# SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

This form and the descriptive information in the application package constitute the contents of Initial Study pursuant to County Guidelines under Ordinance 3040 and Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

### **PROJECT LABEL:**

**APN:** 3068-231-38, 39

APPLICANT: Joshua Simon, Simon CRE

**COMMUNITY:** Pinon Hills/ 1st Supervisorial District **LOCATION:** North Side of Smoke Tree Rd; Approx 350'

East Of Mountain Rd.

**PROJECT** P201500364

No:

**STAFF:** John Oquendo **REP('S):** Same as Applicant

PROPOSAL: Minor Use Permit to establish a 9,100 square

foot general retail use on 1.78 acres in the

community of Pinon Hills

USGS Quad: Mescal Creek
T. R. Section: 04N, 07W, SE07

Thomas Bros.:

Planning Area: Desert

**OLUD:** PH/CG

Overlays FP3, FS2, Biotic resources Overlay,

Local Fee Area

### **PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Lead agency: County of San Bernardino

Land Use Services Department - Planning Division

385 North Arrowhead Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

Contact person: John Oquendo, Senior Planner

*E-mail:* John.Oquendo@lus.sbcounty.gov

Project Sponsor: Joshua Simon for SimonCRE Via Soleri II, LLC

5111 N Scottsdale Road, Suite 200

Scottsdale, AZ 85250

E-mail: Joshua@simoncre.com

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed Minor Use Permit to establish a 9,100 square foot general retail use on 1.78 acres in the community of Pinon Hills. The project is located in the PH/CG Land Use Zoning District. The CG (General Commercial) land use zoning district provides sites for retail trade and personal services, lodging services, office and professional services, recreation and entertainment services, wholesaling and warehousing, contract/construction services, transportation services, open lot services, and similar and compatible uses. The development proposal includes the construction of the 9,100 square-foot building, hardscape improvements, landscape improvements, onsite wastewater treatment improvements, parking and driveway paving, perimeter fencing, and right-of-way improvements.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL/EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS:**

The project site is located in the community of Pinon Hills in the County of San Bernardino. The subject property is bound on the north by State Route 138, and on the south by Smoke Tree Road, the nearest cross street to the project is Mountain Road. This is currently vacant and relatively flat with numerous Joshua Trees found on the site. The Joshua Trees will be relocated on the on the site during the construction of the proposed use. A General Biological Study conducted for the site has determined the absence of any special

status species. The site does not contain any other unique or remarkable site characteristics that would prevent or limit the development of the site. A phase one cultural resources has been prepared for the project and did not identify any site specific cultural resources.

Table 1. Surrounding Land Uses and Zoning

| AREA  | EXISTING LAND USE | OFFICIAL LAND USE DISTRICT        |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Site  | Vacant Land       | PH/CG, Commercial General         |
| North | Vacant Land       | PH/CG, Commercial General         |
| South | Vacant Land; SFRs | PH/CN, Commercial<br>Neighborhood |
| East  | Retail            | PH/CG, Commercial General         |
| West  | Vacant Land; SFRs | PH/CG, Commercial General         |

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

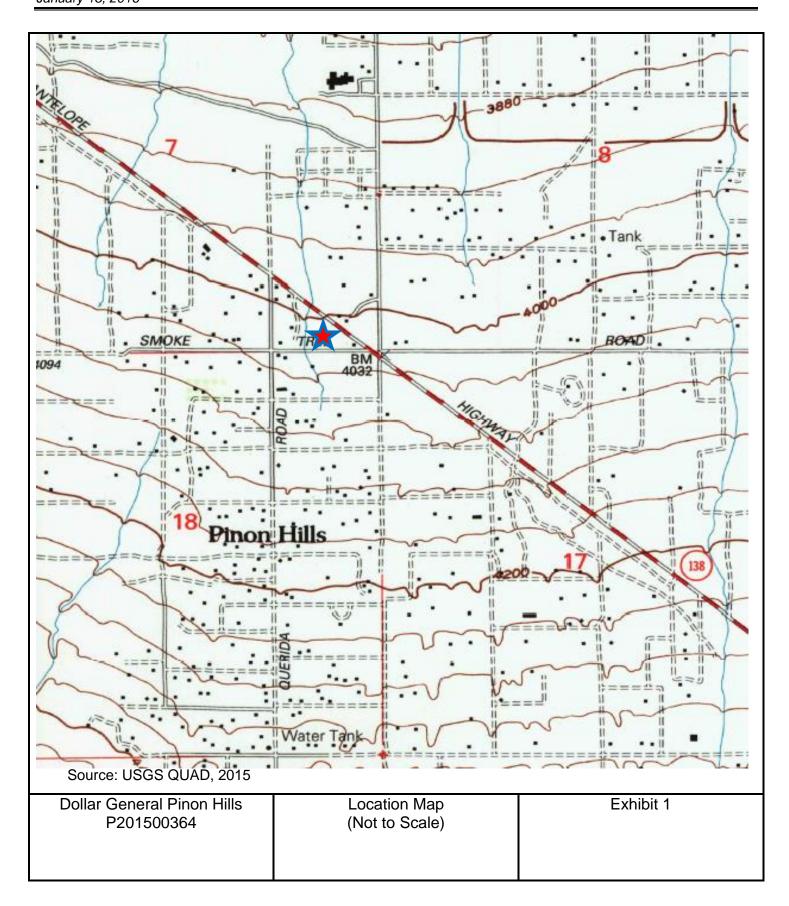
### Federal:

