Project Archaeologist and Tribal Monitors; (2) document the impacts to the known resources on the property, if any; (3) describe how each mitigation measure was fulfilled; (4) document the type of cultural resources discovered during Project implementation, the treatment of those resources, and their disposition; (5) provide evidence of the required cultural sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the required pre-grade meeting; and (6) in a confidential appendix, include the daily/weekly monitoring notes from the Project Archaeologist. All reports produced will be submitted to the County, Eastern Information Center and consulting Tribes.

CR-4: If human remains are encountered, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(b) remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission must be contacted within 24 hours. The Native American Heritage Commission must then immediately identify the “most likely descendant(s)” of receiving notification of the discovery. The most likely descendant(s) shall then make recommendations within 48 hours, and engage in consultations concerning the treatment of the remains.

CR-5: If inadvertent discoveries of subsurface archaeological/cultural resources are discovered during grading, Riverside County, and the monitoring Tribe shall assess the significance of such resources and shall meet and confer regarding the mitigation for such resources. Pursuant to California Public Resources Code § 21083.2(b) and 21084.3(b) avoidance is the preferred method of preservation for archaeological resources and tribal cultural resources. If the County and the monitoring Tribe cannot agree on the significance or the mitigation for such resources, these issues will be presented to the Riverside County Archaeologist. The County Archaeologist shall make the determination based on the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act with respect to archaeological resources and tribal cultural resources and shall take into account the religious beliefs, customs, and practices of the consulting Tribes.

Geology and Soils

GEO-1 In the event that any paleontological resources are unintentionally discovered during proposed Project construction, construction activities in the vicinity of the resource shall immediately halt and/or be moved to other parts of the Project site. A Riverside County-qualified paleontologist shall be retained by the County or their designee to determine the significance of the resource, if any. If the find is determined to be significant, avoidance or other appropriate measures including extraction and relocation, as recommended by the paleontologist, shall be implemented.

Noise and Vibration

NOI-1 A construction noise coordinator shall be established prior to construction and signage will be provided on site that will identify the designated person and contact number. The coordinator shall be responsible for receiving calls from residents regarding specific construction noise-related complaints. The coordinator would then be responsible for taking appropriate measures to reduce or eliminate noise levels as appropriate.

NOI-2 During construction, all staging areas and equipment shall be located and directed as far to the south as possible to avoid any disruptions to the sensitive receptors located north of the Project site.

NOI-3 Construction activity shall be prohibited during the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. and on weekends and County-designated holidays.

NOI-4 Construction equipment shall be properly maintained and equipped with mufflers and other State-required noise-attenuation devices.

INITIAL STUDY

INTRODUCTION

Environmental Assessment Determination

In accordance with Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3 Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (State CEQA Guidelines) Section 15060 (Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code; Reference: Section 65944, Government Code; Section 21080.2, Public Resources Code), the determination of the type of environmental assessment documentation for compliance with CEQA, begins with a preliminary review of whether a proposed action is a Project under CEQA, and if the action is determined to be a Project under CEQA, a determination of whether the Project is exempt from CEQA. If the Lead Agency determines the Project is not subject to or is exempt under CEQA, the agency may prepare a Notice of Exemption as the appropriate form of environmental assessment. If the preliminary review conducted by the Lead Agency determines that the Project is subject to CEQA, and does not qualify under an exemption, the Agency shall prepare an Initial Study as the appropriate environmental assessment documentation. The Initial Study will determine whether a more detailed environmental assessment in the form of an Environmental Impact Report is required for the proposed Project or if a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration may be adopted to complete the CEQA review process under *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15063(b), (c).

Subsequent to the preliminary review conducted by the County of Riverside (County) as the Lead Agency, the County has determined that the preparation of an Initial Study was required as the appropriate environmental assessment under CEQA for the proposed Riverside County Fire Station #49 North Shore Project (Project).

Purpose of the Initial Study

In accordance with *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15063 (a) (Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code; Reference: Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21082.1, 21100 and 21151), the County has prepared an Initial Study to analyze the proposed Project to determine any potential significant impacts upon the environment that would result from construction and implementation of the proposed Project. This Initial Study is a preliminary analysis prepared by the County as Lead Agency, in consultation with other jurisdictional agencies, to inform the County decision makers, affected agencies, and the public of potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the Project.

Incorporation by Reference

Pertinent documents relating to this Initial Study have been cited and incorporated, in accordance with Sections 15148 and 15150 of the State CEQA Guidelines, to eliminate the need for inclusion of large planning documents within the Initial Study. Of particular relevance are those previous studies that present information regarding description of the environmental setting, future development-related growth, and cumulative impacts. The following documents are hereby identified as being incorporated by reference:

Riverside County General Plan, June 2003 and December 2015.

Desert Center Area Plan, December, 2015.

2015 Long Range Facilities Master Plan and Building Program Standards

Organization

The Initial Study is organized as follows:

Introduction: Provides the purpose for the Initial Study and applicable citations pursuant to CEQA and the *State CEQA Guidelines*.

County of Riverside Environmental Assessment Form/Initial Study Checklist: Provides the Project Description; existing environmental setting; the relationship of the Project to the County General Plan; and an environmental impact assessment for each impact area within the environmental checklist. After the assessment of each impact area, the source of information, a finding of fact, applicable mitigation measures, and monitoring responsibility are provided.

References: List of references used for the environmental analyses.

Environmental Process

The Initial Study for the proposed Project is being circulated to the public, responsible agencies, and trustee agencies for a 20-day public review period that begins on April 30, 2022 with the issuance of a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) and a close of May 18, 2022. The NOI was sent via certified mail to property owners/residents within 1,000 feet of the Project; a notice was posted in the Desert Sun newspaper; and was posted at the Riverside County Clerk office. The Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting documentation (Initial Study) were available for public review at Riverside County Facilities Management (FM), the FM website, and also at the Lake Tamarisk Public Library. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) is contained herein under Appendix A. Comments received during the public review period will be considered as part of the Project's environmental review and will be included for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors may choose to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration should it be determined that the Project will have no significant, unmitigatable environmental effects.

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM/ INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Environmental Assessment (EA) Number: 2022021

Project Name: Riverside County Fire Station #49 Project

Lead Agency Name: County of Riverside

Address: 3133 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA. 92507

Contact Person: Mike Sullivan

Telephone Number: 951.955.8009

Applicant's Name: County of Riverside Facilities Management

Applicant's Address: 3133 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA. 92507

I. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Project Description:

The Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) is one of the largest regional fire service organizations in California and serves an area of 7,206 square miles. This service area consists of the unincorporated county areas; 20 cities, and one CSD. The Fire Department operates 97 fire stations in 15 battalions, providing fire suppression, emergency medical, rescue, and fire prevention services. Prior to the establishment of the RCFD, the County of Riverside has maintained a contractual relationship with CAL FIRE (formerly the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) since 1921. County Fire was officially established in 1946 and continues to coordinate with CAL FIRE to respond to fires throughout Riverside County. The RCFD operates an integrated regionalized fire protection system, which strives for seamless operations between fire stations with a goal to locate fire stations such that there is some degree of overlap in the response loops. The RCFD is organized into geographic battalions with the Project site being within the geographic area of Battalion 6. In addition to providing fire protection and response services, The RCFD also provides hazardous materials incident response, emergency medical services, training for paid and volunteer emergency personnel, and other safety planning and emergency response services.

The Project consists of the construction of a new 8,896 square-foot fire station to replace the existing station. The Project site area, including parking and building footprint is on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 808-170-034 which comprises 1.5 acres of County-owned property. APN 808-170-029 is also County owned and contains the existing 2,073 square foot Lake Tamarisk Fire Station. The existing station has three garage bays and a covered structure to house the existing engines and access from the front and rear of the property. The existing fire station is an aged structure that was constructed in 1970 and is limited in both size and function. The replacement fire station would have two egress/ingress driveways from Tamarisk Drive, 24 parking spaces, with 12 reserved for staff, a 418 square foot hose house, an emergency generator, a fueling station, and trash enclosure. The new apparatus bay would be 24 feet in height, with three doors, and a circular driveway allowing equipment to enter and exit without needed to backup.

The County Fire 2009 Building Program Standards and 2015 Long Range Facilities Master Plan identified design requirements to accommodate the development and maintenance of fire stations that could effectively and efficiently serve the surrounding populations and provide adequate fire protection services. These documents identified the need for an apparatus bay that houses all the fire-fighting equipment, sufficient storage areas, as well as living and office space. The Project site is currently vacant and located in the community of Lake Tamarisk which is a 55-plus 150-space mobile home and RV resort.

Figure 1 shows the regional location and the Project site, **Figure 2** shows the overall site plan, and **Figure 3** shows the site plan for the building. The topography of the site is flat, but gradually slopes in a northeastern direction. The Project site is at an elevation of approximately 725 feet above mean sea level. The proposed Project would entail the replacement of the existing fire station with the construction of a new fire station to improve local infrastructure and help ensure the safety and welfare of the community by providing adequate fire protection and other emergency response services to the community of Lake Tamarisk, and surrounding vicinity. Additional staffing would not be required for the replacement fire station. The Project would also involve utility alterations, including stormwater drainage improvements, electrical, water and sewer connections upgrades to provide service to the new building. Construction is anticipated to start in 2022 and would be completed by the end of 2022/beginning of 2023. The participating County agencies in this Project are RCFD and Facilities Management.

B. Type of Project: Site Specific Countywide Community Policy

C. Total Project Area: 1.5 acres

Residential Acres: N/A	Lots: N/A	Units: N/A	projected No. of Residents: N/A
Commercial Acres: N/A	Lots: N/A	Sq. Ft. of Bldg. Area: N/A	Est. No. of Employees: N/A
Industrial Acres: N/A	Lots: N/A	Sq. Ft. of Bldg. Area: N/A	Est. No. of Employees: N/A
Other: Public Facility	Lots: 1.5 Acre	Sq. Ft. of Bldg. Area: 7,000	Est. No. of New Employees: 0

D. Assessor's Parcel No(s): 808-170-034

E. Street References: The proposed Project is located at 49937 Lake Tamarisk Drive in the unincorporated community of Lake Tamarisk, which is northwest of Desert Center off of Interstate 10 and Highway 177

F. Section, Township & Range Description or reference/attach a Legal Description: The Project site is located within Township 5 South, Range 15 East, Section 14 Northwest, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, and is identified on the Desert Center 7.5-minute series United States Geologic Survey (USGS) Topographic Quadrangle map.

G. Brief description of the existing environmental setting of the Project site and its surroundings: The Project site is currently vacant and located in the community of Lake Tamarisk which is a 55-plus 150-space mobile home and RV resort. A substation is adjacent to the west and the existing fire station/library is located across Tamarisk Drive to the southwest. Lake Tamarisk, Lake Tamarisk Golf Course and clubhouse are located to the west and southwest respectively. There is additional vacant land adjacent to the north and east and low-density residences extending beyond to the east, south, north, and northwest. The land use designation under the General Plan for the site is Multiple Family Dwellings (MHDR). The Project site is zoned (R 2-5000). **Figure 1** illustrates the regional and local Project vicinity of the Project site and **Figure 2** shows the Project site and the location of the proposed improvements.

H. Public Agency Approvals: The proposed Project will require the approval by the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors. No other discretionary actions would be required by the Project. A grading and building permit will also be issued by Riverside County Facilities Management. The proposed improvements will be reviewed by Facilities Management prior to construction to ensure they meet all applicable standards.

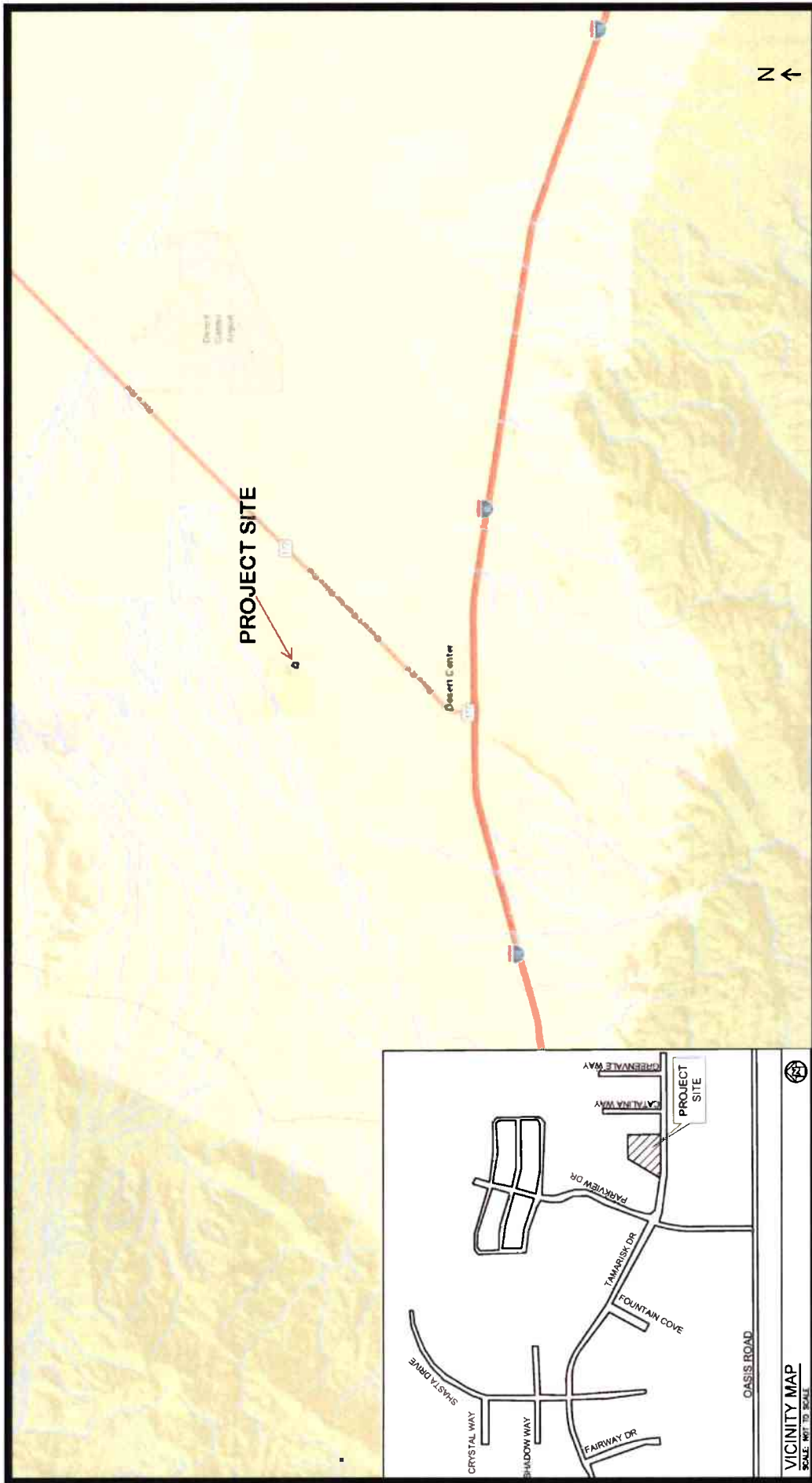


FIGURE 1
Fire Station #49
Regional and Project Location

II. APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING REGULATIONS

A. General Plan Elements/Policies:

The proposed Project site is located within the unincorporated community of Lake Tamarisk within the Desert Center Area Plan of the County of Riverside General Plan. The Project site is located on County-owned land and relevant policies are identified.

- 1) **Land Use:** The Project site is designated as community development foundation with a medium high density residential land use under the Desert Center Area Plan. This area has been identified as having the potential to accommodate limited future expansion of the communities identified, provided that all potential environmental and community services and land use compatibility issues are satisfactorily addressed. Within the County's land use ordinance (Ordinance No. 348), there is no zoning classification for public facilities, as they are allowed within all zoning designations (except for Open Space) provided they are compatible with the surrounding land uses (LU 7.2). Fire Station #49 is an existing public facility that provides fire services to the community. The construction and operation of the proposed Project would not result in any changes or incompatibility with the County General Plan's land use designation of the Project site or adjacent uses.

