Rosena Ranch Stations Project

San Bernardino County, California

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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SECTION 1.0 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

This form and the descriptive information in the application package constitute the contents of Initial Study pursuant to County Guidelines under Ordinance 3040 and Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

1.1 PROJECT LABEL

APN:	0239-054-15	***USGS Quad:***	Devore
Applicant:	County of San Bernardino	***T, R, Section:***	T1N, R5W, Section 07
Location:	The Project is located at the southeast corner of Glen Helen Parkway and Lytle Creek Road, approximately 0.31 miles north of Interstate 15. The approximate GPS coordinates of the Project site are 34°11'12.11"N and 117°26'18.45"W. Figure 1 shows the Regional Location and Figure 2 shows the site location and aerial photo of the Project site.	***Thomas Bros:***	
Project No:		***Community Plan:***	Rosena Ranch
Rep:	AJ Gerber	***LUZD:***	General Land Use: Public Facilities (PF) Rural Living (RL) Zoning: Rural Living (RL) Floodway (FW) (Figure 3)
Proposal:	New Fire Station and Sheriff Station	***Overlays:***	None

1.2 PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: County of San Bernardino
Department of Public Works
825 E. Third Street, Rm. 123
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835

Contact person: AJ Gerber
Phone No: 909-387-8109
E-mail: arnold.gerber@dpw.sbcounty.gov

SECTION 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Existing Site Conditions

The Project site is located on the southeast corner of Glen Helen Parkway and Lytle Creek Road (Figure 1) within unincorporated San Bernardino County, which is commonly referred to as "Nealey's Corner." The Project site has a General Plan land use designation of Public Facilities (PF) and Rural Living (RL). The Project site is currently zoned Rural Living (RL) and Floodway (FW).

The Project site is a vacant and undeveloped parcel consisting of chamise chaparral, disturbed/developed, and a patch of mulefat scrub habitat in unincorporated San Bernardino near the Rosena Ranch Community. The Project site consists of approximately 5 acres; however, Project construction would be limited approximately 2.5-acres located southwest of the levee in the southwestern portion of the property.

The northeastern portion of the property is Lytle Creek, which consists of a desert alluvial wash with chamise chaparral habitat and will not be impacted by Project implementation. An existing San Bernardino County Flood Control access road is located on the eastern portion of the Project site.

High voltage electrical transmission lines cross the eastern portion of the Project site. Overhead utility poles are located along the Project frontage of Lytle Creek Road and Glen Helen Parkway. Additionally, an underground Southern California Edison (SCE) penstock line crosses the Project site.

Runoff generated onsite generally sheet flows southerly. Upon reaching the Project's limits, runoff continues southeasterly until reaching Lytle Creek Road.

The Project site is bounded by Lytle Creek Wash to the east, undeveloped land to the south, Lytle Creek Road to the west, and Glen Helen Parkway to the north. There are scattered rural residences, commercial property, and open space in the vicinity of the Project site.

Table 1. Existing Land Use and Zoning District

Location	Existing Land Use	Land Use Category / Land Use Zoning District
Project Site	Vacant	Rural Living & Public Facility / Rural Living & Floodway
North	Vacant; Lytle Creek	Floodway
South	Single-Family Residence and Commercial uses	Rural Living/Commercial
East	Vacant	Rural Living/Floodway
West	Vacant	Floodway

2.2 Project Operations

The San Bernardino County Fire District plans to accept the donation of the Project site parcel of land from the owner and construct a new Fire and Sheriff Station. Development of the Project site would occur on approximately 2.5 of the total five acres (see Figure 4-Site Plan). The proposed Fire and Sheriff Station would include a total of approximately 15,700 square feet (SF) of new building area; of which approximately 6,552 SF will serve as the living quarters for on-duty Fire Fighters and

approximately 5,628 SF will be provided for garage and equipment bays, and working areas. The Sheriff's station will include offices and other usable space of approximately 2,976 square feet (SF).

It is anticipated that the Fire Station would house approximately ten fire fighters, with approximately three Sheriff's deputies onsite at a time. General public access to the Project site would occur off Glen Helen Parkway along with the fire engines and Sheriff vehicles. A new traffic signal would be installed on Lytle Creek Road serving fire vehicles. The proposed Project includes a diesel fuel tank and associated pump to refuel the fire trucks and other fire apparatus. Total parking provided on the Project site for the Fire and Sheriff Station includes 27 standard spaces and 2 handicap accessible spaces.

Sewer lines would connect to a new lateral in Lytle Creek Road that is served by the City of Fontana. The existing 8-inch sewer line stops southwest of the Project at the corner of Lytle Creek Road and Sierra Avenue. The Project would extend the 8-inch sewer line north in Lytle Creek Road for approximately 210-feet. The proposed Project would connect to the newly extended 8-inch line with a 6-inch lateral line. On-site storm drains would connect to new infiltration basins for water quality Best Management Practices (BMP), with overflow to either Lytle Creek Road via parkway drains or southerly to natural drainage swales. The Project includes a proposal to annex into the West Valley Water District for water service.

Project impacts do not extend into Lytle Creek and would not impact the existing levee road along the northeast side of the Project site.

The above ground electric lines along Lytle Creek Road and Glen Helen Parkway would be underground as part of the proposed Project. The existing underground SCE penstock line would remain in place as would the high voltage transmission electrical lines.

The proposed Project is consistent with the General Plan Land Use Designations, Public Facilities (PF) and Rural Residential (RL). The Project requires a Zone Change from Floodway (FW) and Rural Living (RL) to Institutional (IN) within the development portion of the Project site to allow for the construction of Fire and Sheriff Station. The Project will require the approval of a Minor Use Permit.

2.3 Construction Scenario

Construction activities consist of site preparation, grading, building construction, paving, and architectural coating. The Project site is currently vacant, and no demolition will be required during construction. The Project will require 940 cubic yards (CY) of cut and 6,515 CY of fill resulting in a total of 5,575 CY of import.

Construction Activities would include the relocations of Southern California Edison overhead power lines currently located within the limits of Project impact area.

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N.T.S.

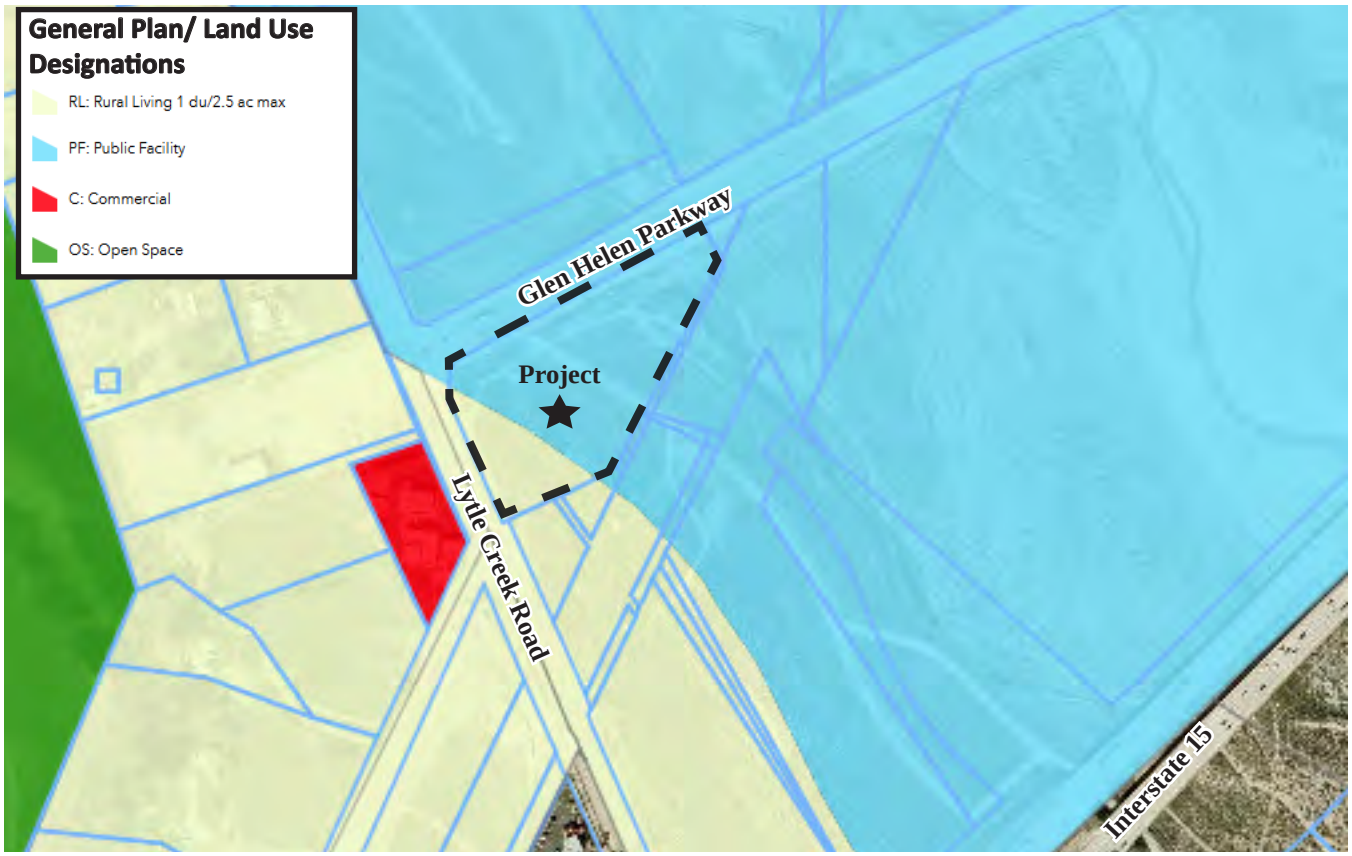
Source: Bing Maps.

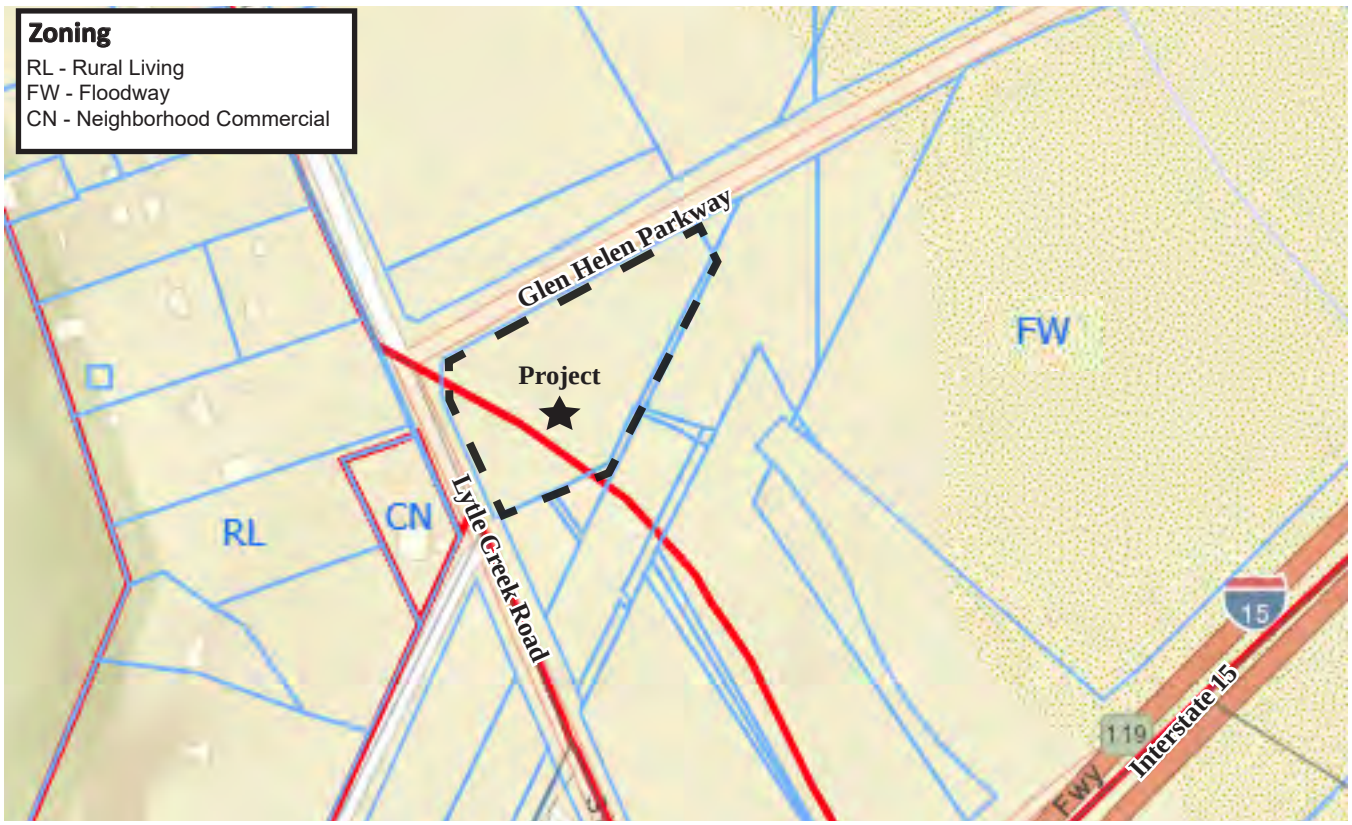
FIGURE 1
Regional Map

N.T.S.

Source: Bing Maps.

FIGURE 2
Project Location Map





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Source: County of SB Land Use/Zoning Map (Oct. 2020)

FIGURE 3
General Plan Land Use Designation and Zoning

FIGURE 4
Site Plan

Source: CannonDesign (July 19, 2024)

2.4 ADDITIONAL APPROVALS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

The Project site exceeds one acre in size, which triggers the need for a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The SWPPP is processed through the State Water Resources Control Board and enforced by the County and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Project would not impact Lytle Creek or the constructed levee, therefore no biological Resource Agency permits would be required. No other permits are known to be required at this location.

SECTION 3.0 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

On June 17, 2024, the County of San Bernardino staff notified the following tribes pursuant to AB 52:

- Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (YSMN) (formerly the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians),
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation
- San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians - Gabrieleno Tongva
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

Each recipient was provided a brief description of the proposed Project, a map of its location, the lead agency representative's contact information, and a notification that the tribe has 30 days to request consultation. Consultation remains open during the document review process for tribes that responded during the consultation period.

As a result of the initial notification letters, San Bernardino County received the following responses:

- The YSMN replied that they would like to review the Cultural report, Geotech report, and Project plan set. Those documents were provided to the tribe on August 7, 2024, and YSMN requested to keep consultation open while the CEQA document is under public review.
    - August 14, 2024, YSMN responded after reviewing the provided technical documents, requesting both archaeological and tribal monitoring be provided and included within the Cultural and Tribal conditions.
- The Morongo Band of Mission Indians replied that they would like to see the Cultural report, Geotech report, and Project plan set. Those documents were provided to the tribe on August 9, 2024. Morongo Band of Mission Indians requested that consultation would remain open during the public review of the provided documents.
- No response or request to consult was received from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation.
- No response or request to consult was received from the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians - Gabrieleno Tongva.
- No response or request to consult was received from the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians.

SECTION 4.0 EVALUATION FORMAT

This Initial Study is prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq. (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations section 15000, et seq. specifically, the preparation of an Initial Study is guided by Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines. This format of the study is presented as follows. The project is evaluated based on its effect on 20 major categories of environmental factors. Each factor is reviewed by responding to a series of questions regarding the impact of the project on each element of the overall factor. The Initial Study checklist provides a formatted analysis that provides a determination of the effect of the project on the factor and its elements. The effect of the project is categorized into one of the following four categories of possible determinations:

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

Substantiation is then provided to justify each determination. One of the four following conclusions is then provided as a summary of the analysis for each of the major environmental factors.

1. **No Impact:** No impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

2. **Less than Significant Impact:** No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

3. **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated and the following mitigation measures are required as a condition of project approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significant. The required mitigation measures are provided in each section and a list of mitigation measures is provided at the end of this Initial Study.

4. **Potentially Significant Impact:** Significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to evaluate these impacts, which are identified in each section, where they occur.