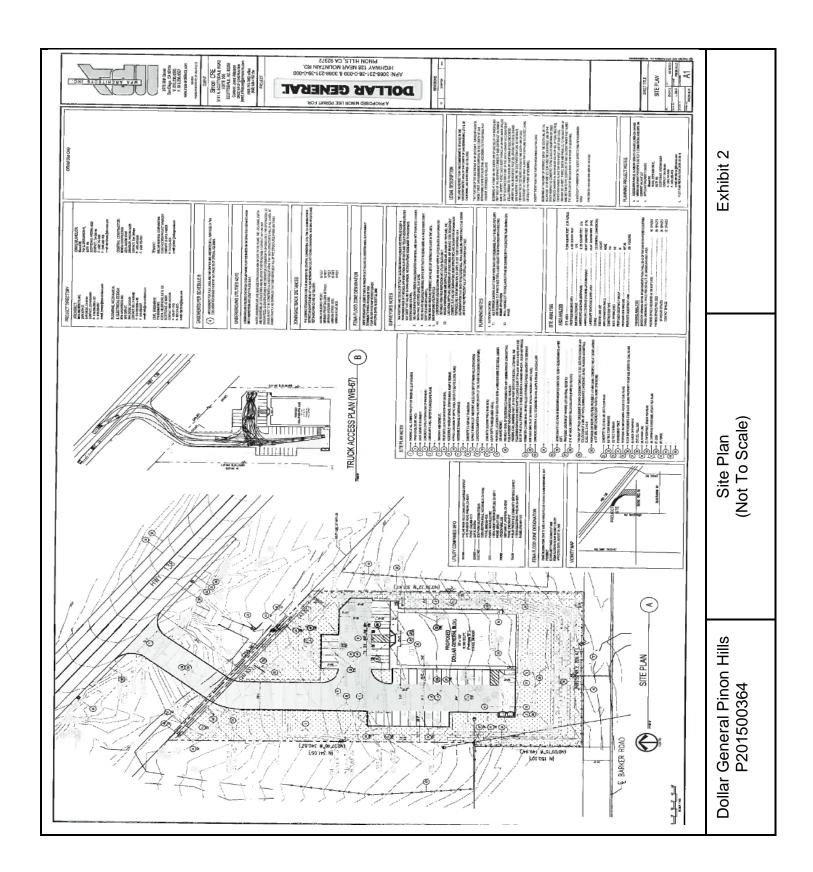
<u>State of California</u>: Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

<u>County of San Bernardino</u>: Land Use Services – Planning, Code Enforcement, Land Development, Building and Safety, Environmental Health Services, Special Districts, Department of Public Works, County Fire. Local: Phelan Pinon Hills Community Service District

P201500364 Dollar General Pinon Hills

January 15, 2016





### **EVALUATION FORMAT**

This initial study is prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq.). Specifically, the preparation of an Initial Study is guided by Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. This format of the study is presented as follows. The project is evaluated based upon its effect on seventeen (17) major categories of environmental factors. Each factor is reviewed by responding to a series of questions regarding the impact of the project on each element of the overall factor. The Initial Study Checklist provides a formatted analysis that provides a determination of the effect of the project on the factor and its elements. The effect of the project is categorized into one of the following four categories of possible determinations:

| Potentially        | Less than Significant        | Less than Significant | No Impact |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Significant Impact | With Mitigation Incorporated |                       |           |
|                    |                              |                       |           |

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

- 1. **No Impact**: No impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- 2. **Less than Significant Impact**: No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- 3. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated: Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated and the following mitigation measures are required as a condition of project approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significant. The required mitigation measures are: (List of mitigation measures)
- 4. **Potentially Significant Impact**: Significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to evaluate these impacts, which are (List of the impacts requiring analysis within the EIR).

At the end of the analysis the required mitigation measures are restated and categorized as being either self- monitoring or as requiring a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

|             |   |                                  | would be potentially affected by this act" as indicated by the checklist on  |                            |  |  |  |
|-------------|---|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|--|
|             | Aesthetics  |                                  | Agriculture and Forestry Resources   |                            | Air Quality  |  |  |
|             | Biological Resources  |                                  | Cultural Resources   |                            | Geology / Soils  |  |  |
|             | Greenhouse Gas Emissions  |                                  | Hazards & Hazardous Materials  |                            | Hydrology / Water Quality  |  |  |
|             | Land Use/ Planning  |                                  | Mineral Resources  |                            | Noise  |  |  |
|             | Population / Housing  |                                  | Public Services  |                            | Recreation   |  |  |
|             | Transportation / Traffic  |                                  | Utilities / Service Systems  |                            | Mandatory Findings of<br>Significance  |  |  |
| DETI        | DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)   |                                  |  |                            |  |  |  |
| On th       | ne basis of this initial evaluation   | , the                            | following finding is made:   |                            |  |  |  |
| $\boxtimes$ | The proposed project COULIDECLARATION shall be prep   |                                  | OT have a significant effect on the  | e envii                    | ronment, and a NEGATIVE  |  |  |
|             | significant effect in this case project proponent. A MITIGAT                                | beca<br>ED 1                     | ald have a significant effect on the use revisions in the project have by NEGATIVE DECLARATION shall be  | e prepa                    | nade by or agreed to by the ared.  |  |  |
|             | The proposed project MAY has IMPACT REPORT is required                                      |                                  | a significant effect on the environ  | ment,                      | and an ENVIRONMENTAL   |  |  |
|             | mitigated" impact on the envi<br>earlier document pursuant to<br>measures based on the ear  | ironm<br>app<br>lier             | a "potentially significant impact"<br>nent, but at least one effect 1) has<br>plicable legal standards, and 2) has<br>analysis as described on attache<br>it must analyze only the effects tha | s been<br>as bee<br>d shee | adequately analyzed in ar<br>en addressed by mitigatior<br>ets. An ENVIRONMENTAL       |  |  |
|             | Although the proposed project significant effects (a) have be pursuant to applicable standa | t cou<br>en a<br>rds, a<br>inclu | ld have a significant effect on the e<br>nalyzed adequately in an earlier E<br>and (b) have been avoided or mitigation meas  | nvironr<br>IR or lated pu  | ment, because all potentially<br>NEGATIVE DECLARATION<br>ursuant to that earlier EIR o |  |  |
|             | Simula Deale  | 0000                             | ada Caniar Diannos   |                            | 11/15/2016   |  |  |
|             | Signature: prepared by John   | oque                             | rido, Seriloi Platiner   |                            | 11/15/2016<br>Date   |  |  |
|             | Signature: Heidi Duron, Supe<br>Planning Division   | rvisin                           | g Planner  |                            | Date   |  |  |

|    | 0364<br>eneral Pinon Hills<br>15, 2016  |           |              |            |       |
|----|---|-----------|--------------|------------|-------|
|    | limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?                          |           |              |            |       |
| c) | Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?                    |           |              |            |       |
| d) | Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? |           |              |            |       |
|    | <b>SUBSTANTIATION:</b> (Check  if project is located within the in the General Plan):                               | e view-sh | ed of any Sc | enic Route | isted |
|    |   |           |              |            |       |