County of Riverside General Plan

LU-4.1: Require that new developments be located and designed to visually enhance, not degrade the character of the surrounding area through consideration of the following concepts:

- a. *Compliance with the design standards of the appropriate area plan land use category.*
- b. *Require that structures be constructed in accordance with the requirements of the County's zoning, building, and other pertinent codes and regulations.*
- c. *Require that an appropriate landscape plan be submitted and implemented for development Projects subject to discretionary review.*
- d. *Require that new development utilize drought tolerant landscaping and incorporate adequate drought-conscious irrigation systems.*
- e. *Pursue energy efficiency through street configuration, building orientation, and landscaping to capitalize on shading and facilitate solar energy, as provided for in Title 24 of the California Administrative Code.*
- f. *Incorporate water conservation techniques, such as groundwater recharge basins, use of porous pavement, drought tolerant landscaping, and water recycling, as appropriate.*
- g. *Encourage innovative and creative design concepts.*
- h. *Encourage the provision of public art.*
- i. *Include consistent and well-designed signage that is integrated with the building's architectural character.*
- j. *Provide safe and convenient vehicular access and reciprocal access between adjacent commercial uses.*
- k. *Locate site entries and storage bays to minimize conflicts with adjacent residential neighborhoods.*
- l. *Mitigate noise, odor, lighting, and other impacts on surrounding properties.*
- m. *Provide and maintain landscaping in open spaces and parking lots.*
- n. *Include extensive landscaping.*
- o. *Preserve natural features, such as unique natural terrain, drainage ways, and native vegetation, wherever possible, particularly where they provide continuity with more extensive regional systems.*

- p. *Require that new development be designed to provide adequate space for pedestrian connectivity and access, recreational trails, vehicular access and parking, supporting functions, open space, and other pertinent elements.*
- q. *Design parking lots and structures to be functionally and visually integrated and connected.*
- r. *Site buildings access points along sidewalks, pedestrian areas, and bicycle routes, and include amenities that encourage pedestrian activity.*
- s. *Establish safe and frequent pedestrian crossings.*
- t. *Create a human-scale ground floor environment that includes public open areas that separate pedestrian space from auto traffic or where mixed, it does so with special regard to pedestrian safety.*
- LU-5.1: *Ensure that development does not exceed the ability to adequately provide supporting infrastructure and services, such as libraries, recreational facilities, transportation systems, and fire/police/medical services.*
- LU-5.3: *Review all Projects for consistency with individual urban water management plans.*
- LU-8.2: *Require that development protect environmental resources by compliance with the Multipurpose Open Space Element of the General Plan and Federal and State regulations such as CEQA, NEPA, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act.*
- LU 10.1 *Provide sufficient commercial and industrial development opportunities in order to increase local employment levels and thereby minimize long-distance commuting.*
- LU 12.2 *Locate employment and service uses in areas that are easily accessible to existing or planned transportation facilities.*

Additional Land Use Policies Unique to the 2015 County of Riverside General Plan

- LU 7.2 *Notwithstanding the Public Facilities designation, public facilities shall also be allowed in any other land use designation except for the Open Space-Conservation and Open Space-Conservation Habitat land use designations. For purposes of this policy, a public facility shall include all facilities operated by the federal government, the State of California, the County of Riverside, any special district governed by or operating within the County of Riverside or any city, and all facilities operated by any combination of these agencies.*
- LU 11.5 *Ensure that all new developments reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions as prescribed in the Air Quality Element and Climate Action Plan.*
- LU 18.1 **Ensure compliance with Riverside County's water-efficient landscape policies.** *Ensure that projects seeking discretionary permits and/or approvals develop and implement landscaping plans prepared in accordance with the Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Ordinance No. 859), the County of Riverside Guide to California Friendly Landscaping and Riverside County's Friendly Plant List. Ensure that irrigation plans for all new development incorporate weather-based controllers and utilize state-of-the-art water-efficient irrigation components.*
- LU 18.2 **Minimize use of turf.** *Minimize the use of turf in landscape medians, front-yard typical designs, parkways, other common areas, etc. and use drought tolerant planting options, mulch, or a combination thereof as a substitute. Limit the use of natural turf to those areas that serve a functional recreational element. Incorporate other aesthetic design elements, such as boulders, stamped concrete, pavers, flagstone, decomposed granite, manufactured rock products to enhance visual interest and impact.*

LU 18.3 Design and field check irrigation plans to reduce run-off. Emphasize the use of subsurface irrigation techniques for landscape areas adjoining non-permeable hardscape. Utilize subsurface irrigation or other low volume irrigation technology in association with long, narrow, or irregularly shaped turf areas. Minimize use of irregularly shaped turf areas.

- 2) **Circulation:** The proposed Project consists of the construction and operation of a replacement fire station. The Project would add staff and equipment but would not substantially increase the capacity of the existing station. There would be no substantial increase in vehicle trips associated with the Project and no effects would occur to the transportation network. The following General Plan Circulation policies and Facilities Master Plan and Building Standards would be relevant to the Project.

County of Riverside General Plan

C 1.4: Utilize existing infrastructure and utilities to the maximum extent practicable and provide for the logical, timely, and economically efficient extension of infrastructure and services.

C 2.1: Maintain the following countywide target Levels of Service: LOS "C" along all County-maintained roads and conventional state highways. As an exception, LOS "D" may be allowed in Community Development areas, only at intersections of any combination of Secondary Highways, Major Highways, Arterials, Urban Arterials, Expressways, conventional state highways or freeway ramp intersections.

C 2.3: Traffic studies prepared for development entitlements (tracts, plot plans, public use permits, conditional use permits, etc.) shall identify Project-related traffic impacts and determine the significance of such impacts in compliance with CEQA.

C 2.4: The direct Project-related traffic impacts of new development proposals shall be mitigated via conditions of approval requiring the construction of any improvements identified as necessary to meet level of service standards.

C 3.10: Require private and public land developments to provide all on-site auxiliary facility improvements necessary to mitigate any development-generated circulation impacts. A review of each proposed land development Project shall be undertaken to identify Project impacts to the circulation system and its auxiliary facilities. The Transportation Department may require developers and/or subdividers to provide traffic impact studies prepared by qualified professionals to identify the impacts of a development.

C 3.26: Plan off-street parking facilities to support and enhance the concept of walkable and transit-oriented communities.

C 4.1: Provide facilities for the safe movement of pedestrians within developments, as specified in the County Ordinances Regulating the Division of Land of the County of Riverside.

2015 Long Range Facilities Master Plan and Building Program Standards

Parking Lot with 4 visitor spaces and adequate accessible spaces varies Rear parking lot with 10 employee parking spaces varies Consider photovoltaic covered parking

The front drive in front of the apparatus bay should be long enough to park an engine. Drive aisle and landscape design should accommodate an outside turning radius of 65'-0" for fire apparatus.

Traffic signal in front of station driveway with optical emergency sensor

- 3) **Biological and Multipurpose Open Space:** The proposed Project includes site preparation and construction-related activities which would build a replacement fire station. The Project would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs), including catch basins, new storm drain lines, cleanouts, and riprap to manage stormwater during operation and would require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to manage runoff during construction. The Project site is undeveloped desert scrub land. There is no landscaping/vegetation immediately adjacent to the Project site that would be affected by the new Project elements. The following Multipurpose Open Space policies would be relevant to the Project.

County of Riverside General Plan

- OS-2.2: *Where feasible, decrease stormwater runoff by reducing pavement in development areas, and by design practices such as permeable parking bays and porous parking lots with bermed storage areas for rainwater detention.*
- OS-3.3: *Minimize pollutant discharge into storm drainage systems and natural drainage and aquifers.*
- OS-16.1: *Continue to implement Title 24 of the State Building Code. Establish mechanisms and incentives to encourage architects and builders to exceed the energy efficiency standards of Title 24.*
- OS-16.14 *Coordinate energy conservation activities with the County Climate Action Plan (CAP) as decreasing energy usage also helps reduce carbon emissions.*
- OS-18.1: *Preserve multi-species habitat resources in the County of Riverside through the enforcement of the provisions of applicable MSHCP's, if adopted.*
- OS-19.2: *Review all proposed development for the possibility of archaeological sensitivity.*

Additional Open Space Policies Unique to the 2015 County of Riverside General Plan

- OS-3.4 *Review proposed projects to ensure compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits and require them to prepare the necessary Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP).*
- OS-3.6 *Design the necessary stormwater detention basins, recharge basins, water quality basins, or similar water capture facilities to protect water quality. Such facilities should capture and/or treat water before it enters a watercourse. In general, these facilities should not be placed in watercourses, unless no other feasible options are available.*
- OS-16.14 *Coordinate energy conservation activities with the County Climate Action Plan (CAP) as decreasing energy usage also helps reduce carbon emissions.*

2015 Long Range Facilities Master Plan and Building Program Standards

Drought tolerant landscaping (no lawns) varies Trash enclosure- masonry walls large enough for two dumpsters.

Bioswales in perimeter landscape areas

- 4) **Safety:** The proposed Project is not located in any Airport Influence Area nor is it located in an Airport Compatibility Zone. The Project is not located within a designated wildfire area, fault zone or within ½ mile of any known fault. The Project would follow design considerations for critical facilities which would elevate the finished floor of the fire station three feet above the highest adjacent grade to address potential flooding issues. The Project site is, however, in an area susceptible to subsidence and has a high liquefaction potential and would be designed for these circumstances. The following General Plan Safety policies and Facilities Master Plan and Building Standards would be relevant to the Project.

County of Riverside General Plan

S-2.2: *Require geological and geotechnical investigations in areas with potential for earthquake-induced liquefaction, landsliding or settlement as part of the environmental and development review process, for any structure proposed for human occupancy, and any structure whose damage would cause harm.*

2015 Long Range Facilities Master Plan and Building Program Standards

Exterior lighting to be controlled by photocell and timer and switches sufficient to light perimeter areas, such as hose wash rack, fuel island, trash and parking areas

Ornamental metal slide automatic gate Adequate exterior building, parking and landscape lighting

- 5) **Noise:** Implementation of the proposed Project would generate noise during the demolition and construction phase of the Project, but during operation, would not increase noise beyond what currently exists at the existing station. The following General Plan Noise policies would be relevant to the Project.

County of Riverside General Plan

N-4.1: *Prohibit facility-related noise, received by any sensitive use, from exceeding the following worst-case noise levels:*

a. 45 dBA-10-minute Leq between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00

a.m. b. 65 dBA-10-minute Leq between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

N-12.2: *Ensure that construction activities are regulated to establish hours of operation in order to prevent and/or mitigate the generation of excessive or adverse noise impacts on surrounding areas.*

N-15.2: *Consider the following land uses sensitive to vibration: Hospitals; Residential Areas; Concert Halls; Libraries; Sensitive Research Operations; Schools; and Offices*

- 6) **Air Quality:** Implementation of the proposed Project would potentially generate air emissions during the demolition and construction phase of the Project, but during operation, would not increase noise beyond what currently exists at the station. The following General Plan Air Quality policy would be relevant to the Project.

2015 County of Riverside General Plan

AQ-19.4 All discretionary project proposals shall analyze their project-specific GHG reduction targets in comparison to the "business as usual" (BAU) scenario for the development's operational life and the "operational life" of a new development shall be defined as a 30-year span. Other methods for calculating BAU and showing GHG emissions reductions may be used provided such methods are both scientifically defensible and show actual emission reduction measures incorporated into project design, mitigation or alternative selection. Alternatively, a project may use the CAP Screening Tables to show the attainment of the applicable number of points needed to ensure adequate GHG reductions and CAP compliance.

AQ-20.28 Increase the energy efficiency of all existing and new County buildings and infrastructure operation (roads, water, waste disposal and treatment, buildings, etc.). Also, decrease energy use through incorporating renewable energy facilities (such as, solar array installations, individual wind energy generators, geothermal heat sources) on County facilities where feasible and appropriate.

- B. County General Plan Area Plan(s):** County of Riverside General Plan, Desert Center Area Plan
- C. Foundation Component(s):** Community Development
- D. Land Use Designation(s):** Medium High Density Residential
- E. Overlay(s), if any:** None
- F. Policy Area(s), if any:** N/A
- G. Adjacent and Surrounding Area Plan(s), Foundation Component(s), Land Use Designation(s), and Overlay(s) and Policy Area(s), if any:** Surrounding land uses include Medium High-Density Residential, Open Space Recreation, Medium Density Residential, High-Density residential, Commercial Retail, Water and Rural Desert.
- H. Adopted Specific Plan Information**
 - 1) **Name and Number of Specific Plan, if any:** N/A
 - 2) **Specific Plan Planning Area, and Policies, if any:** N/A
- I. Existing Zoning:** R-2-5000.
- J. Proposed Zoning, if any:** No Change.
- K. Adjacent and Surrounding Zoning:** Adjacent parcels are zoned R 2-5000; parcels extending further include C-1/C-P, R-3, R-1, R-1-10, R-1-20 and W-2.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below (x) would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

IV. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

A PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/NEGATIVE DECLARATION WAS NOT PREPARED

I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project, described in this document, have been made or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION has been prepared.



Mike Sullivan
Senior Environmental Planner
County of Riverside Facilities Management

4-22-2022

Date

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

I AESTHETICS

Would the Project

1. Scenic Resources

a) <i>Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings and historic buildings within a state-scenic highway?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>In non-urbanized area, substantially degrade views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point.) If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: County of Riverside General Plan; County of Riverside General Plan Figure C-8; Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan, Figure 10; California Department of Transportation Scenic Highway Guidelines.

Findings of Fact:

- a-c) The Project site offers foreground views of the Chuckwalla and Orocopia Mountains to the south and southeast and background views of the Eagle Mountains to the north and the San Jacinto/Santa Rosa Mountains to the west. The views surrounding the Project site consist of vacant land and spattered residential development. The Project site does not contain any unique or landmark features, and the placement of the new station would be located within the middle of the property set back approximately 50 feet from both Parkview Drive and Tamarisk Drive. Although the Project would introduce a new structure to the previously undeveloped site, the building and Project elements would be compatible in scale and size with the surrounding residential structures and would not result in an aesthetically objectionable views to the public. The new building and Project elements would not create any additional significant blockage or obstruction of views from surrounding roadways or viewpoints. No additional visual obstruction would occur to any prominent topographic features such as rock outcroppings, or to scenic vistas of the surrounding mountains that are already disrupted by existing vegetation and development. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact to scenic resources will occur.
- d) A significant impact would occur if the proposed Project caused a substantial increase in ambient illumination levels beyond the property line or caused new lighting to spill over onto light-sensitive land uses such as residential, some commercial, institutional, and natural areas. The Project site is located in the Lake Tamarisk Community. Existing light sources from the Project site include exterior lighting associated with the parking lot and street lighting. Additional light and glare occur in the surrounding area from vehicle luminaries, residential daytime and nighttime lighting, and minimal security lighting. Operation of the Project would not expose residential property to unacceptable light levels or create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Construction activities would occur during the daytime and would be temporary. Implementation of the Project would not expose residences to unacceptable light levels or create a new source of substantial lighting or glare. Therefore, a less-than-significant significant impact related to light and glare will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

2. Mt. Palomar Observatory

a) *Interfere with the nighttime use of the Mt. Palomar Observatory, as protected through Riverside County Ordinance No. 655?*

Source: RCIT (GIS Database); Project Description; Ord. No. 655 (Regulating Light Pollution).

Findings of Fact:

a) Light pollution occurs when too much artificial illumination enters the night sky and reflects off of airborne water droplets and dust particles causing a condition known as “sky glow.” It occurs when glare from improperly aimed and unshielded light fixtures cause uninvited illumination to cross property lines. The Mount Palomar Observatory, located in San Diego County, requires unique nighttime lighting standards so that the night sky can be viewed clearly. The Project site is located approximately 89 miles southwest of the Mt. Palomar Observatory. The Project is outside the 15-mile radius Zone A and 45-mile radius Zone B of the Observatory and is not subject to Ordinance No. 655. Construction activities associated with the Project would not occur during evening hours. Nighttime lighting would be included as part of the expansion to provide safety and security to the Fire Station. The lighting will be focused to minimize spill-over and light pollution onto adjacent properties and into the night sky. As a result, light leakage and spillage from the fire station would not obstruct or hinder the views from the Mt. Palomar Observatory. Therefore, no significant impact related to an interference with the nighttime use of the Mt. Palomar Observatory will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

II AGRICULTURE & FOREST RESOURCES

Would the Project

a) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Conflict with existing agricultural zoning, agricultural use or with land subject to a Williamson Act contract or land within a Riverside County Agricultural Preserve?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>In non-urbanized area, substantially degrade views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point.) If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>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 Govt Code section 51104(g))?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) <i>Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program 2012 and Williamson Act Land Map 2012; RCIT Agricultural Preserve Contracts (GIS Database), Riverside County General Plan Figure 4.16.1 “Parks, Forests and Recreation Areas”; Riverside County Parks, 2012.

Findings of Fact:

- a-d) The Project site is in an area designated as Other Land and Urban Built-up Land, by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Department of Conservation. The Project site is not classified as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance. The Project site is not located or located adjacent to an agricultural preserve, a Farmland Security Zone, and will not conflict with existing agricultural zoning or land subject to a Williamson Act contract. The nearest Williamson Act land is located approximately 0.75 miles to the east of the Project site. The nearest land zoned for agriculture is approximately 0.75 miles to the east, and the replacement fire station is not anticipated to result in rezoning that would result in the conversion of agricultural zoned land to develop with non-agricultural uses. In addition, the replacement fire station is the continuation of an existing use at an adjacent site and is primarily limited to the addition of infrastructure to provide more efficient fire services. Therefore, no significant impact related to agricultural effects will occur.
- e-g) The proposed Project site is not located in an area near forest land or near any timber resources. There is no forest land and timber resources in the vicinity of the Project site and the construction and operation of the park would not have an effect on forest land or result in the potential conversion of forest land to non-forest land. Therefore, no significant impact related to forest land will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

III AIR QUALITY

Would the Project

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: SCAQMD Attainment Status, South Coast Air Quality Management District CEQA Air Quality Handbook Table 6-2; CalEEMod 2020.4.0; and SCAQMD Rules

Findings of Fact:

The Air Quality section addresses the impacts of the proposed Project on ambient air quality and the exposure of people, especially sensitive individuals, to unhealthful pollutant concentrations. Air pollutants of concern include ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀), particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and lead (Pb). This section analyzes the type and quantity of emissions that would be generated by the construction and operation of the Project. Geographic areas are classified as either in attainment or nonattainment for each criteria pollutant based on whether the Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) have been achieved under the state and federal Clean Air Acts (CAA). The Mojave Desert Air Basin, which is managed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), is designated as nonattainment for O₃ and PM₁₀ under the California AAQS. A background discussion on the air quality regulatory setting, meteorological conditions, existing ambient air quality in the vicinity of the Project site, methodology, and air quality modeling data are included in Appendix B to this Initial Study.

- a) Air quality in the United States is governed by the Federal CAA, administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition to being subject to the requirements of the federal

CAA, air quality in California is also governed by more stringent regulations under the California CAA, administered by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) at the state level and by the Air Quality Management Districts at the regional and local levels. The Project site is located within the Mojave Desert Air Basin (Basin) and is within the jurisdiction of the SCAQMD. The boundaries of the Basin range from the Pacific Ocean on the west to the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains to the north and east. It includes portions of Los Angeles County, all of Orange County, and the non-desert areas of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) was adopted by the SCAQMD Governing Board in March of 2017 and provides updated emission inventory methodologies for various source categories, the new and changing federal requirements, implementation of new technology measures, and the continued development of economically sound, flexible compliance approaches. The Basin is a federal and state non-attainment area for O₃ and PM_{2.5}, and a state non-attainment area for PM₁₀ and Pb (Los Angeles County only). An area is considered to be in non-attainment status when air pollution persistently exceeds the national ambient air standards. The 2016 AQMP establishes a comprehensive program to lead the Basin into compliance with all federal and state air quality standards. The AQMP is derived from General Plan assumptions, land use, population, and employment characteristics defined in consultation with local governments. As such, conformance with the AQMP for development projects is determined by demonstrating compliance with local land use plans and/or population projections. A 2022 AQMP is underway with a focus on meeting these standards.

