



COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

City of Lancaster Initial Study

-
1. **Project title and File Number:** Tentative Tract Map No. 66680
 2. **Lead agency name and address:** City of Lancaster
Community Development Department
Planning and Permitting Division
44933 Fern Avenue
Lancaster, California 93534
 3. **Contact person and phone number:** Jocelyn Swain, Senior Planner
City of Lancaster
Community Development Department
(661) 723-6100
 4. **Location:** ±72 acres generally bound by Avenue K-8,
Avenue L, 52nd Street West, and 57th Street
West
(APNs: 3204-006-025, 026, 027, 031, 032,
033, 067, 071, 075, 081, 085, 086, 088)
(see Figure 1)
 5. **Applicant name and address:** Jeff Evans
2201 Dupont Drive, Suite 300
Irvine, CA 92612
 6. **General Plan designation:** Urban Residential (UR)
 7. **Zoning:** R-7,000 (single family residential, minimum
lot size, 7,000 square feet)
R-10,000 (single family residential,
minimum lot size 10,000 square feet)
R-15,000 (single family residential,
minimum lot size 15,000 square feet)
 8. **Description of project:**

The proposed project consists of the subdivision of approximately 72 acres into 219 lots: 215 residential lots and 4 drainage basin lots in the R-7,000, R-10,000 and R-15,000 zones. The lots within the subdivision would range in size from 7,008 square feet to 17,239 square feet. Access to the subdivision would be from Avenue K-8 and 55th Street West and the streets would be

public. A block wall would surround the subdivision with sidewalks and landscaping along Avenue K-8 and 55th Street West.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

The project site is located in the western portion of the City of Lancaster. This area is rapidly growing and contains a mix of subdivisions, school, commercial, former ranch uses, parks, and vacant land. The project site is currently undeveloped and vacant. Most of the property immediately adjacent to the project site is also vacant; however, a residential subdivisions immediately west and northwest of the project. The south side of Avenue L is developed with a former agricultural ranch and residential subdivisions. A residential subdivision is also located on the east side of 52nd Street West. Quartz Hill High School is located on the southwest corner of 60th Street West and Avenue L. A mix of residential subdivisions and vacant land also exist further out from the site. The Antelope Valley State Prison is located approximately 2 miles north of the project site. Table 1 provides a summary of the zoning and land uses immediately surrounding the property.

**Table 1
Zoning/Land Use Information**

Direction	Zoning		Land Use
	City	County	
North	R-7,000, R-10,000, R-15,000	N/A	Vacant
East	R-10,000, R-15,000	A-1-1 (Light Agricultural)	Vacant, single family residential uses
South	R-10,000, R-15,000	N/A	Vacant
West	R-7,000	N/A	Vacant, single family residential subdivisions

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g. permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

Approvals from other public agencies for the proposed project include, but are not limited to, the following:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
- Southern California Edison
- Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40
- Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 (annexation)
- Los Angeles County Fire Department



Figure 1, Project Location Map

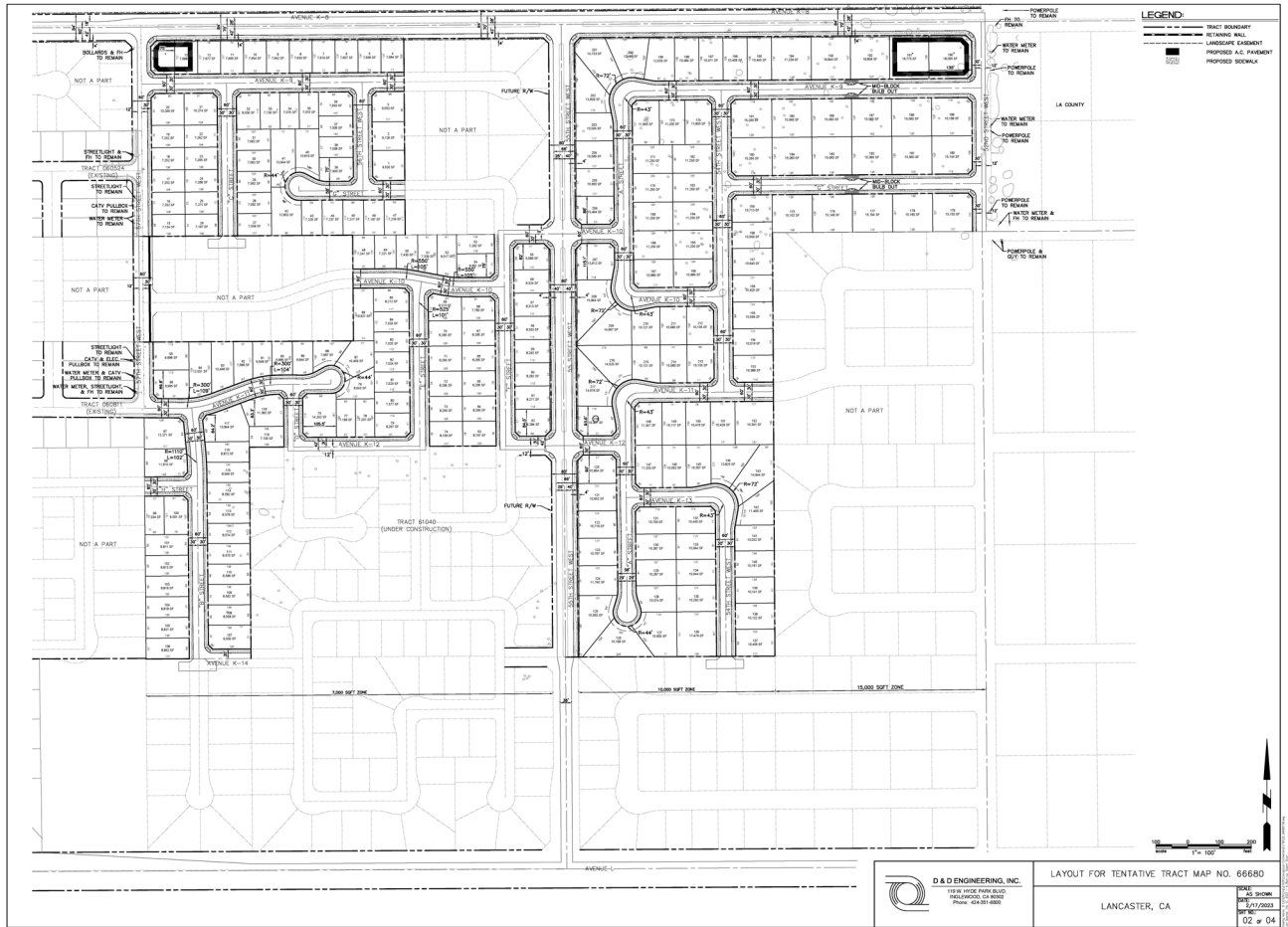


Figure 2, Conceptual Site Plan

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

In accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 52, consultation letters for the proposed project were sent to three individuals associated with three tribes who have requested to be included in the process. These letters were mailed on September 7, 2022 via certified return receipt mail and included the letter, site plan, and a copy of the cultural resources report. Table 2 identifies the tribes, the person to whom the letter was directed, and the date the letter was received.

To date, it appears that no responses were received. However, this is being confirmed with the applicable tribes and the commonly requested mitigation measures have been added to the cultural resources section of the Initial Study to ensure proper treatment of previously undiscovered resources, workers education and potentially tribal monitoring. These measures will be modified as necessary pending confirmation from the tribes.

**Table 2
Tribal Notification**

Tribe	Person/Title	Date Received
Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians	Jairo Avila, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer	September 9, 2022
Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation	Andrew Salas, Chairman	September 9, 2022
Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (formerly San Manuel Band of Mission Indians)	Ryan Nordness, Cultural Resource Analyst	September 9, 2022

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” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology/Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards & Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION: On the basis of this initial evaluation:

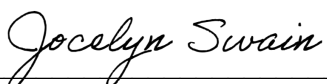
I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 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 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.