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- a) No Impact. The proposed project is not located within a designated Scenic Corridor and will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, as there are none identified within the vicinity of the project site that would be affected by the proposed development. The proposed project is consistent with other surrounding development in the area and is architecturally compatible with the visual character of the surrounding area. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- b) No Impact. The proposed project is not located on or within close proximity of a state scenic highway and therefore will not substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. There are no existing rock outcroppings or historic buildings present on the site. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- c) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings, because the project is consistent with the planned visual character of the area including landscaping and the provision of walls/fences, landscaping and screening of exterior mechanical equipment, loading and storage areas. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- d) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area because all lighting proposed onsite will be designed in accordance with the County Development Code. These standards and code requirements will ensure that the project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare by requiring lighting to be shielded or hooded. A lighting plan will be required as a condition of approval for this project. Impacts are considered less than significant.

P201500364

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

| SUBSTANTIATION: | (Check | if project is | located in the | <i>Important</i> | <b>Farmlands</b> | Overlay): |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|

- a) No Impact. The subject property is not identified or designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide. Importance on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. There are no agricultural uses on the site currently
- b) **No Impact**. The subject property is not designated or zoned for agricultural use and the proposed project does not conflict with any agricultural land use or Williamson Act land conservation contract. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- c) **No Impact**. The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)). The proposed project area is currently vacant land, which has never been designated as forest land or timberland. No rezoning of the project site would be required as the proposed project is compatible with the current zoning designation. The proposed project would not cause the rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- d) No Impact. The proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The proposed project area is currently vacant land, which has never been designated as forest land or timberland. The proposed project does not include forest land. The proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- e) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use, because the site is currently not used for agricultural purposes. Impacts are considered less than significant.

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|      | Issues   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No<br>Impact |
|------|--|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| III. | <b>AIR QUALITY -</b> Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district might be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| a)   | Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| b)   | Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| c)   | Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? |                                      |   |                          |              |
| d)   | Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?  |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
| e)   | Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
|      | <b>SUBSTANTIATION:</b> (Discuss conformity with the South (applicable):  | Coast Air                            | Quality Man   | agement                  | Plan, if     |

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The West Desert portion of the County of San Bernardino is part of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD). Under the Federal Clean Air Act, the MDAQMD has adopted a variety of attainment plans for a variety of non-attainment pollutants. The Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the MDAB sets forth a comprehensive program that will lead the MDAB into compliance with all federal and state air quality standards. The AQMP control measures and related emission reduction estimates are based upon emissions projections for a future development scenario derived from land use, population, and employment characteristics defined in consultation with local governments. Accordingly, conformance with the AQMP for development projects is determined by demonstrating compliance with local land use plans and/or population projections. The proposed Project is consistent with the underlying General Plan designation on the property.

This Project will incrementally contribute to the amount of greenhouse gases in the environment. However, under CEQA, an individual project's GHG emissions will generally not result in direct significant impacts. This is because the climate change issue is global in nature. Given the small-scale of the proposed Project and that the proposed Project's air pollutant emissions during all phases of the Project will not exceed construction or

operational emission thresholds, when compared to the overall environment, the proposed Project's direct and cumulative GHG emissions are found to be less than significant. For more information, see section VII.

When compared to the overall environment, this Project's contribution to global warming will be insignificant. It is a policy of the County of San Bernardino to encourage efficient use of energy resources and the use of alternate energy sources. The Air Quality Plan used the underlying zoning as the baseline. The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District received the Project notice and responded that they had no comments or concerns about the proposal.

Project generated emissions were modeled based on Project specific information and default information contained in the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) for a similar currently proposed 9,100 square foot retail store in Joshua Tree. The Project's air pollutant emissions during all phases of the Project will not exceed construction or operational emission thresholds. The Project will not contribute to the degradation of local or regional air quality. The site will be paved, dust proofed, and landscaped to Code standards, resulting in little or no wind-blown dust or particulate matter. Paving the side street where it is adjacent to the property will be part of the Project.

According to the updated August 10, 2015 Focused Traffic Analysis prepared by Kunzman Associates, Inc., the Project is projected to generate 583 daily vehicle trips, 35 during the morning peak hour and 62 during the evening peak hour.

# **MDAQMD Significant Emission Thresholds**

| MDAQMD Olgimicant Emission Thicsholds                |                          |  |  |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| Criteria Pollutant                                   | Daily Threshold (pounds) |  |  |
| Carbon Monoxide (CO)                                 | 548                      |  |  |
| Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)                             | 137                      |  |  |
| Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)                     | 137                      |  |  |
| Oxides of Sulphur (SOx)                              | 137                      |  |  |
| Particulate Matter (PM10)                            | 82                       |  |  |
| Particulate Matter (PM2.5)                           | 82                       |  |  |
| Source: Mojave Desert Air Quality Management Distric | t                        |  |  |