SECTION 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below 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.

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

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature Date

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

5.1 AESTHETICS

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check ☐ if project is located within the view-shed of any Scenic Route listed in the General Plan)

a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Adverse impacts to a scenic vista can occur in one of two ways; direct impacts to a scenic vista located on the Project site or by new development that would block views of a scenic vista from public locations. The proposed Project is located on a vacant site containing typical chamise chaparral vegetation common to the area, which does not constitute a scenic vista or scenic resource. The Project is situated on the corner of Glen Helen Parkway and Lytle Creek Road, commonly referred to as Nealey's Corner, in an area of rural and low-density residential uses. Hills, ridges, and mountains are visible to the north, west, and south. Development at this location would not interfere with general public mountain views experienced in this area. No designated viewpoints are located in the vicinity of the Project from which to observe mountain vistas. The proposed Fire and Sheriff Station is designed to blend into the environment and will not interfere substantially with the long-distance views from public locations. Therefore, implementation of the proposed development would not cause any adverse effects on a scenic vista. This potential impact is considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a

state scenic highway corridor. The Project site is located on the southwest corner of Glen Helen Parkway and Lytle Creek Road and is not designated as a scenic highway. Lytle Creek Road is designated a County Scenic Route just north of Glen Helen Parkway. Therefore, the proposed Project would be within the viewshed of vehicles driving southbound on Lytle Creek Road. However, the view in this direction is not considered scenic and therefore the proposed Project would not impact a scenic vista or scenic resource. Furthermore, none of the nearby roadways are considered by the State or County to be a scenic highway. The County's recently adopted General Plan—the "Countywide Plan1"—identifies several County scenic routes as shown on Figure NR-3 (Figure 5), and Interstate 15 is not designated as a State or County scenic route and is not an eligible state scenic highway. The proposed Project would be compatible with the Countywide Policy Plan visual resource and aesthetic policies including:

- **Policy LU-2.1 Compatibility with existing uses.** We require that new development is located, scaled, buffered, and designed to minimize negative impacts on existing conforming uses and adjacent neighborhoods. We also require that new residential developments are located, scaled, buffered, and designed so as to not hinder the viability and continuity of existing conforming nonresidential development.
  - The proposed Project is at a similar scale as the surrounding uses.
- **Policy LU-2.4 Land use map consistency.** We consider proposed development that is consistent with the Land Use Map (i.e., it does not require a change in Land Use Category), to be generally compatible and consistent with surrounding land uses and a community's identity. Additional site, building, and landscape design treatment, per other policies in the Policy Plan and development standards in the Development Code, may be required to maximize compatibility with surrounding land uses and community identity.
  - The proposed Project is compatible with the land use map designation with the approval of a Minor Use Permit.
- **Policy LU-4.1 Context-sensitive design in the Mountain/Desert regions.** We require new development to employ site and building design techniques and use building materials that reflect the natural mountain or desert environment and preserve scenic resources.
  - The proposed Project would be installed to be compatible with the types of surrounding uses and mimics the surrounding environment.
- **Policy LU-4.7 Dark skies.** We minimize light pollution and glare to preserve views of the night sky, particularly in the Mountain and Desert regions where dark skies are fundamentally connected to community identities and local economies. We also promote the preservation of dark skies to assist the military in testing, training, and operations.
  - The proposed Project would not utilize extensive night lighting; thus, promoting dark skies due to the limited nighttime lighting.
- **Policy NR-4.1 Preservation of scenic resources.** We consider the location and scale of development to preserve regionally significant scenic vistas and natural features, including prominent hillsides, ridgelines, dominant landforms, and reservoirs.
  - As discussed under this topic, the proposed Project would not conflict with the preservation of scenic resources.
- **Policy NR-4.3 Off-site signage.** We prohibit new off-site signage and encourage the removal of existing off-site signage along or within view of County Scenic Routes and State Scenic Highways.
  - The proposed Project is not located along a County Scenic Route. Signage for the

[1] *https://countywideplan.com/*

Fire and Sheriff Station would be incorporated into the design of the Project in order to demarcate the public facility.

As described above, the proposed Project would comply with the Countywide Policy Plan, and the proposed Project is not located adjacent to a state or County scenic highway.

c. Furthermore, no historic buildings are located within the Project site. No rock outcroppings would be impacted by the proposed Project, as none have been observed within the Project site. As stated under issue (a), above, the proposed Project consists of typical chamise chaparral vegetation. Two trees occur onsite. A single black walnut and a eucalyptus tree occur within the Project site. These two trees would be regulated under the County's tree ordinance. No other scenic resources have been identified on the site. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact. No mitigation is required.

d. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site, which is located in a non-urbanized area, would not impact public views of the Project site or the surroundings. Furthermore, the proposed Project is visually compatible with the surroundings. No scenic resources exist on the Project site, therefore, the proposed Project would not impact or block views of scenic resources from surrounding public locations. Furthermore, there are no public parks or scenic overlooks in the area of the Project site where the Project could block views of scenic resources. Surrounding development includes rural residential land uses and limited commercial uses, including a gas station across from the Project site on Lytle Creek Road. The proposed Project has been designed to be compatible with surrounding land uses and the natural environment. Additionally, the proposed Project will underground existing electric lines along the frontages of Glen Helen Parkway and Lytle Creek Road, which will improve the aesthetics of the Project site and surrounding area.

Therefore, the proposed Project would not impact public views of a scenic resource and would be compatible with surrounding land uses. Impacts are considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

e. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Implementation of the proposed Project will create only limited new sources of light. Existing sources of light in the Project area include nearby rural residence, commercial uses, and streetlights and headlights from the adjacent roadways and Interstate 15. The San Bernardino County Development Code (Chapter 83.07.060 Glare and Outdoor Lighting – Mountain and Desert Requirements) requires that outdoor lighting meet shielding requirements, light pollution standards, automated control standards, dark sky curfew, and other requirements. While the proposed Project will generate a new source of outdoor lighting, the Project lighting will comply with the County lighting requirements. Therefore, the Project would not create a significant new light source and impacts are less than significant. No mitigation is required.

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N.T.S.

Source: Policy Map NR-3 Scenic Routes & Highway (2019).

FIGURE 5
Scenic Routes and Highways

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

5.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES.

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check ☐ if project is located in the Important Farmland Overlay)

a-e. *No Impact* – The California Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Agency prepare maps of Prime, Unique, and Farmland of Statewide Importance as part of the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The Project site is not listed as Prime, Unique, or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the latest map, dated 2016, which is also shown on Figure NR- 5 of the Countywide Plan. Furthermore, neither the Project site nor the adjacent and surrounding properties are designated in the Countywide Plan or Zoning Map for agricultural or forest/timber uses. No agricultural activities or timber harvesting activities exist in the project area; and there is no potential for impact to any agricultural or forest/timber uses or values as a result of Project implementation. Therefore, no impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

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

5.3 AIR QUALITY

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information is provided based on the report entitled "*Rosena Fire Station Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, and Energy Impact Study, County of San Bernardino*" prepared by RK Engineering Group, Inc. dated August 2, 2024 (**Appendix 1**).

Air Quality Standards
The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is responsible for controlling emissions primarily from stationary sources and to a lesser extent mobile sources within the South Coast Air Basin. Additionally, SCAQMD, in coordination with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is responsible for creating, updating, and implementing the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), which is a regional air quality strategy program. While air quality has improved dramatically over the past years, the South Coast Air Basin continues to exceed federal public health standards for ozone and particulate matter (PM).

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) currently in effect are shown in Table 2. Because the State of California had established Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) several years before the federal action and because of unique air quality problems introduced by the restrictive dispersion meteorology, there is considerable difference between state and national clean air standards. Those standards currently in effect in California are shown in Table 2. Several pollutants listed in Table 2 are not addressed in this analysis. Lead is not included because the project is not anticipated to emit lead. Visibility-reducing particles are not explicitly addressed in this analysis because particulate matter is addressed. The Project is not expected to generate or be exposed to vinyl chloride because proposed Project uses do not utilize the chemical processes that create this pollutant and there are no such uses in the Project vicinity. The proposed Project is not expected to cause exposure to hydrogen sulfide because it would not generate hydrogen sulfide in any substantial quantity.

Table 2. Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS)[1]

Pollutant	Average Time	Federal Standards (NAAQS)[2]	California Standards (CAAQS)[2]
Ozone (O3)	1 hour	--	0.09 ppm
	8 hour	8 hour	0.070 ppm
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 hour	35 ppm	20 ppm
	8 hour	9 ppm	9 ppm
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)	1 hour	0.100 ppm	0.18 ppm
	Annual	0.053 ppm	0.030 ppm
Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)	1 hour	0.075 ppm	0.25 ppm
	3 hour	0.5 ppm[3]	--
	24 hour	--	0.04 ppm
Particulate Matter (PM10)	24 hour	150 $\mu g/m^3$	50 $\mu g/m^3$
	Mean	--	20 $\mu g/m^3$
Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	24 hour	35 $\mu g/m^3$	--
	Annual	12 $\mu g/m^3$	12 $\mu g/m^3$
Lead	30-day	--	1.5 $\mu g/m^3$
	Quarter	1.5 $\mu g/m^3$	--
	3-month Average	0.15 $\mu g/m^3$	--
Visibility Reducing Particles	8 Hour	--	0.23/km extinction coefficient (10-mile visibility standard)
Sulfates	24 Hour	--	25 $\mu g/m^3$
Vinyl Chloride	24 Hour	--	0.01 ppm
Hydrogen Sulfide	24 Hour	--	0.03 ppm

Source: USEPA: https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table; CARB: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/california-ambient-air-quality-standards

Footnotes:
1. USEPA: https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table and CARB: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/california-ambient-air-quality-standards
2. ppm = parts per million of air, by volume; $\mu g/m^3$ = micrograms per cubic meter; Annual = Annual Arithmetic Mean; 30-day = 30-day average; Quarter = Calendar quarter.
3. Secondary standards

Monitored Air Quality

The air quality at any site is dependent on the regional air quality and local pollutant sources. Regional air quality is determined by the release of pollutants throughout the air basin, or in the case of the South Coast basin

The Clean Air Act requires states to prepare a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to ensure air quality meets the NAAQS. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) provides designations of attainment for air basins where AAQS are either met or exceeded. If the AAQS are met, the area is designated as being in “attainment”, if the air pollutant concentrations exceed the AAQS, than the area is designated as being “nonattainment”. If there is inadequate or inconclusive data to make a definitive attainment designation, the area is considered “unclassified.” Table 3 outlines the attainment status for the criteria pollutants in the SCAB.

Table 3. South Coast Air Basin Attainment Status[1]

Pollutant	State Status	Federal Status
Ozone	Nonattainment	Nonattainment (extreme)[2]
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment	Attainment (Maintenance)
Nitrogen dioxide	Attainment	Attainment (Maintenance)
PM10	Nonattainment	Attainment (Maintenance)
PM2.5	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Lead	Attainment	Nonattainment (Partial)[3]

1. Source: California Air Resources Board. http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm
2. 8-Hour Ozone.
3. Partial Nonattainment designation – Los Angeles County portion of Basin only.

The Project is located within the San Bernardino Valley general forecasting area and Northwest San Bernardino Valley air monitoring area (SRA-32). Table 4 summarizes the last three years of monitoring data from the available data for monitoring station. Where data from SRA-32 is unavailable, air quality data is derived from the nearest adjacent station available (Central San Bernardino Valley [SRA-34]). From these data one can infer that baseline air quality levels near the project site are occasionally unhealthful, but that such violations of clean air standards usually affect only those people most sensitive to air pollution exposure.

Table 4. Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS)[1]

Pollutant	Average Time	Item	2020	2021	2022
Ozone -- Northwest San Bernardino Valley	1 hour	Max 1-Hour (ppm) Days > State Standard (0.09 ppm)	0.158 82.0	0.124 42.0	0.155 45.0
	8 hour	Max 8 Hour (ppm) Days > State Standard (0.070 ppm) Days >National Standard (0.070 ppm)	0.123 114 114	0.100 81 78	0.100 69 67
Carbon Monoxide -- Northwest San Bernardino Valley	1 hour	Max 1-Hour (ppm) Exceeded State Standard (20 ppm) Exceeded National Standard (35 ppm)	1.5 No No	1.3 No No	1.1 No No
	8 hour	Max 8 Hour (ppm) Days > State Standard (9 ppm) Days >National Standard (9 ppm)	1.1 No No	1.1 No No	0.8 No No
Nitrogen Dioxide -- Northwest San Bernardino Valley	1 hour	Max 1-Hour (ppm) Exceeded State Standard (0.18 ppm)	0.055 No	0.065 No	0.053 No
	Annual	Annual Average (ppm) Exceeded State Standard (0.030 ppm) Exceeded National Standard (0.053 ppm)	0.014 No No	0.015 No No	0.015 No No
Sulfur Dioxide -- Central San Bernardino Valley	1 hour	Max 1 Hour (ppm) Exceeded State Standard (0.25 ppm) Exceeded National Standard (0.075 ppm)	0.0025 No No	0.0050 No No	0.0027 No No
Suspended Particles (PM10)	24 hour	Max 24-Hour (µg/m³) Days > State Standard (50 µg/m³)	63 12	123 16	144 8

Pollutant	Average Time	Item	2020	2021	2022
-- Northwest San Bernardino Valley		Days >National Standard (150 µg/m³)	0	0	0
	Annual	Annual Average (µg/m³) Exceeded State Standard (20 µg/m³)	30.50 Yes	31.70 Yes	29.30 Yes
Fine Particles (PM2.5) -- Northwest San Bernardino Valley	24 hour	Max 24-Hour (µg/m³) Days >National Standard (35 µg/m³)	-- --	-- --	41.80 1
	Annual	Annual Average (µg/m³) Exceeded State Standard (12 µg/m³) Exceeded National Standard (15 µg/m³)	-- -- --	-- -- --	12.20 Yes No

Source: https://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/historical-air-quality-data/historical-data-by-year
µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter
ppm = part per million

Standards of Significance

The SCAQMD has established air quality emissions thresholds for criteria air pollutants for the purposes of determining whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment per Section 15002(g) of the Guidelines for implementing CEQA. By complying with the thresholds of significance, the project would be in compliance with the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and the federal and state air quality standards.

Table 5 lists the air quality significance thresholds for the six air pollutants analyzed in this report. Lead is not included as part of this analysis as the project is not expected to emit lead in any significant measurable quantity.

Table 5. SCAQMD Regional Significance Threshold[1]

Pollutant	Construction (lbs/day)	Operations (lbs/day)
NO_x	100	55
VOC	75	55
PM_{10}	150	150
$PM_{2.5}$	55	55
SO_x	150	150
CO	550	550

1. Source:http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/scaqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf

Air quality emissions were analyzed using the SCAQMD's Mass Rate Localized Significant Threshold (LST) Look-up Tables. Table6 lists the Localized Significance Thresholds (LST) used to determine whether a project may generate significant adverse localized air quality impacts. LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that are not expected to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. LSTs are developed based on the ambient concentrations of four applicable air pollutants for source receptor area (SRA-32) – Northwest San Bernardino Valley.

Table 6. SCAQMD Localized Significance Thresholds[1] (LST)

Pollutant	Construction (lbs/day)	Operations (lbs/day)
NO_x	254.2	254.2
CA	3,113.2	3,113.2
PM_{10}	45.1	11.5
$PM_{2.5}$	14.0	3.7

1. Source: SCAQMD Mass Rate Localized Significance Thresholds for 1.94 acres/day in SRA-32 at 100 meters.

The report, Rosena Fire Station Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, and Energy Impact Study, County of San Bernardino" prepared by RK Engineering Group, Inc. dated August 2, 2024 (Appendix 1), analyzes potential air quality impacts from construction and operations of the proposed Project. The report analyzes grading the Project site and operations of the proposed Project.

The analysis of air quality impacts included in the Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, and Energy Impact Study assumes implementation of standard air quality rules and requirements and design features designed to reduce emissions. These commitments are defined as Project Design Features (PDFs), which will be included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) as PDFs to ensure implementation. The following PDFs were included in the air quality analysis and are hereby incorporated into the Project.