 Jocelyn Swain, Senior Planner

November 8, 2023
 Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from “Earlier Analyses,” as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a. Earlier Analysis Use. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

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

- a. The City of Lancaster General Plan identifies five scenic areas in the City and immediately surrounding area (LMEA Figure 12.0-1). Views of these scenic areas are not generally visible from the project site or the immediately surrounding roadways. However, views of the open desert and the mountains surrounding the Antelope Valley are available from the project site and nearby roadways (60th Street West and Avenue L). The proposed project consists of the subdivision of the subject property into 219 lots; 215 single family residential lots and 4 drainage basin lots. This subdivision would be similar to the subdivisions located in the general vicinity of the project site. With implementation of the proposed project, the views would not change and would continue to be available from the roadways and project site. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- b. The project site is not located along any designated State Scenic Highways. There are no State designated scenic routes or highways within the City of Lancaster. Additionally, there are no rock outcroppings or buildings on the project site. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- c. The proposed project is consistent with the zoning code and general plan designations for the project site. The proposed project would also be in conformance with the City’s Design Guidelines which were adopted on December 8, 2009 (updated on March 30, 2010). These guidelines provide the basis to achieve quality design for all development within the City. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- d. The ambient lighting in the vicinity of the project site is moderate to high due to street lights, vehicle headlights, residential lighting from subdivisions in the immediate vicinity, and lighting from Quartz Hill High School. Operational lighting from the prison can be seen in the distance. Light and glare would be generated from the proposed project in the form of additional street lighting, residential lighting and motor vehicles. All street lighting within the proposed development would be shielded and focused downward onto the project site. Additionally, the proposed development would not produce substantial amounts of glare as the development would be constructed primarily from non-reflective materials. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>II. <u>AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES.</u> In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>				
<p>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?</p>				X
<p>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</p>				X
<p>c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?</p>				X
<p>d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</p>				X
<p>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?</p>				X

- a. The California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), tracks and categorizes land with respect to agricultural resources. Land is designated as one of the following and each has a specific definition: Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, Grazing Land, Urban and Built-Up Land, Other Land and Water.

The maps for each county are updated every two years. The Los Angeles County Farmland Map was last updated in 2018. Based on these maps, the project site is designated as Other Land. Other land is defined as “land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments, brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing, confined livestock, poultry, or aquaculture facilities, strip mines, borrow pits, and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. Vacant and nonagricultural land surrounded on all sides by urban development and greater than 40 acres is mapped as other land”. As the project site is not designated farmland of importance by the State nor is it currently utilized for agricultural purposes, no impacts to agricultural resources would occur.

- b. The project site is zoned as R-7,000, R-10,000, and R-15,000 which do not allow for agricultural uses. Additionally, the project site is located in the western portion of the City of Lancaster with a mix of residential, commercial, school, and park uses interspersed with vacant undeveloped land. The surrounding property is zoned a mix of R-7,000, R-10,000 and R-15,000 which do not allow for agricultural uses. The project site is not under agricultural production and none of the surrounding properties are under agricultural production. Additionally, the project site and surrounding properties are not subject to a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- c-d. According to the City of Lancaster’s General Plan, there are no forests or timberlands located within the City of Lancaster. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the rezoning of forest or timberland and would not cause the loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest land. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- e. See responses to Items IIa-d.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. <u>AIR QUALITY</u> . Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district 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?				X
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?			X	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?		X		
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

a. Development proposed under the City’s General Plan would not create air emissions that exceed the Air Quality Management Plan (GPEIR pgs. 5.5-21 to 5.5-22). The proposed project is consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Code. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Air Quality Management Plan and no impacts would occur.

b. The project site is located within the boundary of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) and therefore, are subject to compliance with the thresholds established by the AVAQMD. These thresholds were provided in the AVAQMD’s California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Federal Conformity Guidelines document, dated August 2016. These thresholds have been summarized in Table 3.

Construction of the proposed project would generate air emissions associated with grading, use of heavy equipment, construction worker vehicles, etc. However, the emissions are not anticipated to exceed the established thresholds due to the size and type of the proposed project.

The proposed project is anticipated to generate approximately 2,065 trips per day. These trips would generate air emissions; however, the amount of emissions from the estimated vehicle trips would not be sufficient to create or significantly contribute towards violations of air quality

standards. Therefore, emissions associated with the occupancy of the proposed subdivision would be less than significant.

Table 3
AVAQMD Air Quality Thresholds

Criteria Pollutant	Daily Threshold (Pounds)	Annual Threshold (Tons)
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x)	25	25
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	25	25
Oxides of Sulfur (SO _x)	25	25
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	15	15
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	12	12
Hydrogen Sulfide (H ₂ S)	54	10
Lead (Pb)	3	0.6
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	548	100
Greenhouse Gases (CO ₂ e)	548,000	100,000

- c. The closest sensitive receptors are the residential subdivisions immediately west and south of the project site. Additionally, there are churches, schools, parks and other residences located within 0.25 miles of the project site. The proposed project is estimated to generate approximate 2,065 trips per day. These trips would generate emissions; however, the amount of traffic generated by the project is not sufficient to significant impact nearby intersections or roadways and create or contribute considerably to violations of air quality standards on either a localized or regional basis. Therefore, substantial pollutant concentrations would not occur and impacts would be less than significant.

However, since the construction of the proposed project would result in the disturbance of the soil, it is possible individuals could be exposed to Valley Fever. Valley Fever or coccidioidomycosis, is primarily a disease of the lungs caused by the spores of the *Coccidioides immitis* fungus. The spores are found in soils, become airborne when the soil is disturbed, and are subsequently inhaled into the lungs. After the fungal spores have settled in the lungs, they change into a multicellular structure called a spherule. Fungal growth in the lungs occurs as the spherule grows and bursts, releasing endospores, which then develop into more spherules.

Valley Fever is not contagious, and therefore, cannot be passed on from person to person. Most of those who are infected would recover without treatment within six months and would have a life-long immunity to the fungal spores. In severe cases, especially in those patients with rapid and extensive primary illness, those who are at risk for dissemination of disease, and those who have disseminated disease, antifungal drug therapy is used.

Nearby sensitive receptors as well as workers at the project site could be exposed to Valley Fever from fugitive dust generated during construction. There is the potential that cocci spores would be stirred up during excavation, grading, and earth-moving activities, exposing construction workers and nearby sensitive receptors to these spores and thereby to the potential of contracting Valley Fever. However, implementation of Mitigation Measures 14 (see Geology and

Soils) which requires the project operator to implement dust control measures in compliance with AVAQMD Rule 403, and implementation of Mitigation Measure 1, below, which would provide personal protective respiratory equipment to construction workers and provide information to all construction personnel and visitors about Valley Fever, the risk of exposure to Valley Fever would be minimized to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

1. Prior to ground disturbance activities, the project operator shall provide evidence to the Community Development Director that the project operator and/or construction manager has developed a “Valley Fever Training Handout”, training, and schedule of sessions for education to be provided to all construction personnel. All evidence of the training session materials, handout(s) and schedule shall be submitted to the Community Development Director within 24 hours of the first training session. Multiple training sessions may be conducted if different work crews will come to the site for different stages of construction; however, all construction personnel shall be provided training prior to beginning work. The evidence submitted to the Community Development Director regarding the “Valley Fever Training Handout” and Session(s) shall include the following:

- A sign-in sheet (to include the printed employee names, signature, and date) for all employees who attended the training session.
- Distribution of a written flier or brochure that includes educational information regarding the health effects of exposure to criteria pollutant emissions and Valley Fever.
- Training on methods that may help prevent Valley Fever infection.
- A demonstration to employees on how to use personal protective equipment, such as respiratory equipment (masks), to reduce exposure to pollutants and facilitate recognition of symptoms and earlier treatment of Valley Fever. Where respirators are required, the equipment shall be readily available and shall be provided to employees for use during work. Proof that the demonstration is included in the training shall be submitted to the county. This proof can be via printed training materials/agenda, DVD, digital media files, or photographs.