# **Project Construction Emissions (Unmitigated)**

| Pollutant | Maximum<br>Unmitigated<br>(Ibs/day) | Mojave Desert Air<br>Quality<br>Management<br>District Threshold | Exceeds<br>Threshold? |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| СО        | 30.08                               | 548  | NO                    |
| NOx       | 42.13                               | 137  | NO                    |
| VOC       | 26.14                               | 137  | NO                    |
| PM 10     | 7.19                                | 82   | NO                    |
| PM 2.5    | 4.50                                | 82   | NO                    |
| SOx       | 0.05                                | 137  | NO                    |

Source: August 2012 Environmental Initial Study prepared by San Bernardino County Land Use Services for proposed Dynamic Development Joshua Tree retail store, P201100357

# **Project Operational Emissions (Unmitigated)**

| Pollutant | Maximum<br>Unmitigated<br>(Ibs/day) | Mojave Desert Air<br>Quality<br>Management<br>District Threshold | Exceeds<br>Threshold? |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| CO        | 42.10                               | 548  | NO                    |
| NOx       | 24.57                               | 137  | NO                    |
| VOC       | 4.95                                | 137  | NO                    |
| PM 10     | 4.16                                | 82   | NO                    |
| PM 2.5    | 0.94                                | 82   | NO                    |
| SOx       | 0.05                                | 137  | NO                    |

Source: August 2012 Environmental Initial Study prepared by San Bernardino County Land Use Services for proposed Dynamic Development Joshua Tree retail store, P201100357

- b) Less Than Significant Impact. The Project will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, because as shown in the tables above, the proposed use does not exceed thresholds of concern. The site will be paved and landscaped resulting in little or no wind-blown dust or particulate matter. Even though the Project does not exceed the MDAQMD thresholds, the Project proponent must comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the MDAB to assist in achieving attainment for ozone and suspended particulates.
- c) Less Than Significant Impact. The Project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is in non-attainment under an

applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors), because the proposed use does not exceed established thresholds of concern. In order to be considered significant, a Project's air pollutant emissions must exceed the emission thresholds established by the MDAQMD and be inconsistent with growth projections. As shown in the tables above, the Project will not exceed any established thresholds. The current zoning, PH/CG (Pinon Hills Commercial General), will remain unchanged. The Project is consistent with the growth projections contained in the County General Plan and the Pinon Hills Community Plan.

- d) Less Than Significant Impact. The Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. These sensitive receptors include residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds, and medical facilities. The following project types within the specified distance must not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. They include:
  - Any industrial project within 1000 feet
  - A distribution center (40 or more trucks per day) within 1000 feet
  - A major transportation project (50,000 or more vehicles per day) within 1000 feet
  - A dry cleaner using perchloroethylene within 500 feet
  - A gasoline dispensing facility within 300 feet

The Project does not include any of the above uses. Additionally, the Project's air pollutant emissions will not exceed construction or operational emission thresholds. Furthermore, the site is located approximately 1/2 mile southwest of Pinon Hills Elementary School, the nearest sensitive receptor.

E) Less Than Significant Impact. According to the CEQA Air Quality Handbook, land uses associated with odor complaints include agricultural operations, wastewater treatment plants, landfills, and certain industrial operations (such as manufacturing uses that produce chemicals, paper, etc.). The Project will not produce objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

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|     | Issues  | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No<br>Impact |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| IV. | BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| a)  | Have substantial adverse effects, 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? |                                      |   |                          |              |
| b)  | Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| c)  | Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| d)  | Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| e)  | Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| f)  | Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
|     | SUBSTANTIATION: (Check if project is located in the Bio<br>habitat for any species listed in the Ca<br>Located within Desert Tortoise Sparse  | alifornia Na                         | ntural Diversit   | _                        |              |

a) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not have substantial adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because no endangered, sensitive or candidate species were observed on site. A Focused Survey for Desert Tortoise was conducted by RCA Associates, LLC in July of 2015. The project site is located in the known distribution of the desert tortoise, and desert tortoises have been discovered eight (8) miles northeast of the project site according to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). The desert tortoise is a Federally

Endangered species and a threatened species by the State of California. The Focused Desert Tortoise Survey determined that although the property is located within the known distribution of the desert tortoise no desert tortoise, tortoise sign or any other special status animal species were observed. The focused survey is good for twelve (12) months, if any development or ground disturbance occurs after this period a pre-construction clearance survey is required to confirm the continued absence of desert tortoise.

- b) Less than Significant Impact. The project implementation would not have any significant impacts to sensitive or regulated habitat because the project site is devoid of native riparian vegetation or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS). While a drainage feature potentially subject to jurisdiction by CDFW has been identified on the project site, the Project has been conditioned to submit for a streambed alteration agreement with this agency prior to any disturbance of the land. No significant impact is estimated based upon the review of the drainage study, the biological report as well as the review of the site plan and application, therefore no mitigation is required.
- c) No Impact. This project will not have an effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means, because the project is not within an identified protected wetland. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- d) **No Impact.** This project will not interfere 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 because there are no such corridors or nursery sites within or near the project site. The project site is not a wildlife corridor nor is it used as a wildlife corridor. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- e) **No Impact**. The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance because future construction or land disturbance is required to adhere to the County's Tree & Plant Protection Ordinance. The project proponent will be required to obtain a Tree & Plant Removal Permit prior to any land disturbance for the removal of any Native Desert Plant listed in Chapter 88.01.060(c) of the Development Code and any removal or relocation of any Joshua Tree. Prior to any land disturbance, issuance of a grading or building permit, whichever occurs first, a Native Desert Plan Expert or certified arborist with experience with Joshua Trees must provide certification that the removal, replacement, or revegetation activities are appropriate, supportive of a healthy environment and in compliance with Chapter 88.01 of the Development Code and/or Food and Agriculture Code Section 80001 et seq). Only if one of the findings listed in Chapter 88.01.050(f)(1) and Chapter 88.01.050(f)(3) are made can any Desert Native Plant or Joshua Tree be removed.
- f) No Impact. The project area is not located within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. There would be no take of critical habitat and, therefore, no land use conflict with existing management plans would occur. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

|    | Issues  | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No<br>Impact |
|----|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| ٧. | CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| a) | Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?                         |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
| b) | Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?                      |                                      |   |                          |              |
| c) | Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?                            |                                      |   |                          |              |
| d) | Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| e) | Cause a substantial change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resources as defined in §21074?                             |                                      |   |                          |              |
|    | SUBSTANTIATION: (Check if the project is located in Resources overlays or cite results of Cultural Resources Inventory by Dudek | of cultural                          | resource re   | ,                        | -            |