Construction Design Features:

PDF AQ-1 The project will follow the SCAQMD rules and requirements for fugitive dust control, which includes, but are not limited to the following:

1. All active construction areas shall be watered two (2) times daily.
2. Speed on unpaved roads shall be reduced to less than 15 mph.
3. Any visible dirt deposition on any public roadway shall be swept or washed at the site access points within 30 minutes.
4. Any on-site stockpiles of debris, dirt or other dusty material shall be covered or watered twice daily.
5. All operations on any unpaved surface shall be suspended if winds exceed 15 mph.
6. Access points shall be washed or swept daily.
7. Construction sites shall be sandbagged for erosion control.
8. Apply nontoxic chemical soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more).
9. Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials, and maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard space in accordance with the requirements of California Vehicle Code (CVC) section 23114.
10. Pave or gravel construction access roads at least 100 feet onto the site from the main road and use gravel aprons at truck exits.
11. Replace the ground cover of disturbed areas as quickly possible.

PDF AQ-2 Construction equipment shall be maintained in proper tune.

PDF AQ-3 All construction vehicles shall be prohibited from excessive idling. Excessive idling is defined as five (5) minutes or longer.

PDF AQ-4 Minimize the simultaneous operation of multiple construction equipment units, to the maximum extent feasible.

PDF AQ-5 The use of heavy construction equipment and earthmoving activity shall be suspended during Air Alerts when the Air Quality Index reaches the "Unhealthy" level.

PDF AQ-6 Establish an electricity supply to the construction site and use electric-powered equipment instead of diesel-powered equipment or generators, where feasible.

PDF AQ-7 Establish staging areas for the construction equipment that are as distant as possible from adjacent residential homes.

PDF AQ-8 Utilize zero VOC and low VOC paints and solvents, where feasible.

Operational Design Features:

PDF AQ-9 The project will comply with the mandatory requirements of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, Part 6 (Energy Code) and Part 11 (CALGreen), including, but not limited to:

- Install low flow fixtures and toilets, water efficient irrigation systems, drought tolerant/native landscaping, on-site storm water capture, and reduce the amount of turf.
- Provide the necessary infrastructure to support electric vehicle charging.

PDF AQ-10 Participate in the local waste management recycling and composting programs.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site is located within the South Coast Air Basin, which includes all of Orange County and portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Air quality within the Basin is under the jurisdiction of the SCAQMD. The SCAQMD adopted the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (2022 AQMP) in December 2022.

   Consistency with the 2022 AQMP for the Basin would be achieved if a Project is consistent with the goals, objectives, and assumptions in the respective plan to achieve the federal and state air quality standards. According to the 2022 AQMP, the most significant air quality challenge in the SCAB is to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions sufficiently to meet the upcoming ozone standard deadlines.

   Based on the inventory and modeling results, the 2022 AQMP projects that 184 tons per day (tpd) of NOx will be emitted in the year 2037 as a result of continued implementation of already adopted regulatory actions ("baseline emissions"). The analysis suggests that in order to meet the ozone standard of 60 tpd, NOx emissions need to be reduced about 67 percent beyond the projected 2037 baseline emissions and about 83 percent below current levels[2].

   Therefore, consistency with the AQMP is determined by whether the proposed Project exceeds SCAQMD daily emissions thresholds. As detailed in Sections b), c), and d) below, emissions generated by the proposed Project would be below emissions thresholds established by SCAQMD. Therefore, the proposed Project would be consistent with, and would not conflict with or obstruct, implementation of the AQMP. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

[2] *Source: 2022 Air Quality Management Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Adopted December 2, 2022.*

b. *Less Than Significant* – Criteria pollutant emissions from the proposed Project would be generated by both construction emissions and operational emissions. As shown in Table 7 below, the daily construction emissions would be less than the SCAQMD air quality standards and thresholds of significance.

Table 7. Regional Construction Emissions

Maximum Daily Emissions (lbs/day)[1]						
Activity	**VOC**	**NO_x**	**CO**	**SO_2**	**PM_{10}**	**PM2.5**
Site Preparation	1.22	10.90	11.41	0.03	1.19	0.52
Grading	1.72	24.17	20.54	0.08	5.81	2.65
Building Construction	1.26	10.67	12.19	0.02	0.47	0.39
Paving	1.03	6.20	9.09	0.01	0.47	0.30
Architectural Coating	13.11	0.89	1.19	0.00	0.04	0.03
Maximum[1]	**13.11**	**24.17**	**20.54**	**0.08**	**5.81**	**2.65**
SCAQMD Threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Exceeds Threshold (?)	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

1. Maximum daily emission during summer or winter; includes both on-site and off-site Project emissions

Table 8 below summarizes the analysis of operational emissions. As shown in Table 8, operational emissions would also be below the SCAQMD thresholds.

Table 8. Regional Operations Emissions

Maximum Daily Emissions (lbs/day)[1]						
Activity	**VOC**	**NO_x**	**CO**	**SO_2**	**PM_{10}**	**PM2.5**
Mobile Sources	0.22	1.33	3.16	0.01	0.82	0.22
Area Sources	0.42	0.02	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
Energy Sources	0.01	0.11	0.09	0.00	0.01	0.01
Total[1]	**0.65**	**1.46**	**3.69**	**0.01**	**0.83**	**0.23**
SCAQMD Threshold	55	55	550	150	150	55
Exceeds Threshold (?)	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

1. Maximum daily emission during summer or winter; includes both on-site and off-site Project emissions

With implementation of the PDFs, the proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is in non- attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors). Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

c. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Sensitive receptors surrounding the Project site include existing rural residential uses. Exposure of pollutant concentrations on sensitive receptors can occur from construction and operation of the proposed Project. As shown in Table 9, the emissions will be below the SCAQMD thresholds of significance for localized construction emissions. The Project must follow all standard SCAQMD rules and requirements with regards to fugitive dust control, included as part of the Project's Design Features.

Localized Significance Thresholds (LST) are used to determine whether a project may generate significant adverse localized air quality impacts. LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that are not expected to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. LSTs are developed based on the ambient concentrations of four applicable air pollutants for source receptor area (SRA) 32 – Northwest San Bernardino Valley.

With implementation of the PDFs, localized construction and operational emissions are summarized in the following tables.

Table 9. Localized Construction Emissions

Emissions Sources	Pollutant Emissions (lbs/day)[1]			
	NOx	CO	PM_{10}	PM2.5
On-Site Emissions	14.07	14.51	3.43	1.93
SCAQMD Threshold[2]	254.2	3,113.2	45.1	14.0
Exceed Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

[1]Maximum daily emission during summer or winter; includes on-site project emissions only.
[2]Reference SCAQMD Mass Rate Localized Significant Thresholds for 1.94 acres per day in SRA-32, at 100 meters.

Table 10. Localized Operational Emissions

Emissions Sources	Pollutant Emissions (lbs/day)[1]			
	NOx	CO	PM_{10}	PM2.5
On-Site Emissions[2]	0.44	0.68	0.1	0
SCAQMD Threshold[3]	254.2	3,113.2	11.5	3.7
Exceed Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

[1] Maximum daily emission in summer or winter.
[2] Mobile source emissions include on-site vehicle emissions only. It is estimated that approximately 5% of mobile emissions will occur on the project site.
[3] Reference: SCAQMD Mass Rate Localized Significance Thresholds for 1.94 acres per day in SRA 32 at 100 meters..

As shown in the previous tables, emissions from the proposed Project would not exceed LSTs for the nearest sensitive receptors for construction and operational emissions. Therefore, impacts are less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

d. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Individual responses to odors are highly variable and can result in a variety of effects. Generally, the impact of an odor results from a variety of factors such as frequency, duration, offensiveness, location, and sensory perception. The frequency is a measure of how often an individual is exposed to an odor in the ambient environment. The intensity refers to an individual's or group's perception of the odor strength or concentration. The duration of an odor refers to the elapsed time over which an odor is experienced. The offensiveness of the odor is the subjective rating of the pleasantness or unpleasantness of an odor. The location accounts for the type of area in which a potentially affected person lives, works, or visits; the type of activity in which he or she is engaged; and the sensitivity of the impacted receptor.

Substantial odor-generating sources include land uses such as agricultural activities, feedlots, wastewater treatment facilities, landfills, or heavy manufacturing uses. The proposed Project does not include any of these uses that result in significant odor impacts. Some objectionable

odors may occur during construction from diesel engines, paving, and architectural coatings/paint. However, these odors are temporary, limited only to specific construction activities, and dissipate quickly.

The proposed Project would consist of the development of a Fire and Sheriff station, which do not typically generate objectionable odors. No significant odor generation for this use is expected and no impact related to odors would occur during the ongoing operations of the proposed Project. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check if project is located in the Biological Overlay or contains habitat for any species listed in the California Natural Diversity Database ☒): The following information is provided based on a study entitled "*Biological Resource Assessment for the Rosena Ranch Stations in the County of San Bernardino*" (BRA) prepared by Carlson Strategic Land Solutions (CSLS) dated April 10, 2024 (**Appendix 2**).

General Site Conditions

The Project site is located at the southeast corner of Lytle Creek Road and Glen Helen Parkway, just north of the cities of Fontana and Rialto, within unincorporated San Bernardino County. The Project site is located within Section 07, Township 1 North, Range 5 West, within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Topographic Map Devore Quadrangle. More specifically the Project is located at Assessor's Parcel No. (APN) is 0239-054-15. The site is surrounded by a mixture of vacant parcels, rural residential parcels, and commercial parcels.

The northeastern portion of the Project site consists of Lytle Creek with a levee separating Lytle Creek from the development area. The Project site is comprised primarily of chamise chaparral with an understory of non-native grasses, and disturbed/developed areas. A small patch of mulefat stand occurs within Lytle Creek.

Overhead electric power lines are located within the Project site. Surface runoff on most of the site appears to sheet flow to the southeast towards Lytle Creek Road. The Project site is relatively undisturbed. The background sound level at the Project site appears moderate, with travel on local roadways and the Interstate 15 constituting the primary source of noise in the Project area.

Habitat

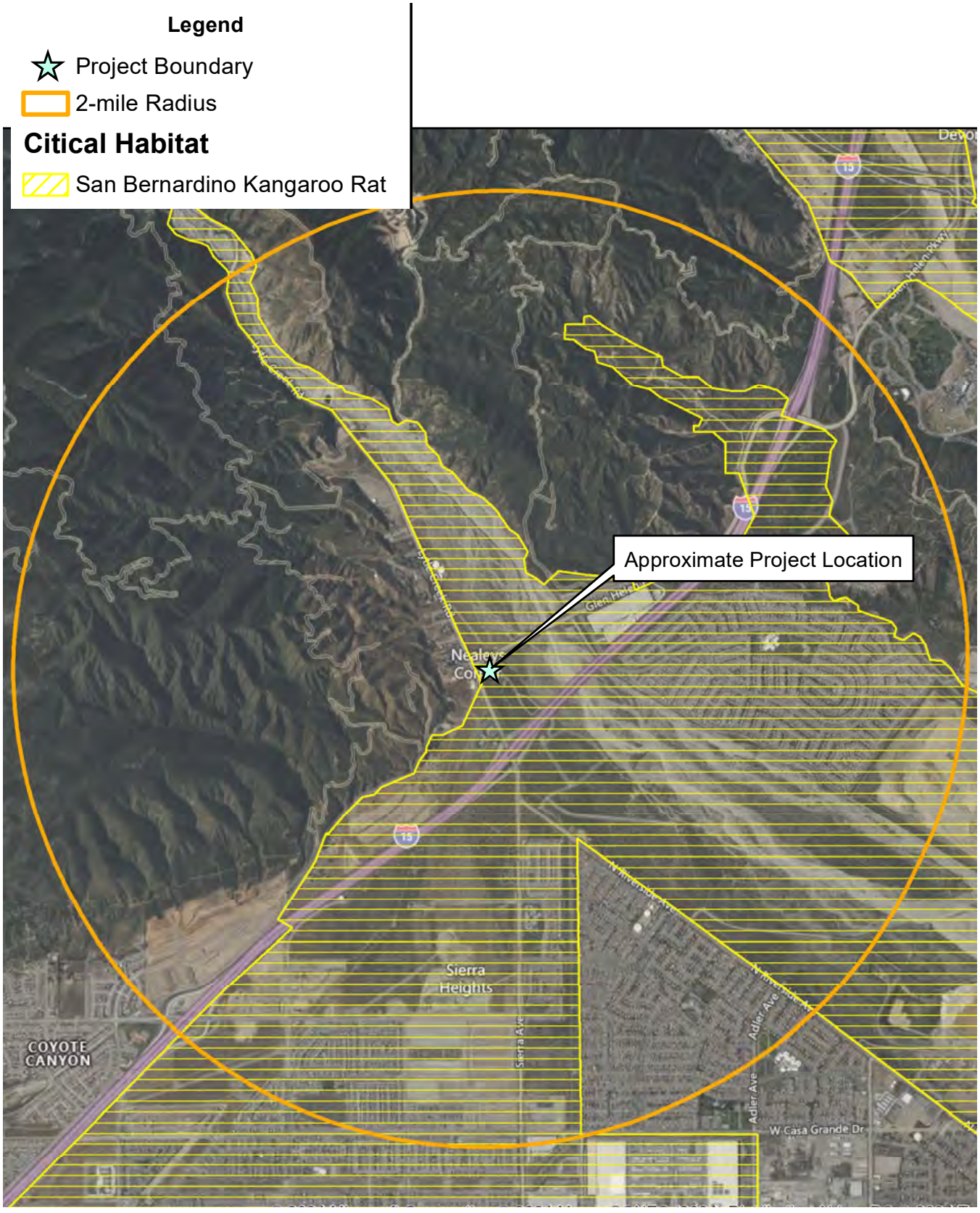
All plant species observed within the Project site were recorded. Vegetation communities within the Project site were identified, qualitatively described, and mapped onto a high-resolution imagery aerial photograph. Plant communities were determined in accordance with the Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009). Plant nomenclature follows that of The Jepson Manual, Second Edition (Baldwin et al. 2012). A comprehensive list of the plant species observed during the survey is provided in Appendix 2.

All wildlife and wildlife signs observed and detected, including tracks, scat, carcasses, burrows, excavations, and vocalizations, were recorded. Additional survey time was spent in those habitats most likely to be utilized by wildlife (native vegetation, wildlife trails, etc.) or in habitats with the potential to support state- and/or federally listed or otherwise special status species. Notes were made on the general habitat types, species observed, and the conditions of the Project site. A comprehensive list of the wildlife species observed during the survey is provided in Appendix 2.

Wildlife

The Project Site is not mapped within an area for wildlife movement. Additionally, the site is not mapped within a wildlife linkage. The proposed Project is also not within a Habitat Conservation Plan. Therefore, the proposed Project will have no impact on any current wildlife corridors or habitat conservation plans.

San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus [SBKR]*) critical habitat was mapped onsite (Figure 6). Suitable habitat for the species occurs onsite and focused protocol trapping was performed.



N.T.S.

Source: Carlson Strategic Land Solutions (April 2024).

FIGURE 6
Critical Habitat Mapping

Sensitive Biological Resources

San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat

The SBKR is one of three subspecies of the Merriam's kangaroo rat. The Merriam's kangaroo rat is a widespread species that can be found from the inland valleys to the deserts. The subspecies known as the SBKR, however, is confined to inland valley scrub communities, and more particularly, to scrub communities occurring along rivers, streams and drainage. Most of the drainages have been historically altered as a result of flood control efforts and the resulting increased use of river resources, including mining, off-road vehicle use and development. This increased use of river resources has resulted in a reduction in both the amount and quality of habitat available for the SBKR. The habitat of the SBKR is described as being confined to primary and secondary alluvial fan scrub habitats, with sandy soils deposited by fluvial(water) rather than aeolian (wind) processes. Burrows are dug in loose soil, usually near or beneath shrubs. The past habitat losses and potential future losses prompted the emergency listing of the SBKR as an endangered species.