The project operator also shall consult with the Los Angeles County Public Health to develop a Valley Fever Dust Management Plan that addresses the potential presence of the Coccidioides spore and mitigates for the potential for Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever). Prior to issuance of permits, the project operator shall submit the Plan to the Los Angeles County Public Health for review and comment. The Plan shall include a program to evaluate the potential for exposure to Valley Fever from construction activities and to identify appropriate safety procedures that shall be implemented, as needed, to minimize personnel and public exposure to potential Coccidioides spores. Measures in the Plan shall include the following:

- Provide HEP-filters for heavy equipment equipped with factory enclosed cabs capable of accepting the filters. Cause contractors utilizing applicable heavy equipment to furnish proof of worker training on proper use of applicable heavy equipment cabs, such as

turning on air conditioning prior to using the equipment.

- Provide communication methods, such as two-way radios, for use in enclosed cabs.
- Require National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-approved half-face respirators equipped with minimum N-95 protection factor for use during worker collocation with surface disturbance activities, as required per the hazard assessment process.
- Cause employees to be medically evaluated, fit-tested, and properly trained on the use of the respirators, and implement a full respiratory protection program in accordance with the applicable Cal/OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (8 CCR 5144).
- Provide separate, clean eating areas with hand-washing facilities.
- Install equipment inspection stations at each construction equipment access/egress point. Examine construction vehicles and equipment for excess soil material and clean, as necessary, before equipment is moved off-site.
- Train workers to recognize the symptoms of Valley Fever, and to promptly report suspected symptoms of work-related Valley Fever to a supervisor.
- Work with a medical professional to develop a protocol to medically evaluate employees who develop symptoms of Valley Fever.
- Work with a medical professional, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Public Health, to develop an educational handout for on-site workers and surrounding residents within three miles of the project site, and include the following information on Valley Fever: what are the potential sources/ causes, what are the common symptoms, what are the options or remedies available should someone be experiencing these symptoms, and where testing for exposure is available. Prior to construction permit issuance, this handout shall have been created by the project operator and reviewed by the project operator and reviewed by the Community Development Director. No less than 30 days prior to any work commencing, this handout shall be mailed to all existing residences within a specified radius of the project boundaries as determined by the Community Development Director. The radius shall not exceed three miles and is dependent upon the location of the project site.
- When possible, position workers upwind or crosswind when digging a trench or performing other soil-disturbing tasks.
- Prohibit smoking at the worksite outside of designated smoking areas; designated smoking areas will be equipped with handwashing facilities.
- Post warnings on-site and consider limiting access to visitors, especially those without adequate training and respiratory protection.
- Audit and enforce compliance with relevant Cal OSHA health and safety standards on the job site.

- d. Construction of the proposed project is not anticipated to produce significant objection odors. Construction equipment may generate some odors, but these odors would be similar to those produced by vehicles traveling on Avenue K, Avenue K-8, 55th Street West, and Avenue L. Most

objectionable odors are typically associated with industrial projects involving the use of chemicals, solvents, petroleum products and other strong-smelling elements used in manufacturing processes, as well as sewage treatment facilities and landfills. These types of uses are not part of the proposed project. Odors may also be generated by typical residential activities (e.g., cooking etc.). However, these odors are considered to be normal odors associated with residential development and would be less than significant. Therefore, impacts associated with odors would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. <u>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</u> . Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
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?				X
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?				X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
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?				X

- a. Two biological surveys of the project site were conducted by Mark Hagan and documented in separate reports: 1) “Biological Resource Assessment of a 38 Acre Parcel, Lancaster, California” and dated April 21, 2022 and 2) “Biological Resource Assessment of a 30 Acre and 5 Acre Parcel, Lancaster, California” and dated May 6, 2022.

The first report covers the 38 acres located at the northwest and southeast corners of the intersection of future Avenue K-12 and 55th Street West. A survey of these parcels was

conducted on March 19, 2022 by walking a total of 23 east-west pedestrian transects. This property was characteristic of old abandoned agricultural fields with no perennial shrub species. A total of 16 plant species and 15 wildlife species were detected on these parcels and are listed in Tables 4 and 5, respectively. Two long dead Joshua trees were observed within this portion of the project site; however, no other sensitive plant species were observed or expected to occur. No sensitive wildlife species were observed in this portion of the project site; however, California ground squirrel burrows and concrete standpipes were observed on the site which would provide suitable cover for burrowing owls. No Swainson’s hawks were observed during the survey and none have been documented within 5 miles of the site. No other bird species would be expected to nest on this portion of the project site due to lack of suitable nesting habitat.

**Table 4
Observed Plant Species**

Joshua tree (<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>) (2 dead)	Rabbit brush (<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>)	Four-wing saltbush (<i>Atriplex canescens</i>)
Fiddleneck (<i>Amsinckia tessellata</i>)	Desert straw (<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i>)	Turkey mullein (<i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>)
Autumn vinegar-weed (<i>Lessingia germanorum</i>)	Sun cups (<i>Camiissonia campestris</i>)	Goldfields (<i>Lasthenia californica</i>)
Comb-bur (<i>Pectocarya recurvata</i>)	Red stemmed filaree (<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>)	Mustard (Brassicaceae)
Tumble mustard (<i>Sisymbrium altisissimum</i>)	Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>)	Schismus (<i>Schismus</i> sp.)

**Table 5
Observed Animal Species**

Rodents (Order: Rodentia)	Kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys</i> sp.)	Pocket gopher (<i>Thomomys bottae</i>)
California ground squirrel (<i>Citellus beecheyi</i>)	Desert cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>)	Domestic dog (<i>canis familiaris</i>)
Horse (<i>Equus</i> sp)	Rock dove (<i>Columba livia</i>)	Common raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>)
Say’s phoebe (<i>Sayornis saya</i>)	Northern mockingbird (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>)	Western meadowlark (<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>)
Fly (Order: Diptera)	Darkling beetle	Harvester ants (Order: Hymenoptera)

The second report covers a 5-acre at the southeast corner of 57th Street West and Avenue K-12 and 30 acres at the northeast corner of Avenue K-12 and 55th Street West. A survey of the 5 acre parcel was conducted on May 3, 2022 by walking 4 pedestrian transects. This property was severely disturbed with most perennial understory previously removed. There is some vegetation on this parcel including 13 Joshua trees.

The surveys of 30 acre parcel were conducted on March 3 and March 4, 2022 by walking a total of 40 pedestrian transects across the site. This area was moderately disturbed with the disturbance lessening towards the center of the site. Peach thorn (*Lycium cooperi*) and Mormon tea (*Ephedra nevadensis*) were the dominant perennials with Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia tessellata*) and red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) being the dominant annuals. Tables 6 and 7 provide a listing of the plant and wildlife species observed on these parcels, respectively.

A total of 155 Joshua trees were observed on this portion of the project site along with 53 downed and dead Joshua trees which were not counted in the site totals. Tables 8 and 9 provide information on the Joshua trees found on the site for both the 5 acre and 30 acre parcels, respectively.

Joshua trees are a candidate species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act and are protected under the Joshua Tree Conservation Act which went into effect on July 1, 2023. Joshua trees cannot be removed, transplanted, trimmed or in any way disturbed without a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The project site contains a total of 168 Joshua trees which would need to be removed in order to construct the proposed subdivision. Prior to any ground disturbing or construction related activities, the appropriate permit needs to be obtained as specified in the mitigation measure below. With implementation of the mitigation measure, impacts to Joshua trees would be less than significant. No other sensitive or special status plant species are expected to occur on the project site and no impacts would occur.

No special status wildlife species were observed on the project site. The site does not contain suitable habitat for either desert tortoise or Mohave ground squirrel. These species would not be expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and the amount of surrounding development. Therefore, no impacts would occur. Swainson's hawk was not observed during the surveys and there are no documented Swainson's hawk nests within 5 miles of the project site. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

While burrowing owls were not observed on the project site, suitable cover sites exist on the project site in the form of California ground squirrel burrows and old agricultural stand pipes. It is possible that burrowing owls could occupy the project site prior to the start of construction. As such, a mitigation measure listed below requires preconstruction/protocol level burrowing owl surveys prior to the start of construction. With implementation of the mitigation measure, impacts to burrowing owl would be less than significant. The project site also provides suitable habitat for a variety of nesting birds. As such, a mitigation measure for a preconstruction nesting bird survey is required prior to the start of construction to ensure that impacts to nesting birds do not occur. With implementation of these measures, impacts to biological resources would be less than significant.