- a) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, because no significant cultural resources have been identified on the site. The Phase I cultural resources inventory (Report) conducted by Dudek dated November 9, 2015, does not identify any significant cultural resource on site or within an area of impact associated with the project. The Report does identify a single historic-era cultural resource within the Project area, the Tejon Road South, though the report determines that this segment is not a historic resource under CEQA. Additionally, the Report estimates a low probability of inadvertent discovery of cultural resources during ground disturbing activities. Due to the absence of any significant Archeological, Historical, or Tribal Cultural Resources on the project site, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- b) Less than Significant. This project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource, because no resources have been identified on the site. To further reduce the potential for impacts, a standard condition of approval will be applied to the project, which requires the developer to contact the County Museum for a determination of appropriate measures if any finds are made during project construction. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- c) Less than Significant. This project will not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, because no resources have been identified on the site. To further reduce the potential for impacts, a condition shall be added to the project which requires the developer to contact the County Museum for determination of appropriate measures, if any finds are made during project construction.
- d) Less than Significant. It is not anticipated that this project would disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, because no such burials grounds are known to

exist on this project site. If any human remains are discovered during construction of this project, standard requirements in the Conditions of approval will require the developer to contact the County Coroner and the County Museum for a determination of appropriate measures to be taken. A Native American representative shall also be consulted if the remains are determined to be of potential Native American origin pursuant to Section 15064.5(e) of the CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

Less than Significant Impact. Tribal cultural resources will not be impacted as a result of this project being constructed. The County has concluded its consultation with identified Tribes as required under AB52. There are no known cultural resources of concern to consulting Tribes. No additional measures beyond the inadvertent discovery conditions for both archeological resources and human remains will be required for the Project. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required

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|     | Issues   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No<br>Impact |
|-----|--|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| VI. | GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| a)  | Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:  |                                      |   |                          |              |
|     | i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on<br>the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning<br>Map Issued by the State Geologist for the area or based<br>on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to<br>Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. |                                      |   |                          |              |
|     | ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?   |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
|     | iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?   |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
|     | iv. Landslides?  |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
| b)  | Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?   |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
| c)  | Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| d)  | Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 181-B of<br>the California Building Code (2001) creating substantial<br>risks to life or property?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| e)  | Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
|     | SUBSTANTIATION: (Check T if project is located in the G  | ! -       -                          |   | Diatriat).               |              |

i-iv) Less than Significant Impact. The entire San Bernardino County area is particularly susceptible to strong ground shaking and other geologic hazards. However, the proposed project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake fault zone. While the potential for onsite ground rupture cannot be totally discounted (e.g., unmapped faults could conceivably underlie the project corridor), the likelihood of such an occurrence is considered low due to the absence of known faults within the site. Therefore, impacts from proximity to fault zones are considered less than significant. The project site is expected to experience earthquake activity that is typical of the Southern California area. The site is beyond the limits of the liquefaction zone for the aforementioned earthquake faults. Therefore, impacts from liquefaction are considered less than significant. The proposed project would not have any risks associated with landslides. Landslides

are the downslope movement of geologic materials. The stability of slopes is related to a variety of factors, including the slope's steepness, the strength of geologic materials, and the characteristics of bedding planes, joints, faults, vegetation, surface water, and groundwater conditions. The project area is relatively flat terrain where landslides have not historically been an issue; therefore, less than significant impacts are anticipated with respect to seismic-related (or other) landslide hazards.

- b) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, because the site will be paved and landscaped. Erosion control plans will be required to be submitted, approved and implemented. Measures to reduce and control erosion of soil during construction and long term operation are required by MDAQMD through its Rule 403 for control of fugitive dust, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under its administration of the State's General Construction Permit, and the County of San Bernardino Public Works Department through its Storm Water Management Program. Implementation of requirements under MDAQMD Rule 403 for control of fugitive dust would reduce or eliminate the potential for soil erosion due to wind. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that would be included in the applicant's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), would reduce soil erosion due to storm water or water associated with construction.
- c) Less than Significant Impact. The project is not identified as being located on a geologic unit or soil that has been identified as being unstable or having the potential to result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. Where a potential for these is identified a geology report is required to be reviewed and approved by the County Building and Safety Geologist, who will require implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, if any additional measures are required.
- d) Less than Significant Impact. The project site is not located in an area that has been identified by the County Building and Safety Geologist as having the potential for expansive soils.
- e) Less than Significant Impact. The project will be served by a proposed on-site system via permit through the Environmental Health Services Division of the County and review by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

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| VII | GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - Would the project:   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| a)  | Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?                    |                                      |   |                          |              |
| b)  | Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? |                                      |   |                          |              |
|     | SUBSTANTIATION:   |                                      |   |                          |              |

a,b) Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in Section III of this document, the proposed Project is consistent with the underlying General Plan designation on the property. The Air Quality Plan used the underlying zoning as the baseline to evaluate impacts.

As mentioned in Section III, the proposed development is projected to generate approximately 583 daily vehicle trips, 35 during the morning peak hour and 62 during the evening peak hour. The current Level of Service on State Highway 138 adjacent to the Project site is LOS B. Delays entering the roadway will be minimal and will not generate Greenhouse Gas Emissions above the established threshold.