The proposed Project would construct and operate replacement fire station with a new building and associated equipment, and additional on-site improvements to circulation and parking. The on-site improvements would provide more efficient operation and provision of fire services. The Project will not require changes to the designated land use and zoning by the County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. The General Plans of cities and counties within the Basin were used as the basis for the emissions inventory within the AQMP. Individual projects and long-term programs within the region are required to be consistent with the AQMP. To demonstrate consistency with the AQMP, the population projections used to assess the need for the Project must be approved by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The Project will not substantially alter the present or planned land use of this area as the services offered by the existing Fire Station would not result in new trips as no increase in staff or capacity would occur as part of the expansion. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the land use designation that was incorporated within the General Plan and consequently the AQMP. In addition, the Project would not emit either short- or long-term quantities of criteria pollutants which exceed the SCAQMD's significance thresholds as discussed in 6b) below. The SCAQMD does not consider projects which result in emissions which are below the SCAQMD significance thresholds to interfere with the goals established in the AQMP. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to consistency with the AQMP will occur.

- b) According to the SCAQMD methodology, any Project that does not exceed, or can be mitigated to less than the daily threshold values will not add significantly to the cumulative impact. Construction and operational activities would not result in emissions in excess of SCAQMD's daily threshold values. See the discussion related to regional air quality emissions in the analysis below within subsection c. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to a cumulatively considerable net increase in criteria pollutants will occur.
- c) Air quality impacts can be described in potential short and long-term impacts. Short-term impacts occur during Project construction. Long-term air quality impacts occur once the Project is complete and operational. These long-term impacts would occur as a result of increased vehicle traffic to the Project site due to periodic maintenance activity. The following analysis will address whether Project generated emissions will significantly contribute toward an exceedance of the ambient air quality standards or a substantial contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation.

Short-term Air Quality Impacts

Construction activities would result in the generation of air pollutants. These emissions would primarily be 1) exhaust emissions from powered construction equipment; 2) fugitive dust generated from demolition, earthmoving, excavation and other construction activities; 3) motor vehicle emissions associated with vehicle trips; 4) emissions generated from paving activity; and (5) reactive organic gases generated from architectural coating activities. The analysis assumes compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust). Construction activities are estimated to begin in 2022, while build-out of the proposed Project is scheduled for the Spring of 2023. Air pollutant emissions associated with the Project could occur over the short-term from site preparation to support the proposed land use. The included analysis is based on the CalEEMod computer model. To determine whether a significant regional air quality impact would occur, Project emissions are evaluated against SCAQMD regional significance thresholds for construction activities. The Project is required to comply with SCAQMD Rule 403, which establishes control measures for fugitive dust. Compliance with this rule will reduce short-term particulate pollutant emissions and is included as part of the air quality modeling assumptions. As shown in **Table AQ-1**, the Project’s construction emissions are not anticipated to result in a substantial contribution to regional emissions. Project emissions are less than the SCAQMD CEQA significance threshold values. The output for the model run is included in Appendix B. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to violation of air quality standards will occur.

Table AQ-1: Summary of Peak Construction Emissions (Pounds per Day)

Activity	VOC	NOX	CO	SO2	PM10	PM2.5
Site Preparation	1	7	4	<1	<1	<1
Grading	1	12	7	<1	3	2
Building Construction	1	7	7	<1	<1	<1
Paving	1	6	9	<1	<1	<1
Architectural Coating	13	1	2	<1	<1	<1
Maximum Daily Construction Emissions	13	12	9	<1	3	2
SCAQMD Threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Exceeds Significance Thresholds?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Source: CalEEMod Version 2020.4.0.

Long-Term Air Quality Impacts

Long-term air quality impacts associated with the proposed Project would be generated from primarily area sources. Operation of Fire Station #49 would not result in additional stationary source emissions from on-site equipment. Area sources of emissions are those associated with landscaping maintenance and energy use. The Project is not adding staff or capacity and would not generate additional trips that would result in mobile emissions. As a conservative estimate, emissions based on the new building square footage were calculated from the CalEEMod computer model. The Project’s emissions were evaluated against the SCAQMD significance thresholds as shown in **Table AQ-2**. The Project’s emissions were found to be below the SCAQMD operational phase emissions thresholds. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to long term air quality impacts will occur.

Table AQ-2: Summary of Peak Regional Operational Emissions (Pounds per Day)

Operational Activity	ROG	NOx	CO	SOx	PM10	PM2.5
Area	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Energy	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Vehicles	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Operational Emissions	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
SCAQMD Significance Threshold	55	55	550	150	150	55
Exceeds Significance Thresholds?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Source: CalEEMod 2020.4.0

The localized air pollution is evaluated against the localized significance thresholds (LST) which are based on the ambient concentrations of a pollutant within the Project Source Receptor Area, the size of the Project site and distance to the nearest sensitive receptor. The LSTs represent the maximum emissions from the Project site that are not expected to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent national or state AAQS. The LSTs are based on the California AAQS, which are the most stringent AAQS established to provide a margin of safety in the protection of the public health and welfare. They are designed to protect those sensitive receptors most susceptible to respiratory distress, such as asthmatics, the elderly, very young children, people already weakened by other disease or illness, and persons engaged in strenuous work or exercise. The SCAQMD has established guidance for the use of the results of the CalEEMod model to be applied to the LST methodology. In order to compare CalEEMod emissions against the LST thresholds, Project design features or mitigation measures should be established that describe the off-road equipment list and hours of operation assumed with maximum daily emissions; the maximum number of acres disturbed on the peak day using the equipment list; emission control devices added to off-road equipment; and dust suppression techniques used.

Construction LSTs

Emissions generated by construction activities would temporarily increase pollutant concentrations from onsite equipment (primarily mobile emissions) and fugitive dust (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}). **Table AQ-3** shows the localized maximum daily construction emissions. As the new Fire Station is located within a residential area with residential property lines within 100 feet, the most conservative receptor distance of 25 meters was used for the LST methodology. As shown in **Table AQ-3**, maximum daily emissions from construction activities would not exceed the SCAQMD LSTs; therefore, construction emissions would not exceed the California AAQS and the Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to construction LSTs will occur.

Operational LSTs

Operational activities would generate air pollutant emissions from mobile and area emissions. **Table AQ-4** shows localized maximum daily operational emissions. As shown in **Table AQ-4**, maximum daily operational emissions would not exceed the SCAQMD LSTs and would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to operational LSTs will occur.

Table AQ-3: Localized Significance Threshold Summary – Construction

Construction	Pounds per Day			
	CO	NO2	PM10	PM2.5
Peak Construction Emissions	7	12	3	1
Localized Significance Thresholds	1,299	191	7	5
Significant Impact Without Mitigation?	NO	NO	NO	NO

Source: CalEEMod Version 2020.4.0: Based on SCAQMD LST methodology on a 2-acre site that uses one grader, one dozer, and two tractors for eight hours a day during grading, which is equivalent to a disturbed acreage of 1 acre and compared against the 1-acre LST lookup table within SRA 31 and adjacent sensitive receptors (25m).

Table AQ-4: Localized Significance Threshold Summary – Operation

Construction	Pounds per Day			
	CO	NO2	PM10	PM2.5
Peak Operational Emissions	<1	1	<1	<1
Localized Significance Thresholds	878	132	1	1
Significant Impact?	NO	NO	NO	NO

Source: CalEEMod Version 2020.4.0: Based on SCAQMD LST methodology for operational emissions which does not include off-site mobile emissions. The localized emissions were compared against the most stringent LST threshold for SRA 30 with a 25-meter receptor distance.

Carbon Monoxide Hotspots

An air quality impact would be considered significant if the generated CO emission levels exceed the state or federal AAQS, which would expose receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Because CO is produced in greatest quantities from vehicle combustion and does not readily disperse into the atmosphere, adherence to AAQS is typically demonstrated through an analysis of localized concentrations. Vehicle congestion has the potential to create elevated concentrations of CO called "hot spots." Localized CO concentrations hot spots are caused by vehicular emissions, primarily when idling at congested intersections. Due to the implementation of strict vehicle emissions standards over the last 20 years, the turnover of older vehicles, introduction of cleaner fuels, and implementation of increasingly sophisticated and efficient emissions control technologies, CO concentrations have steadily declined. Currently, the allowable CO emissions standard in California is a maximum of 3.4 grams per mile for passenger cars. A CO "hot spot" would occur if an exceedance of the state one-hour standard of 20 ppm or the 8-hour standard of 9 ppm were to occur. A CO hot spot analysis was conducted in 2003 for four high volume intersections in the City of Los Angeles in the peak-hour periods to establish a better threshold for the volume of vehicles necessary to generate a violation of CO standards to better reflect the effect of the increasing proportion of cleaner burning vehicles. The hot spot analysis for the 2003 analysis did not predict any violation of CO standards. The busiest intersection (Wilshire Boulevard/Veteran Avenue) had a daily traffic volume of 100,000 vehicles today and the estimated one-hour concentration was 4.6 ppm.¹ The 20 ppm standard would not have been exceeded until the intersection exceeded more than 400,000 vehicles per day. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has also looked at the effect of cleaner burning vehicles and concluded that under existing and future vehicle emissions rates, a given project would have to increase traffic volumes at a single intersection by 24,000 vehicles per hour where vertical and/or horizontal air does not mix (worst case condition) to generate a significant CO impact.² Based on these factors, and that the Project would not generate peak-hour trips as there would not be an increase in existing staffing, there is no potential for the Project to generate CO concentrations higher than the state and federal standards. As a result, sensitive receptors in the area would not be substantially affected by CO concentrations generated by operation of the Project. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to CO hot spots will occur.

Toxic Air Contaminants

The CARB has identified diesel particulate matter (DPM) from diesel-fueled engines as a toxic air contaminant (TAC); thus, high volume freeways, stationary diesel engines, and facilities attracting heavy and constant diesel vehicle traffic are identified as having the highest associated health risks from DPM. The Project site is not located within 500 feet of a freeway or major roadway, near any rail yards, stationary diesel engines, or facilities attracting heavy and constant diesel vehicle traffic such as warehouse distribution centers. The surrounding Project area consists primarily of vacant land and residences, and the majority of vacant land surrounding the Fire Station #49 is zoned for residential uses.

Health risks from TACs are a function of both the concentration of emissions and the duration of exposure. Health-related risks associated with DPM in particular are primarily associated with long-term exposure and associated risk of contracting cancer. Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others, due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Heightened sensitivity may be caused by health problems, proximity to the emissions source, and/or duration of exposure to air pollutants. Children, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with existing health problems are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution. Operational-related emissions of TACs are typically associated with stationary diesel engines or land uses that involve heavy truck traffic or idling. The fire station is located within a residential area, which is presumed to have sensitive receptors. However, the Fire Station would not result in additional diesel

¹South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Carbon Monoxide Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan*, Hot Spot Analysis, February 2005.

²Bay Area Air Quality Management District, *CEQA Air Quality Guidelines*, Section 3.3 Carbon Monoxide Screening Criteria, May 2011

equipment or other heavy truck uses, so there would not be any additional long-exposure to TACs. The CARB Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective Handbook includes facilities with associated diesel truck trips of more than 100 trucks per day as a source of substantial TAC emissions. The Project is not anticipated to receive frequent truck deliveries and would not involve a substantial source of TAC emissions. Therefore, the operation of the Project would not expose any existing sensitive receptors to any new permanent or substantial TAC emissions.

During construction, diesel particulate emissions associated with heavy-duty equipment operations would occur. According to SCAQMD methodology, health effects from carcinogenic air toxics are usually described in terms of individual cancer risk. "Individual Cancer Risk" is the likelihood that a person continuously exposed to concentrations of TACs over a 70-year lifetime will contract cancer based on the use of standard risk assessment methodology. Based on the construction schedule, limited amount of imported/exported material, and equipment mix as described in Appendix A, the construction of the Project is not anticipated to result in more than 20 truck trips per day and would not be a substantial source of TAC emissions. Given the short-term construction schedule of approximately 9 months, the proposed Project would not result in a long-term (i.e., 70 years) source of TACs. No significant emissions and corresponding individual cancer risk are anticipated after construction. Because of the short-term exposure period during construction and low level of truck activity during construction and operation of Fire Station #49, a less-than-significant impact related to TACs will occur.

- d) The proposed Project would not emit objectionable odors that would affect a substantial number of people. The threshold for odor is if a Project creates an odor nuisance pursuant to SCAQMD Rule 402, Nuisance, which states:

A person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property. The provisions of this rule shall not apply to odors emanating from agricultural operations necessary for the growing of crops or the raising of fowl or animals.

The type of facilities that are considered to have objectionable odors include wastewater treatments plants, compost facilities, landfills, solid waste transfer stations, fiberglass manufacturing facilities, paint/coating operations (e.g., auto body shops), dairy farms, petroleum refineries, asphalt batch plants, chemical manufacturing, and food manufacturing facilities. The proposed Project would be consistent and compatible with existing land uses surrounding the Project site. The proposed Project will not introduce a new stationary source of air pollution into the proposed Project vicinity that may cause objectionable odors. Therefore, no significant impact related to the creation of objectionable odors will occur.

During construction activities, construction equipment exhaust would temporarily generate odors. Any construction-related odor emissions would be temporary, intermittent in nature, and would not constitute a public nuisance. Therefore, a less-than-significant impacts related to objectionable odors during construction will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

SI=Significant Impact; LTS=Less Than Significant or Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated; NI=No Impact; AP=Analyzed in Prior EIR; M-DP=Substantially Mitigated by Uniformly Applicable Development Policies

SI LTS NI AP M-DP

IV BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the Project

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: RCIT (GIS Database); Project Description; Dudek Biological Resources Report, 2021.

Findings of Fact:

a) No federally or state-listed plant species have a potential to occur within the Project site. There are no special-status plant species with a moderate or high potential to occur. Therefore, the Project would not result in direct or indirect impacts to special-status plant species. As such, impacts to special-status plant species would be less than significant.

No listed or non-listed special-status wildlife species were incidentally observed during the site survey in October of 2021. One state-listed species, elf owl, has a moderate potential to nest in the study area buffer. In addition, one federally and state-listed species, Mojave desert tortoise, has a low potential to occur within the study area buffer, but is not expected to occur within the Project footprint. Additionally, three non-listed species have a moderate potential to occur within the study area. Burrowing owl has a moderate potential to occur in the study area buffer, but is not expected to occur within the Project footprint. Loggerhead shrike has a moderate potential to occur in the study area, including the Project footprint. LeConte’s thrasher has a moderate potential to occur within the study area buffer, but a low potential to occur within the Project footprint.

One state listed special-status species, elf owl, has a moderate potential to nest within the study area buffer, but is not expected within the Project footprint. One non-listed special-status species, loggerhead shrike, has a moderate potential to occur within the study area (including the Project footprint). However, the burrowing owl is not expected to occur within the Project footprint due to the absence of suitable habitat within the Project footprint (i.e., site contains highly compacted soils and lacks burrows at least four inches in diameter. Two non-listed species, burrowing owl and LeConte’s thrasher, both have a moderate potential to occur within the study area buffer. While the proposed Project could result in the permanent impacts to 0.1 acres of suitable nesting habitat within the Project footprint for these species (i.e., two palo verde trees in the eastern portion of the Project footprint), this impact would be less than significant due to the remaining 3.9 acres of unimpacted suitable habitat (i.e., palo verde and ironwood trees within the palo verde–ironwood woodland) and other lands beyond that. Additionally, these species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code Section 3516,

which protect nesting birds. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **BIO-1**, Nesting Birds, would reduce potential direct and indirect impacts to these species to less than significant.

One federally and state-listed special-status species, Mojave desert tortoise, has a low potential to occur within study area buffer, but is not expected within the Project footprint. The Mojave desert tortoise is a federally threatened and state endangered species. Typical habitat for this species within the Mojave Desert is creosote bush scrub with a relatively high diversity of perennial plants. This species typically occurs on gently sloping terrain with sandy gravel soils in locations with sparse cover of low-growing shrubs. Soils must be friable enough for the digging of burrows but firm enough to prevent burrow collapse. The study area buffer contains suitable desert wash habitat and some creosote flats habitat, and the study area buffer connects to open lands in the north, east and west. There are two nearby documented occurrences from 2008 approximately 2.1 and 3.3 miles southeast of the study area. In addition, there are two nearby documented occurrences from 2010 approximately 3.6 and 4.8 miles southeast of the study area. Finally, the study area is within USFWS-designated Colorado Desert Recovery Unit for desert tortoise. Due to the Project being located within the range of desert tortoise and the presence of suitable habitat within the study area buffer, there is low potential for Mojave desert tortoise to occur within the study area buffer. The proposed Project and study area buffer are not located in designated Critical Habitat for desert tortoise; however, there is Critical Habitat within 5 miles of the Project, though the Project is not expected to cause indirect impacts to this species. The Project footprint lacks suitable habitat (i.e., sandy or gravelly locations along riverbanks, washes, sandy dunes, canyon bottoms, desert oases, rocky hillsides, creosote flats, and hillsides) and no burrows were observed during the October 2021 survey (i.e., site contained highly compactable soils); therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not result in any direct impacts to this species. No indirect impacts to Mojave desert tortoise within the study area buffer are expected, given the low probability of occurrence of the species within the study area buffer. However, because the proposed Project is located within the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS)-designated Colorado Desert Recovery Unit, a pre-Project focused desert tortoise protocol-level survey is required. Therefore, with implementation of Mitigation Measure **BIO-2**, the proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to Mojave desert tortoise.