Small Mammal Trappings

Due to critical habitat being mapped onsite and suitable habitat occurring onsite, focused protocol surveys were performed. Based on the initial database review, several sensitive small mammal species were identified as potentially present in the vicinity of the Project. Species with potential to occur include SBKR, San Diego pocket mouse, Los Angeles pocket mouse, and San Diego desert woodrat. Of the sensitive species identified as having potential, only the SBKR requires specific survey protocols to establish presence or absence. The specific survey protocols are required for areas where impacts may occur to the sensitive species or their occupied habitat. SBKR trapping surveys were conducted June 12-16, 2023, by permitted biologist, Jason Berkley. A total of 7 trapping lines were set with 6-18 traps set per line (totaling 318 trap nights).

Weather conditions were consistent throughout the duration of the trapping surveys. Morning temperatures were in the low to mid-fifties degrees Fahrenheit. Skies were overcast. The moon was waning crest during the trapping event (32-3%). Table 11 below provides the survey conditions.

Table 11. Small Mammal Trapping Survey Conditions

Day	Cloud Cover	Night Temperature (°F)	Wind (MPH)	Moon Phase
June 12, 2023	100%	53	0	Waning Crescent 32%
June 13, 2023	100%	53	0	Waning Crescent 22%
June 14, 2023	100%	54	0	Waning Crescent 14%
June 15, 2023	100%	54	0	Waning Crescent 7%
June 16, 2023	100%	54	0	Waning Crescent 3%

After a total of 318 trap nights, no San Bernardino kangaroo rats were caught during the trapping surveys. Northwestern San Diego pocket mice and San Diego desert woodrats, both state species of concern, were trapped in low numbers.

A total of five (5) small mammal species were captured as a result of the trapping effort:

- Dulzura kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys simulans*) (n=1)
- deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) (n=48)
- Desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*) (this is presumably the *intermedia* sub species)(n=13)
- Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*)(n=8)
- Brush Mouse (*Peromyscus boylii*) (n=4)

Table 12. Small Mammal Trapping Results

Trap Line	Trap Nights	DIPSIM	PERMAN	NEOLEP	CHAFAL	PERBOY
A	42	0 (0)	8 (7)	1(1)	0 (0)	1(0)
B	90	0 (0)	24 (23)	3(5)	3(1)	0(0)
C	30	0 (0)	6 (5)	3(3)	0(0)	1(0)
D	40	0 (0)	3(3)	2(3)	1(1)	0(0)
E	46	0 (0)	3(8)	4(7)	2(1)	1(1)
F	40	0 (0)	3(5)	0 (0)	2(3)	1(0)
G	30	1 (0)	1(1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0(0)
TOTAL	**318**	**1 (0)**	**48 (52)**	**13 (19)**	**8 (6)**	**4 (1)**

(#) = Recaptured individuals
DIPSIM=*Dipodomys simulans*, Dulzura kangaroo rat
PERMAN=*Peromyscus maniculatus*, Deer mouse
NEOLEP=*Neotoma lepidic* cf. *intermedia*, Desert woodrat
CHAFAL= *Chaetodipus fallax fallax*, Northwestern San Diego Pocket Mouse
PERBOY= *Peromyscus boylii*, Brush mouse
In addition, one *Otospermophilus beecheyi*, California Ground squirrel was captured

Nesting Birds

The Project site includes habitat that is suitable to support nesting birds. Most native bird species are protected from unlawful take by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). In December 2017, the Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a memorandum concluding that the MBTA's prohibitions on take apply "[…] only to affirmative actions that have as their purpose the taking or killing of migratory birds, their nests, or their eggs." Then in April 2018, the USFWS issued a guidance memorandum that further clarified that the take of migratory birds or their active nests (i.e., with eggs or young) that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity does not constitute a violation of the MBTA.

However, the State of California provides additional protection for native bird species and their nests in the Fish and Game Code (FGC). Bird nesting protections in the FGC include the following (Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, 3513 and 3800):

- Section 3503 prohibits the take, possession, or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird.
- Section 3503.5 prohibits the take, possession, or needless destruction of any nests, eggs, or birds in the orders Falconiformes (new world vultures, hawks, eagles, ospreys, and falcons, among others), and Strigiformes (owls).
- Section 3511 prohibits the take or possession of Fully Protected birds.
- Section 3513 prohibits the take or possession of any migratory nongame bird or part thereof, as designated in the MBTA. To avoid violation of the take provisions, it is generally required that Project-related disturbance at active nesting territories be reduced or eliminated during the nesting cycle.
- Section 3800 prohibits the take of any non-game bird (i.e., bird that is naturally occurring in California that is not a gamebird, migratory game bird, or fully protected bird).

In general, impacts to all nesting bird species (common and special status) can be avoided by conducting work outside of the nesting season, which is generally February 15th through August 31st. However, if all work cannot be conducted outside of nesting season, mitigation is required.

Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species

The Project contains suitable habitat for SBKR. The Project site does not contain any suitable habitat

for special status plants. The vegetation communities observed onsite are not identified as special status habitats by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Native Plant Society (CNPS), or California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB).

Jurisdictional Waters

Waters of the United States and Waters of the State

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has the authority to permit the discharge of dredged or fill material in Waters of the U.S. (WoUS) under Section 404 Clean Water Act (CWA). While the Regional Water Quality Board (RWQCB) has authority over the discharge of dredged or fill material in Waters of the State under Section 401 CWA as well as the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The Project site was surveyed with 100 percent visual coverage identifying a single feature present on-site that meets the definition of WOUS. The feature is Lytle Creek. The Project site does not contain any wetlands or vernal pools. Table VI-3 below details the extent of jurisdiction within the Project site.

The portion of Lytle Creek within the Project boundary is perennial, as water was present during the field survey, therefore it meets the definitions of Section 401 waters of the CWA under the jurisdiction of the RWQCB and WoUS as defined by Section 404 of the CWA under the jurisdiction of the USACE. Therefore, if impacts occur to Lytle Creek permits would be required from the Army Corps and RWQCB, respectively.

Fish and Game Code Section 1602 - State Lake and/or Streambed

The CDFW asserts jurisdiction over any drainage feature that contains a definable bed and bank or associated riparian vegetation. The Project site was surveyed with 100 percent visual coverage and there is a single feature present on-site that meets the definition of Waters of the State. The feature is Lytle Creek. Table 13 below details the extent of jurisdiction within the Project site.

Table 13. Jurisdictional Waters

Name	Jurisdiction	Acreage
Lytle Creek	Waters of the United States	0.06
Lytle Creek	Waters of the State	0.37

The Project site does not contain any vernal pools or wetlands. Furthermore, Lytle Creek does contain a small portion of mulefat stand meeting the definition of riparian vegetation. The Proposed Project would avoid impacts to Lytle Creek. Therefore, no regulatory permitting would be required.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – It is not anticipated that the proposed Project would result in a significant adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. The Project site is vacant and relatively undisturbed. The Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) provided as Appendix 2 to this Initial Study determined that, of the seven State and/or federally listed or Candidate wildlife and plant species identified by the database queries as potentially occurring within the Devore quadrangle, only five State and/or federally listed species have been documented in the Project vicinity (within approximately 2 miles). The four listed species within the 2-mile radius include coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, Crotch's bumble bee, and slender-horned spineflower. None of these species were observed during the field

surveys.

The Project site consists primarily of chamise chaparral and disturbed/developed vegetation community. As determined through the field survey conducted during blooming period, no special status plant species were observed within the Project site. Four of the eleven plant species have potential to occur onsite, however, none were observed during the field surveys which occurred during the blooming periods. Seven have no potential for special status plant species to occur on the Project site due to lack of suitable habitat or soils with the specified habitat to support the special status plant species.

The Project site does contain suitable habitat for the SBKR.

After a total of 318 trap nights for the SBKR, no SBKR were caught during the trapping surveys. However, Northwestern San Diego pocket mice and San Diego desert woodrats, both state species of concern, were trapped in low numbers.

Due to the presence of the state species of concern, impacts to vegetation removal may be potentially significant. Therefore, a biological monitor shall be present during vegetation removal to ensure the safe passage and any potential relocation of the special status wildlife, specifically northwestern San Diego pocket mice and San Diego desert woodrats, occurs to prevent impact to the species. Mitigation Measure MM BIO-1 is proposed to ensure that Project implementation activities affecting potential suitable habitat to the state species of concern are reduced to a less than significant level if individuals are present.

The Project site provides suitable habitat for some common avian species in the form of chamise chaparral. While bird activity was low and none of the common species carry a Federal or State listing as threatened or endangered, they are all protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Therefore, a pre-construction survey is required in compliance with the MBTA. Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM BIO-2 would reduce potential impacts to the avian species to a less than significant level, if nesting individuals are present.

MM BIO-1 *During vegetation removal and grubbing a biological monitor shall be present to ensure the safe passage and any relocation of small mammal wildlife species. Species shall be relocated to areas outside of the impact area. Species shall be relocated to areas outside of the impact area. Capture methods may include hand, dip net, lizard lasso, snake tongs and snake hook. If the wildlife species is discovered or is caught in any pits, ditches, or other types of excavations, the Biologist shall release it into the most suitable habitat nearby the site of capture.*

MM BIO-2 *Prior to the issuance of any grading permit that would impact potentially suitable nesting habitat for avian species, the project applicant shall adhere to the following:*

1. *Vegetation removal activities shall be scheduled outside the nesting season (September 1 to February 14 for songbirds; September 1 to January 14 for raptors) to the extent feasible to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds and/or ground nesters.*

2. *Any construction activities that occur during typical nesting season (February 15 to August 31 for songbirds; January 15 to August 31 for raptors) will require that all suitable habitat, on-site and within 300-feet surrounding the site (as feasible), be thoroughly surveyed for the presence of nesting birds by a qualified biologist before commencement ground disturbances. If active nests are identified, the biologist would establish no-work buffers around the active nest(s) (500 feet for raptors and sensitive species, 200 feet for non-raptors/non-sensitive species). All work within these buffers would be halted until the nesting effort is finished (i.e. the juveniles are surviving independent from the nest). The onsite biologist would review and verify compliance with these nesting boundaries and would verify the nesting effort has finished. Work can resume within these areas when no other active nests are found. Alternatively, a qualified biologist may determine that construction can be permitted within the buffer areas and would develop a Nesting Bird Plan, which is to be submitted and approved by the County prior to any no-work buffer reduction to prevent impacts on any active nest (eggs, chicks, etc.).*

With implementation of the above mitigation, impacts are reduced to less than significant.

b. *No Impact* – Implementation of the proposed Project will not have an impact on any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. No sensitive natural communities or riparian habitat is located within the Project site that would be impacted by the proposed Project. The Project would include the removal of chamise chaparral and developed/disturbed communities, which are abundant in the area; therefore, impacts would not be considered a significant impact, and no mitigation is required.

Lytle Creek occurs on the northwestern portion of the Project site, which meets the definition of Waters of the State. Project impacts would not extend north of the levee, therefore no impacts would occur to jurisdictional waters and no mitigation is required.

c. *No Impact* – Lytle Creek occurs on the northwestern portion of the Project site. No jurisdictional wetlands occur onsite. Project impacts are not extending to the north of the levee; therefore no impacts would occur to jurisdictional waters and no mitigation is required.

d. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The Project site occurs along Glen Helen Parkway and Lytle Creek Road, and as such, the southwest portion of the site does not function as or contribute to any wildlife corridors or linkages. However, the northeastern portion of the Project boundary includes Lytle Creek, which may function as a linkage. The Project impact area is limited to the southwestern portion, south of the levee, along Glen Helen Parkway and Lytle Creek Road. The Project would not impact the levee, nor anything north of the levee, preserving the wildlife linkage area. Furthermore, the Project impact area would impact chamise chaparral and disturbed/developed vegetation community in the southwestern portion of the Project, which would not be expected to be utilized as a wildlife corridor, linkage, or specific travel route to and from nursery sites or other important resources. Therefore, the Project site provides moderate function to facilitate movement for wildlife species on a local or regional scale. However, the Project impact area would not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory species or with established native or migratory wildlife corridors

or impede the use of native nursery sites and impacts would be less than significant.

The Project site provides suitable nesting and foraging habitat for common avian species in the form of chamise chaparral and non-native grasslands. While not considered a wildlife corridor, the potential exists for avian species to nest on the Project site. Nesting activity typically occurs from January 15 through August 31 for raptors and February 15 through August 31 for all other avian species. Disturbing or destroying active nests is a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.). In addition, nests and eggs are protected under Fish and Wildlife Code Section 3503. As such, direct impacts to breeding birds (e.g. through nest removal) or indirect impacts (e.g. by noise causing abandonment of the nest) are considered potentially significant impacts. Compliance with the MBTA through Mitigation Measure MM BIO-2 would reduce impacts to a less than significant level. No additional mitigation is required.

e. *No Impact* – Development of the proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Therefore, no impacts would occur, and no mitigation is required.

f. *No Impact* –The Project site is not located within an area within a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation is required.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check if project is located in the Agricultural ☐ or Paleontological ☐ Resources overlay or cite results of cultural resource review) The following information is provided based on the report entitled "*Cultural Resources Study for the Rosena Fire Station Project*" prepared by Brian F. Smith Associates (BFSA) Environmental Services, dated January 29, 2024 (**Appendix 3**).

Summary of Finding

The analysis included a review of archaeological records at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton. A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search was also requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Additionally, a field survey was also conducted of the Project site.

The results of the SCCIC records search indicate that 12 (one prehistoric and 11 historic) previously recorded resources occur within one-half mile of the Project site. One recorded resource identified as the Fontana Spreading Grounds, is mapped as overlapping the eastern portion of the Project site. However, three previously conducted studies on file with SCCIC do not show an overlap of that resource over the Project site.

BFSA also requested a Sacred Land File (SLF) search from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to search for the presence of any recorded Native American sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance. This request was not part of any Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Native American consultation. The SLF search indicated positive results for potential sites or locations of Native American importance within the vicinity.

The archaeological field survey was conducted on May 24, 2023, and no historic or prehistoric cultural resources were identified on the Project site.

The County of San Bernardino as the Lead Agency notified registered Native American Tribes of the proposed Project under AB 52 on June 17, 2024. Notification was sent to Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (YSMN) (formerly the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians), Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians - Gabrieleno Tongva, and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. The County received request for consultation with YSMN and Morongo Band of Mission Indians. No response or request to consult was received by

Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians - Gabrieleno Tongva, and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. Consultation pursuant to AB 52 remains open during public review. Further discussion of Tribal Cultural Resources is included in ***Section 5.18***.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site is vacant and undeveloped. The field investigation confirmed that no historic structures are present on the Project site. The data base search through the SCCIC identified Site P-36-006706, identified as the Fontana Spreading Grounds, mapped overlapping the eastern portion of the Project site. However, a detailed study conducted in 2008 by PCR Services Corporation found no elements of this resource within the Project site. Furthermore, the proposed disturbance area is located in the southwestern portion of the Project site, avoiding the eastern portion and Lytle Creek.

   Therefore, impacts to historical resources would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

b. *Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation* - While the records search from SCCIC indicated that no resources have been identified on the Project site, the Project site is located adjacent to Lytle Creek, which could have supplied a natural water source possibly used by prehistoric and historic inhabitants of the region. Therefore, impacts to archaeological resources are potentially significant. Mitigation Measures MM CUL-1 through MM CUL-3 has been included to require archaeological monitoring during grading and a Worker's Education Awareness program, which would reduce impacts to less than significant.

   MM CUL-1: *Archaeological monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist with at least three years' experience during ground disturbing activities in areas with the potential for archaeological resources. In the event that resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period.*

   MM CUL-2: *If significant pre-contact and/or historic-era cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.*

   MM CUL-3*: Worker Environmental Awareness Program. Prior to project initiation, a qualified archaeologist should be retained to conduct a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training on archaeological sensitivity for all construction personnel prior to the commencement of any ground-disturbing activities. The training should be conducted by an archaeologist who meets or exceeds the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (NPS 1983). Tribal representatives from the Consulting Tribes, such as Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Management Department (YSMN, also known as San Manuel Band of Mission Indians) will be allowed to attend and/or participate in the WEAP training should they elect to and will be given ten days' notice prior to the training. Archaeological sensitivity training should include a*

description of the types of cultural material that may be encountered, cultural sensitivity issues, regulatory issues, and the proper protocol for treatment of the materials in the event of a find.