On December 6, 2011, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors adopted the County Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Plan. As part of the GHG Plan, sample project sizes that exceed the 3000 Metric Tons of CO2 equivalents (MTCO2e) threshold level were established. The County's standard threshold for retail space with no refrigeration is 160,000 square feet and the threshold for a grocery store is 36,000 square feet. The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District threshold for MTCO2e is 100,000 tons annually. GHGs and criteria pollutants associated with a 9,100 square foot general retail use will remain below the established threshold. Based on the CalEEMod data for a similar currently proposed 9,100 square foot retail store in Joshua Tree, the Project is estimated to generate 263.45 MTCO2e (Metric Ton Carbon Dioxide Equivalent).

#### Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Annual)

| Project<br>MTCO2e<br>Emissions/Yr. | San Bernardino<br>County Threshold<br>MTCO2e/Yr. | Mojave Desert Air<br>Quality<br>Management<br>District Threshold<br>MTCO2e/Yr. | Exceeds<br>Threshold? |
|------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| 263.45                             | 3,000  | 100,000  | NO                    |

The Project's GHG emissions are anticipated to remain well below the established GHG emissions thresholds. The Project proponents must comply with the Performance Standards within the San Bernardino County Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan. Such compliance will be included

in the conditions of approval. It is unlikely that this Project would impede the state's ability to meet the reduction targets of AB32.

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| VIII | <b>HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -</b> Would the project:   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| a)   | Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| b)   | Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| c)   | Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| d)   | Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?                                   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| e)   | For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? |                                      |   |                          |              |
| f)   | For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would<br>the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or<br>working in the project area?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| g)   | Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| h)   | Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?   |                                      |   |                          |              |

### **SUBSTANTIATION:**

- a) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, because no use approved on the site is anticipated to be involved in such activities. If such uses are proposed onsite in the future, they will be subject to permit and inspection by the Hazardous Materials Division of the County Fire Department and in some instances additional land use review.
- b) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment, because any proposed use or construction activity that might use hazardous materials is subject to permit and inspection by the Hazardous Materials Division of the County Fire Department.
- c) Less than Significant Impact. The future occupants of the proposed facilities will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school, because the project does not propose the use of hazardous materials.
- d) Less than Significant Impact. The project site is not located on a known site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The proposed project shall not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No impacts to this topic shall occur as a result of implementing the proposed project and, therefore, no mitigation measures are required.
- e) **No Impact.** The project site is not within the vicinity or approach/departure flight path of a public airport.
- f) **No Impact.** The proposed project area is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip; therefore, it would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.
- g) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, because the project has adequate access from two or more directions.
- h) No Impact. site is located within a Fire Safety 2 Overlay (FS-2) and the Project site will be conditioned to meet all fire safety standards for projects within the FS-2 fire safety review overlay. The San Bernardino County Development Code requires that development within a Fire Review Area be subject to additional construction requirements, building separations, project design requirements, and erosion and sediment control to mitigate the potential impacts.

|    | Issues  | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No<br>Impact |
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| IX | <b>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -</b> Would the project:   |                                      | ,   |                          |              |
| 6  | ) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| k  | Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level, which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? |                                      |   |                          |              |
| (  | ) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| 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 substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| €  | Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
|    | ) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| Q  | ) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| ł  | ) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structure which would impede or redirect flood flows?   |                                      |   |                          | $\boxtimes$  |
|    | Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
|    | ) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?  |                                      |   |                          | $\boxtimes$  |

| SUBSTANTIATION: | (Check I if project is located in the Flood Hazard Overlay District): |
|-----------------|---|
|                 |   |

- a) Less than Significant Impact. The Project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements because the Project's design incorporates design features to diminish water quality impacts to an acceptable level as required by state and federal regulations. Additionally, the Project must prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to determine and reduce the Project's potential impacts on water quality caused by storm event runoff during construction. Since the Project construction exceeds disturbance greater than an acre, the Project proponent needs to obtain a General Construction Permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program of the federal Clean Water Act. The SWPPP requires submittal of a Notice of Intent to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to construction activities. The objectives of a SWPPP are to identify pollutant sources (i.e., sediment) that may affect storm water discharge quality, and reduce the pollutants using Best Management Practices. The Project site can be served by Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District. On-site wastewater treatment systems must be approved by the County Environmental Health Services based on the requirements of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. All the above are mandatory requirements and are not considered mitigation measures.
- b) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level, because the project is served by an existing water purveyor, Phelan-Pinon Hills Community Service District, that has indicated that there is currently sufficient capacity in the existing water system to serve the anticipated needs of this project. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- c) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site, because the project does not propose any substantial alteration to a drainage pattern, stream or river and the project is required to submit and implement an erosion control plan. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- d) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site, because the project does not propose any substantial alteration to a drainage pattern, stream or river. The Land Development Division has reviewed the Preliminary Drainage Study for this project and has determined that all necessary drainage improvements, both on and off site, have been included in the project design or are required as conditions of project construction. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- e) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because Land Development has reviewed the proposed project drainage and has determined that the proposed systems are adequate to handle anticipated flows. All necessary drainage improvements both on- and off-site will be required as conditions of the construction of the project. There will be adequate capacity in the local and regional drainage systems so that downstream properties are not negatively impacted by any increases or changes in

volume, velocity or direction of storm water flows originating from or altered by the project. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

- f) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not otherwise substantially degrade water quality because appropriate measures relating to water quality protection, including erosion control measures have been required. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- g) No Impact. The project will not place unprotected housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map, because the project does not propose housing and is not within identified flood hazard areas as reviewed by County Public Works. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- h) **No Impact.** The project will not place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows, because the site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area and any area identified as being potentially affected by a 100-year storm the structures will be subject to a flood hazard review and will be required to be elevated a minimum of one foot above the base flood elevation. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- i) **No Impact.** The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam, because the project site is not within any identified path of a potential inundation flow that might result in the event of a dam or levee failure or that might occur from a river, stream, lake or sheet flow situation.
- j) No Impact. The project will not be impacted by inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow, because the project is not adjacent to any body of water that has the potential of seiche or tsunami nor is the project site in the path of any potential mudflow. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

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|----|----|--|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| X. |    | LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:   |                                      |   |                          |              |
|    | a) | Physically divide an established community?  |                                      |   |                          | $\boxtimes$  |
|    | b) | Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? |                                      |   |                          |              |
|    | c) | Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?   |                                      |   |                          | $\boxtimes$  |
|    |    | SUBSTANTIATION:  |                                      |   | _                        |              |

- a) **No Impact.** The construction and operation of the proposed project will not physically divide an established community, because the project is a logical and orderly extension of the planned land uses and development that are established within the surrounding area.
- b) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect, because the project is consistent with all applicable land use policies and regulations of the County Development Code and General Plan. The Project will comply with all hazard protection, resource preservation and land use modifying Overlay District regulations.
- c) **No Impact**. The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans.