- b) The proposed Project footprint does not contain any riparian habitat; however, it does contain 0.1 acres of sensitive natural community (i.e., palo verde woodland) identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or USFWS. Implementation of the proposed Project would result in permanent impacts to 0.1 acres of palo verde woodland. Due to the small size of the habitat loss as compared to the remaining 3.9 acres of palo verde woodland that will remain unimpacted, along with similar suitable habitat within the vicinity of the Project site, this impact would be less than significant. As a result, implementation of the Project would not result in significant impacts to riparian and special-status vegetation communities.
- c) The Project site does not contain any jurisdictional water features. As a result, implementation of the Project would not result in significant impacts to jurisdictional waters.
- d) Project construction could result in direct and indirect impacts to nesting birds, including the loss of nests, eggs, and fledglings if ground-disturbing activities occur during the nesting season (generally February 15 through August 31). Construction activities during this time may result in reduced reproductive success and may violate the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code. If construction (including any ground disturbing activities) occurs during the nesting season, a nesting bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to grading activities and impacts to nests must be avoided. The Project site does not function as a wildlife corridor and does not support any wildlife nursery sites. With implementation of Mitigation Measure **BIO-1**, a less-than significant impacts to nesting birds and wildlife corridors would occur.
- e) There are no existing local tree preservation ordinances or other policies protecting biological resources for the community of Lake Tamarisk. Therefore, no significant impact related to conflict with local biological protection policies will occur.

- f) The Project site is not located within a Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan. Therefore, no significant impact related to habitat conservation plans would occur.

Mitigation

BIO-1 To maintain compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, if ground-disturbing and/or vegetation clearance activities are scheduled to occur during the avian nesting season (typically February 15 through August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey within the Project impact footprint and a 500-foot buffer where legal access is granted around the disturbance footprint. Surveys shall be conducted within 3 days prior to initiation of ground-disturbing activities. If an active nest is detected during the nesting bird survey, avoidance buffers shall be implemented as determined by a qualified biologist (typically 300 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors and special-status species). The buffer shall be of a distance to ensure avoidance of adverse effects to the nesting bird by accounting for buffering topography and buildings, ambient conditions, species, nest location, and activity type. All nests shall be monitored as determined by the qualified biologist until nestlings have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The qualified biologist shall halt all construction activities within proximity to an active nest if it is determined that the activities are harassing the nest and may result in nest abandonment or take. The qualified biologist shall also have the authority to require implementation of avoidance measures related to noise, vibration, or light pollution if indirect impacts are resulting in harassment of the nest.

BIO-2 A qualified biologist (someone with at least 5 years of conducting surveys for the species) will conduct a desert tortoise survey one week prior to the start of construction. The survey will consist of 10-meter-wide belt transects that covers the Project site and an adequate buffer (up to 500- feet) to ensure 100% coverage of the site and adjacent areas of influence. Any individuals, burrows constructed by the species, scat, and carcasses will be recorded and mapped using ESRI ArcGIS mobile application with submeter accuracy. Any desert tortoise burrows found within 100-feet of the Project will be flagged for avoidance. The survey will then be repeated 72 hours prior to the start of construction.

Monitoring: Riverside County Facilities Management, Project Construction Manager(s); Qualified Biologist.

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

V CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the Project

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: RCIT (GIS Database); Project Description; Riverside County General Plan; Riverside County General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report; Public Resource Code §5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et seq. Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-7 “Historical Resources”.

Findings of Fact:

a-b) The Final Program EIR for the Riverside County General Plan identifies 138 historical resources in Riverside County (Table 4.7.A). These historical resources are identified due to their inclusion of one of more of the following: National Register of Historic Places, California Registered Historic Landmarks Architecture, California Points of Historical Interest, and/or Riverside County Historical Landmarks.

Public Resource Code section 5024.1(c) defines guidelines to being considered a historic resource within the state of California as stated below:

A resource may be listed as an historical resource in the California Register if it meets any of the following National Register of Historic Places criteria:

- 1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.*
- 2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.*
- 3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.*
- 4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.*

A cultural resources literature and records search conducted at the Eastern Information Center and Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) which analyzed the proposed Project site was completed in September of 2021. This search included the Project site with a half-mile radius buffer. The objective of assessments was to determine whether any prehistoric or historical resources have been recorded previously within the Project area or within a mile radius of it. Additional sources consulted during the cultural resource literature review and records search and preparation of the HPSR include the Native American Heritage Commissions, Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility and the Office of Historic Preservation Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File, local Native American tribes and local historic preservation groups.

The records search revealed no cultural resources on the Project site or within one-half mile of the Area of Potential Effect (APE). A pedestrian survey was also conducted at the Project site. No resources were discovered within the Project Area of Potential Effect (APE) and the construction and operation of a fire station would not have a significant effect on any nearby resources as the operation of the fire station would not directly or indirectly alter or impact these resources. The Project site has been undeveloped since at least 1947. The new fire station will result in the installation of a new building that will not require substantial excavation for installation. Mitigation Measures **CR-1** through **CR-5** will be implemented which will require archaeological and tribal monitoring and sampling for any excavation depth with the

potential to disturb native soil and encounter potential archaeological resources. Therefore, with implementation of Mitigation Measures **CR-1** through **CR-5**, the Project will result in less-than-significant impacts to a historical or archaeological site.

- c) The proposed Project site is not located on a known formal or informal cemetery. No discovery of human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries is anticipated. Furthermore, there are several established regulations that protect against the disturbance of interred human remains, defined in California Health and Safety (HSC) Sections 7050.5 through and 7054, which mandate that in the event of an accidental discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be contacted within 24 hours. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the County is required to contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and any applicable Tribes. Adherence to the regulatory requirements and Mitigation Measure **CR-4** will provide a redundancy mechanism to ensure that potential impacts from inadvertent discoveries of human remains do not occur and remain less than significant. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact to human remains will occur.

Mitigation:

CR-1 Prior to the seeking and/or issuance of a grading permit, the County and consulting Tribes will co-create a Tribal Monitoring Agreement (Agreement) that (1) assures a Tribal Monitor will be present during all grading, excavation, and ground-disturbing activities within the Project Area of Potential Effect and (2) discusses and delineates subjects including, but not limited to, (a) the monitors' scheduling; (b) the monitors' duties and/or SOW; (c) monitors' compensation by the applicant (Riverside County Facilities Management); (d) safety requirements; and (e) the protocols and stipulations that the County contractor, and Tribal Monitor, will follow in the event of inadvertent cultural resources discoveries. Stipulations for treatment and final disposition of any cultural resources, with the exception of human remains, funerary objects, and sacred objects are addressed in Mitigation Measure **CR-4**.

CR-2: The Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to stop and redirect grading in order to identify and preliminarily evaluate any cultural resource(s) discovered on the property. If the resource(s) is determined to hold potential significance, a 25-foot buffer shall be established and the relevant Tribes shall be immediately contacted by the Project supervisor to come to the Project site. The Tribal Monitor shall, in consultation with the consulting Tribes, determine the significance of the resource(s) and whether additional monitoring by an archaeologist or a tribal monitor needs to occur.

CR-3: In the event that Native American cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during the course of ground-disturbing activity for this Project, the following procedures will be carried out for treatment and disposition of the discoveries:

Temporary Curation and Storage: During the course of construction, all discovered resources shall be temporarily curated in a secure location onsite or at the offices of the Project Archaeologist. The removal of any artifacts from the Project site will need to be thoroughly documented via inventory and conducted with Tribal Monitor(s) oversight of the process.

Treatment and Final Disposition: The County/applicant/contractor shall relinquish ownership of all cultural resources, including sacred items, unassociated funerary objects/burial goods, all archaeological artifacts, and non-human remains as part of the required mitigation for impacts to cultural resources. The County/applicant/contractor shall relinquish the artifacts through one or more of the following methods and provide the County with evidence of same:

- a. Accommodate the process for onsite reburial of the discovered items with the consulting Tribes. This shall include measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts. Reburial shall not occur until all cataloguing and basic recordation have been completed. A reburial site shall be documented as a new site and recorded with the Eastern Information Center;
- b. A curation agreement with an appropriately qualified repository within Riverside County that meets federal standards per 36 CFR Part 79 whereby the collections and associated records shall be transferred, including title, and accompanied by payment from the County/applicant of the fees necessary for permanent curation;

- c. On request by the consulting Tribe for repatriation of the discovered items, the County shall relinquish ownership and shall deliver the items to the custody of the consulting Tribe. For purposes of conflict resolution, if the consulting Tribes cannot come to an agreement as to the disposition of cultural materials, they shall be curated at the Western Science Center or Riverside Metropolitan Museum by default; and
- d. At the completion of any and all ground disturbing activities on the Project site, a Phase IV Monitoring Report shall be written by the Project Archaeologist and submitted to the County within 120 days of the completion of ground-disturbing activities related to the Project. This report shall (1) document monitoring activities conducted by the Project Archaeologist and Tribal Monitors; (2) document the impacts to the known resources on the property, if any; (3) describe how each mitigation measure was fulfilled; (4) document the type of cultural resources discovered during Project implementation, the treatment of those resources, and their disposition; (5) provide evidence of the required cultural sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the required pre-grade meeting; and (6) in a confidential appendix, include the daily/weekly monitoring notes from the Project Archaeologist. All reports produced will be submitted to the County, Eastern Information Center and consulting Tribes.

CR-4: If human remains are encountered, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(b) remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission must be contacted within 24 hours. The Native American Heritage Commission must then immediately identify the “most likely descendant(s)” of receiving notification of the discovery. The most likely descendant(s) shall then make recommendations within 48 hours, and engage in consultations concerning the treatment of the remains.

CR-5: If inadvertent discoveries of subsurface archaeological/cultural resources are discovered during grading, Riverside County, and the monitoring Tribe shall assess the significance of such resources and shall meet and confer regarding the mitigation for such resources. Pursuant to California Public Resources Code § 21083.2(b) and 21084.3(b) avoidance is the preferred method of preservation for archaeological resources and tribal cultural resources. If the County and the monitoring Tribe cannot agree on the significance or the mitigation for such resources, these issues will be presented to the Riverside County Archaeologist. The County Archaeologist shall make the determination based on the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act with respect to archaeological resources and tribal cultural resources and shall take into account the religious beliefs, customs, and practices of the consulting Tribes.

Monitoring: Riverside County Facilities Management, Project Construction Manager(s), Tribal Monitor

SI=Significant Impact; LTS=Less Than Significant or Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated; NI=No Impact;
 AP=Analyzed in Prior EIR; M-DP=Substantially Mitigated by Uniformly Applicable Development Policies

	SI	LTS	NI	AP	M-DP
VI ENERGY					
<i>Would the Project</i>					
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during Project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: GIS Database, Riverside County General Plan Figure S-2 “Earthquake Fault Study Zones”, County of Riverside General Plan.

Findings of Fact:

a-b) LED Lights will be used around the building and in areas of pedestrian and vehicular circulation. Lights will be placed on timers/motion sensors for maximum efficiency and illumination levels will be designed and placed in relation to the appropriate use. Invasive plants will not be used and drought tolerant plants and trees that are hardy and require low maintenance will be used to incorporate water conservation and biodiversity. The proposed Project would meet all requirements of Title 24 and any additional provisional requirements in order to assure that operation of the fire station would not conflict with adopted energy conservation plans. The Project would be required to maintain consistency with all Riverside County policies related to energy conservation including Policy H-4, Conservation of Energy and Policy H-29, Sustainable Building Policy. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to energy conservation will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

SI=Significant Impact; LTS=Less Than Significant or Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated; NI=No Impact; AP=Analyzed in Prior EIR; M-DP=Substantially Mitigated by Uniformly Applicable Development Policies					
	SI	LTS	NI	AP	M-DP
VII GEOLOGY AND SOILS					
<i>Would the Project</i>					
<i>a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving</i>					
<i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>ii) Strong seismic ground shaking</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>iv) Landslides?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1802.3.2 of the California Building Code (2007), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: GIS Database, Riverside County General Plan Figure S-2 "Earthquake Fault Study Zones", Figure S-4 "Earthquake-Induced Slope Instability Map," and Figures S-13 through S-21 (showing General Ground Shaking Risk); Figure S-7 "Documented Subsidence Areas"; GIS Database (RCIT) County of Riverside General Plan, California Building Code.

Findings of Fact:

a) The Project site is located in the Eastern Transverse Ranges province and adjacent parts of the Mojave Desert, where highland terrains expose igneous and metamorphic crystalline basement overlain locally by Tertiary cover strata, and intervening basins are filled with Pliocene and Quaternary sedimentary deposits. The Eastern Traverse Ranges block is characterized by left-oblique, east-striking faults that extend east from the Little San Bernardino Mountains. The Project site is located in the western portion

of the Chuckwalla Valley of the southern Mojave Desert region of southern California. The Project site lies on a broad Holocene alluvial fan that slopes gently to the northeast toward Palen Lake, a dry lakebed. The State of California Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazard of surface rupture along earthquake faults. The main purpose of the Act is to prevent the construction of buildings used for human occupancy along fault lines. The Project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone, or County Fault Hazard Zone, but is located approximately 1.3 miles north of the Chiraico Fault, which is a Pre-Quaternary fault. The nearest active fault zone is the Hot Springs Fault Zone, which is located approximately 27 miles to the southwest. The possibility of ground surface rupture exists throughout the Coachella Valley region; however, the Project site is not located within a rupture hazard zone, and given the current state of knowledge regarding seismicity of the Coachella Valley, the potential for fault rupture at the site is low. The California Building Code (CBC) establishes building standards to minimize the risk of damage from seismic activity. These design requirements of the CBC are designed to withstand strong seismic shaking and would result in a safer structure than the existing fire station which would not expose people or structures to adverse effects. Therefore, less-than-significant impacts to earthquake fault and County fault hazard zones will occur.

Being located in seismically active southern California, the Project site is expected to be subjected to moderate to strong ground shaking during the design life of the Project. The proposed Project would replace the existing fire station which was constructed in 1964 with a new building which would adhere to the most recent building code. The CBC establishes building standards to minimize the risk of damage from seismic activity. This includes the requirement for a site-specific ground motion hazard analysis be performed unless conservative values of design parameters are used to minimize effects from ground shaking. These design requirements of the CBC are designed to withstand strong seismic shaking and would result in a safer structure than the existing fire station. Therefore, less-than-significant impacts related from strong seismic ground shaking will occur.

Soil liquefaction is a phenomenon in which saturated, cohesionless soils layers, located within approximately 50 feet of the ground surface, lose strength due to cyclic pore water pressure generation from seismic shaking or other large cyclic loading. During the loss of stress, the soil acquires 'mobility' sufficient to permit both horizontal and vertical movements. Soils that are most susceptible to liquefaction are clean, loose, saturated, and uniformly graded fine-grained sands that lie below the groundwater table within approximately 50 feet below ground surface. According to the RCIT GIS Database, the Project site has a moderate potential for liquefaction. According to the geotechnical investigation, the dense nature of the subsurface granular soil and lack of groundwater in the upper 50 feet, make the potential for liquefaction low. Based on this analysis and the dense nature of the subsurface soils at the Project site, liquefaction is not expected to occur.

Seismically-induced landslides and rock falls occur most often on steep or compromised slopes. Factors controlling the stability of slopes include: 1) slope height and steepness; 2) engineering characteristics of the earth materials comprising the slope; and 3) intensity of ground shaking. Landslides may result from heavy rain, erosion, removal of vegetation, seismic activity or combinations of these and other factors. The potential for landslides is unlikely due to the regional planar topography. No ancient landslides are shown on geologic maps, aerial photographs, or topographic maps of the region and no indications of landslides were observed during the site investigation. Based on these factors, the risk from landslides, lateral spreading, collapse or rockfall hazards would not be considered substantial. Therefore, less-than-significant impacts from landslide risk will occur.

- b) The proposed Project will not result in a substantial loss of soil due to erosion. Surface soils consist of silty sand and sand. The risk of erosion is low due to very high rates of infiltration, permeability, limiting potential runoff. The Project would be subject to SWPPP requirements for erosion control during construction and would require the fugitive dust control measures during construction. Best management practices (BMPs) would be undertaken to control runoff and erosion from earthmoving activities such as excavation, grading, and compaction. All grading and compaction activities would be performed under the observation of a qualified engineer. After completion of construction, the erosion potential will be decreased. All soils used in the Project would be properly compacted in accordance with the Geotechnical Investigation and the County of Riverside specifications. Therefore, less-than-significant impacts to soil erosion will occur.

- c) According to the RCIT GIS Database, the Project site is identified as being susceptible to ground subsidence. Subsidence is compaction of soil and other surface material with little or no horizontal motion. Causes of subsidence include earthquake and changes in groundwater tables. Subsidence may occur if the groundwater level substantially decreases. The Coachella Valley has experienced up to 12 inches of regional subsidence between 1996 and 2005 (USGS, 2007); however, the Geotechnical report found that the risk of subsidence at the Project site is considered low. The Project would be graded and constructed in accordance with the recommendations of the geotechnical investigation which would provide a stable foundation to further reduce the risk of subsidence. Therefore, less-than-significant impacts from subsidence will occur.
- d) Expansive soils are generally considered a threat because of the pressure that may be induced upon structures. In general, expansive soils include characteristics that may result in expansion or contraction when exposed to water. The extent of contraction (shrink) or expansion (swell) may be influenced by the amount and type of clay in the soil. The USDA Soil Conservation Service identifies shrink swell potential for soils as low, moderate, and high. Soils with high shrink swell potential include Altamont, Auld, Bonsall, Bosanko, Las Posas, Madera, Murrieta, Placentia, Porterville, Vallecitos, Waukena, Willows and Yokohl. The Geotechnical Report found that soils at the Project site consist of sandy silts, silty sands, and sands, which are non-expansive. As a result, the Project is not located on expansive soil and no substantial risks to life or property would occur; therefore, no significant impacts from expansive soil will occur.
- e) The proposed Project is the replacement of an existing fire station and the Project elements would not generate substantial amounts of new sewage or wastewater as no additional staff would be needed, which could increase new sewage or wastewater. The Project would tie into the existing sewer system and no septic infrastructure would be required. Nonetheless, upgrades to the sewer and drainage infrastructure (cleanouts, coupling reductions, and sand/oil interceptor) are included as part of the Project to avoid substantial effects to sewage and wastewater. Therefore, no significant impact to septic tanks or wastewater disposal systems will occur.
- f) The Project site is located within an area of low paleontological sensitivity. Due to the depth of excavation, the potential to discover and/or disturb any paleontological resource is low, and impacts would be less than significant. In the unlikely event that paleontological resources are discovered during construction, Mitigation Measure **GEO-1** shall be implemented. While not required, Mitigation Measure **GEO-1** will ensure potential impacts to paleontological resources remain less than significant. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to paleontological resources will occur.