Therefore, with implementation of Mitigation Measures MM CUL-1,CUL-2 and CUL-3, impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

c. *Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation* - No conditions exist that suggest human remains are likely to be found on the Project site. However, if human remains are found, those remains would be required to conduct proper treatment, in accordance with applicable laws. State of California Public Resources Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5 to 7055 describe the general provisions for human remains and as outlined within Mitigation Measure MM CUL-4. Specifically, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 describes the requirements if any human remains are accidentally discovered during excavation of a site. As required by State law, the requirements and procedures set forth in Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code would be implemented, including notification of the County Coroner, notification of the NAHC and consultation with the individual identified by the NAHC to be the "most likely descendant (MLD)." The MLD would have 48 hours to make recommendations to landowners for the disposition of any Native American human remains and grave goods found. If human remains are found during excavation, excavation must stop in the vicinity of the find and any area that is reasonably suspected to overlay adjacent remains until the County coroner has been called out, and the remains have been investigated and appropriate recommendations have been made for the treatment and disposition of the remains. With adherence with state law and implementation of Mitigation Measure MM CUL-4, impacts would be less than significant. Additional mitigation measures pertaining to inadvertent discovery of human remains are included in ***Section 5.18***, Tribal Cultural Resources.

MM CUL-4: *If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and the applicable sections of the California Health and Safety Code and California Public Resources Code pertaining to the discovery of human remains shall be enforced for the duration of the Project.*

Therefore, with implementation of Mitigation Measures MM CUL- 4, impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

5.6 ENERGY

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information is provided based on the report entitled "*Rosena Fire Station, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, and Energy Impact Study, County of San Bernardino, CA*" prepared by RK Engineering Group, Inc., dated August 2, 2024 (**Appendix 1**).

The energy study was prepared to determine if the Project would result in the wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy during the operation of the Project. Table 14 below summarizes the anticipated energy demand for the proposed Project.

Table 14. Proposed Energy Demands

Activity	Energy Consumption (MBTU/yr)
Electricity	708.89
Natural Gas	401,528.97
Petroleum	3,443.02
Total	**405,680.88**

Impact Analysis

a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project would implement the mandatory requirements of California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24, Part 6) to reduce energy consumption. One requirement placed on the Project is to provide on-site solar readiness zones as prescribed by the 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards. Additionally, the Project will provide five electric charging stations. By virtue of compliance with these codes, the proposed Project would not cause wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources and impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project will purchase electricity through Southern California Edison which is subject to the requirements of California Senate Bill 100 (SB 100). SB 100 is the most stringent and current energy legislation in California; requiring that renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 100% of retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers and 100% of electricity procured to serve all state agencies by December 31, 2045. Furthermore, the Project would comply with California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24, Part 6) and Green Building Standards to reduce energy consumption.

Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan, and by virtue of compliance with state and local plans, the proposed Project would not cause wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

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

5.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check ☐ if project is located in the Geologic Hazards Overlay District)

The following information is provided based on the report entitled "*Geotechnical Investigation and Water Percolation Test Report, Rosena Ranch Fire Station and Small Sheriff's Station Annex, Lytle DC APN-023905415 Site, County of San Bernardino, California*," prepared by Converse Consultants, dated February 26, 2024 (**Appendix 4**). Furthermore, information is provided based on the report entitled "*Paleontological Assessment for the Rosena Fire Station Project, San Bernardino County,*

California," prepared by Brian F. Smith Associates Environmental Services, dated July 30, 2024 (**Appendix 5**).

Converse dug eight (8) test pits and three (3) infiltration pits to support its investigation. Converse attempted advancing one boring, however refusal was met at 2 feet due to the substantial amounts of gravel, cobbles, and boulders. The test pits ranged in depth from five to 13.2 feet deep. The infiltration pits were dug to 3.75 feet deep. No groundwater was encountered in either the test pits or the infiltration pits.

The Project site consists primarily of topsoil consisting of silty sand, underlain by alluvium consisting of alternating layers of silt, sand with silt, silty sand, sand, gravel, cobbles up to 12 inches and boulders up to 24 inches. No groundwater was encountered during the investigation.

The Project site is not located within a State mapped Earthquake Fault Hazard Zone (Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Zoning Act).

County of San Bernardino applies its "Paleontologic Resources (PR) Overlay" guideline to those areas where paleontological resources are known to occur or are likely to be present, by using fossil location criteria reported by the San Bernardino County Museum, the University of California Museum of Paleontology, the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, or other institutions. These databases were reviewed and did not indicate the presence of any known fossil localities within the Project. The Paleontological Principal Investigator conducted a paleontological survey for the Project on May 24, 2023. No paleontological resources were observed.

Based on the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) drafted guidelines that includes four categories of paleontological sensitivity for geologic units (formations), based on the young geologic age of the sediments mapped at the Project site, the extreme coarseness, and the lack of nearby significant fossil localities, the Holocene wash and alluvial deposits are considered to have a low potential to yield significant paleontological resources. Furthermore, no known fossil resources have been found in the area of the Project site.

Impact Analysis

a.i *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and no faults were identified on the site during the geotechnical evaluation conducted by Converse Consultants, (Geotechnical Investigation and Water Percolation Test Report, Rosena Ranch Fire Station and Small Sheriff's Station Annex, Lytle DC APN-023905415 Site, County of San Bernardino, California," prepared by Converse Consultants, dated February 26, 2024 (Appendix 4). The closest active fault to the Project site is the Cucamonga fault, which is mapped approximately 0.47 miles from the site. The possibility of damage due to ground rupture is considered low since no active faults are known to cross the site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

a.ii *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site, like many areas in Southern California, is subject to strong seismic ground shaking. While the Project site does not have any faults on the property, the closest known active earthquake fault is the Cucamonga fault located approximately 0.47 miles from the Project site, which has the potential to generate strong ground shaking. The Cucamonga fault is capable of producing up to a magnitude 6.7 event.

The construction of Fire and Sheriff stations is common in earthquake prone areas like Southern California, including the Project site. The geotechnical analysis included in Appendix 4 included an evaluation of site seismic characteristics in accordance with the 2022 California Building Code (CBC). Based on the site seismic characteristics, the CBC provides building code guidelines to minimize the effects of seismic ground shaking. With adherence to the building code standards, impacts associated with seismic ground shaking would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

a.iii *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site does not have earthquake faults on the property, therefore, the potential for seismic rupture is very low. The closest active fault to the Project site is the Cucamonga Fault, approximately 0.47 miles from the Project site.

The Project site is not located within a liquefaction hazard zone as mapped by the State of California Seismic Hazard Zone mapping and the County of San Bernardino has mapped the Project site as having medium susceptibility to liquefaction. Based on the relatively dense subsurface soil and the deep ground water (deeper than 50 feet), the potential for liquefaction or significant dynamic settlement is less than significant. No mitigation is required.

a.iv *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site and the immediate area consists of relatively flat topography, which is not prone to landsliding. Therefore, the potential for landsliding is negligible and impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Secondary types of ground failure that might occur from a large seismic event include ground subsidence, ground lurching, and lateral spreading. Based on the proposed grading, the relatively flat topography across the site, and the deep groundwater and moderate liquefaction potential, landsliding, ground subsidence and lateral spreading are considered unlikely at the Project site. Ground lurching could occur during a major seismic event, however, the remedial grading described in Section (c) and compliance with the seismic building standards in the California Building Code, would reduce the potential impact to less than significant. No mitigation is required.

b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site is relatively flat, without large steep slopes on or adjacent to the property that would be conducive to soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Given current site conditions, the potential for soil erosion or loss of topsoil is low. Furthermore, during grading when the highest risk of loss of topsoil and/or erosion would occur, silt fencing, sandbags, waddles, and other BMPs would be installed as part of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP). Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

c. *Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation* – The Project site is not located on a geologic unit that is unstable or could become unstable. The Project site consists primarily of topsoil consisting of silty sand, underlain by alluvium consisting of alternating layers of silt, sand with silt, silty sand, sand, gravel, cobbles up to 12 inches and boulders up to 24 inches. The ground water is deep, which results in low potential for liquefaction. There are no mapped earthquake faults or landslides. The Project site has “Very Low” expansion potential (EI of 50 or less per ASTM D4829). The existing topsoil conditions are not suitable in its current state to support the construction of new structures and infrastructure. Therefore, removal and recompaction below foundations is necessary prior to construction.

The Project site was evaluated for geotechnical feasibility pursuant to CEQA and determined to be feasible, without causing significant impacts, with implementation of design standards presented in the geotechnical report included in Appendix 4. An example of those design standards included in the geotechnical reports is the removal and recompaction of existing soil. Existing unsuitable near surface soils are not suitable for development and must be temporarily removed to suitable competent soil prior to replacement as fill to design grades. In order to promote more uniform soil conditions, soils must be temporarily removed and recompacted to a minimum depth of approximately 5 feet below existing grade or 2 feet below the bottom of proposed foundations, whichever is deeper.

Furthermore, prior to grading, a final geotechnical report must be prepared to accompany the construction level documents and the final geotechnical report will ensure all design recommendations have been incorporated. While standard practice, the requirement for a final geotechnical report has been included as a mitigation measure for further disclosure and tracking. Therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measures MM GEO-1 and MM GEO-2 would reduce impacts to less than significant.

MM GEO-1: *The Project Applicant shall implement the recommendations contained in the "Geotechnical Investigation and Water Percolation Test Report, Rosena Ranch Fire Station and Small Sheriff's Station Annex, Lytle DC APN-023905415 Site, County of San Bernardino, California," prepared by Converse Consultants, dated February 26, 2024 (Appendix 4) to reduce geologic hazards during implementation of the proposed Project. Included in the reports are site-specific recommendations involving such topics as, grading and earthwork, slope stability, retaining walls, seismic design, construction materials, geotechnical observation, and testing and plan reviews.*

MM GEO-2: *Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall prepare a final geotechnical report based on the final rough grading plans and the final geotechnical report shall incorporate all of the recommendations included in "Geotechnical Investigation and Water Percolation Test Report, Rosena Ranch Fire Station and Small Sheriff's Station Annex, Lytle DC APN-023905415 Site, County of San Bernardino, California," prepared by Converse Consultants, dated February 26, 2024 (Appendix 4).*

The geotechnical reports included in Appendix 4 have established that the site is geotechnically suitable for development and a final geotechnical report is required to ensure all construction-level geotechnical recommendations and design parameters are included on the final rough grading plans.

d. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Based on test results, the on-site soils exhibit a "Very Low" expansion potential (EI of 50 or less per ASTM D4829). Included in Mitigation Measure MM GEO-1 are recommendations for testing the imported fill material to ensure the expansion potential remains low. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

e. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site is currently undeveloped and no septic system is currently present. The proposed Project includes connection to a sanitary sewer system. Since no new septic is proposed, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

f. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site was evaluated for paleontological resources by BFSA Environmental Services and documented in the report *Paleontological Assessment for the Rosena Fire Station Project, San Bernardino County, California, dated July 30, 2024, by BFSA Environmental Services* (**Appendix 5**). The Project site was determined to have low potential for terrestrial vertebrate fossils due to the young geologic age of the sediment mapped, the extreme coarseness and lack of nearby significant fossil localities. Therefore, the Project site has a "low" paleontological sensitivity rating typically assigned to Holocene wash and alluvial deposits for yielding paleontological resources.

County of San Bernardino applies its "Paleontologic Resources (PR) Overlay" guidelines to those areas where paleontological resources are known to occur or are likely to be present, by using fossil location criteria reported by the San Bernardino County Museum, the University of California Museum of Paleontology, the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, or other institutions.

Since the Project site has a low paleontological sensitivity due to the geologic strata beneath the Project site and because no known fossil resources have been found in the area surrounding the Project site, the County's PR Overlay criteria would not apply to the Project.

With the presence of modern and Holocene-aged alluvial deposits at the Project, the coarse consistency, and the lack of any known fossil specimens or fossil localities within a several-mile radius encompassing the Project, the Project site has a low sensitivity for paleontological resources and impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

5.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information is provided based on the report entitled "*Rosena Fire Station Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, and Energy Impact Study, County of San Bernardino*" prepared by RK Engineering Group, Inc. dated August 2, 2024 (**Appendix 1**).

Greenhouse gases (GHG) comprise less than 0.1 percent of the total atmospheric composition, yet they play an essential role in influencing climate. Greenhouse gases include naturally occurring compounds such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), water vapor (H2O), and nitrous oxide (N2O), while others are synthetic. Man-made GHGs include chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and perfluorocarbons (PFCs), as well as sulfur hexafluoride (SF6).

The State of California has adopted extensive legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy. Some of the key climate change legislation includes Assembly Bill (AB) 32 – the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, Senate Bill (SB) 375 – the Sustainable Communities & Climate Protection Act of 2008, and SB 100 – the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program.

In March 2021, the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) developed the *San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan* (GHG Reduction Plan) in order to help the County and participating jurisdictions plan for GHG reduction strategies. The GHG Reduction Plan includes procedures for evaluating GHG impacts and determining significance for CEQA purposes. The GHG Reduction Plan established a screening threshold of 3,000 metric tons of CO2e (MTCO2e), which is being used as the GHG threshold of significance. Greenhouse gas emissions occur from the following four sources for residential projects: construction; gas, electricity, and water uses; solid waste disposal; and motor vehicle use. Since construction operations are temporary, short-term emissions, the total construction emissions are amortized over 30 years.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project would generate greenhouse gas emissions through the construction and operation of the proposed Fire and Sheriff Station. As documented in the report, "*Rosena Fire Station Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, and Energy Impact Study, County of San Bernardino*" prepared by RK Engineering Group, Inc. dated August 2, 2024 (**Appendix 1**), total GHG emissions for the proposed Project would be less than the screening level threshold of 3,000 MTCO2e as shown in the following tables.

Table 15. Construction Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Emission Source	On-site ($MTCO_2e$)[1]	Off-site ($MTCO_2e$)[1]	Total ($MTCO_2e$)[1]
Site Preparation	3.71	0.14	3.85
Grading	6.70	23.37	30.07
Building Construction	220.42	10.20	230.62
Paving	5.66	0.90	6.57
Architectural Coating	0.61	0.05	0.66
Total	237.10	34.66	271.77
Amortized over 30 years[2]	7.90	1.16	9.06

Source: *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impact Study (RK 2024, Appendix 1)*
[1] $MTCO_2e$ is metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (includes carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and/or hydrofluorocarbon)
[2] The emissions are amortized over 30 years and added to the operational emissions.

Table 16. Operational and Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Emission Source	GHG Emissions ($MTCO_2e$)[1]
Mobile Source	247.90
Energy Source	52.49
Area Source	0.43
Water	7.84
Waste	3.61
Construction 30-yr Amortization	9.06
Total	321.71
SCAQMD Tier 3 Screening Threshold[2]	3,000
Exceed Tier 3 Threshold?	No

Source: *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impact Study (RK 2024, Appendix 1)*
[1] $MTCO_2e$ is metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (includes carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and/or hydrofluorocarbon)
[2] Per San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) developed the *San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan* (GHG Reduction Plan), March 2021.

Since the proposed Project would generate less than 3,000 $MTCO^2e$, the Project would have a less than significant impact, and no mitigation is required.

b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project will be required to comply with the mandatory requirements of the latest 2019 California Building Standards Code, including Title 24, Part 11, CALGreen, and Title 24, Part 6, Energy Code. The purpose of the building standards is to reduce negative impacts on the environment through improved planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, and material and resource conservation. The California Building Standards were developed to help meet the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32).

By complying with the California Building Standards Code requirements the project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, and the impact is considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Furthermore, the Project will implement Project Design Features, as described in the Air Quality section, that will further ensure the Project is consistent with applicable GHG reduction standards. Therefore, the proposed Project's generation of GHG emissions would not make a project-specific or cumulatively considerable contribution to conflicting with an applicable plan, policy or regulation for the purposes of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, and the proposed Project's impact would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

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

5.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information is provided based on the report entitled "*Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Portion of APN 0239-054-15, Fontana, California 92336*" prepared by Ninyo & Moore, dated June 27, 2023 (**Appendix 6**).

The Project site has been vacant from 1896 to the present. A water well is located in the southern corner of the Project site. Based on historical topographic maps, the water well has been on the property since approximately 1966.