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| XI. | MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| a)  | Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?                                |                                      |   |                          |              |
| b)  | Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? |                                      |   |                          |              |
|     | SUBSTANTIATION: (Check  if project is located within th  | e Mineral                            | Resource Zoi  | ne Overlay               | <i>ı):</i>   |

- a) No Impact. The Project site is located within the MRZ-4 Mineral Resource Zone. There are no known mineral resources that would result in the loss of availability at this time. The Project is consistent with the land use district, surrounding, and adjacent properties. No mining has been, or is, occurring on site.
- b) **No Impact.** The project will not 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, because there are no identified locally important mineral resources on the project site.

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| XII. | NOISE - Would the project result in:   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| a)   | Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| b)   | Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| c)   | A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| d)   | A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| 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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? |                                      |   |                          |              |
| f)   | For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would<br>the project expose people residing or working in the project<br>area to excessive noise levels?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
|      | SUBSTANTIATION: (Check if the project is located in the subject to severe noise levels according):   |                                      | ~   |                          | =            |

The project site is not located in Noise Hazard (NH) Overlay District and is not subject to severe noise levels according to the County General Plan Noise Element.

a) Less than Significant Impact. The project is not expected to expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies, because the project is not located in the Noise Hazard (NH) Overlay District and will not be subject to severe noise levels according to the General Plan Noise Element.

Prior to the issuance of a building permit for the proposed project the County Department of Environmental Health Services will require the submittal of a preliminary acoustical questionnaire demonstrating that the proposed project maintains noise levels at or below San Bernardino County Noise Standard(s), San Bernardino Development Code Section 83.01.080. The purpose is to evaluate potential future on-site and/or adjacent off-site noise sources. If the preliminary information cannot demonstrate compliance to noise standards, a project specific acoustical analysis shall be required and appropriate noise attenuating measures may be required of this project. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

- b) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not create exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels, because the project has been conditioned to comply with the vibration standards of the County Development Code and no vibration exceeding these standards is anticipated to be generated by the proposed uses. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
  - c) Less than Significant Impact. The project is not expected to generate a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing or allowed without the project, because the project is not located in the Noise Hazard (NH) Overlay District and will not be subject to severe noise levels according to the General Plan Noise Element. The project is in the vicinity of single family uses, though the standard requirements of development and the County Code should maintain the levels of the project to at or below the required noise thresholds.

Prior to the issuance of a building permit for the proposed project the County Department of Environmental Health Services will require the submittal of a preliminary acoustical questionnaire demonstrating that the proposed project maintains noise levels at or below San Bernardino County Noise Standard(s), San Bernardino Development Code Section 83.01.080. The purpose is to evaluate potential future on-site and/or adjacent off-site noise sources. If the preliminary information cannot demonstrate compliance to noise standards, a project specific acoustical analysis shall be required and appropriate noise attenuating measures may be required of this project. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

- d) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not generate a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing or allowed without the project because the project has been conditioned to comply with the noise standards of the County Development Code. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- e) Less than Significant Impact. The project is not located within an airport land use plan area or within 2 miles of a public/public use airport.
- f) **No Impact.** The proposed project area is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

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

- a) Less than Significant Impact. The Project will not induce substantial population growth in the area either directly (it does not propose housing) or indirectly (it does not create a significant number of new jobs). The Project will serve the existing population in the area. Jobs and employment opportunities created would most likely be absorbed by the employment needs of the existing residents of the area.
- b) No Impact. The proposed project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere because the project site is currently undeveloped. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.
- c) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere because the project site is currently undeveloped. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

|      | Issues   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No<br>Impact |
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| XIV. | 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?   |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
|      | Police Protection?   |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
|      | Schools?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
|      | Parks?   |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
|      | Other Public Facilities?   |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
|      | SUBSTANTIATION:  |                                      |   |                          |              |

a) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project will not result 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, including fire and police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities. Construction of the project will increase property tax revenues to provide a source of funding that is sufficient to offset any increases in the anticipated demands for public services generated by this project. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

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

- a) Less than Significant Impact. This project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, because the project will not generate any new residential units and the impacts to parks generated by the employees of this project will be minimal. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- b) Less than Significant Impact. This project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment, because the type of project proposed, will not result in an increased demand for recreational facilities. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

|      | Issues  | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No<br>Impact |
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| XVI. | TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| a)   | Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and greenways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit. |                                      |   |                          |              |
| b)   | Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways.  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| c)   | Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| d)   | Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
| e)   | Result in inadequate emergency access?  |                                      |   | $\boxtimes$              |              |
| f)   | Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?   |                                      |   |                          |              |
|      | SUBSTANTIATION:   |                                      |   |                          |              |

The proposed project analysis included the preparation of *Focused Traffic Analysis*. Kunzman Associates, Inc., August 2015

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project is within the boundary of the High Desert Local Area Transportation Facilities Fee Plan. Prior to occupancy or final inspection, the required fees for the proposed commercial development will be paid to the Department of Public Works Business Office. Payment of this fee is a standard requirement for any proposals within the boundary of the Local Area Transportation Facilities Fee Plan Area. It is not a mitigation measure. The proposed Project will include improvements to State Highway 138. According to the focused traffic analysis prepared by Kunzman Associates, Inc., the Project is projected to generate 583 daily vehicle trips, 35 during the morning peak hour and 62 during the evening peak hour. The current morning and evening Level of Service (LOS) on State Highway 138 adjacent to the Project site is LOS B and LOS C respectively.