Mitigation:

GEO-1 In the event that any paleontological resources are unintentionally discovered during proposed Project construction, construction activities in the vicinity of the resource shall immediately halt and/or be moved to other parts of the Project site. A Riverside County-qualified paleontologist shall be retained by the County or their designee to determine the significance of the resource, if any. If the find is determined to be significant, avoidance or other appropriate measures including extraction and relocation, as recommended by the paleontologist, shall be implemented.

Monitoring: Riverside County Facilities Management, Project Construction Manager(s), Qualified Paleontological Monitor

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

VIII GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the Project

a) Generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: CalEEMod 2020.4.0.

Findings of Fact:

This section analyzes the Project's contribution to global climate change impacts by evaluating the Project's contribution of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The primary GHG of concern is carbon dioxide (CO₂), which represents the majority (greater than 99 percent) of proposed Project-related emissions. According to Section 15064.4, of the State CEQA Guidelines for determining the significance of GHG emissions, a lead agency must consider the following in the assessment of potential significant impacts:

- 1) *The extent to which the Project may increase (or reduce) GHG emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting;*
- 2) *Whether the Project emissions exceed a threshold of significance that the lead agency determines applies to the Project;*
- 3) *The extent to which the Project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement an adopted statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions.*

To address the State's requirement to reduce GHG emissions, the County prepared the 2015 Climate Action Plan (CAP) with the target of reducing GHG emissions within the unincorporated County by 15 percent below 2008 levels by the year 2020. The County's target is consistent with the AB 32 target and ensures that the County is providing GHG reductions locally that will complement the State and international efforts of stabilizing climate change.

The County determined the size of development that is too small to be able to provide the level of GHG emission reductions expected from the Screening Tables or alternate emission analysis method. To do this the County determined the GHG emission amount allowed by a Project such that 90 percent of the emissions on average from all Projects would exceed that level and be "captured" by the Screening Table or alternate emission analysis method. The 3,000 MT CO₂E per year value is the low end value within that range rounded to the nearest hundred tons of emissions and is used in defining small Projects that are considered less than significant and do not need to use the Screening Tables or alternative GHG mitigation analysis used in the County CAP.³

- a) In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, GHG emissions were calculated for construction and operation of the Project and will be assessed against the County CAP threshold of 3,000 MTCO₂E per year. GHG emissions resulting from Project construction and operation were calculated using the CalEEMod model, and include emissions resulting from on-road and off-road diesel fuel consumption as well as worker commutes, vehicle travel, energy consumption, water consumption, and waste generation. The total operational carbon dioxide emissions generated as a result of the Project is 5 metric tons (MT) per year, including construction-related emissions amortized over a typical Project life of 30 years – Which is far below the threshold of 3,000 MTCO₂E per year. The proposed Project's operational GHG emissions are below the County CAP GHG threshold, as well as the SCAQMD threshold for most land use types, of 3,000 MT CO₂E and do not constitute a substantial contribution to global climate change. In addition, the low number of GHG emissions generated by the Project would not interfere with the goals of SB32. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to GHG emissions on the environment will occur.
- b) The County of Riverside has adopted policies and programs in its General Plan to promote the use of clean and renewable energy sources, facilitate alternative modes of transportation, and for the sustainable use of energy. The County CAP, described above, was adopted by the Board on December 8, 2015. The CAP provides a specific implementation tool to guide future decisions of the County and is used as the baseline for the evaluation of consistency with applicable GHG plans, policies, or regulations. The Project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. The County CAP identifies three main goals which are to: provide a list of specific actions that will reduce GHG emissions, giving the highest priority to actions that provide the greatest reduction in GHG emissions and benefits to the community at the least cost; reduce emissions attributable to the County to levels consistent with the target reductions of AB 32; and establish a qualified reduction plan for which future development within the County can tier and thereby streamline the

³Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Screening Tables*, March 2015.

environmental analysis necessary under CEQA. The focus of the analysis is on answering the question of whether incremental contributions of GHGs are a cumulatively considerable contribution to climate change impacts. The County CAP has incorporated the measures identified in the CARB Scoping Plan as a means for reducing GHG emissions. **Table GHG-1** summarizes the CARB Scoping Plan Policies for reducing GHG emissions. As shown, the Project is consistent with the CARB Scoping Plan Policies and County CAP. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to consistency with plans, policies, or regulations for reducing GHG emissions will occur.

Table GHG-1 CARB Scoping Plan

CAP Measures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Project Compliance with Measure
Energy Efficiency: Maximize energy efficiency building and appliance standards; pursue additional efficiency including new technologies, policies, and implementation mechanisms.	Consistent. The Project will be designed and constructed using sustainable building practices, and will comply with the County’s Sustainable Building Policy (H-29). The Project will be compliant with all current Title 24 standards.
Green Building Strategy: Expand the use of green building practices to reduce the carbon footprint of California’s new and existing inventory of buildings.	Consistent. The California Green Building Standards Code (proposed Part 11, Title 24) (“CALGreen”) was adopted as part of the California Building Standards Code in the CCR. Part 11 establishes voluntary standards that became mandatory in the 2010 edition of the Code, on planning and design for sustainable site development, energy efficiency (in excess of the California Energy Code requirements), water conservation, material conservation, and internal air contaminants. The 2013 edition is the most current version of the code, until the 2016 version takes effect on January 1, 2017. The Project will be subject to the mandatory standards in both versions of this Code. The Project will also incorporate LEED energy efficiency building measures.
Recycling and Waste: Reduce methane emissions at landfills. Increase waste diversion, composting, and commercial recycling. Move toward zero-waste.	Consistent. A regulation to reduce methane emissions from municipal solid waste landfills is currently being developed by the state. The Riverside Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan outlines the goals, policies, and programs the County and its cities will implement to create an integrated and effective waste management system that complies with the diversion mandates in AB 939. The Project will be required to participate with County programs for recycling and waste reduction which comply with the 50 percent reduction requirement of AB 939.
Water: Continue efficiency programs and use cleaner energy sources to move and treat water.	Consistent. The Project will comply with all applicable County ordinances, the CALGreen Code, and the County’s Low Impact Development standards. Compliance measures include the installation of low water use fixtures (toilets, faucets), minimized outdoor water use through water efficient landscaping, and the use of alternative energy, when feasible.

Source: CARB Scoping Plan.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

IX HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the Project

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within 0.25-mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard or excessive for people residing or working in the Project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: Google Earth™; Coachella Valley Unified School District Site Maps; DTSC, Cortese List, 2021 EEI Phase I ESA, Figure S-11 “Wildfire Susceptibility”; Figure S-19 “Airport Locations”; Figure PS-6 Airport Land Use Compatibility Zones and Influence Areas, Riverside County General Plan.

Findings of Fact:

a-b) A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed for the Project site to assess the potential for hazards and hazardous materials at the Project site. No hazardous materials or conditions exist on the Project site and no demolition would occur which could encounter hazards, such as lead-based paint or asbestos-containing materials. Project construction, may involve the limited transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials from the fueling or servicing of construction equipment on-site. Construction activities could also include general commercial cleaners, solvents, lubricants, paints, industrial coatings and other substances utilized for resurfacing. These types of chemicals are not acutely hazardous and would be used in limited quantities and in adherence to the manufacturers’ guidelines. Further, these activities would be minimal, short-term, or one-time in nature. These materials are anticipated to be similar to other substances used on-site for the existing County-owned building.

During operation, the fire station would incorporate special storage requirements and other safety measures into Project design in order to minimize potential impacts. All facilities within the fire station would be equipped with adequate fire suppression equipment. Furthermore, fire stations are specially trained and equipped to handle and store hazardous materials. Any hazardous materials would be properly locked and made inaccessible to the public and/or untrained personnel in order to prevent unauthorized usage of these materials. Lastly, all hazardous materials would be used, transported, and stored in accordance with the manufacturer’s labels and with all accepted BMPs (catch basins, riprap, a sand/oil interceptor, and cleanouts), and the use of hazardous materials and substances would be subject to federal, state, and local health and safety requirements. Compliance with the applicable laws and regulations would ensure that less-than significant impacts associated with the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials will occur.

Construction vehicles and equipment contain substances such as gasoline, diesel, antifreeze, and lubricants that, if accidentally released to the environment, could be hazardous. Existing Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure requirements would reduce potential impacts by requiring the development and implementation of hazardous substance control and health and safety measures. During operation, the proposed Project could require the use of hazardous materials including, but not limited to, industrial chemicals, oils,

flammables, glue, and paint. However, the Project would incorporate all appropriate safety measures to minimize potential impacts, including the use of fire suppression equipment and fire-retardant metal cabinets for storage. All hazardous materials utilized would be properly locked and made inaccessible to the public and/or untrained personnel in order to prevent unauthorized usage of these materials. Compliance with the applicable laws and regulations would ensure that the risks associated with the potential accidental release of hazardous materials were minimized to the greatest extent feasible. Therefore, less-than-significant impacts related to the creation of significant hazards to the public either through routine use or foreseeable accident will occur.

- c) The Project site is located within the Desert Center Unified School District. The closest school Eagle Mountain School, which is located approximately nine miles to the northwest. As there are no schools located within one-quarter mile of the Project site, there is no potential for the Project to result in a release at nearby schools. Therefore, no significant impacts related to hazards or hazardous materials within 0.25 miles of a school will occur.
- d) The proposed Project site is not identified on any list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, a less-than-significant impacts related to the creation of a hazard from a list of compiled hazardous sites will occur.
- e) The proposed Project is not located within an airport influence area nor is it located in an airport compatibility zone. The Airport Land Use Commission is not required to review the Project. Therefore, no significant impacts to inconsistencies with airport planning will occur. The closest public airport to the Project site is Chiriaco Summit Airport, which is 18 miles southwest from the Project site. The Project site is not within the primary flight-path of arriving and departing aircrafts for this airport. The fire station would be a single-story structure of similar scale to the existing fire station and would not create safety hazards that would affect the operation of the Airport. Therefore, less-than-significant impacts to safety hazards in the vicinity of a public airport will occur.
- f) The proposed Project will be confined within the existing County-owned property and would not create any conditions that would impair the implementation of, or physically interfere with, an emergency response plan and/or emergency evacuation plan. The Project would adhere to the emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plans currently established at the fire station, and the County's design review process would also ensure Project conformance with these plans. Therefore, no significant impacts related to the disruption of emergency services will occur.
- g) The Project site is within a low fire area and no wildland areas within the Project vicinity would create a potential fire hazard at the Project site. There are no substantial areas of native vegetation found within the Project site that could provide a fuel source for a wildfire. The Project will be designed in accordance with all requirements of the County Fire Department. Therefore, no significant impact related to hazardous fire areas will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

X HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the Project

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) <i>Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) <i>Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

<i>c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:</i>					
<i>i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation, on- or off-site?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>iv) Impede or redirect flood flows</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>d) Result in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: Riverside County Flood Control District Flood Hazard Report/Condition; Riverside County General Plan; USDA Soil Conservation Service Soil Surveys; US Geological Survey; CEQA Guidelines Section 15155.

Findings of Fact:

- a) During construction, grading and excavation activities associated with the Project would generate potential for short-term erosion and discharge of pollutants, especially during times of inclement weather. Impacts to downstream water quality could occur as a result of the potential erosion and sediment transport. Impervious surfaces which are generally associated with various pollutants such as petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, and sedimentation. The proposed Project is located in the Desert Aquifers Watershed and within the Southern Mojave Basin. The hydrologic features within five miles of the Project site are limited to Lake Tamarisk, which is approximately 250 feet to the west. During construction, grading and excavation activities associated with the Project would generate potential for short-term erosion and discharge of pollutants, especially during times of inclement weather. Impacts to downstream water quality could occur as a result of the potential erosion and sediment transport. Impervious surfaces which are generally associated with various pollutants such as petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, and sedimentation. The Project area does not discharge into a waterbody. The topography of the are slopes to the northeast and flattens out approximately 4 miles to the northeast near Capp Road. The SWPPP will contain BMPs that include erosion control measures that are designed to reduce impacts from on- and off-site erosion during construction. Construction BMPs are categorized, by erosion control, sediment control, tracking control, and wind erosion control measures. Typical erosion control BMPs include scheduling to avoid adverse weather conditions, covering unused stockpiles, retaining existing vegetation, and implementing non vegetative cover. Typical sediment control BMPs include silt fencing, fiber rolls, gravel bag berms, street sweeping, and storm drain inlet protection. The application of water and silt fencing is used to control for wind erosion and rump pads and rocked entries are used as tracking controls to keep dirt on-site. The erosion control plan details the BMPs and locations to be implemented. BMPs will also be implemented for operation of the Project which include catch basins, sand/oil interceptor and cleanouts. Implementation of the SWPPP and adherence with the operational BMPs (catch basins, riprap, a sand/oil interceptor, and cleanouts) would ensure that water discharged from the site would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements during construction. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to water quality standards and waste discharge requirements will occur.

- b) The proposed Project site lies within the service area of the Lake Tamarisk Water District in which the water is obtained from groundwater. The Lake Tamarisk Water District is operated by County Service Area #51 Water supply consists of two groundwater wells and serves a population of 330 people. The Project would implement water conservation practices to the maximum extent practical including water efficient plumbing fixtures, the installation of drought tolerant plants in landscaped areas, and the use of reclaimed water for irrigation when available, all of which comply with Title 24 efficiency standards. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to Project-related depletion of groundwater supply will occur.

- c) The Project lies in on a relatively flat site in the center of the Southern Mojave Basin. There are no drainage facilities in the vicinity of the Project site nor is the site adjacent to any tributaries, streams or rivers. Based on the topography and Project design, existing flow lines would be maintained, and drainage would still flow to the northeast. Therefore, a less-than- significant impact related to the alteration of drainage patterns will occur.

The proposed Project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area and the Project site is located on relatively level topography. As a critical facility, the facility the Project would be built up so that the finished floor of the building is elevated 1.25 feet above the highest adjacent ground to provide protection against flood inundation. Based on a size of 7,000 square feet, the Project would be unlikely to impede or redirect flood flows. As discussed above, the Project would implement a SWPPP, as well as incorporate capture systems for fueling, car washing would ensure that no substantial soil erosion, siltation, or other on-site contaminants would result in on-sit runoff construction and operation of the Project. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to erosion, runoff, or the impedance or redirection of flooding will occur.

- d) The proposed Project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area, but the Project site is generally in the middle of a flat basin which is sensitive to flooding. As a critical facility, the facility the Project would be built up so that the finished floor of the building is elevated 1.25 feet above the highest adjacent ground to provide protection against flood inundation. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to flooding and inundation will occur.
- d) The proposed Project would be required to adhere to federal, state and local water quality provisions. The new impervious area that would occur with the Project would not substantially alter or affect groundwater recharge on site as there is ample pervious area surrounding the Project to allow for groundwater recharge. The Project will have sufficient capacity to handle stormwater runoff and prevent impacts to water quality. With implementation of the SWPPP and compliance with federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to the maintenance of water quality, a less-than-significant impact related to effects to water quality control and sustainable groundwater management plans would occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

SI=Significant Impact; LTS=Less Than Significant or Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated; NI=No Impact; AP=Analyzed in Prior EIR; M-DP=Substantially Mitigated by Uniformly Applicable Development Policies

SI LTS NI AP M-DP

XI LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the Project

a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: County of Riverside General Plan; RCIT (GIS Database); Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan.

Findings of Fact:

- a) The general plan land use designation for the Project site is Medium High Density Residential. The Project site is zoned (R-2-5000). The Project site is presently vacant and is located in a rural area of the County within the Lake Tamarisk community. Within the County zoning, there is no zoning classification for public facilities, as they are allowed within all zoning designations (except for Open Space) provided they are compatible with the surrounding land uses (LU 7.2). The existing adjacent Fire Station #49 is an existing public facility that provides fire services to the community. The Project would not result in any changes in access to the surrounding residential community and would not create a visual separation to the surrounding community or a physical or perceived barrier which could disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community. Therefore, no significant impact related to the division of a community will occur.

- b) The proposed Project would result in a continued land use as a public facility. The replacement fire station would enhance the quality of fire services for the existing fire station and will continue to be compatible with the surrounding residential uses and would not influence a pattern of change to any adjacent jurisdictions. Therefore, no significant impact related to land use compatibility will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

XII MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the Project

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the residents of the State? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-5 "Mineral Resources Area"; California Department of Conservation Mineral Resources Program.

Findings of Fact:

- a-b) According to the Riverside County General Plan, the County has extensive deposits of clay, limestone, iron, sand, and aggregates; however, the Project site is located in a zone that has not been studied for the presence of mineral resources. The Project site would implement a new fire station. Excavation would be required for foundational footings utility trenching; however, based on the depth for excavation, construction is unlikely to uncover any mineral resources. The Project is not located on or near a locally-important mineral resource recovery site and would not expose people or property to hazards from proposed, existing or abandoned quarries or mines. Therefore, less-than-significant impacts related to mineral resources will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

XIII NOISE AND VIBRATION

Would the Project

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) For a Project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Source: Project Description; Riverside County Ordinance No. 847; Riverside Municipal Code Section 7.35

Findings of Fact:

Sound is described in terms of the loudness (amplitude) of the sound and frequency (pitch) of the sound. The standard unit of measurement of the loudness of sound is the decibel (dB). Since the human ear is not equally sensitive to sound at all frequencies, a special frequency-dependent rating scale has been devised to relate noise to human sensitivity. The A-weighted decibel scale (dBA) performs this compensation by differentiating among frequencies in a manner approximating the sensitivity of the human ear. The perceived loudness of sound is dependent upon many factors, including sound pressure level and frequency content. However, within the usual range of environmental noise levels, perception of loudness is relatively predictable, and should be approximated by the A-weighted sound levels (expressed as dBA) and the way the human ear perceives noise. For this reason, the A-weighted sound level has become the standard tool of environmental noise assessment.