A database record search and site reconnaissance were conducted. Additionally, preliminary vapor encroachment screen (pVES) was conducted for chemicals of concern that may migrate as vapors

onto the Project site from nearby contaminated soil or groundwater. Based on the screening it appears unlikely that a Vapor Encroachment Condition (VEC) exists beneath the Project site.

No above or below ground storage tanks or other Recognized Environmental Condition (REC) were identified in the record search and site investigation.

Impact Analysis

a - b. Less Than Significant Impact – The proposed Project consists of a Fire Station and Sheriff Station and includes an above ground fuel storage tank and other hazardous materials that are routinely used by public safety and first responders. The San Bernardino County Fire Department and Sheriff's Department are the operators of the proposed facility and responsible for the storage and transport of any hazardous materials. They are also highly trained and responsible for responding to emergencies that involve the discharge of hazardous materials/waste. Therefore, the routine use and transport of hazardous materials under the control of the San Bernardino County Fire Department and Sheriff's Department does not constitute a significant impact.

The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report (**Appendix 6**) includes results from database searches to determine the potential for release of hazardous materials from the Project site. No Recognized Environmental Conditions (REC), Controlled Recognized Environmental Conditions (CREC), or Historical Recognized Environmental Conditions (HREC) occur on the Project site. Furthermore, a vapor encroachment screen (pVES) was conducted for chemicals of concern that may migrate as vapors onto the Project site from nearby contaminated soil or groundwater. Based on the screening it appears unlikely that a Vapor Encroachment Condition (VEC) exists beneath the Project site. Therefore, there is no indication that grading of the Project site could cause a release of hazardous materials. Additionally, hazardous materials used during construction would be used in accordance with federal, State, and local regulations.

Therefore, the potential for release of hazardous materials would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

c. Less Than Significant Impact – The Project site is located approximately 0.95 miles north of Kordyak Elementary School located at 4580 Mango Ave, Fontana, CA 92336 and approximately 1.17 miles from Paakuma K-8 School located at 17825 Sycamore Creek Loop, San Bernardino, CA 92407. Since the Project site is located over one-quarter mile from a school, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

d. Less Than Significant Impact – The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report (**Appendix 6**) includes results from database searches to determine if the Project site is on a list of hazardous materials sites. The Phase I searched included databases such as but not limited to the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, San Bernardino County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Division, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM). The Project site is not listed on any of the regulatory databases and no other sites listed on the databases pose a significant threat to the Project site. No oil wells are located on the Project site. Additionally, preliminary vapor encroachment screen (pVES) was conducted for chemicals of concern that may migrate as

vapors onto the Project site from nearby contaminated soil or groundwater. Based on the screening it appears unlikely that a Vapor Encroachment Condition (VEC) exists beneath the Project site.

Therefore, no Recognized Environmental Conditions (REC) were identified on or near the Project site. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

e. *No Impact* – The Project site is located approximately 12.25 miles northwest of the San Bernardino International Airport. Therefore, no impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

f. *No Impact* – The purpose of the proposed Project is to construct a new Fire Station and Sheriff Substation in the Rosena Ranch area. This Project would improve emergency response times. Emergency access routes would remain unchanged by the proposed Project and the Project would not interfere with an emergency response plan. Instead, the Project would improve emergency response. Therefore, no impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

g. *No Impact* – According to Cal Fire – Fire and Resource Assessment Program, the Project site is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. However, the purpose of the proposed Project is to improve emergency response in the area given the surrounding very high fire hazard severity zones. The people that would be exposed to a wildfire are first responders who would not be present on the Project site during an emergency. Therefore, no impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

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

5.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information is provided based on the report entitled “Preliminary Hydrology Study for New Rosena Ranch Station in the County of San Bernardino, California” prepared by Armstrong & Brooks Consulting Engineers, dated August 1, 2024, (**Appendix 7**) and the report entitled “Preliminary Water Quality Management Plan for Rosena Ranch Fire Station” prepared by Armstrong & Brooks Consulting Engineers, dated May 29, 2024 (**Appendix 8**).

The Project site is 5.34 acres in total, however, only the western approximately 2.6 acres of the site would be developed. The Project site is undeveloped and stormflows sheet flow in a southerly direction. No offsite run-on drainage or cross lot drainage is entering the site.

The Preliminary Hydrology Report relied on the rational method to evaluate the 100-year storm event in the pre- and post-project conditions. The Project design incorporates three infiltration basins in the southern portion of the Project site. The Project site has very good percolation rates, therefore, the infiltration trenches/basins are proposed to satisfy the water quality requirements and provide stormwater detention. Storm runoff that exceeds infiltration trench/basin capacity will sheet flow to the south consistent with existing conditions.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed water quality treatment is further discussed in the Water Quality Management Plan, included in **Appendix 8**. Water quality treatment will be provided through three infiltration trenches/basins. The design infiltration rates are Trench/Basin A equals 1.8 inches/hour; Trench/Basin B equals 24.8 inches/hour; and Trench/Basin C equals 63.1 inches per hour. All three trenches/basins are designed with a drawdown time of 48 hours. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project has been designed with three infiltration trenches/basins. Infiltration is the preferred method of water quality treatment because infiltration also helps recharge groundwater storage. The design infiltration rates are Trench/Basin A equals 1.8 inches/hour; Trench/Basin B equals 24.8 inches/hour; and Trench/Basin C equals 63.1 inches per hour. All three trenches/basins are designed with a drawdown time of 48 hours. The three trenches/basins have been sufficiently sized to infiltrate the required water quality volume. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

c.i – c.vi. Less Than Significant Impact - Development of the Project site would increase the amount of impervious surface, increase stormwater runoff that could lead to erosion, and increase stormwater runoff that could exceed existing conditions, leading to downstream flooding. However, the proposed Project includes three infiltration trenches/basins to infiltrate and detain storm flows to a less than significant level.

The approximately 2.6-acre portion of the Project site planned for development is currently vacant and undeveloped. The site consists of one drainage management area (DMA) and is considered entirely pervious. The existing 100-year peak discharge is 7.29 cubic feet per second (cfs).

The proposed Project will be constructed with three DMAs that drain into three infiltration trenches/basins, which will also provide detention.

Table 17 below compares the existing runoff in the 100-year (Q100) storm event to the proposed Project conditions. As shown in this table, the proposed Project would reduce storm runoff from the Project site. The storm runoff will enter three infiltration trenches/basins. Due to the very high infiltration rates, the peak runoff during the Q100 storm will entirely infiltrate into these three trenches/basins. Therefore, peak runoff from the Project site in the developed condition would be 0 cfs, substantially less than pre-development conditions.

Table 17. Peak Discharge Rates Q100 for Existing and Proposed Conditions

	Existing			Proposed	
	acres	**Q100 (cfs)**		**acres**	**Q100 (cfs)**
DMA - A	2.60	7.29		0.92	0.00
DMA - B	-	-		0.30	0.00
DMA - C	-	-		1.10	0.00
Total	2.60	7.29		2.32	0.00

Reducing the Q100 peak discharge rates to below the existing Q100 discharge would reduce the risk of downstream erosion and/or flooding, resulting in less than significant impacts. No mitigation is required.

d. *No Impact* – The Project site is not located in flood hazard area. Lytle Creek, located east of the proposed development area, is separated from the proposed Project by an existing levee. Therefore, the development portion of the Project site is located outside of the flood hazard area. Furthermore, the Project site is approximately 50 miles from the Pacific Ocean and no other large waterbodies are located nearby; therefore, no impacts from tsunami or seiche would occur. No impacts would occur. No mitigation is required.

e. *Less than Significant Impact* – The Project has been designed to be consistent with the County of San Bernardino Stormwater Program and Hydrology Manual, as well as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit and Hydrologic Conditions of Concern (HCOC) performance standards. The proposed water quality treatment is further discussed in the Water Quality Management Plan, included in **Appendix 8**. Water quality treatment will be provided through three infiltration trenches/basins. The design infiltration rates are Trench/Basin A equals 1.8 inches/hour; Trench/Basin B equals 24.8 inches/hour; and Trench/Basin C equals 63.1 inches per hour. All three trenches/basins are designed with a drawdown time of 48 hours. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

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

5.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

SUBSTANTIATION: The land use and zoning designations for the Project site are governed by the County of San Bernardino. Currently the Countywide Plan Policy Map LU-1B Land Use Map – Mountain Region, shows the Project site with two land use designations, RL – Rural Living and PF – Public Facility. The RL – Rural Living land use designation permits Public Facilities, such as fire and police stations, with a Minor Use Permit; therefore, the Project is consistent with the County General Plan.

The San Bernardino County Land Use Plan, General Plan, Land Use Zoning Districts map (FH21A Devore) shows the western portion of the size zoned as RL – Rural Living and the remainder of the site zoned as FW – Floodway. The Project proposes to change the zoning for the development portion of the Project Site to IN – Institutional.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project site is currently vacant bound by Glen Helen Parkway to the north, Lytle Creek to the east, vacant land to the south, and Lytle Creek Road to the west. West of Lytle Creek Road is a small commercial center and gas station, as well as rural residential.

While the proposed Project includes a Zone Change, the Project would not divide an existing community or create an incompatible land use. The proposed Project is located on land that has very little other land use options given the parcel size, configuration, and land use restrictions. Furthermore, the proposed Project would provide a new Fire station and Sheriff Station in a portion of the County that needs additional first responder facilities. The Project would not change the configuration of either Glen Helen Parkway or Lytle Creek Road; therefore, no other surrounding properties would be directly impacted. Therefore, the Project would not divide a community or create incompatible land uses. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project is currently consistent with the General Plan with a Minor Use Permit, however, is not consistent with the adopted zoning and a zone change would be required. However, there is no indication the current zoning designation for the Project site was adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The portion of the Project site proposed for development is located outside of the 100-year floodway and is protected from Lytle Creek by an existing levee. Therefore, the FW – Floodway

zoning district is not necessary to prevent development within a floodplain. Therefore, the current zoning designation was not adopted to avoid physical impacts to the Project site.

This Initial Study analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed Project. As such, this Initial Study also analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed change in zoning designation. All impacts have been determined to be either less than significant or mitigated to less than significant.

Therefore, while the Project is inconsistent with the existing zoning, the existing zoning was not adopted to avoid environmental effects. Therefore, the impact is less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

5.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check ☒ if project is located within the Mineral Resource Zone Overlay)

Impact Analysis

a. *Less than Significant* - The San Bernardino Countywide Plan NR-4 Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ) map indicates that the proposed Project is located within Aggregate Resources MRZ Class 2 – Known or Highly Likely Location (Figure 7).

The County's adoption of the General Plan, which designates the Project site for rural residential land use and Public Facility, was done with the knowledge of potential mineral resources within the surrounding area. However, the County made the determination to designate the site for residential development and Public Facilities, not open space, which would allow for mineral extraction, because mineral extraction on the Project site would be incompatible with surrounding land uses, likely resulting in significant impacts. The County's General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) supported that conclusion. Furthermore, the size of the Project site bound by Glen Helen Parkway, Lytle Creek Road, and Lytle Creek is not conducive to mineral extraction on a scale that would be of value to the region and residents of the State. Therefore, impacts are less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

b. *Less than Significant* – The County's adoption of the General Plan designated the Project site for rural residential land use and Public Facility. The County prepared an EIR for its General Plan, which analyzed and supported these land use designations. At that time, the County could have designated the site for Open Space in order to allow for mineral extraction, but that was not the action taken by the Board of Supervisors. Furthermore, the size of the Project site bound by Glen Helen Parkway, Lytle Creek Road, and Lytle Creek is not conducive to mineral extraction on a scale that would be of value to the region.

Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less than significant impact, and no mitigation is required.

N

N.T.S.

Source: Policy Map NR-4 Mineral Resource Zone (2019).

FIGURE 7
Mineral Resource Map

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

5.13 NOISE

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check if project is in the Noise Hazard Overlay District ☐ or is subject to severe noise levels according to the General Plan Noise Element ☐) The following information is provided based on the report entitled "*Rosena Fire Station Noise Impact Study, County of San Bernardino*" prepared by RK Engineering Group, Inc. dated August 2, 2024 (**Appendix 9**).

Introduction to Noise Regulations

Noise impacts can occur from construction operations and long-term operations of a Project, which for the Fire and Sheriff Station consists of vehicle traffic noise, and stationary sources, such as air conditioning noise.

The unit of sound pressure ratio to the faintest sound detectable to a person with normal hearing is called a decibel (dB). Sound or noise can vary in intensity by over one million times within the range of human hearing. A logarithmic loudness scale, similar to the Richter scale for earthquake magnitude, is therefore used to keep sound intensity numbers at a convenient and manageable level. The human ear is not equally sensitive to all sound frequencies within the entire spectrum. Noise levels at maximum human sensitivity from around 500 to 2,000 cycles per second are factored more heavily into sound descriptions in a process called "A-weighting," written as "dBA."

Leq is a time-averaged sound level; a single-number value that expresses the time-varying sound level for the specified period as though it were a constant sound level with the same total sound energy as the time- varying level. Its unit of measure is also the decibel (dB). The most common average period for Leq is hourly.

Because community receptors are more sensitive to unwanted noise intrusion during more sensitive evening and nighttime hours, state law requires that an artificial dBA (A-weighted decibel) increment be added to quiet time noise levels. The State of California has established guidelines for acceptable community noise levels that are based on the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) rating scale

(a 24-hour integrated noise measurement scale). The guidelines rank noise land use compatibility in terms of "normally acceptable," "conditionally acceptable," and "clearly unacceptable" noise levels for various land use types. The State Guidelines, Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Exposure, single-family homes are "normally acceptable" in exterior noise environments up to 60 dB CNEL and "conditionally acceptable" up to 70 dB CNEL based on this scale. Multiple family residential uses are "normally acceptable" up to 65 dB CNEL and "conditionally acceptable" up to 70 CNEL. Schools, libraries, and churches are "normally acceptable" up to 70 dB CNEL, as are office buildings and business, commercial and professional uses with some structural noise attenuation.

The standards for stationary noise sources are defined in Table 83-2 of the County of San Bernardino Code of Ordinance 83.01.080. For residential land uses during the daytime (7am – 10 pm), noise levels shall not exceed 55 dBA Leq. During the nighttime (10 pm – 7 am), noise levels shall not exceed 45 dBA Leq. The standards for adjacent mobile noise sources are defined in Table 83-3 of the County of San Bernardino Code of Ordinance 83.01.080. For residential land uses, interior noise levels shall not exceed 45 dBA CNEL and exterior noise levels shall not exceed 60 dBA Leq.

The County of San Bernardino Code of Ordinance 83.01.080 identifies several exemptions, including:

1. Motor vehicles not under the control of a commercial or industrial use.
2. Emergency equipment, vehicles, and devices.
3. Temporary construction, maintenance, repair, or demolition activities between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and Federal holidays.

The analysis of noise impacts included in the Noise Study assumes implementation of design features, identified below, to reduce noise emissions. These commitments are defined as Project Design Features (PDFs), which will be included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program as PDFs to ensure implementation. The following PDFs were included in the noise analysis and are hereby incorporated into the Project.

Operational Design Features

PDF NOI-1 All rooftop HVAC equipment shall be shielded from the line of sight of adjacent properties behind rooftop parapet walls. All ground-level HVAC equipment shall be fully shielded behind noise barrier walls from the line of sight of adjacent properties.

PDF NOI-2 The project should incorporate building construction techniques and insulation that is consistent with California Title 24 Building Standards to achieve the interior noise standard of 45 dBA CNEL for all habitable areas.

PDF NOI-3 A “windows closed” condition with upgraded windows and sliding glass doors is expected to be required for all habitable areas in order to meet the interior noise standard. See Section 6.4.2, Table 15, for details regarding window STC requirements.

PDF NOI-4 The project should incorporate building construction techniques and insulation that is consistent with the California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) Section 5.507.4 for all uninhabitable/working areas. Building wall and roof-ceiling assemblies should have a composite STC rating of at least 45 (or OITC 35), with exterior windows of a minimum STC of 40 (or OITC 30).