- b) Less Than Significant Impact. The Project will not exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service [LOS] standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways, because County Public Works Traffic Division has reviewed the traffic generation of the proposed Project.
- No Impact. The Project will not result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks. There is no anticipated notable impact on air traffic volumes by passengers or freight generated by the proposed use. No new air traffic facilities are proposed.
- d) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses because the project site is adjacent to an established road that is accessed at points with good site distance and properly controlled intersections. There are no incompatible uses proposed by the Project that will impact surrounding land uses. Access to the site will occur at a driveway off of State highway 138. A less than significant impact is anticipated.
- e) Less Than Significant Impact. The Project will not result in inadequate emergency access, because the site is adjacent to State Highway 138.
- f) Less than Significant Impact. The project will not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks), because these have been required to be installed as conditions of approval.

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| XVII. | UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| a)    | Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| b)    | Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                             |                                      |   |                          |              |
| c)    | Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                                      |                                      |   |                          |              |
| d)    | Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded, entitlements needed?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| e)    | 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? |                                      |   |                          |              |
| f)    | Be served by a landfill(s) with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
| g)    | Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?  |                                      |   |                          |              |
|       | SUBSTANTIATION:   |                                      |   |                          |              |

- Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project does not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, as determined by County Public Health – Environmental Health Services. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- b) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project will not require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. The proposed development must meet the water service requirements provided by County Environmental Health Services. The Project proposes an on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) to dispose of effluent. The County Environmental Health Services requires submittal and approval of a percolation report in order to use OWTS.
- c) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project will not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities that cause significant environmental effects. As stated in the Hydrology and Water Quality section of this document, the

proposed Project will not increase storm flow rates from the site. It will not create any additional impacts on downstream storm drain facilities that will necessitate expansion of existing facilities or construction of new facilities.

- d) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project will have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources as the local water purveyor, Phelan-Pinon Hills Community Service District, has given assurance that it has adequate water service capacity to serve the projected demand for the project, in addition to the provider's existing commitments. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
- e) Less than Significant Impact. The County's Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) will approve and oversee the proposed OWTS. Septic system pumpers must be approved by DEHS. Septage, the waste or sewage in a septic tank, is accepted at the Barstow Sanitary Landfill which is approximately 45 miles northeast of the site.
- f) Less than Significant Impact. The Barstow Sanitary Landfill will serve the solid waste needs of the Project. According to the CalRecycle webpage, this landfill has sufficient remaining capacity to accommodate 71,481,600 cubic yards of solid waste. The estimated closure date is 2071. There is adequate capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs.
- g) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project would comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulation related to solid waste. The project would consist of short-term construction activities (with short-term waste generation limited to minor quantities of construction debris) and thus would not result in long-term solid waste generation. Solid wastes produced during the construction phase of this project, or during future decommission activity, would be disposed of in accordance with all applicable statutes and regulations. Accordingly, no significant impacts related to landfill capacity are anticipated from the proposed project.

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

a) Less Than Significant Impact. The Project does not appear to have the potential to significantly degrade the overall quality of the region's environment or substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Additionally, no significant historic or prehistoric resources have been identified on this site. No special status species were observed during the biological site survey conducted for the Project. The Project proposes to relocate Joshua Trees found on site in compliance with County ordinance. Due to the absence of special status species as well as the absence of significant cultural resources on the subject property or within the area of potential

impact, implementation and operation of the proposed development will have a less than significant

b) Less than Significant Impact. The project does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The sites of projects in the area to which this project would add cumulative impacts have either existing or planned infrastructure that is sufficient for all planned uses. These sites either are occupied or are capable of absorbing such uses without generating any cumulatively significant impacts.

impact upon the identified areas of concern.

c) Less than Significant Impact. The incorporation of design measures, County policies, standards, and guidelines would ensure that there would be no substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Impacts of the proposed project would be less than significant.

#### MITIGATION MEASURES

(Any mitigation measures, which are not "self-monitoring," shall have a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared and adopted at time of project approval.)

None

### **GENERAL REFERENCES**

Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone Act Map Series (PRC 27500)

California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and

Monitoring Program, ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2012/sbd12\_so.pdf

California Department of Water Resources Bulletin #118 (Critical Regional Aguifers).

CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G

California Standard Specifications, July 1992

CalRecycle, http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov

County Museum Archaeological Information Center

County of San Bernardino Development Code, 2007

County of San Bernardino General Plan, adopted 2007

County of San Bernardino Identified Hazardous Materials Waste Sites List, April 1998

County of San Bernardino, Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.

County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino County Storm Water Program, Model Water Quality Management Plan Guidance.

County of San Bernardino Road Planning and Design Standards

Environmental Impact Report, San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007

Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map and Flood Boundary Map

Institute of Transportation Engineers, Trip Generation Manual, 9th edition

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Mojave Desert Planning Area – Federal Particulate Matter (PM10) Attainment Plan, July 1995

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Rule 403.2 Fugitive Dust Control for the Mojave Desert Planning Area. 1996. http://222.mdaqmd.ca.gov

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, 2004 Ozone Attainment Plan

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Federal Conformity Guidelines, June 2007County of San Bernardino, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, January 6, 2012.

### **PROJECT SPECIFIC STUDIES:**

Focused Desert Tortoise Survey. RCA Associates, LLC July 2015
Geotechnical Investigation. Soils Engineering Inc. July 2015
Acoustical Letter Report. Kunzman Associates, Inc. August 2015
Preliminary Drainage Report, TTG Engineers, August 2015
Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation. Dudek. November 2015
Focused Traffic Analysis. Kunzman Associates, Inc. August 2015