Community noise is commonly described in terms of the ambient noise level, which is defined as the all-encompassing noise level associated with a given noise environment. A common statistical tool to measure the ambient noise level is the average, or equivalent, sound level (Leq), which corresponds to a steady-state A-weighted sound level containing the same total energy as a time-varying signal over a given time period. The Leq is the foundation of the composite noise descriptor, day/night average (Ldn), and shows very good correlation with community response to noise. Human response to noise varies widely depending on the type of noise, time of day, and sensitivity of the receptor. The effects of noise on humans can range from temporary or permanent hearing loss to mild stress and annoyance due to such things as speech interference and sleep deprivation. Certain land uses are particularly sensitive to noise, including schools, hospitals, rest homes, long-term medical and mental care facilities, and parks, and recreation areas. Residential areas are also considered noise sensitive, especially during the nighttime hours.

Noise levels decrease as the distance from the noise source to the receiver increases. Noise generated by a stationary noise source, or “point source,” will decrease by approximately 6 dBA over hard surfaces (e.g., reflective surfaces such as parking lots or smooth bodies of water) and 7.5 dBA over soft surfaces (e.g., absorptive surfaces such as soft dirt, grass, or scattered bushes and trees) for each doubling of the distance. For example, if a noise source produces a noise level of 89 dBA at a reference distance of 50 feet, then the noise level would be 83 dBA at a distance of 100 feet from the noise source, 77 dBA at a distance of 200 feet, and so on. Noise generated by a mobile source will decrease by approximately 3 dBA over hard surfaces and 4.8 dBA over soft surfaces for each doubling of the distance.

Ambient noise measurements were taken at sensitive receptors near the Project site to establish a baseline to assess the potential noise effects from construction and operation of the Project. **Table N-1** shows the existing ambient noise levels. As shown in **Table N-1**, daytime existing ambient sound levels ranged between 52.6 and 56.7 dBA Leq.

Table N-1 Ambient Noise Levels at Sensitive Receptors Near the Project Site

Receptor	Location	Distance to Project site (feet)	Leq, dBA(a)
Single-Family Residence	43701 Tamarisk Dr.	100	52.6
Single-Family Residence	26631 Catalina Way	175	53.4
RV Park	Unit 1	550	54.5
Golf Course	26250 Parkview Dr.	225	56.7

(a) Noise Measurements taken using a Sper Scientific Class I noise meter and wind screen on March 17, 2022. Weather conditions were sunny with a slight breeze.

SOURCE: Riverside County Facilities Management

- a) Noise impacts could be considered significant if they caused a violation of any adopted standards. County Ordinance No. 847 and the Noise Element of the County General Plan are the documents that guide noise regulations within the County. According to Section 2a of the Noise Ordinance, facilities owned or operated by or for a governmental agency are exempt. The Project site is owned by the County and is exempt from the Ordinance. In addition, the Project does not incorporate new noise-generating equipment or increase capacity that would result in a new noise source. Therefore, no effect related to consistency with adopted noise standards will occur and less-than-significant impacts will occur.

The proposed Project would result in the construction and operation of a replacement fire station. Construction of the Project would result in temporary and periodic increases in noise, which is more likely to result in annoyance and inconveniences, rather than the more serious effects such as hearing loss, sleep deprivation, and stress. While there would be a temporary increase in noise levels within the Project vicinity during construction, the operation of the replacement fire station would not add staff or equipment that would raise ambient noise levels at surrounding sensitive receptors beyond the existing baseline noise environment. Therefore, the noise analysis is limited to the effects of noise generated during construction.

Noise from construction activities is generated by two primary sources: (1) the noise related to active construction equipment; and, (2) the transport of workers and equipment to construction sites. Project construction is expected to require the use of earthmoving and construction equipment for site prep, excavation/grading, construction, paving, and architectural coatings. Typical operating cycles for earthmoving equipment, such as excavators, graders, and bulldozers, may involve one or two minutes of full power operation followed by three to four minutes at lower power settings. Based on the intensity of use and equipment mix, noise levels during construction are estimated to have an L_{eq} of 89 dBA at 50 feet.⁴

The nearest noise-sensitive receptor is the single-family residence located approximately 100 feet south of the proposed Project site. As shown in **Table N-3**, exterior noise levels would exceed 65 dBA, however, the resulting interior noise levels at the nearest sensitive receptors would be less than 55 dBA. This would result in a temporary increase to existing ambient noise levels, and would represent an inconvenience to the nearest residential receptors.

Because construction noise is usually generated in short bursts and the heavy equipment used during site preparation moves around the construction site, this maximum noise level is not likely to occur for sustained periods of time and the temporary inconvenience would not be a substantial increase which could alter human health or safety. The National Institute of Occupational Health has identified a recommended exposure limit of 85 dBA as an 8-hour weighted average, which can result in potential hearing loss. Construction noise levels would not result in an 8-hour weighted average that would exceed this noise level. In addition, while construction activity would last for approximately 9 months, the majority of the construction noise effects would occur during excavation and grading which would only last for approximately 45 days. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to noise from construction activity and equipment will occur.

Table N-2 Project Construction Noise Impacts

Receptor	Distance	Estimated Exterior Construction Noise Level (dBA, L_{eq}) (a)	Estimated Interior Construction Noise Level (dBA, L_{eq}) (b)	Potentially Significant Impact
Single-Family Residence	100	83.0	63.0	No
Single-Family Residence	175	78.1	58.1	No
RV Park	550	68.2	48.2	No
Golf Course	225	75.9	55.9	No

(a) Construction activity used an L_{eq} of 89 dBA.

(b) A 20-dBA reduction was applied for construction as identified in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Noise Notebook.

Source: Riverside County FM and Google.

⁴USEPA, *Noise from Construction Equipment and Operations*, 1971.

Construction activity, although temporary at any given location, can be substantially disruptive to adjacent uses during the construction period. Construction activity is anticipated to last 9 months and will not occur during night time hours or on weekends when the majority of people are home. Construction noise impacts will be minimized to the extent feasible by limiting construction hours, staging vehicles and equipment away from sensitive receptors, and using equipment that is maintained and in good operating condition. These measures have been identified as Mitigation Measures **NOI-1** through **NOI-4**. With implementation of mitigation, a less-than-significant impact related to a substantial or periodic increase in noise levels will occur.

- b) No significant sources of groundborne vibration or noise would be generated during the operation of the proposed Project. The construction of the Project would have the potential to produce short-term ground-borne vibrations. The closest land uses potentially impacted from groundborne vibration and noise (primarily from the use of heavy construction equipment) is the single-family residence located to the east of the Project site. The Federal Transit Administration has identified a construction vibration damage criterion of 0.2 inches per second peak particle velocity (PPV) for non-engineered timber and masonry buildings. General construction activity typically generates a vibration level of 0.089 inches per second PPV at 25 feet. This reference level would result in a vibration level of 0.011 inches per second PPV at the closest residence. This level would be well below the construction vibration damage criteria of 0.2 inches per second PPV and would not expose people to risk of building failure. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to groundborne vibration and noise will occur.
- c) The Project site is not within an airport influence area and is located approximately 20 miles to the nearest public airport. Therefore, no significant impact related to public airport noise will occur.

Mitigation:

NOI-1 A construction noise coordinator shall be established prior to construction and signage will be provided on site that will identify the designated person and contact number. The coordinator shall be responsible for receiving calls from residents regarding specific construction noise-related complaints. The coordinator would then be responsible for taking appropriate measures to reduce or eliminate noise levels as appropriate.

NOI-2 During construction, all staging areas and equipment shall be located and directed as far to the south as possible to avoid any disruptions to the sensitive receptors located north of the Project site.

NOI-3 Construction activity shall be prohibited during the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. and on weekends and County-designated holidays.

NOI-4 Construction equipment shall be properly maintained and equipped with mufflers and other State-required noise-attenuation devices.

Monitoring: Riverside County Facilities Management and Construction Contractor

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	SI	LTS	NI	AP	M-DP
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XIV POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the Project

<p>a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: Project Description; RCIT (GIS Database); Riverside County General Plan Housing Element.

Findings of Fact:

a-b) The proposed Project involves the construction and operation of a replacement fire station and associated infrastructure to enhance the service capability of an existing fire station within a County owned parcel. The Project will not displace people, necessitating replacement housing and is not located within a redevelopment area. The Project will primarily consist of the enhancement of existing services and would not create a demand that would result in the need for new housing or interfere with the development of planned housing. Therefore, no significant impact related to population and housing will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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	SI	LTS	NI	AP	M-DP
XV PUBLIC SERVICES					
<i>Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:</i>					
a) Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: Project description, Google Earth.

Findings of Fact:

a-e) The proposed Project site is currently served by all required public services. The County of Riverside Fire Department provides fire protection and fire suppression services to the Project area with the existing fire station. The construction and operation of the Project would enhance the quality of fire services provided, incorporating better facilities to allow fire fighters to maintain response times and performance objectives for public services.

The Project site is within the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department Colorado River Station area. The police station is located approximately 46 miles to the east of the Project site at 260 North Spring Street, Blythe, California. The construction and operation of Fire Station #49 would primarily result in the enhancement of existing services. The Project would not induce any additional population or create unsafe conditions that would create additional demand for police services and trigger the need for new or altered facilities to meet the required service ratio or response times.

The Project site is located within the Desert Center Unified School District. The closest school in the district is Eagle Mountain School, which is located approximately nine miles to the northwest. The construction and operation of the Project would not induce any additional population or create conditions that would create additional demand for educational services. The proposed Project does not include the construction or expansion of a recreational facility and does not propose to include the use of an existing park or other recreational facility. The Project would be constructed on existing County owned land and would not displace or create additional demand for recreational area. The proposed Project would not induce population growth or activities which would result in an increased demand for fire, police, school, and other public facilities services and trigger the need for new or altered facilities to meet required service ratios or response times. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to public services will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

XVI RECREATION

Would the Project

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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?? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Source: RCIT (GIS Database); Ord. No. 460 Section 10.35 (Regulating the Division of Land – Park and Recreation Fees and Dedications); Ord. No. 659 (Establishing Development Impact Fees); County of Riverside General Plan.

Findings of Fact:

- a-b) According to Riverside County GIS, the Project site is within a County Service Area (CSA) 51. However, parks and recreational services would not be affected as a result of Project implementation. In addition, the Project site is not subject to Quimby fees. Therefore, no significant impact related to designated recreational districts will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

XVII TRANSPORTATION

Would the Project

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Source: RCIP, Site Plan, Site Reconnaissance, ITE Manual, County of Riverside General Plan, ITE 9th Generation Trip Rates.

Findings of Fact:

- a-b) The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a multi-modal, long-range planning document and includes programs and policies for congestion management, transit, bicycles and pedestrians, roadways, freight, and finances. The RTP is prepared every three years by SCAG and reflects the current future horizon based on a 20-year Projection of needs.

Urbanized areas such as Riverside County are required by State law to adopt a Congestion Management Plan (CMP). The goals of the CMP are to reduce traffic congestion and to provide a mechanism for coordinating land use development and transportation improvement decisions. The Riverside County Congestion Management Program (CMP) is updated every two years in accordance with Proposition 111. The purpose of a CMP is to prompt reasonable growth management programs that would more effectively utilize new and existing transportation funds, alleviate traffic congestion and related impacts, and improve air quality.

Local agencies are required to establish minimum level of service (LOS) thresholds in their general plans and conduct traffic impact assessments on individual development Projects. Deficiency plans must be prepared when a development Project would cause LOS F on non-exempt CMP roadway segments. The deficiency plans outline specific mitigation measures and a schedule for mitigating the deficiency.

The construction schedule for this Project is estimated to be 130 working days. Construction traffic includes a mix of light and heavy vehicles corresponding to workers and construction trucks. Construction of the Project would occur in four phases: site preparation, grading, building construction, and architectural coating. The summary of construction activity is presented in **Table T-1**. Construction trip generation estimates are based on the anticipated construction schedule and phasing. Typical construction work schedules are expected to be during daylight hours only, with the arrival of construction workers occurring well before the morning peak commute period due to high temperatures and departures in the mid afternoon before the evening peak period. Truck and delivery activity to and from the site would also occur predominantly outside the peak commute periods.

Table T-2 estimates that the daily construction traffic would range from about 14 vehicles per day for Phase 1 to about 56 vehicles per day assuming traffic is evenly spread over the working days of each phase. These are conservative assumptions assuming no carpooling of construction workers (that is all workers arrive in their individual vehicles). If only half of the workers arrive and depart pre-commute periods in the morning and evening then the site generated traffic occurring in the peak period is about 20 trips. Construction activity is not anticipated to generate more than 28 trips during the AM or PM peak hour. The Project would not add staff or equipment that would result in new trips associated with the existing Fire Station #49. Therefore, no impact related to the performance of the circulation system will occur.

Table T-1: Summary of Construction Activity

Phase	Duration (days)	Crew	Equipment
Site Prep	5	15	Grader, Tractor/Loader/Backhoe
Grading	25	15	Excavator, Grader, Dozer, Backhoe (2)
Building Construction	90	40	Crane, Forklifts (2), Generator Sets (3), Backhoe, Welder
Paving	5	15	Cement Mixer, Paver, Paving Equipment, Roller, Backhoe
Architectural Coating	5	10	Air Compressor

Source: Construction Contractor, CalEEMod.

Table T-2: Estimated Construction Daily Trip Generation

Phase	Duration (days)	Number of Workers	Maximum Truck Trips	Total Trips
Site Prep	5	5	4	14
Grading	25	13	20	56
Building Construction	90	20	10	50
Paving	5	18	14	50
Architectural Coating	5	10	2	22

Source: CalEEMod, Construction Contractor Assumptions

- c) The proposed Project would not alter existing roadways or increase hazards due to a geometric design feature. The interior access of the Project site would be modified to facilitate circulation, but these improvements would have not an effect on the surrounding roadway network. As a result, the Project would not create any hazardous or incompatible conditions to the surrounding circulation network. Therefore, no impact related to the creation of hazardous roadway conditions will occur.
- h) Fire and emergency access is provided in compliance with the Uniform Fire Code. The proposed Project does not propose any action that would negatively affect emergency access to and from the site beyond the existing condition. There are two access points to Fire Station #49 from Tamarisk Drive, such that if one were blocked, others would be available to ensure that emergency service can be provided to the Project site in an efficient manner. Therefore, no impact related to emergency access will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

XVIII TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

(i) *Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.100? or*

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

Source: Tribal Consultation, Cultural Records Search.

Findings of Fact:

Native American consultation began with letters being sent out to three tribes, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians, and the Torrez-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians on June 26, 2019 requesting the initiation of consultation within 30 days. Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians provided a response requesting consultation and no response was received from Torrez-Martinez or Ramona. Government-to-government consultation pursuant to AB 52 was initiated on March 7, 2022. County staff met to discuss Project components, impacts, and mitigation requirements. During consultation meetings, it was requested that the tribes provide County staff with any issues or concerns. In addition, it was requested that they identify any tribal cultural resources that may be present within the Project area. To date, no issues have been raised and no information has been provided regarding tribal cultural resources. No information has been provided indicating that tribal cultural resources are present within the Project site. Regardless, Mitigation Measures CR-1 through CR-5 will ensure that a tribal monitor will still be on-site when undisturbed soil is excavated to monitor in the case of an accidental discovery. Therefore, implementation of the Project would have no impact on tribal cultural resources.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

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SI LTS NI AP M-DP

XIX UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the Project

a) *Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater 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 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 the 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) <i>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?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) <i>Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Source: Coachella Valley Water District, California State Water Quality Resources Control Board.

Findings of Fact:

a) The Project site will tie into the existing water, wastewater, gas, electrical, and telecommunications systems that serve the Project area and will not require expansion of capacity. There are no stormwater drainage facilities in the vicinity of the Project area. However, the Project site will consist of pervious surfaces and capture systems to control all stormwater generated on site, without significantly impacting the surrounding properties and street system. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to the need for relocated or expanded utility systems will occur.

b) No substantial increase in water would result from the residence or landscaping as no additional staff would be added as part of the proposed Project. Water usage resulting from operation of the Project would be similar to the existing fire station, primarily resulting from restroom facilities and sinks, as well as the cleaning and maintenance of fire equipment. The Project would be required to comply with the mandatory measures for non-residential buildings under Division 5.3, Part 11 of Title 24 (CALGreen) for both indoor and outdoor water use. Indoor water conservation measures include, but are not limited to 1.28 gallons per flush for toilets, 0.125 gallons per flush for wall-mounted urinals, 0.5 gallons per flush for floor mounted urinals, 2 gallons per minute at 80 pounds per square inch (psi) for single showerheads, and 0.5 gallons per minute at 60 psi for lavatory faucets. Outdoor conservation measures address the amount of water use based on the amount of aggregate landscaping to comply with the County water-efficient landscape ordinance and the California Department of Water Resources Model Efficient Landscape Ordinance. The Project is anticipated to generate a water demand of approximately 1.2 acre-feet per year (afy). Water is obtained from groundwater wells. The proposed Project would fall within the existing use and would be accounted for in the projected water demand. Therefore, the water consumption estimated for the Project site would not exceed that which is anticipated.