Table 6
Observed Plant Species

Fiddleneck (<i>Amsinckia tessellata</i>)	Rabbit brush (<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>)	Four-wing saltbush (<i>Atriplex canescens</i>)
Autumn vinegar-weed (<i>Lessingia germanorum</i>)	Desert straw (<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i>)	Turkey mullein (<i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>)
California juniper (<i>Juniperus californica</i>)*	Sun cups (<i>Camiissonia campestris</i>)	Goldfields (<i>Lasthenia californica</i>)
Comb-bur (<i>Pectocarya recurvata</i>)	Red stemmed filaree (<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>)	Tumble mustard (<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>)
Ornamental tree*	Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>)	Schismus (<i>Schismus</i> sp.)
Peachthorn (<i>Lycium cooperi</i>)	Joshua tree (<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>)	Tidy tips (<i>Layia platyglossa</i>)*
Great basin sagebrush (<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>)	Mormon tea (<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>)*	Nevada saltbush (<i>Atriplex torreyi</i>)*
Cheesebush (<i>Hymenoclea salsola</i>)	Cotton thorn (<i>Tetradymia spinosa</i>)*	Spiny hop sage (<i>Grayia spinosa</i>)*
Silver cholla (<i>Opuntia echinocarpa</i>)*	Cooper goldenbush (<i>Haplopappus cooperi</i>)	Flattop buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i>)*
Vinegar weed (<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>)*	Wishbone plant (<i>Mirabilis bigelovii</i>)	Spencer primrose (<i>Camissonia palmeri</i>)
Lacy phacelia (Phacelia tanacetifolia)*	Small flowered forget-me-not (<i>Cryptantha</i> sp)*	Western forget-me-not (<i>Cryptantha circumscissa</i>)*
Yellow turban (<i>Eriogonum pusillum</i>)	Desert dandelion (<i>Malacothrix glabrata</i>)*	Thistle sage (<i>Salvia carduacea</i>)
California poppy (<i>Eschscholtzia californica</i>)*	Fremont pincushion (<i>Chaenactis fremontii</i>)	Yellow pincushion (<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i>)
Tansy mustard (<i>Descurainia sophia</i>)	Small flowered poppy (<i>Eschscholtzia minutiflora</i>)*	Pringle's woolly sunflower (<i>Eriophyllum pringlei</i>)*
Rattlesnake weed (<i>Euphorbia albomarginata</i>)	Blue mantle (<i>Eriastrum diffusum</i>)	Desert needlegrass (<i>Stipa comata</i>)*
Russian thistle (<i>Salsola iberica</i>)*	Red brome (<i>Bromus rubens</i>)	Chorizanthe (<i>Chorizanthe</i> sp)
Sahara mustard (<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>)**	Annual burweed (<i>Franseria acanthicarpa</i>)	Pineapple weed (<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>)
Foxtail barley (<i>Hordeum leporium</i>)*	Squirrel-tail grass (<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>)*	
*30-acre parcel only		
**5-acre parcel only		

**Table 7
Observed Animal Species**

Rodents (Order: Rodentia)	Kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys</i> sp.)	Say's phoebe (<i>Sayornis saya</i>)
California ground squirrel (<i>Citellus beecheyi</i>)	Desert cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>)	Pocket gopher (<i>Thomomys bottae</i>)*
Horse (<i>Equus</i> sp)	Coyote (<i>Canis lantrons</i>)*	Domestic dog (<i>canis familiaris</i>)*
Black-tailed jackrabbit (<i>Lepus californicus</i>)*	Northern mockingbird (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>)*	House sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)*
California quail (<i>Callipepla californica</i>)*	Mourning dove (<i>Zenaida macroura</i>)*	Black-chinned hummingbird (<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>)
European starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	House finch (<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>)*	Western whiptail (<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>)*
Common raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>)	Barn swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	Darkling beetle*
Painted lady butterfly (<i>Vanessa cardui</i>)	Cabbage white butterfly (<i>Pieris rapae</i>)	European honey bee (Order: Hymenoptera)*
Ants (Order: Hymenoptera)	Fly (Order: Diptera)	Dragonfly (Order: Odonata)*
Harvester ants (Order: Hymenoptera)	Walkingstick (Order: Orthoptera)*	Grasshopper (Order: Orthoptera)*
Spider (Order: Araneida)		
*30 acre parcel only		

**Table 8
Joshua Tree Information for 5-Acre Parcel**

Size (ft)	Condition				Total	Phenology		
	Poor	Fair	Good	Dead		Flowering/Fruit	Flowering	Fruit
1 – 3			1		1			
4 – 6								
7 – 9								
10 - 12	2		1		3			3
>12	2	4	3		9			8
Total	4	4	5		13			11

Table 9
Joshua Tree Information for 30-Acre Parcel

Size (ft)	Condition				Total	Phenology		
	Poor	Fair	Good	Dead		Flowering/Fruit	Flowering	Fruit
1 – 3			1		1			
4 – 6	1	3	8	1	13			1
7 – 9	2	4	22		28	1	1	14
10 - 12	4	3	36		43	1		37
>12	6	13	51		70		1	66
Total	13	23	118	1	155	2	2	118

Mitigation Measures

2. In the event that the Joshua trees cannot be preserved on the project site through construction and occupancy, the developer shall obtain an Incidental Take Permit for the Joshua trees prior to the issuance of any grading/construction permits and removal of the trees. This permit shall be obtained either through the traditional Incidental Take Permit Process or through the process outlined in the Joshua Tree Conservation Act that went into effect on July 1, 2023. A copy of the permit shall be provided to the City prior to the issuance of any construction related permits which will disturb Joshua trees.

3. A pre-construction burrowing owl clearance survey shall be conducted no more than 30 days prior to any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to avoid impacts to burrowing owls and/or occupied burrows. The pre-construction clearance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist and in accordance with the methods outlined in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (California Department of Fish and Game 2012). Documentation of surveys and findings shall be submitted to the City of Lancaster for review and file. If no burrowing owls or occupied burrows are detected, project activities may begin, and no additional avoidance and minimization measures shall be required.

If an occupied burrow is found outside, but within 500 feet, of the development footprint, the qualified biologist shall establish a “no-disturbance” buffer around the burrow location(s). The size of the “no-disturbance” buffer shall be determined in consultation with CDFW and be based on the species status (i.e., breeding, non-breeding) and proposed level of disturbance. If an occupied burrow is found within the development footprint and cannot be avoided, a burrowing owl exclusion and mitigation plan shall be prepared and submitted to CDFW for approval prior to initiating project activities.

4. A nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14 days prior to the start of any construction/ground disturbing activities. The qualified biologist shall survey all suitable nesting habitat within the project impact area, and areas within a biologically defensible buffer zone surrounding the project impact area. If no active bird nests are detected during the clearance survey, project activities may begin, and no additional avoidance and minimization measures shall be required. If an active bird nest is found, the species shall be identified, and a “no disturbance” buffer shall be established around the

active nest. The size of the “no disturbance” buffer shall be increased or decreased based on the judgement of the qualified biologist and level of activity and sensitivity of the species. At a minimum, the buffer shall be at least 500 feet around active raptor nests and 50 feet around nests of migratory bird species. The qualified biologist shall periodically monitor any active bird nests to determine if project-related activities occurring outside the “no-disturbance” buffer disturb the birds and if the buffer shall be increased. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, project activities within the “no-disturbance” buffer may occur following an additional survey by the qualified biologist to search for any new bird nests in the restricted area.