PDF NOI-5 For proper acoustical performance, all exterior windows, doors, and sliding glass doors should have a positive seal and leaks/cracks must be kept to a minimum. Attic vents and openings should be oriented away from the adjacent roadways.

Construction Design Features

PDF NOI-6 The project shall comply with County of San Bernardino Code of Ordinances requirements. All construction activities will occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. No construction activities shall occur on Sundays or Federal holidays.

PDF NOI-7 Provide public notifications and signage in readily visible locations along the perimeter of construction sites that indicate the dates and duration of construction activities, as well as provide a telephone number where neighbors can enquire about the construction process and register complaints to a designated construction noise disturbance coordinator.

PDF NOI-8 All construction equipment shall be equipped with mufflers and other suitable noise attenuation devices (e.g., engine shields).

PDF NOI-9 Establish an electric connection to the site to avoid the use of diesel- and gas-powered generators, to the extent feasible.

PDF NOI-10 Construction-related equipment, including heavy-duty equipment, motor vehicles, and portable equipment, shall be turned off when not in use for more than 5 minutes.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less than Significant* - Noise impacts can occur from construction operations and long-term operations of a Project, which for the Fire and Sheriff Station consists of vehicle traffic noise, and stationary sources, such as air conditioning noise. Potential noise impacts from these sources were analyzed in the report, *Rosena Fire Station Noise Impact Study, County of San Bernardino*" prepared by RK Engineering Group, Inc. dated August 2, 2024, and included in **Appendix 9**.

While construction noise levels are exempt from the County's noise standards, construction noise levels were calculated for the different phases of construction, including site preparation, grading, building construction, paving, and architectural coating. The construction levels were measured against the Federal Transportation Administration General Assessment Construction Noise Criteria. Noise levels for each stage of construction are shown in Table 18 below.

Table 18. Construction Noise Levels at Neighboring Properties

Stage	Equipment	Combined Noise Level (dBA)
Site Preparation	Graders, tractors, loaders, backhoes	64.9
Grading	Graders, tractors, loaders, backhoes	64.9
Building Const.	Cranes, tractors, loaders, backhoes	63.0
Paving	tractors, loaders, backhoes, rollers	62.8
Arch Coating	Air compressors	55.0
Worst case Construction Phase Noise Level – Leq (dBA)		64.9
FDA Daytime General Assessment Construction Noise Criteria – Leq (dBA)		**90.0**

Source: *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual, Section 7 Noise and Vibration during Construction, by the Federal Transit Administration*

As shown in Table 18, all of the construction operations remain below the 90 dBA threshold of significance established by the Federal Transit Administration. This construction analysis

assumes implementation of the Project Design Features and compliance with the County's noise ordinance. No significant impacts have been identified.

Operational noise impacts can occur from stationary sources and mobile sources. The proposed Project consists of constructing and operating a new San Bernardino County Fire and Sheriff's station. The Project's operation will involve occasional emergency operations that fall outside of typical day-to-day activities. This includes the activation of fire truck/police sirens along Glen Helen Parkway and Lytle Creek Road, leading to heightened noise levels during emergency responses.

Per the County of San Bernardino Code of Ordinances Section 83.01.080(g), noise levels associated with emergency equipment, vehicles, and devices shall be exempt from the prescribed noise level thresholds.

Stationary noise sources occur on the Project site and include HVAC mechanical equipment and parking lot activity. Both of which are not considered loud, unnecessary, or an unusual noise source that would disrupt a community. To minimize noise propagation from HVAC equipment and parking lot activity, PDF NOI-1 requires shielding of HVAC equipment. Impacts are less than significant.

The addition of vehicle trips on surrounding roadways can also be an operational noise source. The Noise Impact Study includes an analysis of the change in noise levels on surrounding roadways with and without the Project. The Project is not expected to cause a substantial increase in ambient noise levels as a result of increased traffic along either Glen Helen Parkway or Lytle Creek Road. Typically, it takes a doubling of traffic volumes along a roadway to cause a significant increase in ambient noise levels of more than 3 dBA. Based on the Draft San Bernardino Countywide Plan Transportation Existing Conditions Report, performed by Fehr & Peers in November 2018, Glen Helen Parkway has 3,310 existing Average Daily Trips (ADT), and Lytle Creek Road has an existing ADT of 2,442.

The Project is expected to generate 70 ADT. The relatively small amount of traffic generated by the Project is not expected to double the relative larger volumes of traffic along Glen Helen Parkway or Lytle Creek Road, either directly or cumulatively, therefore impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Lastly, the proposed Project is consistent with the noise policies and land use compatibility standards contained in the County of San Bernardino General Plan. The current existing ambient noise level is 75.3 dBA CNEL. The Noise Impact Study demonstrates that future exterior ambient noise levels would be 78.3 dBA CNEL.

The future exterior ambient noise levels at the Project site are expected to be approximately 78.3 dBA CNEL, which exceeds the County of San Bernardino exterior noise standard of 60.0 dBA for residential uses. In accordance with the County of San Bernardino Code of Ordinance, those exterior noise levels would be considered "conditionally acceptable," which requires the structure be designed to accommodate a "windows closed" condition in order to meet interior noise levels of 45 dBA, which is a requirement of California Title 24 of the Building Code. In order to meet the 45 dBA CNEL interior noise level requirements, upgraded STC rated windows are required for all exterior windows in the habitable portion of the Project, which is a Project Design Feature. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

b. *Less than Significant* - The vibration impacts from vibratory rollers and compactors, heavy truck loading, and bulldozer activity are analyzed. All vibratory activity is analyzed as a continuous and/or frequent event and is required to comply with the applicable guidance threshold criteria. It is expected that vibration impacts during the construction of the Project would be the operation of equipment, such as bulldozer activity during site preparation, loading trucks during grading and excavation and vibratory rollers during paving. It is anticipated the vibration levels will be highest during the paving phase. No blasting, heavy ripping, or pile driving is expected. The evaluation of an impact's significance can be determined by reviewing both the likelihood of annoyance to individuals as well as the potential for damage to existing structures. The construction vibration assessment utilizes the referenced vibration levels and methodology set forth within the Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual, Federal Transit Administration, September 2018.

According to the Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual, Federal Transit Administration, September 2018, the appropriate threshold for damage to modern industrial/commercial buildings is a peak particle velocity (PPV) of 0.5 inches/second. Annoyance is assessed based on levels of perception, with a PPV of 0.01 being considered "barely perceptible," 0.04 inches/second as "distinctly perceptible," 0.1 inches/second as "strongly perceptible," and 0.4 inches/second as "severe."

The nearest adjacent structure to the project site is the existing convenience store/gas station, located along the southeastern side of Lytle Creek Road. The nearest structure will be located approximately 105 feet from the nearest onsite construction activity. At this distance, the PPV from a large bulldozer would be approximately 0.018 inches/second, from vibratory roller would be approximately 0.043 inches/second, and from loaded trucks would be approximately 0.016 inches/second. This level of vibration falls below the building damage PPV criteria of 0.5 inches/second. In terms of annoyance, the impact would be "barely perceptible." Since construction vibration would not cause damage to off-site buildings and the grading/paving would be barely perceptible to off-site receivers, impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

c. *No Impact* - The Project site is located approximately 12.25 miles northwest of the San Bernardino International Airport. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

5.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

SUBSTANTIATION: The Project consists of a new Fire and Sheriff Station that would house approximately ten Firefighters and three Sheriff's deputies onsite at a given time.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less than Significant* - Implementation of the Project would not induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure). The Project proposes to develop a Fire and Sheriff Station. The Fire and Sheriff Station is not typically considered to be growth inducing. The Fire Station would house approximately ten Firefighters, with approximately three Sheriff deputies onsite at a time and this demand would not induce population growth. No permanent housing is proposed as part of the Project. Therefore, impacts under this issue are considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

b. *No Impact* - There are no residences within the Project site, as the Project site is vacant containing non-native and native vegetation. No persons currently reside on the site and therefore, implementation of the proposed Project will not displace existing housing, or persons necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Thus, no impacts will occur, and no mitigation is required.

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

5.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

SUBSTANTIATION: The purpose of constructing a new Fire Station and Sheriff Station on the Project site is to improve fire and police response to the surrounding area. The Project provides a benefit to public services by adding approximately ten Firefighters and apparatus and three Sheriff's deputies to that portion of San Bernardino County. The Project does not generate permanent residents that would place additional demand on other public services.

Impact Analysis

a. No Impact -

Fire Protection. The Project is a new Fire and Sheriff Station to serve the Rosena community and surrounding area. The purpose of the Project is to reduce response times and improve first response to emergencies. Therefore, the proposed Project will improve and enhance fire protection. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Police Protection. The Project is a new Fire and Sheriff Station to serve the Rosena community and surrounding area. The purpose of the Project is to reduce response times, improve first response to emergencies, and improve safety and police protection. Therefore, the proposed Project will improve and enhance police protection. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Schools. The Project is a new Fire and Sheriff Station that does not generate new students. Therefore, the Project would not cause impacts to the school system. No mitigation is required.

Parks. The Project is a new Fire and Sheriff Station that does not generate demand for new parks. Therefore, the Project would not cause impacts to the park system. No mitigation is required.

Other Public Facilities. The Project does not include permanent residents that would place additional demands on other public facilities such as government offices, libraries, etc. Therefore, no impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

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

5.16 RECREATION

SUBSTANTIATION: The Project includes constructing a new Fire Station and Sheriff Station on the Project site to improve fire and police response to the surrounding area. The Project does not generate permanent residents that would place additional demand on recreation facilities.

Impact Analysis

a. *No Impact* – The Project would not add new residents generating additional use or demand for parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

b. *No Impact* – The Project would not add new residents generating additional use or demand for parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

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

5.17 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information is provided based on the report entitled "*Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Assessment for the Proposed Rosena Ranch Fire Station Project, San Bernardino County*" prepared by Linscott, Law & Greenspan, Engineers (LLG), dated June 13, 2024 (**Appendix 10**).

On September 27, 2013, Senate Bill (SB) 743 was signed into law. The legislature found that with the adoption of the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375), the state had signaled its commitment to encourage land use and transportation planning decisions and investments that reduce vehicle miles traveled and thereby contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as required by the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32).

SB 743 started a process that fundamentally changes transportation impact analysis as part of CEQA compliance. Changes include the elimination of auto delay, Level of Service (LOS), and similar measures of vehicular capacity or traffic congestion as the basis for determining significant impacts. As part of the new CEQA Guidelines, the new criteria were designed to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses. The Office of Planning and Research (OPR) developed alternative metrics and thresholds based on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The guidelines were certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency in December 2018, and automobile delay, as described solely by LOS or similar measures of vehicular capacity or traffic congestion, could not be considered a significant impact on the environment.

The County relies on the *County of San Bernardino Transportation Impact Analysis Guidelines for Level of Service and Vehicle Miles Traveled (December 2020)*, which is generally consistent with the *Technical Advisory for Evaluating Transportation Impacts In CEQA, published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), December 2018 (OPR Technical Advisory).* These documents establish the methodology for conducting a VMT analysis.

The County's guidance on VMT analysis includes a VMT Screening to determine if a project would be required to conduct a detailed VMT analysis. The three criteria for projects that screen from VMT analysis include:

- Step 1: Transit Priority Area (TPA) Screening as determined by the most recent SCAG RTP/SCS
- Step 2: Low VMT Area Screening
- Step 3: Project Type Screening – trip generation of less than 110 daily vehicle trips

The proposed Project is forecast to generate 73 daily vehicle trips. The trip generation is based on the Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation Manual 11th Edition. According to the ITE Trip Generation Manual 11th Edition, the Project would generate 73 daily trips, with seven AM peak hour trips and seven PM peak hour trips.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less than Significant* – According to the ITE Trip Generation Manual 11th Edition, the Project would generate 73 daily trips, with seven AM peak hour trips and seven PM peak hour trips. That amount of traffic generated is very low for the surrounding circulation system. The typical industry standard for analyzing intersection performance relative to traffic goals and policies is the generation of 50 peak hour trips. The Project would generate only seven, substantially less than the amount that would trigger further study. Therefore, the Project would not generate sufficient traffic to conflict with traffic policies or ordinances. Furthermore, the Project would not generate new users of sidewalks, bike lanes, or transit. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

b. *Less than Significant* – The County relies on the County of San Bernardino Transportation Impact Analysis Guidelines for Level of Service and Vehicle Miles Traveled (December 2020), which is generally consistent with the Technical Advisory for Evaluating Transportation Impacts In CEQA, published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), December 2018 (OPR Technical Advisory) for thresholds of significance and methodology to identify VMT related impacts. The first step is to determine if the Project meets one of following three types of screening criteria:

- Step 1: Transit Priority Area (TPA) Screening
- Step 2: Low VMT Area Screening
- Step 3: Project Type Screening

The Project site is not located near a transit hub; therefore, the Project does not qualify for the Step 1 Screening.

Based on review of the San Bernardino Traffic Analysis Model (SBTAM) VMT Screening Tool, the Project site is not located within a low VMT generating area as the Project Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) (53743201) VMT/service population is 72.8 VMT per service population and the County average VMT/service population is 32.7 VMT per service population. Comparison of the two VMT values indicates that the Project TAZ VMT is 122.95% greater than the County VMT average. Therefore, the proposed Project will not screen out under this criterion.

Step 3 is to determine if the Project will screen out based on the amount of trip generation. The threshold for screening out is 110 vehicle trips per day. The proposed Project is forecast to generate 73 total vehicle trips per day and therefore would screen from further VMT analysis. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

c. *Less than Significant* – Project Access includes two points of access, one full movement driveway along Glen Helen Parkway and one egress-only driveway along Lytle Creek Road, which will be only utilized by fire trucks/vehicles. Both of these access points provide sufficient line of sight and would not create a hazardous condition. Furthermore, the Project would not generate a sufficient number of trips to create a hazardous condition at other intersections. Therefore, less than significant impacts would occur. No mitigation is required.

d. *No Impact* – The Project is a new Fire and Sheriff Station that would improve emergency access and response. No impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

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

5.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

SUBSTANTIATION: Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

The following information is provided based on the report entitled "*Cultural Resources Study for the Rosena Fire Station Project*" prepared by Brian F. Smith Associates (BFSA) Environmental Services, dated January 29, 2024 (**Appendix 3**).

The analysis included a review of archaeological records at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton. A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search was also requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Additionally, a field survey was also conducted of the Project site.

The results of the SCCIC records search indicate that 12 (one prehistoric and 11 historic) previously recorded resources occur within one-half mile of the Project site. One recorded resource identified as the Fontana Spreading Grounds, is mapped as overlapping the eastern portion of the Project site.

However, three previously conducted studies on file with SCCIC do not show an overlap of that resource over the Project site.

BFSA also requested a Sacred Land File (SLF) search from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to search for the presence of any recorded Native American sacred sites or locations of religious or ceremonial importance. This request was not part of any Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Native American consultation. The SLF search indicated positive results for potential sites or locations of Native American importance within the vicinity.

The archaeological field survey was conducted on May 24, 2023, and no historic or prehistoric cultural resources were identified on the Project site.

Pursuant to AB 52, the County provided notification of the proposed Project to registered Native American Tribes on June 17, 2024. Notification was sent to Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (formerly the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians), Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians - Gabrieleno Tongva, and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. The County received requests for consultation with YSMN and Morongo Band of Mission Indians. No response or request was received by Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians - Gabrieleno Tongva, and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. Consultation pursuant to AB 52 remains open during public review.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less than Significant* - The Project site is vacant and undeveloped. The field investigation confirmed that no historic structures are present on the Project site. The database search through the SCCIC identified Site P-36-006706, identified as the Fontana Spreading Grounds, mapped overlapping the eastern portion of the Project site. However, a detailed study conducted in 2008 by PCR Services Corporation found no elements of this resource within the Project site. Furthermore, the proposed disturbance area is located in the southwestern portion of the Project site, avoiding the eastern portion and Lytle Creek.

   Tribal Cultural Resources are those resources with inherent tribal values that are difficult to identify through the same means as archaeological resources. Tribal Cultural Resources can be identified and understood through direct consultation with the tribes who attach tribal value to the resource. To date, consultation with YSMN and Morongo Band of Mission Indians has not identified any tribal cultural resources within the Project site.