Implementation of the Project would not result in a significant increase in the consumption of water compared to the existing fire station as there are no increases in staff of equipment. Additional demand would result from the addition of landscaped area that would require for irrigation; however, not to a degree that would adversely impact the capacity of the CVWD water treatment facility. The CVWD requires new Projects to apply water conservation practices to the maximum extent practical including water efficient plumbing fixtures, the installation of drought tolerant plants in landscaped areas, and the use of reclaimed water for irrigation when available, all of which comply with Title 24 efficiency standards. Adherence to all applicable rules and regulations related to the conservation of water will ensure that a less-than-significant impact related to water supply will occur.

c) The proposed Project site is within the wastewater treatment service area of the Lake Tamarisk Water District. The Project would generate 1,300 gallons per day based on a conservative estimate of all of the employees in the fire station⁵ As there would be no new staff, there would be no new increase in wastewater. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to water treatment facilities will occur.

d) According to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery; the County's landfills collectively have a total capacity of approximately 2.6 million cubic yards. The County landfills are collectively at less than 30 percent capacity. The proposed Project would be regulated by federal, state and local government and would be required to comply with all statutes and regulations related to solid waste. All solid waste generated by the Project would be disposed at a Riverside County permitted landfills. As no additional staff would be in the replacement fire station, waste generated would not

⁵City of LA Wastewater Generation Rates, based on 190 gpd per employee.

increase during operation of the Project. New waste would be limited to construction activity. Solid waste generated by the Project would most likely be disposed of at the Desert Center Landfill. Construction waste generated by the Project would be a one time occurrence and would served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to solid waste treatment and capacity will occur.

- e) The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, also known as Assembly Bill 939 (AB939), revised the focus of solid waste management from landfill to diversion strategies such as source reduction, recycling, and composting. AB939 identified a 50 percent diversion rate goal by 2000. In 1995, the unincorporated County had a diversion rate of 36 percent and it increased to 50 percent in 2000 to meet the standard. In 2008, Senate Bill 1016 (SB1016) was passed, which changed the way compliance is measured beginning in 2007. Compliance is the same under SB1016 as it was under AB939, except that the emphasis on program implementation is more focused. Compliance is evaluated by looking at a jurisdiction's per capita disposal rate as an indicator of how well its programs are doing to keep disposal at or below a jurisdiction's unique 50 percent equivalent per capita disposal target. The disposal rate targets for the unincorporated County are 5.5 ppd per resident and 25.5 ppd per employee. The Project's solid waste would not substantially increase with the replacement fire station and would be disposed of at an approved site in compliance with federal, state and county regulations. The proposed Project would not conflict with the applicable CIWMP (County Integrated Waste Management Plan). Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to consistency with solid waste statutes and regulations will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

SI=Significant Impact; LTS=Less Than Significant or Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated; NI=No Impact;
AP=Analyzed in Prior EIR; M-DP=Substantially Mitigated by Uniformly Applicable Development Policies

	SI	LTS	NI	AP	M-DP
XX WILDFIRE					
<i>If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project</i>					
<i>a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream, flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire instability, or drainage changes?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: Project Description; RCIT (GIS Database);

Findings of Fact:

- a-d) The proposed Project site is not located in an area designated as State Responsibility or classified as very high fire hazard severity zones that is susceptible to wildfires. Therefore no significant impact related to emergency response plans, slope, winds, flooding, landslides, drainage, or other factors that would exacerbate fire risks located in wildfire areas will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

XXI MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the Project

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

Source: Project Description; RCIT (GIS Database); Analyses contained herein.

Findings of Fact:

a) Implementation of the proposed Project will not degrade the quality of the environment. The greatest concern regarding degradation to the environment will occur during construction when non-renewable resources will be expended to construct the Project. However, as indicated in the preceding analysis, construction effects would be abated to the greatest extent feasible with the implementation of mitigation measures. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to the degradation in quality of environment will occur.

Implementation of the Project will not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; or reduce the number, or restrict the range of an endangered, threatened, or rare species. The Project is not within an CVMSHCP conservation plan area and the site is devoid of native habitat. However, there is vegetation on the Project site that could provide suitable roosting and nesting habitat for a number of common and sensitive avian species protected under the federal MBTA. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **BIO-1** would require a preconstruction survey prior to the removal of any trees on the Project site during the nesting season, to identify and avoid impacts to any nesting birds. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to biological resources would occur.

As discussed in the Cultural Resources section, there would be less-than-significant impacts to resources of historical, cultural or paleontological significance. However, during construction of the proposed Project, the potential accidental discovery of an unknown cultural resource could occur. Implementation of Mitigation Measures **CR1** through **CR5** will ensure that in the event of an accidental discovery, the proper procedures and process is in place to avoid any potential impact on a significant resource. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to cultural resources will occur.

b) No significant impacts have been determined to occur with the implementation of the proposed Project. The cumulative analysis considers the impacts of the park in combination with potential environmental effects of related Projects in the Project area. Related Projects, also referred to as cumulative Projects, include recently completed Projects, Projects currently under construction, and future Projects currently in development that have the potential to have a cumulative impact based on both geographic location and schedule of implementation. The geographic area affected by cumulative Projects varies depending on the environmental topic. For example, construction noise impacts would be limited to areas directly affected by construction noise, while aesthetic impacts include the affected viewshed, which is location dependent, and the area affected by a Project's traffic generally includes a larger street network and is dependent on the

number of trips. Air quality and GHG effects, which occur on a more regional basis, are analyzed separately within the individual topic sections presented previously. For the remaining environmental topic areas and based on the attributes of the Project and existing conditions described above; the traffic effects are anticipated to have the largest geographic effect. However, with the low number of trips generated dispersed over a large area, the farther away from the Project site, the number of vehicle trips generated by the Project would be negligible when added to the existing circulation network. Therefore, this chapter considers the potential cumulative effects of the Project in combination with Projects within a one-mile radius of the Project site, where any potential effects of the Project could be cumulatively considerable.

Related Projects considered in this analysis include those that have recently been completed, are near the start of construction, or are in planning. Schedule is particularly relevant to the consideration of cumulative construction-related impacts, since construction impacts tend to be relatively short-term. However, for planned Projects, construction schedules are often conceptually estimated and can often change. Based on what is reasonably foreseeable, this analysis assumes these Projects would be implemented concurrently with construction of the fire station, between mid 2022 until early 2023. There were no related projects that could potentially contribute to cumulative impacts within the Project area.

Aesthetics. Based on location of the park in proximity to the State eligible scenic highway, SR-111, the setback and low-scale building and development of structure would not create any significant blockage or obstruction of views from surrounding roadways or viewpoints. The operation of the fire station would have night-time lighting, but this is consistent with the existing fire station and will not create a substantial new source of light. The low scale of development would be consistent with the surrounding community, and would not significantly alter background views of surrounding mountains, which are visible in all directions or the Salton Sea. The Project's contribution to cumulative aesthetic effects would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to aesthetic effects will occur.

Agricultural Resources. The Project site is located within the community of North Shore and is not designated as Important Farmland on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Although the Project site is in proximity to agricultural land, the zoning overlay implemented on the site, is indicative of the vision for the community to provide community resources and infrastructure within the North Shore community to support and maintain the livelihood of the community. Future development in the Project area, including the Project, would be consistent with the existing zoning and would not result in the loss of Important Farmland, would not displace land zoned for agricultural use or forest land or timberland, and would not conflict with land under a Williamson Act contract. The Project's contribution to cumulative agricultural effects would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to agricultural effects will occur.

Air Quality. The impact from the Project's air quality emissions is based on a cumulative assessment and the analysis presented in the section provides the cumulative effects of the Project's impact related to air quality emissions. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact was determined to occur.

Biological Resources. The proposed Project is not located within an MSCHP conservation area, which requires special studies and conservation measures to control development. The Project would not contribute to significant impacts to biological resources with implementation of mitigation Measures **BIO 1** and **BIO-2**. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on biological resources would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to biological resources will occur.

Cultural Resources. Based on previous record searches, no identified cultural resources are known to exist within the Project site. Projects are required to provide provisions in the event of any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological or paleontological resources during construction. As these unknown resources are located underground, the resulting effects are typically site-specific, unless a large scale village or other significant cultural area is discovered. Mandatory coordination with relevant Native American Tribes under AB52 establishes a process of communication and identification for dealing with any wide scale cumulative effects to cultural resources. The Project has identified mitigation measures in the event of any unanticipated discovery of unknown resources to coordinate with the relevant Tribes and develop the appropriate procedures for treatment to reduce any potential impacts to the greatest extent feasible. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on cultural resources would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to cultural resources will occur.

Geology. Geologic impacts, such as those related to faults, liquefaction, landslides, slope stability, and expansive soils are site-specific and effects do not increase with the addition of surrounding cumulative development. However, construction of the Project does have the potential to have a cumulative effect related to soil erosion and runoff. However, all Projects within Riverside County are required to abide by the NPDES, which establishes procedures for controlling and treating erosion and surface runoff. These procedures have been established to ensure that any potential effects from runoff and erosion are minimized to the greatest extent feasible. The Project would require the implementation of a SWPPP to design for the elimination of any potential soil erosion and subsequent runoff and would include primarily permeable surfaces to support the collection of and infiltration of stormwater. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on geology would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to geology will occur.

GHG. The impact from the Project's GHG emissions is based on a cumulative assessment and the analysis presented in the section provides the cumulative effects of the Project's impact related to GHG emissions. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact will occur.

Hazards/Hazardous Materials. Development within the Project vicinity has the potential to expose the public and the environment to risks associated with hazards from on-site contamination (e.g. fuel) and routine use of hazardous materials. However, the Project would be required to adhere to federal, state, and local agency regulatory requirements, which have been established to minimize any potential risks from exposure to hazards and hazardous material. Potential exposures of risk are site specific due to the infrequent occurrence in isolated locations. The possibility of multiple incidents occurring simultaneously is low for reasonably foreseeable incidents and existing regulations provide the appropriate measures to minimize exposure. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on hazards and hazardous materials would not be considerable. Therefore, no significant cumulative impact related to hazards and hazardous materials will occur.

Hydrology. The Project is required to comply with the NPDES requirements established by the Riverside County Flood Control to address water quality and discharge requirements. During construction, the Project would have a SWPPP in place to identify potential pollutant sources and establish BMPs to eliminate pollutants in storm water discharges. During operation, drainage from the Project site would be captured on site through operational BMPs (catch basins, riprap, a sand/oil interceptor, and cleanouts). The Project would be elevated so as not to be at risk from flooding. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on hydrology would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to hydrology will occur.

Land Use. The Project is consistent with the existing zoning and planned land use for the area, which is to provide services to support the community. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on land use would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to land use will occur.

Mineral Resources. The Project is not located within an area containing known mineral resources. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on mineral resources would not be considerable. Therefore, no significant cumulative impact related to mineral resources will occur.

Noise and Vibration. The Project's noise and vibration effects would be limited to the immediate vicinity of the Project site as noise attenuates based on distance. Because construction would be temporary, ambient noise levels would not experience a permanent increase; therefore, no cumulatively considerable increase would occur. During operation, noise and vibration levels would be similar to the existing fire station and would not increase ambient noise levels. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects from noise and vibration would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to noise and vibration will occur.

Population and Housing. The Project is being built to enhance existing fire protection services and would not induce future population and housing growth. The existing zoning for the community has established the appropriate mechanism to ensure and control growth at a rate that can be supported and sustained. The Project would provide additional enhanced fire-fighting services that would support the existing community. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on population and housing would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to population and housing will occur.

Public Services. The existing Project site has existing public services in place to support the Project. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on public services would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to public services will occur.

Recreational Resources. The proposed Project would not result in an increase in demand for recreational facilities. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on recreational resources would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to recreational resources will occur.

Transportation. The proposed Project would not generate any new trips as no new staff would be required. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on transportation would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to transportation will occur.

Utilities. The existing Project site has all of the necessary infrastructure in place to provide for utilities. The additional new demand for utilities would not be substantial and could be accommodated by the existing infrastructure. The Project's contribution to cumulative effects on utilities would not be considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant cumulative impact related to utilities will occur.

As described above, impacts from the proposed Project would not be cumulatively considerable. Furthermore, mitigation identified in this Initial Study would result in the Project having a less-than-significant impact related to cumulative effects.

- c) The proposed Project would not result in environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Construction of the Project would result in a one-time consumption of non-renewable resources needed to construct the Project and would not expose people to hazardous conditions or hazardous materials, which could have a substantial adverse direct or indirect effect. Operation of the Project would not create conditions that would adversely affect the health of humans, increase risk to human safety, or affect the surrounding environment. The operation of the replacement fire station would provide enhanced fire protection services which would be betterment for citizens of the County. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact related to direct and indirect effects on human beings will occur.

Mitigation: None

Monitoring: None

V. AUTHORITIES CITED

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians; Assembly Bill 32 Global Warming Solutions Act; Assembly Bill 52 Native American Consultation; Bay Area Air Quality Management Plan CEQA Air Quality Guidelines; Building Standards Code (Title 24 California Code of Regulations); CalEEMod Air Quality Modeling; California Air Resources Board Land Use Handbook, California Air Resources Board Scoping Plan; California Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act; California Ambient Air Quality Standards; California Building Code; California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program; California Department of Conservation Mineral Land Classification; California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery; California Department of Toxic Substances Control Cortese List; California Department of Transportation CO Protocol; California Department of Transportation Scenic Highway Guidelines; California Department of Water Resources Groundwater Levels; California Environmental Quality Act Statute and Guidelines, California Geologic Survey, Special Report 217, Plate 24, Palm Springs 30' x 60' Quadrangle; California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5-7054; California Integrated Waste Management Plan; California Public Resources Code 5097.98; California Uniform Fire Code; California Water Code Urban Water Management Act; Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan; Department of Housing and Urban Development Noise Notebook; Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan; Desert Center Unified School District; Eastern Information Center Cultural Records Database; Federal Ambient Air Quality Standards; Federal Emergency Management Act Flood Insurance Rate Maps; Google Earth™; Harris Handbook of Acoustical Measurements and Noise Control, Speech Interference Thresholds; ITE Manual; Lake Tamarisk Water District; On-site Inspection; Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians; RCIT GIS Database; Riverside County Board Policy H-29 Sustainable Building Policy; Riverside County Climate Action Plan; Riverside County Congestion Management Program; Riverside County Environmental Protection Division Biological Assessment; Riverside County General Plan; Riverside County General Plan Circulation Element; Riverside County General Plan Circulation Element, Trails, and Bike System; Riverside County Final Environmental Impact Report; Riverside County Flood Control District Flood Hazard Report/Condition; Riverside County General Plan Figure C-1 "Circulation Plan"; Riverside County General Plan Figure C-5 "Airport Influence Areas"; Riverside County General Plan Figure C-6 "Trails and Bikeways System; Riverside County General Plan Figure C-8 "Scenic Highways"; Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-2 "Agricultural Resources"; Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-3b "Forestry Resources within Eastern Riverside County"; Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-4b "Coachella Valley Natural Communities"; Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-6 "Mineral Resources Area"; Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-8 "Paleontological Sensitivity"; Riverside County General Plan Figure S-1 "Mapped Faulting in Riverside County"; Riverside County General Plan Figure S-4 "Earthquake-Induced Slope Instability Map"; Riverside County General Plan Figure S-5 "Regions Underlain by Steep Slopes"; Riverside County General Plan Figure S-8 "Wind Erosion Susceptibility Map"; Riverside County General Plan Figure S-9 "Special Flood Hazard Zones"; Riverside County General Plan Figure S-10 "Dam Failure Inundation Zone"; Riverside County General Plan Figure S-11 "Wildfire Susceptibility"; Riverside County General Plan Figure S-14 "Inventory of Emergency Response Facilities"; Riverside County General Plan Housing Element; Riverside County General Plan Land Use Element; Riverside County General Plan Noise Element; Riverside County General Plan; Riverside County General Plan Table N-1 "Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Exposure"; Riverside County General Plan Safety Element; Riverside County Ordinance No. 559 (Tree Protection Ordinance); Riverside County Ordinance No. 655 (Regulating Light Pollution); Riverside County Ordinance No. 847 (Regulating Noise in Riverside County); Riverside County Public and Private Airports, California; Riverside County Regional Transportation Plan; Riverside County Sheriff's Department; Riverside County Traffic Impact Study Thresholds; Riverside County Waste Management Department; SB1016 Solid Waste Per Capita Disposal Measurement Act; SCAQMD 2016 Air Quality Management Plan; SCAQMD Attainment Status; SCAQMD Carbon Monoxide Re-designation Request and Maintenance Plan; SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook Table 6-2; SCAQMD Localized Significance Thresholds; SCAQMD Rule 403 Fugitive Dust; SCAQMD Rule 402 Nuisance; Southern California Association of Governments Regional Transportation Plan; Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians; US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service Soil Surveys; US Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service Shrink Swell Potentials; US Department of Transportation; US EPA Noise from Construction Equipment and Operations; US Fish and Wildlife Migratory Bird Treaty Act; US Geological Survey Preliminary Geologic Map of the Desert Center 7.5' Quadrangle; and Williamson Act Land Map 2012.

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COPY
FM Staff to file

Notice of Determination

To:
 Office of Planning and Research
 For U.S Mail: P.O. Box 3044
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
 Public
 Agency: Riverside County
 Address: 3450 14th Street, 2nd Floor
 Riverside, CA 92501
 Contact: Mike Sullivan
 Phone: (951) 955-8009

County Clerk
 Riverside County –
 County of: (County Clerk Office)
 Address: 2720 Gateway Drive
 Riverside, CA 92507

Lead Agency (if different from above):
 Address: _____
 Contact: _____
 Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): _____

Project Title: Fire Station #49 Lake Tamarisk Replacement Project (Initial Study: RIVCO/CEQA 2022021)

Project Location: The Project site area, including parking and building footprint is on APN 808-170-034 which comprises 1.5 acres of County-owned property. A substation is adjacent to the west and the existing fire station/library is located across Tamarisk Drive to the southwest. Lake Tamarisk, Lake Tamarisk Golf Course and clubhouse are located to the west and southwest respectively. There is additional vacant land adjacent to the to the north and east and low-density residences extending beyond to the east, south, north, and northwest. The project is located within the Desert Center Quadrangle at Latitude 33° 44' 17.5" North and Longitude 115° 23' 30" West.