- b. The project site does not contain any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- c. There are no State or federally protected wetlands on the project site as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- d. The project site is not part of an established migratory wildlife corridor. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- e. The proposed project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances, such as a tree preservation policy, protecting biological resources. The proposed project would be subject to the requirements of Ordinance No. 848, Biological Impact Fee, which requires the payment of \$770/acre to help offset the cumulative loss of biological resources in the Antelope Valley as a result of development. This fee is required of all projects occurring on previously undeveloped land regardless of the biological resources present and is utilized to enhance biological resources through education programs and the acquisition of property for conservation. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- f. There are no Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plans which are applicable to the project site. The West Mojave Coordinated Habitat Conservation Plan only applies to federal land, specifically land owned by the Bureau of Land Management. In conjunction with the Coordinated Management Plan, a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was proposed which would have applied to all private properties within the Plan Area. However, this HCP was never approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife nor was it adopted by the local agencies (cities and counties) within the Plan Area. As such, there is no HCP that is applicable to the project site and no impacts would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. <u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u> . Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resources pursuant to §15064.5?		X		
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?				X

a-c. A cultural resource survey was conducted for the project site by Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates and documented in a report entitled “A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey, Avenue K-8 and 57th Street West, City of Lancaster, California” and dated March 2022. The report included a records search and survey of the project site.

A records search for the project site and the area within a half mile of the project site was conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center on March 3, 2022. The records search indicated that a total of 19 surveys have been conducted within a half mile, with four of the surveys addressing the project site. Five archaeological sites have been identified within one half-mile of the project area: one historic farmstead and four house trash scatters.

On February 15 and 16, 2022, a pedestrian survey of the project site was conducted by walking east-west transects spaced every 15 meters. No archaeological resources, including prehistoric resources, were encountered during the survey. Additionally, no human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries were identified on the project site. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

While no specific tribal or cultural resources were identified on the project site during the AB 52 process, confirmation is being requested from the applicable tribes. Commonly requested mitigation measures are listed below to ensure that proper treatment of previously unknown cultural resources, worker education and potentially tribal monitoring. These measures may be modified pending confirmation from the tribes. Therefore, with incorporation of the mitigation measures, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

- Prior to the start of construction, a qualified representative of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians shall conduct a Tribal Cultural Resources Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training for construction personnel regarding the aspects of

Tribal Cultural Resources and the procedures for notifying the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians should Tribal Cultural Resources be discovered by construction staff. Proof that all workers have received training shall be submitted to the City of Lancaster by the developer.

6. If requested, the project applicant shall retain a professional Tribal monitor procured by the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians to observe all ground-disturbing activities including, but not limited to, excavating, digging, trenching, plowing, drilling, tunneling, quarrying, grading, leveling, clearing, driving posts, auguring, blasting, stripping topsoil or similar activity. Tribal Monitor shall be assigned by the tribe to each machine or work crew engaged in ground disturbing activity that is active more than 100 feet from any other earthwork machine. In the event that Native American cultural 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 assess the find. The archaeologist and Tribal monitor will have the authority to request ground disturbing activities cease within the area of a discovery. Work on the other portions of the Project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. (to be confirmed with tribe – condition will be removed if tribe determines it is not necessary.)
7. 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 that code shall be enforced for the duration of the Project. Inadvertent discoveries of human remains and/or funerary object(s) are subject to California State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, and the subsequent disposition of those discoveries shall be decided by the Most Likely Descendant (MLD), as determined by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), should those findings be determined as Native American in origin.
8. The applicant and Lead Agency shall, in good faith, consult with the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on the disposition and treatment of any Tribal Cultural Resource encountered during project implementation.
9. In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of Interior's professional qualification standards in archaeology 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. Additionally, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN) shall be contacted regarding any pre-contact and/or historic-era finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.
10. 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 drafts of which shall be provided to YSMN for review and comment. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.

11. 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 that code enforced for the duration of the project.
12. The YSMN shall be contacted of any pre-contact and/or historic-era cultural resources discovered during project implementation, and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a cultural resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with YSMN, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents YSMN for the remainder of the project, should YSMN elect to place a monitor on-site.
13. Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the applicant and Lead Agency for dissemination to YSMN. The Lead Agency and/or applicant shall, in good faith, consult with YSMN throughout the life of the project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. <u>ENERGY</u> . 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?				X
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficient?				X

a. Project construction would consume energy in two general forms: 1) the fuel energy consumed by construction vehicles and equipment and 2) bound energy in construction materials, such as asphalt, steel, concrete, pipes, and manufactured or processed materials such as lumber and glass. Fossil fuels used for construction vehicles and other energy-consuming equipment would be used during site clearing, grading, and construction. Fuel energy consumed during construction would be temporary and would not represent a significant demand on energy resources. In addition, some incidental energy conservation would occur during construction through compliance with State requirements that equipment not in use for more than five minutes be turned off. Project construction equipment would also be required to comply with the latest EPA and CARB engine emissions standards. These emissions standards require highly efficient combustion systems that maximize fuel efficiency and reduce unnecessary fuel consumption.

Substantial reductions in energy inputs for construction materials can be achieved by selecting building materials composed of recycled materials that require substantially less energy to produce than non-recycled materials. The project-related incremental increase in the use of energy bound in construction materials such as asphalt, steel, concrete, pipes and manufactured or processed materials (e.g., lumber and gas) would not substantially increase demand for energy compared to overall local and regional demand for construction materials.

The proposed project would consume energy for interior and exterior lighting, heating/ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), refrigeration, electronics systems, appliances, and security systems, among other things. The proposed project would be required to comply with Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, which provide minimum efficiency standards related to various building features, including appliances, water and space heating and cooling equipment, building insulation and roofing, and lighting. Implementation of the Title 24 standards significantly reduces energy usage. Furthermore, the electricity provider is subject to California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS). The RPS requires investor owned utilities, electric service providers, and community choice aggregators (CCA) to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy resources to 33 percent of total procurement by 2020 and to 50 percent of total procurement by 2030. Renewable energy is generally defined as energy that comes from

resources, which are naturally replenished within a human timescale such as sunlight, wind, tides, waves, and geothermal heat.

The project would adhere to all Federal, State, and local requirements for energy efficiency, including the Title 24 standards, as well as the project's design features and as such the project would not result in the inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of building energy. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

- b. In 1978, the California Energy Commission (CEC) established Title 24, California's energy efficiency standards for residential and non-residential buildings, in response to a legislative mandate to create uniform building codes to reduce California's energy consumption, and provide energy efficiency standards for residential and non-residential buildings. The previous standards went into effect on January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2020 and substantially reduced electricity and natural gas consumption. Additional savings result from the application of the standards on building alterations such as cool roofs, lighting, and air distribution ducts.

The California Green Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11), commonly referred to as the CALGreen Code, is a statewide mandatory construction code that was developed and adopted by the California Building Standards Commission and the California Department of Housing and Community Development. CALGreen standards require new residential and commercial buildings to comply with mandatory measures under five topical areas: planning and design; energy efficiency; water efficiency and conservation; material conservation and resource efficiency; and environmental quality. An updated version of both the California Building Code and the CALGreen Code went into effect on January 1, 2023.

In 2014, Lancaster created Lancaster Choice Energy (LCE), allowing residents and businesses in Lancaster to choose the source of their electricity, including an opportunity to opt up to 100% renewable energy. SCE continues to deliver the electricity and provide billing, customer service and powerline maintenance and repair, while customers who choose to participate in this program would receive power from renewable electric generating private-sector partners at affordable rates.

The City of Lancaster adopted the Zero Net Energy (ZNE) Home Ordinance in February 2017. The ZNE Ordinance mandates all builders to install a solar system equal to two watts per square foot for each home built. Developers have three options available to comply with the City's ZNE requirement: a solar component, mitigation fees in lieu of a solar component, or a combination of both. The houses constructed as a result of the proposed project would comply with all of these regulations and would not conflict or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. This ordinance was made obsolete when the CalGreen Code went into effect on January 1, 2020. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u> . 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.				X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		X		
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?				X
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?			X	
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?				X
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X

- a. The project site is not identified as being in or in proximity to a fault rupture zone (LMEA Figure 2-5). According to the Seismic Hazard Evaluation of the Lancaster East and West Quadrangles, the project site may be subject to intense seismic shaking (LMEA pg. 2-16). However, the

proposed project would be constructed in accordance with the seismic requirements of the Uniform Building Code (UBC) adopted by the City, which would render any potential impacts to a less than significant level. The site is generally level and is not subject to landslides (SSHZ).