   Therefore, since no tribal cultural resources have been identified on the Project site through record searches and initial tribal consultation, impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

b. *Less than Significant with Mitigation* - Pursuant to AB 52, as the CEQA Lead Agency, the County sent notification letters on June 17, 2024 to the following Tribes:

   - Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (formerly the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians)
   - Morongo Band of Mission Indians
   - Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation
   - San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians - Gabrieleno Tongva
   - Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

Consultation pursuant to AB 52 will remain open during public review.

YSMN responded stating that the Project site is located near a culturally significant area and given the probability of uncovering tribal cultural resources, requested review of Project documents. The additional documentation, the Cultural Report, Geotechnical Report, and Project plans were sent to YSMN on August 7, 2024. On August 14, 2024, YSMN requested mitigation measures requiring archaeological and tribal monitoring during all ground disturbing activities. Furthermore, Morongo Band of Mission Indians responded requesting additional documentation consisting of the Cultural Report, Geotechnical Report, and Project plans. These items were sent on August 9, 2024. The Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians - Gabrieleno Tongva, and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians did not respond to the notice or request consultation. Consultation remains open during the public review period. As a result of tribal consultation, Mitigation Measures MM TCR-1 through MM TCR-9 shall be implemented.

MM TCR-1: *A Monitoring and Treatment Plan that is reflective of the project mitigation ("Cultural Resources" and "Tribal Cultural Resources") shall be completed by the archaeologist and submitted to the Lead Agency for dissemination to the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Management Department (YSMN, also known as San Manuel Band of Mission Indians). Once all parties review and approve the plan, it shall be adopted by the Lead Agency – the plan must be adopted prior to permitting for the project. Any and all findings will be subject to the protocol detailed within the Monitoring and Treatment Plan.*

MM TCR-2: ***Tribal Monitoring Services Agreement*** *Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the applicant shall enter into a Tribal Monitoring Services Agreement with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) for the Project. The Tribal Monitor shall be on-site during all ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind). The Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbing activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources.*

MM TCR-3: ***Retention of Archaeologist*** *Prior to any ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post replacement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), and prior to the issuance of grading permits, the Applicant shall retain a Qualified Archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Standards (SOI). The Archaeologist shall be present during all ground-disturbing activities to identify any known or suspected archaeological and/or cultural resources. The Archaeologist will conduct a Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training, in conjunction with the Tribe[s] Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and/or designated Tribal Representative. The training session will focus on the archaeological and tribal cultural resources that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities as well as the procedures to be followed in such an event.*

MM TCR-4: ***Cultural Resource Management Plan*** *Prior to any ground-disturbing activities the project Archaeologist shall develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and/or Archaeological Monitoring and Treatment Plan (AMTP) to address the details, timing, and responsibilities of all archaeological and cultural resource activities that occur on the project site. This Plan shall be written in consultation with the consulting Tribe[s] and shall include the following: approved Mitigation Measures (MM)/Conditions of Approval (COA), contact information for all pertinent parties, parties' responsibilities, procedures for each MM or COA, and an overview of the project schedule.*

MM TCR-5: ***Pre-Grade Meeting*** *The retained Qualified Archeologist and Consulting Tribe[s] representative shall attend the pre-grade meeting with the grading contractors to explain and coordinate the requirements of the monitoring plan.*

MM TCR-6: ***On-site Monitoring*** *During all ground-disturbing activities the Qualified Archaeologist and the Tribal Monitor shall be on-site full-time. The frequency of inspections shall depend on the rate of excavation, the materials excavated, and any discoveries of Tribal Cultural Resources as defined in California Public Resources Code Section 21074. Archaeological and Tribal Monitoring will be discontinued when the depth of grading and the soil conditions no longer retain the potential to contain cultural deposits. The Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the Tribal Monitor, shall be responsible for determining the duration and frequency of monitoring.*

MM TCR-7: ***Inadvertent Discovery of Cultural Resources*** *In the event that previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction, the Qualified Archaeologist and the Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert and/or temporarily halt ground-disturbance operations in the area of discovery to allow for the evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. Isolates and clearly non-significant deposits shall be minimally documented in the field and collected so the monitored grading can proceed.*

If a potentially significant cultural resource(s) is discovered, work shall stop within a 60-foot perimeter of the discovery and an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) physical demarcation/barrier constructed. All work shall be diverted away from the vicinity of the find, so that the find can be evaluated by the Qualified Archaeologist and Tribal Monitor[s]. The Archaeologist shall notify the Lead Agency and consulting Tribe[s] of said discovery. The Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the Lead Agency, the consulting Tribe[s], and the Tribal Monitor, shall determine the significance of the discovered resource. A recommendation for the treatment and disposition of the Tribal Cultural Resource shall be made by the Qualified Archaeologist in consultation with the Tribe[s] and the Tribal Monitor[s] and be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. Below are the possible treatments and dispositions of significant cultural resources in order of CEQA preference:

A. Full avoidance.
B. If avoidance is not feasible, Preservation in place.

C. *If Preservation in place is not feasible, all items shall be reburied in an area away from any future impacts and reside in a permanent conservation easement or Deed Restriction.*
D. *If all other options are proven to be infeasible, data recovery through excavation and then curation in a Curation Facility that meets the Federal Curation Standards (CFR 79.1)*

MM TCR-8: Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains *The Morongo Band of Mission Indians requests the following specific conditions to be imposed in order to protect Native American human remains and/or cremations.* ***No photographs are to be taken except by the coroner, with written approval by the consulting Tribe[s].***

A. *Should human remains and/or cremations be encountered on the surface or during any and all ground-disturbing activities (i.e., clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all water supply, electrical, and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall immediately stop within a 100-foot perimeter of the discovery. The area shall be protected; project personnel/observers will be restricted. The County Coroner is to be contacted within 24 hours of discovery. The County Coroner has 48 hours to make his/her determination pursuant to State and Safety Code §7050.5. and Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5097.98.*
B. *In the event that the human remains and/or cremations are identified as Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of determination pursuant to subdivision (c) of HSC §7050.5.*
C. *The Native American Heritage Commission shall immediately notify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours, upon being granted access to the Project site, to inspect the site of discovery and make his/her recommendation for final treatment and disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the remains and all associated grave goods pursuant to PRC §5097.98*
D. *If the Morongo Band of Mission Indians has been named the Most Likely Descendant (MLD), the Tribe may wish to rebury the human remains and/or cremation and sacred items in their place of discovery with no further disturbance where they will reside in perpetuity. The place(s) of reburial will not be disclosed by any party and is exempt from the California Public Records Act (California Government Code § 6254[r]). Reburial location of human remains and/or cremations will be determined by the Tribe's Most Likely Descendant (MLD), the landowner, and the City Planning Department.*

MM TCR-9: FINAL REPORT: *The final report[s] created as a part of the project (AMTP, isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be submitted to the Lead Agency and Consulting Tribe[s] for review and comment. After approval of all parties, the final reports are to be submitted to the appropriate Information Center and the Consulting Tribe[s].*

Implementation of Mitigation Measures MM TCR- 1 through MM TCR- 9 would reduce impacts to tribal cultural resources to less than significant.

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

5.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

SUBSTANTIATION: The proposed Project would connect to a new lateral sewer line in Lytle Creek Road that is served by the City of Fontana. The Project includes a proposal to annex into the West Valley Water District, which would provide water service. A Will Serve letter for domestic water service is included in **Appendix 11**.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less than Significant* - Access to water service would require annexation into the West Valley Water District, as there is service availability to the proposed Project site in adjacent streets. A Will Serve letter from the West Valley Water District for water was issued on July 10, 2024, committing to serve the proposed Project.

Sewer lines would connect to a new lateral in Lytle Creek Road that is served by the City of Fontana. The existing 8-inch sewer line terminates southwest of the Project at the corner of Lytle Creek Road and Sierra Avenue, where it extends south along Sierra Avenue. The Project proposes to extend the 8-inch sewer line north in Lytle Creek Road for approximately 200-feet to the Project site. The proposed Project would connect to the newly extended 8-inch sewer line with a 6-inch lateral line. The proposed Project consists of a Fire and Sheriff station with approximately 13 staff on the Project site at one time, which results in a de-minimus addition to the wastewater system, including both transmission and treatment facilities.

Dry utilities, including electric, natural gas, and telecommunications, are currently available within adjacent Lytle Creek Road and Glen Helen Parkway. The Project would underground existing above-ground electrical lines along the Project's Lytle Creek Road frontage and provide underground service to the new Fire and Sheriff Station. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

b. *Less than Significant* - The West Valley Water District (WVWD) supplies the majority of water to the County of San Bernardino, including the Project site. WVWD water supply sources include local groundwater, surface runoff from natural watershed and drainage areas, and imported water. The most cost-effective and main source of water for the Project is the Lytle Creek Groundwater Basin located downstream of the Project site in the City of San Bernardino. Another water source is the Santa Ana River, originating in the San Bernardino Mountains. During dry years or times of limited supply, the WVWD obtains a supplemental supply of water from the State Water Project (SWP) through the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

WVWD issued a Will Serve letter for domestic water service on July 10, 2024 (Appendix 11), committing to provide water service to the proposed Project and WVWD's commitment to serve the proposed Project is consistent with the City's Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), including normal, dry, and multiple dry years. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

c. *Less than Significant* - The Project proposes a new lateral sewer connection within Lytle Creek Road. The new sewer connection would be served by the City of Fontana. The sewage from the Project would flow in a general direction from northwest to southeast towards the Regional Water Recycling Plant Number 4 located at 12811 6th Street in the City of Rancho Cucamonga. This plant is operated by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEAU). The plant processes an average sewage flow of approximately 14 million gallons per day (mgd) from the areas of Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, and San Bernardino County. The proposed Project consists of a Fire and Sheriff station with approximately 13 staff on the Project site at one time, which results in a de-minimus addition to the wastewater system, including both transmission and treatment facilities. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

d. *Less than Significant* - The Project site would be serviced by Burrtec Waste Industries for waste and recycling services. Waste from Project site is primarily transferred to the Mid-Valley Landfill in City of Rialto. Burrtec operates the West Valley Materials Recovery Facility/Transfer Station in the City of Fontana, where solid waste and recyclables are separated. According to CalRecycle, the Mid-Valley Landfill has a maximum capacity of 101,300,000 tons, with a remaining capacity of 54,219,377 tons as of December 31, 2023. The landfill is anticipated to remain in operation until 2045.

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), which emphasizes resource conservation through reduction, recycling, and reuse of solid waste. The State law, introduced in 1989, order of priority includes (1) source reduction, (2) recycling and composting, and (3) environmentally safe transformation and land disposal. The proposed Project would comply with AB 939 requirements for the diversion of solid waste from landfills.

Given the compliance with SB 939 and sufficient landfill capacity available to serve the proposed Project, impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

e. *Less than Significant* - The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, also known as Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939), mandates jurisdictions to meet a diversion goal of 50 percent by the year 2000, and thereafter. Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is a bill that sets goals to reduce disposal of organic waste in landfills, including edible food. The bill's purpose is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane, and address food insecurity in California.

The County implements programs applicable to the proposed Project that comply with these statutes. One strategy required is the separation of trash into recyclable, green waste, and solid waste. Furthermore, the County's Green Building Program's requires recycling and diversion from landfills, which would apply during construction of the proposed Project.

Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with federal, state, and local ordinances in place designed to reduce solid waste generation. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

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

5.20 WILDFIRE

SUBSTANTIATION: The purpose of constructing a new Fire Station and Sheriff Station on the Project site is to improve fire and police response to the surrounding area. The Project would house approximately ten Firefighters and three Sheriff's deputies onsite at a given time.

Impact Analysis

a. *No Impact* - According to Cal Fire – Fire and Resource Assessment Program, the Project site is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. However, the purpose of the proposed Project is to improve emergency response in the area given the surrounding very high fire hazard severity zones. The Project would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and instead would improve and enhance fire protection. Therefore, no impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

b-c. *No Impact* - The Project site is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. However, the purpose of the proposed Project is to improve emergency response in the area given the surrounding very high fire hazard severity zones. Therefore, the Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks, and instead the proposed Project would improve and enhance fire protection and support wildland fire suppression. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

d. *No Impact* - The Project site is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. However, the purpose of the proposed Project is to improve emergency response in the area given the surrounding very high fire hazard severity zones. Furthermore, the topography of the Project site is relatively flat and does not pose a risk of downstream flooding. Additionally, a levee separates the Project site from Lytle Creek. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

5.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUBSTANTIATION: The analysis in this Initial Study and the findings reached indicate that the proposed Project can be implemented without causing any new project specific or cumulatively considerable unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts. Mitigation is required to control potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project to a less than significant impact level. The following findings are based on the detailed analysis of the Initial Study of all environmental topics and the implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the previous text and summarized in this section.

Impact Analysis

a. *Less than Significant with Mitigation* - As discussed in the Biological Resources Section, the proposed Project would potentially result in significant impacts to biological resources from impacts to species of special concern and nesting birds. As such, the proposed Project would incorporate Mitigation Measure MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-2, to reduce the potential impact to sensitive species and nesting birds to a less than significant level. Additionally, as discussed in the Cultural Resources Section, no newly or previously recorded historic sites were identified within the Project site as a result of the records search, archival research, or the intensive-level pedestrian survey. Therefore, the proposed Project would not alter, destroy or adversely affect a historic site. The Project is within a low sensitivity of a paleontological resource onsite. Through consultation with the Native American tribes, a potential for tribal cultural resources exists on the Project site. Implementation of Mitigation Measures MM CUL-1 through MM CUL-3 and MM TCR-1 through MM TCR-9 would reduce all cultural resource impacts to a less than

significant level. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, the proposed Project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or 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. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

b. *Less than Significant with Mitigation* - As concluded throughout this IS/MND, the proposed Project would result in either no impact, less than significant impact, or a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated with respect to all environmental impact areas outlined in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist. Furthermore, no significant resources, such as cultural, geotechnical, or biotic, exist on the Project site and therefore no cumulative impact would occur. The proposed Project would detain and treat through infiltration storm runoff from the proposed Project on-site, therefore no cumulative impacts would occur. For all resource areas analyzed, the proposed Project's individual-level impacts would be at less than significant levels, which, in turn, would reduce the potential for these impacts to be considered part of any cumulative impact. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in individually limited but cumulatively considerable impacts. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

c. *Less than Significant with Mitigation* - As evaluated throughout this document, the proposed Project would have no impact, less than significant impact, or a less than significant with mitigation incorporated with respect to all environmental impact areas. Therefore, the proposed Project would not directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

I. PROJECT SPECIFIC REFERENCES

Armstrong & Brooks Consulting Engineers. "*Preliminary Hydrology Study for New Rosena Ranch Station in the County of San Bernardino, California*" dated August 1, 2024.

Armstrong & Brooks Consulting Engineers. "*Preliminary Water Quality Management Plan for Rosena Ranch Fire Station*" dated May 29, 2024.

Brian F. Smith Associates Environmental Services. "*Cultural Resources Study for the Rosena Fire Station Project*" dated January 29, 2024.

Brian F. Smith Associates Environmental Services. "*Paleontological Assessment for the Rosena Fire Station Project, San Bernardino County, California*" dated July 30, 2024.

Carlson Strategic Land Solutions. "*Biological Resource Assessment for the Rosena Ranch Stations in the County of San Bernardino*" dated April 10, 2024.

Converse Consultants. "*Geotechnical Investigation and Water Percolation Test Report, Rosena Ranch Fire Station and Small Sheriff's Station Annex, Lytle DC APN-023905415 Site, County of San Bernardino, California*" dated February 26, 2024.

Linscott, Law & Greenspan, Engineers (LLG) "*Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Assessment for the Proposed Rosena Ranch Fire Station Project, San Bernardino County*" dated June 13, 2024.

Ninyo & Moore "*Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Portion of APN 0239-054-15, Fontana, California 92336*" dated June 27, 2023.

RK Engineering Group, Inc. "*Rosena Fire Station Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, and Energy Impact Study, County of San Bernardino*" dated August 2, 2024 .

RK Engineering Group, Inc. "*Rosena Fire Station Noise Impact Study, County of San Bernardino*" dated August 2, 2024.