Project Description: Fire Station #49 is an existing fire station in the community of Lake Tamarisk. The station regularly requires extensive annual repairs because of the buildings current state and age and because the facility is too small for their current capacities; therefore, replacing it is considered the best option. The Project consists of the construction of a new 8,896 square-foot fire station to replace the existing station. Additional staffing would not be required for the replacement fire station. The participating County agencies in this Project are RCFD and Facilities Management. Existing utilities (e.g., electricity, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone) are located underground along the adjacent roadway frontages and will be interconnected to the project site during finish grading of the site. The project would be constructed on vacant land and no existing structures would require demolition as part of the project. Construction is anticipated to start in the summer of 2022 and would be completed by early 2023.

This is to advise that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved the above project on
 Lead agency or Responsible Agency

5/24/22 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:
(Date)

1. The project will will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report and Addendum was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Final Initial Study with comments and responses and record of project approval, and/or the Mitigated

Negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

County of Riverside
Facilities Management-Mike Sullivan
3450 14th Street, 2nd Floor,
Riverside, CA 92501 (951) 955-8009
msullivan@rivco.org

Lake Tamarisk Library
43880 Tamarisk Dr.
Lake Tamarisk, California 92239

Available online at:
<https://rivcofm.org/Environmental>

Signature:



Title: Senior Environmental Planner

Date: 5/25/22

Date received for filing at OPR: 5/25/2022

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

**NATIVE AMERICAN HUMAN REMAINS AND
ASSOCIATED ITEMS TREATMENT, DISPOSITION,
AND MONITORING AGREEMENT**

This NATIVE AMERICAN HUMAN REMAINS AND ASSOCIATED ITEMS TREATMENT, DISPOSITION, AND MONITORING AGREEMENT (“**Agreement**”) is made and entered into as of June 1, 2022 by and between the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe (“**Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians**” or “**Tribe**”) and the County of Riverside, with offices at 3133 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, California 92501 (“**Client**”). Tribe and Client are sometimes referred to individually as a “**Party**,” and collectively as the “**Parties**.”

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Subject Matter. This Agreement concerns the construction of a replacement fire station, FS 49 located at 43700 Tamarisk Drive, Desert Center, California 92239, and as more commonly referred to as the Fire Station 49 Lake Tamarisk Replacement Project (the “**Project**”) and as more particularly described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. Client agrees to pay Tribe an estimated \$16,156.91 as consideration for the work provided pursuant to this Agreement, and as described more fully in **Exhibit C**, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. Client shall provide a copy of this Agreement upon request to the Riverside County Coroner’s Office (the “**Coroner**”). The County of Riverside is the Project’s lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“**CEQA**”) (California Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 *et seq.*), and responsible for the environmental compliance of this Project. The County of Riverside shall be referred to herein as the “**Lead Agency**.”

B. Purpose. The purpose of this Agreement is to formalize procedures for the treatment of Native American human remains, as well as associated grave goods and cultural items (“**Associated Items**”), in the event any are discovered in conjunction with the development of the Project. Such Project development may include archaeological studies, excavation, geotechnical investigations, grading, or any other ground disturbing activity. This Agreement also formalizes procedures for cultural monitoring during archaeological studies, excavation, geotechnical studies, grading, and any other ground disturbing activities during Project development. This Agreement is entered into with the acknowledgment by the Parties of the high level of cultural sensitivity of the Project location and its proximity to recorded cultural sites.

C. Scope. This Agreement shall apply to lands owned in fee.

II. TREATMENT AND DISPOSITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HUMAN REMAINS AND ASSOCIATED ITEMS (FEE LANDS)

A. Cultural Affiliation. The Parties agree that the Project area set forth in Exhibit A to this Agreement consists of land that has been traced to, and traditionally occupied by, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Tribe has designated the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (“THPO”) to act on its behalf with respect to the provisions of this Agreement. Any Native American human remains and Associated Items that are discovered on fee lands in conjunction with the development of this Project shall be treated in accordance with this Section.

B. Coordination with the County Coroner’s Office. Client shall immediately contact both the Coroner and Tribe or cause the Lead Agency to do the same if Client or Lead Agency discover any human remains during implementation of the Project. The Parties acknowledge and agree that if the Coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American, or has reason to believe that the human remains are those of a Native American, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (“NAHC”) within twenty-four (24) hours of the determination, as required by subdivision (c) of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code.

C. Most Likely Descendant. In the event that Native American human remains and/or Associated Items are discovered during the development of the Project, the Parties agree that the determination of Most Likely Descendant (“MLD”), under Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, shall be made by the NAHC. The Coroner will be called upon to make a determination if the remains are human in nature, and will determine whether there is a forensic requirement. Once the MLD is designated, the MLD will make all decisions regarding the disposition of the Native American human remains.

If Tribe has been designated the MLD, and if the Coroner, in consultation with the THPO, determines that there is no forensic requirement, then the Native American human remains and/or Associated Items shall be subject to Tribal laws and Policies, including the Tribal Historic Preservation Ordinance.

D. Treatment and Disposition of Human Remains. In the event that Native American remains are found during the development of the Project and Tribe has been designated the MLD, the following provisions shall apply to the Parties:

1. Tribe, as MLD, shall be allowed, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, to (i) inspect the site of the discovery; and, notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, to

(ii) make determinations as to how the Native American human remains and Associated Items shall be treated and disposed of with appropriate dignity.

2. Tribe, as MLD, shall complete its inspection within forty-eight (48) hours of being granted access to the site of discovery, as required by subdivision (a) of Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code. The Parties agree to discuss in good faith what constitutes “**appropriate dignity**,” as that term is used in the applicable statutes.

3. Disposition and treatment of Native American human remains and Associated Items shall be accomplished in compliance with subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, except as set forth herein. Tribe, as MLD, in consultation with Client, shall make the final discretionary determination regarding the appropriate disposition and treatment of Native American human remains and Associated Items.

4. The Parties are aware that Tribe may wish to rebury the Native American human remains and Associated Items on or near the site of their discovery in an area that shall not be subject to future subsurface disturbances. Client shall accommodate on-site reburial in a location mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

5. The term “**Native American human remains**” encompasses more than human bones because Tribe’s traditions periodically necessitated the ceremonial burning of human remains. Associated Items are those artifacts associated with any Native American human remains. These items and their ashes are to be treated in the same manner as human bone fragments or bones that remain intact.

E. Treatment and Disposition of Associated Items. Native American human remains and Associated Items reflect traditional religious beliefs and practices of Tribe. Native American human remains and Associated Items that are discovered on the Project site are subject to consultation between Client and Tribe regarding appropriate treatment. Tribe’s consent shall be obtained to allow the use of temporary curation facilities, which may temporarily house the collections until the final disposition is agreed upon. Where appropriate and agreed upon in advance, the archaeologist may conduct analyses of certain artifact classes, if required by CEQA, in furtherance of the mitigation measures or conditions of approval for the Project. This may include, but is not limited or restricted to, shell, bone, ceramic, stone, or other artifacts. Client waives any and all claims to ownership of Associated Items that may be found on the Project site.

F. Non-Disclosure of Reburial Location. It is understood by the Parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains and/or Associated Items shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Coroner, Parties, and Lead Agency shall

withhold public disclosure of information related to such reburial, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in subdivision (r) of Section 6254 of the California Government Code.

III. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

A. Description of Work. The description of the scope of work for Tribe's Cultural Monitors for the Project is set forth in **Exhibit B** to this Agreement, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. Section I of **Exhibit B** specifies the duties and responsibilities of Tribe's Cultural Monitors and other specified parties. Section II of **Exhibit B** identifies the geographical area that Tribe's Cultural Monitors shall oversee.

B. Assignment. This Agreement shall not be assigned without the prior written consent of Tribe.

C. Compensation. Tribe shall receive compensation, including authorized reimbursements, for all work described in **Exhibit B**. The total estimated compensation for the work shall not exceed sixteen thousand one hundred fifty-six dollars and ninety-one cents (\$16,156.91). Compensation for the work shall be in accordance with the Monitor Budget Worksheet attached hereto as **Exhibit C**. Tribe will submit to Client a biweekly itemized statement, which indicates the work completed, any amounts owed, and any credits. The statement will describe the work and supplies provided since the initial commencement date, or since the start of the subsequent billing period, as appropriate, through the date of the statement. Client shall pay the undisputed portions of statements within thirty (30) days of receipt, and will promptly consult with Tribe to resolve any portions that may be in dispute. If any portion of any amount owed is received by Tribe after thirty (30) days of the date of any monthly itemized statement (the "**Late Penalty Date**"), or if any portion of the amount owed is received by Tribe in funds that are not immediately available, then a late payment penalty shall be due to Tribe. The late payment penalty shall be the portion of the amount owed not received by the Late Penalty Date multiplied by a late factor. The late factor shall be the lesser of: (i) The highest interest rate (in decimal value) which may be levied by law for commercial transactions, compounded daily for the number of days from the Late Penalty Date to and including the date that Client actually makes the payment to Tribe, or (ii) 0.000407 per day, compounded daily for the number of days from the Late Penalty Date to and including the date that the Client actually makes the payment to Tribe.

Client shall compensate Tribe at a rate of \$125.00 an hour for the work contemplated in the attached **Exhibit B**. In addition, Client shall reimburse mileage costs at the federal mileage rate for travel to and from the Project site location. Client shall afford the Cultural Monitors a 30-minute unpaid lunch period. Client agrees to pay a fifteen percent (15%) administrative fee for the work provided pursuant to this Agreement. Tribe will invoice Client for any overtime worked at a rate of \$187.50 per hour for any time worked over forty (40) hours within a given work week.

Client shall announce if there are work stoppages at a minimum twelve (12) hours before the scheduled start time. If there are unannounced work stoppages or cancellation of scheduled work (i.e., cancellation of work due to weather conditions) that are not due to the Cultural Monitor's actions, Client shall pay Tribe a minimum half-day charge (four hours).

D. Successor and Assigns. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, successors, representatives, executors, administrators, and assignees of the Parties, including subsequent land owners or Project proponents, and any person or entity obligated to comply with environmental and cultural or archaeological resource protection laws applicable to the Project.

E. Compliance with Laws. Client shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws. Nothing in this Agreement shall excuse Client from any obligation under any applicable federal or state laws, including, but not limited to: CEQA and applicable regulations of the CEQA Guidelines; California Public Resources Code, §§ 5097.98, 5097.99, and 5097.991; California Health and Safety Code, § 7050.5, subd. (c); California Government Code, § 6254; the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. §§ 3001 *et seq.* and its implementing regulations; the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. §§ 3001 *et seq.* and its implementing regulations; and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to make any of the above-referenced laws applicable where such laws would otherwise be inapplicable.

F. Indemnification. Client hereby agrees to fully defend, indemnify, and hold Tribe, Tribal members, the Tribal Council, each member thereof, and Tribe's officials, directors, officers, employees, designees, representatives, and agents harmless from and against any and all claims, suits, actions, damages, losses, liabilities, expenses, costs (including without limitation, reasonable attorney's fees and court costs), and/or judgments of every nature or description arising from, or in any way attributable to or related to, the negligence or willful misconduct of Client hereunder, including Client's officers, employees, agents, principals, shareholders, directors, and subcontractors.

G. Entirety. This Agreement and Exhibits A, B, and C attached hereto constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. No amendment or modification of this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing and executed by both Parties.

H. Damages. Except as set forth in this Agreement, neither Party shall be liable to the other, in any event, for any special or incidental damages arising out of the work performed hereunder, whether arising in contract, tort, or otherwise.

I. Limitation on Scope. This Agreement is unique to the Project only and does not set a precedent for other projects.

J. Term. This Agreement shall commence on June 1, 2022 and will end on June 1, 2023.

This Agreement is entered into on the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, as of the day and year first above.

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

By: _____

By: Jeff Hewitt

Its: Chief Planning Officer

JEFF HEWITT CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Digitally signed
by Margaret E.
Park, AICP
Date: 2022.05.20
15:53:33 -07'00'

ATTEST:
KECIA R. HARPER, Clerk
By Zuly Martinez
DEPUTY

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: Aaron C. Gettis 5-27-22
AARON C. GETTIS DATE

EXHIBIT A

Fire Station 49 Lake Tamarisk Replacement Project

FS 49 - 43700 Tamarisk Drive, Desert Center, California 92239

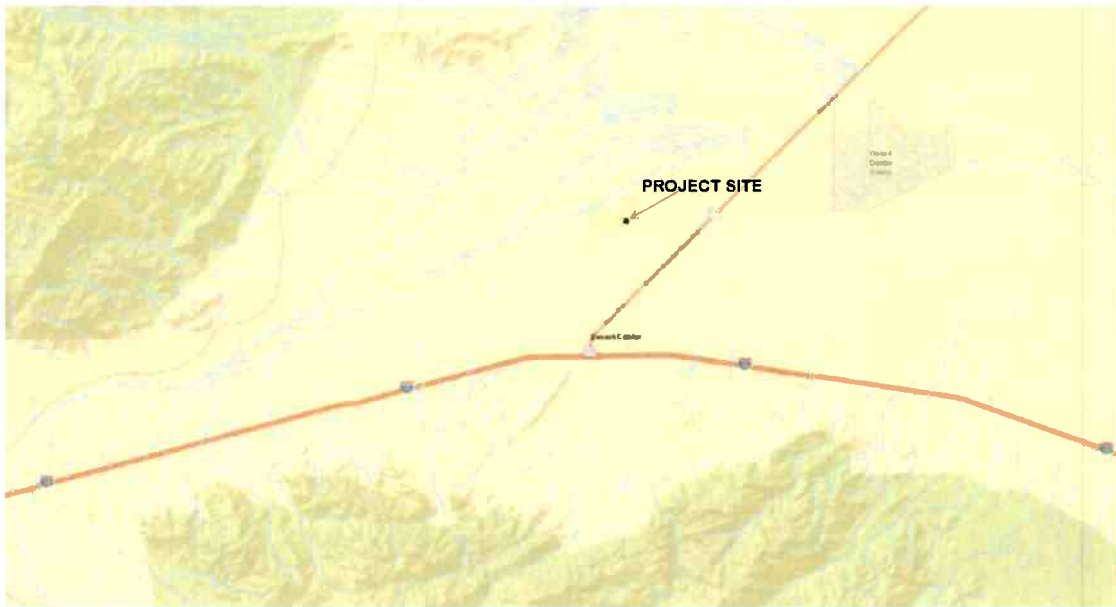


EXHIBIT B

CULTURAL MONITORING OF GRADING AND GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES

I. Specifications

Given the nature and sensitivity of the archaeological sites and cultural resources that are in or may be within the Project area, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians shall provide the cultural monitoring, consultation, and facilitation for this Project during archaeological studies, excavation, geotechnical studies, grading, and any other ground disturbing activities during Project development. Cultural Monitors will work in concert with the archaeologists hired by Client and Project engineers. The Cultural Monitors or Project archaeologists will be empowered to halt all earthmoving equipment in the immediate area of discovery when Native American human remains or Associated Items are identified until further evaluation can be made in determining their significance. It is understood that all surface and subsurface artifacts of significance shall be collected and mapped during this operation following standard archaeological practices. After discovery of Native American human remains or Associated Items discussions between the THPO and Project archaeologist will take place to determine the significance of the situation and best course of action for avoidance, protection of resources, or data recovery as applicable. The scope of work for this Project requires monitoring once grading or other earthmoving begins (*i.e.*, from the beginning).

II. Project to be Monitored

Monitoring shall encompass the area known as Fire Station 49 Lake Tamarisk Replacement Project as indicated in Exhibit A of this Agreement and shall be known as the Project area. It is agreed that monitoring shall be allowed for all archaeological studies, excavation, geotechnical studies, grading, and any other ground disturbing activities during Project development. Only Cultural Monitors appointed by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Monitoring Program will be used on the Project.

III. Cultural Monitors

The Parties to this Agreement anticipate the need for a Cultural Monitoring crew consisting of one (1) Cultural Monitor. If the scope of the work changes (*e.g.*, inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources or simultaneous grading to require additional monitors), Client agrees to directly compensate the work of additional

Cultural Monitors to the originally agreed upon crew of one (1) Cultural Monitor. The compensation rate shall be made directly from Client to Tribe. If Native American human remains are found, the coordination of the reburial of those remains and any Associated Items shall be conducted in accordance with this Agreement.

IV. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of Client to ensure Cultural Monitors have been trained in general safety precautions connected with working on a construction site. The THPO shall be notified if other special safety concerns must be observed in advance and Client shall provide special training if required.

EXHIBIT C

MONITOR BUDGET WORKSHEET Agua Caliente Band Of Cahuilla Indians Historic Preservation Office-Monitoring Program

Date: May 19, 2022

Project Start Date: June 1, 2022

Project Name: Fire Station 49 Lake Tamarisk Project

Project Address: FS 49 - 43700 Tamarisk Drive, Desert Center, California 92239

Contact name: Michael Sullivan, Senior Environmental Planner **Contract No. 03-006-2022-001b**

Billing Address County of Riverside

3133 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, California 92501

Phone Nos.: msullivan@rivco.org
 (951) 955-8009

The worksheet below is to estimate costs for Agua Caliente's total number of work days estimated for the Project. An invoice will be sent on a biweekly basis from the Controller's Office and will include a 15% Administrative Fee. An overtime rate of \$187.50 per hour will be applied to any time worked over 40 hours. The Client shall pay the Tribe a minimum half-day (four hours) for last minute cancellations.

			Total # of Days*	Total
1	Cultural Monitoring 1 Monitor (s) for 13 Days @ 8 hr days 104 Hours @ \$125.00/hr	13 days 104 hours	13	13,000.00
2	Mileage (round trip) FS 49 1 Monitor (s) for 13 Roundtrips @ 138 miles 1,794 miles @ \$.585/mile	13 trips 1,794 miles		1,049.49
3	Administrative Fee	15 %	13	2,107.42
	Subtotal			16,156.91
			TOTAL	\$16,156.91

*# of monitors x # of days

MS Initial

Initial _____