Liquefaction is a phenomenon in which the strength and stiffness of a soil is reduced by earthquake shaking or other events. This phenomenon occurs in saturated soils that undergo intense seismic shaking typically associated with an earthquake. There are three specific conditions that need to be in place for liquefaction to occur: loose granular soils, shallow groundwater (usually less than 50 feet below ground surface) and intense seismic shaking. In April 2019, the California Geologic Survey updated the Seismic Hazard Zones Map for Lancaster (SSHZ) (<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>). Based on these maps, the project site is not located in an area at risk for liquefaction. No impacts would occur.

- b. The project site is rated as having a low risk for soil erosion (USDA SCS Maps) when cultivated or cleared of vegetation. However, there remains a potential for water and wind erosion during construction. The proposed project would be required, under the provisions of the Lancaster Municipal Code (LMC) Chapter 8.16, to adequately wet or seal the soils to prevent wind erosion. Additionally, the mitigation measure listed below shall be required to control dust/wind erosion.

Water erosion controls must be provided as part of the proposed project's grading plans to be reviewed and approved by the City's Capital Engineering Division. These provisions, which are part of the proposed project, would reduce any impacts to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measures

- 14. The applicant shall submit the required Construction Excavation Fee to the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) prior to the issuance of any grading and/or construction permits. This includes compliance with all prerequisites outlined in District Rule 403, Fugitive Dust, including submission and approval of a Dust Control Plan, installation of signage and the completion of a successful onsite compliance inspection by an AVAQMD field inspector. Proof of compliance shall be submitted to the City.
- c. Subsidence is the sinking of the soil caused by the extraction of water, petroleum, etc. Subsidence can result in geologic hazards known as fissures. Fissures are typically associated with faults or groundwater withdrawal, which results in the cracking of the ground surface. According to Figure 2-3 of the City of Lancaster's Master Environmental Assessment, the project site is not known to be within an area subject to fissuring, sinkholes, or subsidence or any other form of geologic unit or soil instability. The closest sinkholes and fissures are located at approximately Avenue I and 55th Street West, 2.5 north of the project site. For a discussion of potential impacts regarding liquefaction, please refer to Section VII.a. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- d. The soil on the project site is characterized by a low shrink/swell potential (LMEA Figure 2-3). A soils report for the proposed project shall be submitted to the City by the project developer prior to grading and the recommendations of the report shall be incorporated into the development of the proposed project. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- e. The proposed project would be tied into the sanitary sewer system. No septic or alternative means of waste water disposal are part of the proposed project. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

- f. The proposed project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site or geologic feature. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

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

- a. The proposed project consists of a 219 lot subdivision with 215 residential lots and four drainage basin lots. As discussed in Item III.b., the proposed project would generate air emissions during construction and operational activities, some of which may be greenhouse gases. These emissions are anticipated to be less than the thresholds established by AVAQMD due to the size of the project and therefore would not prevent the State from reaching its greenhouse gas reduction targets. Once the development is operational, it would generate emissions, primarily from vehicles and other activities associated with the industrial uses, including landscape maintenance, heating/cooling maintenance, etc. However, the development would require to comply with the requirements of the City's Net Zero Energy Ordinance, Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, and other requirements which increase the efficiency of buildings and reduce air emissions. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- b. The proposed project would be in compliance with the greenhouse gas goals and policies identified in the City of Lancaster General Plan (LMEA p. 7-2 to 7-15) and in the City's adopted Climate Action Plan. Therefore, impacts with respect to conflicts with an agency's plans, policies, and regulations would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. <u>HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.</u> Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
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?			X	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?		X		
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?				X
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				X

a-b. The proposed project consists of the subdivision of approximately 72 acres into 219 lots: 215 single family residential lots and four drainage basin lots. Typical construction materials would be utilized during development of the subdivision. Occupants of the subdivision would typically utilize household cleaners (e.g., cleaner, bleach, etc.), fertilizer, and potentially limited use of common pesticides. These uses would be similar to other residential development in the area.

The proposed project is not located along a hazardous materials transportation corridor (LMEA p. 9.1-14 and Figure 9.1-4). Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- c. The project site is located within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed school. The closest school to the project site is Quartz Hill High School, located at the southwest corner of Avenue L and 60th Street West. While this schools is located within a quarter mile of the project site, the proposed project would not generate hazardous emissions or handle hazardous/acutely hazardous materials. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- d. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was prepared by Leighton and Associates, Inc., and documented in a report entitled “Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Southwood, LTD. Proposed Multi-Family Residential Site, Tract No. 66680 – Southwest of Avenue K-8 and 52nd Street West, City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California” and dated April 14, 2022. A survey of the project site was conducted on March 25, 2022.

Most of the surrounding properties consist of vacant land with exposed soil and dried vegetation with the western-most southern properties partially graded for former residential lots. The southwestern adjacent property is occupied by a water retention basin with no standing water. Evidence of the former abandoned Del Sur #1 well was observed in the form of a concrete pad and well vault which was filled with concrete and debris approximately three feet below the open top of the circular vault. No indications of soil discoloration, hazardous substances and/or petroleum products were observed in the area of the well.

No evidence of above/underground storage tanks, polychlorinated biphenyls, hazardous waste disposal, pits/ponds, septic system, past pesticide use, stained/discolored soil, stressed vegetation, odors, or onsite wells were observed. However, concrete, asphalt, and soil stockpiles were observed in the northeastern and central portion of the site. The source of these stockpiles is unknown and as such represents a concern for the site. Additionally, the site was previously utilized for agricultural purposes and organochlorine pesticides and herbicides may be present in the soil. Mitigation measures have been identified to require testing of the site for pesticides/herbicides and sampling of the stockpiles to determine proper disposal. With implementation of these mitigation measures, impacts would be less than significant.

Additionally, a search of selected environmental databases was conducted by EDR for the project site and surrounding properties within specified distances. The project site is not listed in any regulatory databases. Some properties within the specified search distances were listed in the regulatory database search; however, these listings were determined to not be a concern to the project site due to one or more of the following reasons: 1) type of release; 2) type of listing; 3) regulatory closure; 4) distance to the project site; and 5) direction of groundwater flow. Therefore, no impacts would occur with respect to listed sites.

Mitigation Measures

- 15. Prior to the issuance of any construction related permits, a site-wide, grid-based shallow soil sampling and chemical testing of historically known agricultural areas for OCPs, OCHs and arsenic shall be conducted. The developer shall dispose of or treat any affected soils in accordance with State law and the recommendations of the testing laboratory.

16. The soil stockpiles on the project site shall be tested to determine any potential contamination with metals, hydrocarbons, VOCs, pesticides, etc. in accordance with the recommendations of the Phase I report. In the event that the soil stockpiles contain these substances, the stockpiles shall be removed from the project site and disposed of in accordance with State and federal law.
- e. The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan. The nearest airfield, William J Fox Airfield, is located approximately 4.5 miles northeast of the project site. There are no circumstances related to this proximity that could be expected to result in a safety hazard for people residing in the project area. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
 - f. The traffic generated by the proposed project is not expected to block the roadways in the vicinity of the project site. Improvements have been conditioned as part of the project that would ensure that traffic operates smoothly. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact or physically block any identified evacuation routes and would not interfere with any adopted emergency response plan. Impacts would not occur.
 - g. The subject property is vacant along with the properties to the south, east and north. Some of the property to the west is vacant while the remainder is developed with residential subdivisions. The project site is located within the service area of Fire Station No. 84, located at 5030 West Avenue L-14 which would serve the site in the event of a fire. Therefore, potential impacts from wildland fires would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. <u>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.</u> Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?			X	
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			X	
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			X	
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site			X	
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			X	
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows			X	
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				X
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			X	

- a. The project site is not located in an area with an open body of water or in an aquifer recharge area. The proposed project would be required to comply with all applicable provisions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The NPDES program establishes a comprehensive storm water quality program to manage urban storm water and

minimize pollution of the environment to the maximum extent practicable. The reduction of pollutants in urban storm water discharge through the use of structural and nonstructural Best Management Practices (BMPs) is one of the primary objectives of the water quality regulations. BMPs that are typically used to management runoff water quality include controlling roadway and parking lot contaminants by installing oil and grease separators at storm drain inlets, cleaning parking lots on a regular basis, incorporating peak-flow reduction and infiltration features (grass swales, infiltration trenches and grass filter strips) into landscaping and implementing educational programs. The proposed project would incorporate appropriate BMPs during construction, as determined by the City of Lancaster Public Works Department. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

The proposed project consists of the subdivision of the project site into 219 lots; 215 single family residential lots and four drainage basin lots. Single family residences are not a use that would normally generate wastewater that violates water quality standards or exceeds waste discharge requirements. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- b. The proposed project would not include any groundwater wells or pumping activities. All water supplied to the proposed project would be obtained from Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- c. Development of the proposed project would increase the amount of surface runoff as a result of impervious surfaces associated with the grading of the site. The proposed project would be designed, on the basis of a hydrology study, to accept current flows entering the property and to handle the additional incremental runoff from the developed site. Therefore, impacts from drainage and runoff would be less than significant.

The project site is designated as a mix of both Flood Zone X and Flood Zone X-Shaded per the Flood Insurance Rate Map (06037C0415F). Flood Zone X is located outside both the 100-year and 500-year flood zone. Flood Zone X-Shaded is located outside of the 100-year flood zone but within the 500-year flood zone. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- d. The project site is not located within a coastal zone. Therefore, tsunamis are not a potential hazard. The project site is relatively flat, does not contain any enclosed bodies of water and is not in close proximity to any large bodies of water. Therefore, the proposed project would not be subject to inundation by seiches or mudflows. No impacts would occur.
- e. The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the applicable water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. For additional information see responses X.a through X.c. Impacts would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. <u>LAND USE AND PLANNING</u> . Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				X
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?				X

- a. The proposed project consists of the subdivision of approximately 72 acres into 219 lots; 215 single family residential lots and four drainage basin lots;] and the construction and occupancy of single-family residences. The project site is generally bounded Avenue K-8, Avenue L, 52nd Street West, and 57th Street West. Primary access to the subdivision would be provided from Avenue K-8 and 55th Street West. The proposed project would not block a public street, trail, other access route, or result in a physical barrier that would divide the community. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- b. The proposed project is consistent with the City’s General Plan and must be in conformance with the Lancaster Municipal Code. The proposed project will be in compliance with the City-adopted Uniform Building Code (UBC) and erosion control requirements (Section VII). Additionally, as noted Section IV, the project site is not subject to and would not conflict with a habitat conservation plan or natural communities conservation plan. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. <u>MINERAL RESOURCES.</u> 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?				X
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?				X

a-b. The project site does not contain any mining or recovery operations for mineral resources and no such activities have occurred on the project site in the past. According to the LMEA (Figure 2-4 and page 2-8), the project site is designated as Mineral Reserve 3 (contains potential but presently unproven resources). Additionally, it is not considered likely that the Lancaster area has large, valuable mineral and aggregate deposits. Therefore, no impacts to mineral resources would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. <u>NOISE</u> . Would the project:				
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?		X		
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				X
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?				X

- a. The City’s General Plan (Table 3-1) establishes an outdoor maximum CNEL of 65 dBA for residential uses. Table 8-11 of the LMEA provides the existing roadway noise levels adjacent to the project site. The current noise levels in the vicinity of the project site (Avenue L/60th Street West) range from 60.9 dBA to 62.5 dBA. These noise levels are consistent with the standards of the General Plan. While this noise level is consistent with the standards of the General Plan, additional features of the proposed project (e.g., landscaping, block walls, etc.) would ensure that the project remains in compliance with the General Plan. Therefore, potential noise impacts associated with traffic from the proposed development and operational activities would be less than significant.

Construction activities associated with earth moving equipment and other construction machinery would temporarily increase noise levels for surrounding land uses. Noise sensitive receptors are located in close proximity to the project site including residential subdivisions (to the west, south, and east), Quartz Hill High School, Christ Missionary Bible Church and construction noise may be audible at these locations. However, all construction activities would occur in accordance with the City’s noise ordinance with respect to days of the week and time of day. Additionally, construction best management practices have been identified to reduce the noise generated by construction activities to the extent feasible. With incorporation of these measures, construction noise may still be audible but would not exceed established standards and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

17. Construction operations shall not occur between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. on weekdays or Saturday or any time on Sunday. The hours of construction-related activities shall be restricted to periods and days permitted by local ordinance.
 18. The on-site construction supervisor shall have the responsibility and authority to receive and resolve noise complaints. A clear appeal process to the owner shall be established prior to construction commencement that will allow for resolution of noise problems that cannot be immediately solved by the site supervisor.
 19. Electrically powered equipment shall be used instead of pneumatic or internal combustion powered equipment, where feasible.
 20. Material stockpiles and mobile equipment staging, parking and maintenance areas shall be located as far away as practicable from noise-sensitive receptors.
 21. No project-related public address or music system shall be audible at any adjacent receptor.
 22. All noise producing construction equipment and vehicles using internal combustion engines shall be equipped with mufflers, air-inlet silencers where appropriate, and any other shrouds, shields, or other noise-reducing features in good operating condition that meet or exceed original factory specification. Mobile or fixed “package” equipment (e.g., arc-welders, air compressors, etc.) shall be equipped with shrouds and noise control features that are readily available for the type of equipment.
- b. It is not anticipated that the grading of the proposed project would require the use of machinery that generates ground-borne vibration as no major subsurface construction (e.g., parking garage) is planned. No ground mounted industrial-type equipment that generates ground vibration would be utilized once the residences are constructed and occupied. Therefore, no impacts associated with ground-borne vibration/noise are anticipated.
 - c. The project site is not in proximity to an airport or a frequent overflight area and would not experience noise from these sources. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. <u>POPULATION AND HOUSING.</u> 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)?			X	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

- a. The proposed project would result in an incremental increase in population growth; however, this increase was anticipated in both the City's General Plan and in the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG's) most recent Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). Additionally, while it is likely that individuals involved in the construction of the proposed project or residing at the proposed project would come from the Antelope Valley any increase in population would contribute, on an incremental basis, to the population of the City. As such, impacts would be less than significant.
- b. The project site is currently vacant. No housing or people would be displaced necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

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

a. The proposed project may increase the need for fire and police services during construction and operation; however, the project site is within the current service area of both these agencies and the additional time and cost to service the sites is minimal. The proposed project would not induce substantial population growth and therefore, would not increase the demand on parks or other public facilities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Construction of the proposed project may result in an incremental increase in population (see Item XIII) and may increase the number of students in the Westside Union School District and Antelope Valley Union High School District. Proposition 1A, which governs the way in which school funding is carried out, predetermines by statute that payment of developer fees is adequate mitigation for school impacts. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. <u>RECREATION</u> . 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?			X	
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?			X	

a-b. The proposed project would generate additional population growth and would contribute on an incremental basis to the use of the existing park and recreational facilities. The proposed project involves the subdivision of approximately 72 acres into 219 lots; 215 single-family residential lots and four basin lots. However, the applicant would be required to pay park fees which would offset the impacts of the existing parks. The development of the proposed project would not require the construction of new recreational facilities or the expansion of existing ones. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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

- a. The proposed project would not conflict with or impede any of the General Plan policies or specific actions related to alternative modes of transportation (Lancaster General Plan pgs. 5-18 to 5-24). Additionally, roadway improvements have been identified as conditions of approval to ensure the smooth operation of the transportation network. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- b. In July 2020, the City of Lancaster adopted standards and thresholds for analyzing projects with respect to vehicle miles traveled (VMT). A series of screening criteria were adopted and if a project meets one of these criteria, a VMT analysis is not required. These criteria are: 1) project site – generates fewer than 110 trips per day; 2) locally serving retail – commercial developments of 50,000 square feet or smaller; 3) project located in a low VMT area – 15% below baseline; 4) transit proximity; 5) affordable housing; and 6) transportation facilities.

The project site is located within a low VMT area which is at least 15% below the established baseline. As such, the project screens out of a detailed VMT analysis and no impacts would occur.

- c. Street improvement are required as part of the conditions of approval and would ensure that traffic flows smoothly in the vicinity of the project site. No hazardous conditions would be created by these improvements. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- d. The project site would have adequate emergency access from Avenue K-8 and 55th Street West. Additionally, roadways within the subdivision would connect to other roadways within the neighboring subdivisions providing additional access points. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

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

- a. No cultural resources were identified on the project site during the preparation of the cultural resources report. (See Item V). No specific tribal cultural resources were identified during the AB 52 process; however, this is being confirmed and mitigation measures have been added to the cultural resources section to ensure proper treatment, worker education, and potentially tribal monitoring. These mitigation measures will be modified as necessary based on final discussions with the tribes and included in the conditions of approval. As such, no impacts would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction or 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?			X	
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?			X	
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?			X	
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impact the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?			X	
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				

- a. The proposed project would be required to connect into the existing utilities such as electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater, telecommunications, etc. These services already exist in the general area. Connections would occur on the project site or within existing roadways or right-of-way. Connections to these utilities are assumed as part of the proposed project and impacts to environmental resources have been discussed throughout the document. As such, impacts would be less than significant.
- b. The Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 has not indicated any problems in supplying water to the proposed project from existing facilities and the applicant is responsible for acquiring water in accordance with established procedures. No new construction of water treatment or new or expanded entitlements would be required. However, they have noted that off-site improvements will be necessary along with the construction of a water storage tank as part of their requirements for service. Therefore, water impacts would be less than significant.

- c. The project site is located outside of the boundaries of the Sanitation District. Upon annexation into the district, the proposed project would discharge to a local sewer line for conveyance to the Districts' Avenue J West Trunk Sewer located in Avenue J at 60th Street West. According to the letter dated June 16, 2022 from the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles (LACSD), this 36-inch diameter trunk sewer has a design capacity of 15.9 million gallons per day (mgd) and conveyed a peak flow of 0.3 mgd when last measured in 2018. The project's wastewater would be treated at the Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant upon connection which has a design capacity of 18 mgd and currently processes an average recycled water flow of 14.6 mgd. The expected average wastewater flow from the proposed project is 56,940 gallons per day. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- d-e. Solid waste generated within the City limits is generally disposed of at the Lancaster Landfill located at 600 East Avenue F. This landfill is a Class III landfill which accepts agricultural, nonfriable asbestos, construction/demolition waste, contaminated soil, green materials, industrial, inert, mixed municipal, sludge, and waste tires. It does not accept hazardous materials. Assembly Bill (AB) 939 was adopted in 1989 and required a 25% diversion of solid waste from landfills by 1995 and a 50% diversion by 2005. In 2011, AB 341 was passed which requires the State to achieve a 75% reduction in solid waste by 2030. The City of Lancaster also requires all developments to have trash collection services in accordance with City contracts with waste haulers over the life of the proposed project. These collection services would also collect recyclable materials and organics. The trash haulers are required to be in compliance with applicable regulations on solid waste transport and disposal, including waste stream reduction mandated under AB 341.

The proposed project would generate solid waste during construction and operation, which would contribute to an overall impact on landfill service (GPEIR pgs. 5.9-20 to 21); although the project's contribution is considered minimal. However, the existing landfill has capacity to handle the waste generated by the project. Additionally, the proposed project would be in compliance with all State and local regulations regulating solid waste disposal. Therefore, impact would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. <u>WILDFIRE</u> . If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impact an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildlife risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				X
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?				X
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?				X

a. See Item IX.f.

b-d. The project site is not located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. The project site is located within the service boundaries of Fire Station No. 84, located at 5030 West Avenue L-14, which can adequately serve the project site. Other fire stations are also located in close proximity to the project site which can provide service if needed. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XXI. 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?		X		
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulative 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)?			X	
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X		

- a. The proposed project consists of the subdivision of approximately 72 acres into 219 lots; 215 single family residential lots and four drainage basin lots in the R-7,000, R-10,000 and R-15,000 zones. Other projects have been approved within approximately one mile of the project site including those identified in Table 10. These projects are also required to be in accordance with the City’s zoning code and General Plan. Cumulative impacts are the change in the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects.

The proposed project would not create any impacts with respect to: Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Energy Resources, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire. The project would create impacts to other resource areas and mitigation measures have been identified for Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazardous/Hazardous Materials, and Noise. Impacts associates with these issues are less than significant with the incorporation of the identified mitigation measures. Many of the impacts generated by projects are site specific and generally do not influence the impacts on another site. All projects undergo environmental review and have required mitigation measures to reduce impacts when warranted. These mitigation measures

reduce environmental impacts to less than significant levels whenever possible. Therefore, the project's contribution to cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Table 10
Related Projects List

Case No.	Location	APNs	Acres	Description	Status
DR 22-24	SEC 60 th St W & Ave L			42,869 sf commercial/retail center	Approved
TTM 53642 / CUP 22-08	East side of 60 th St W between Ave K-4 and Avenue K-8	3204-009-026, 079, 081	40	208 single family residential lots/community for active adults	Approved
TTM 83232	NWC 60 th St W & Ave K-12	3204-008-048	20	86 single family residential lots	Approved
Avanti North (TTM 73507)	Bounded by Ave K, Ave K-8, 62 nd St W, 70 th St W		237	873 single family residential lots within Specific Plan No. 15-01	Approved
Avanti South (SP 15-02 / TTM 74312)	Bounded by Ave K-8, 70 th St W, 62 nd St W, Ave L	3204-001-184, 195; 3204-008-045, -047	307	1,700 dwelling units; 213,600 sf commercial, 31.5 acres open space/parks, 12.8 acre school site, 1.3 acre fire station	Approved
TTM 61040 / TTM 61041	NWC 55 th St W & Ave K-14		30	98 single family residential lots	Grading
TTM 83553	NWC 52 nd St W & L	3204-006-036, 037	10	28 single family residential lots	Approved
TTM 83554	SEC 60 th St W & Ave K-10	3204-006-055, 3204-006-105	5	18 single family residential lots	Approved
TTM 61600	NWC 57 St W & Ave L	3204-006-084, 090, 091	6.87	32 single family residential lots	Approved

List of Referenced Documents and Available Locations*:

BRR1:	Biological Resource Assessment of a 30 Acre and 5 Acre Parcel, Lancaster, California, Mark Hagan, May 6, 2022	CDD
BRR2:	Biological Resource Assessment of a 38 Acre Parcel, Lancaster, California, Mark Hagan, April 21, 2022	CDD
CRS:	A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey, Avenue K-8 and 57 th Street West, City of Lancaster, California, Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates, March 2022	CDD
ESA:	Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Southwood, LTD. Proposed Multi-Family Residential Site, Tract No. 66680 – Southwest of Avenue K-8 and 52 nd Street West, City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California, Leighton and Associates, Inc. April 14, 2022	CDD
FIRM:	Flood Insurance Rate Map	CDD
GPEIR:	Lancaster General Plan Environmental Impact Report	CDD
LACSD:	Sanitation Comment Letter, June 16, 2022	CDD
LACW:	Los Angeles County Waterworks email, June 28, 2022	CDD
LGP:	Lancaster General Plan	CDD
LMC:	Lancaster Municipal Code	CDD
LMEA:	Lancaster Master Environmental Assessment	CDD
SSHZ:	State Seismic Hazard Zone Maps	CDD
USGS:	United States Geological Survey Maps	CDD
USDA SCS:	United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service Maps	CDD

* CDD: Community Development Department
Planning and Permitting Division
Lancaster City Hall
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