
**Final
Initial Study/Negative Declaration
2021-2029 Housing Element**



LEAD AGENCY:

City of Cerritos
18125 Bloomfield Avenue
Cerritos, CA 90703

Contact: Ms. Kristin Aguila, Advance Planning Manager

PREPARED BY:

Morse Planning Group

Adopted & Certified January 27, 2022
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NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Title of Project:	Cerritos 2021-2029 Housing Element
Project Location:	The City of Cerritos is located in the center of the Los Angeles Basin bordering Los Angeles County and Orange County. The City of Cerritos is bisected by the City of Artesia and is bordered by the Cities of Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, La Mirada, Buena Park, La Palma, Lakewood, and Bellflower. The City encompasses 5,696 acres within its approximately 8.95-square-mile corporate limits. The Cerritos 2021-2029 Housing Element applies to all properties within the municipal boundaries of the City of Cerritos.
Project Proponent:	City of Cerritos
Brief Description of Project:	The project is the adoption and implementation of the Cerritos 2021-2029 Housing Element, which represents an update of the City's 2013-2021 Housing Element. The Housing Element is an integral component of the City's General Plan, as it addresses existing and future housing needs of all types for persons of all economic segments in the City and identifies the City's "fair share" of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) assigned Cerritos a housing allocation of 1,908 units for very low, low, moderate, and above moderate income levels for the 2021-2029 housing element period. The City of Cerritos's long-term housing goal is to provide housing opportunities to meet the diverse needs of the community.
Project Impacts:	The Initial Study/Negative Declaration found that the project would have no or less than significant environmental impacts.
Mitigation Measures:	No mitigation measures are required.
Cortese List:	Not Applicable. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document and, as such is not related to a specific parcel.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Cerritos 2021-2029 Housing Element (herein referenced as the “project,” “proposed project,” “2021-2029 Housing Element,” or “Housing Element”) involves adoption and implementation of the element. Following a preliminary review of the project, the City of Cerritos has determined that the project is subject to the guidelines and regulations of the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)*. This Initial Study addresses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the project, as proposed.

1.1 STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND REQUIREMENTS

This environmental document has been prepared in conformance with *CEQA (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.)*; *CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.)*; and the rules, regulations, and procedures for implementation of CEQA, as adopted by the City of Cerritos.

In accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15051 and 15367, the City of Cerritos (City) is identified as the Lead Agency for the project. Under *CEQA* and pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15063, the City is required to undertake the preparation of an Initial Study to determine if the project would have a significant environmental impact. If, as a result of the Initial Study, the Lead Agency finds that there is evidence that any aspect of the project may cause a significant environmental effect, the Lead Agency shall further find that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is warranted to analyze project-related and cumulative environmental impacts. Alternatively, if the Lead Agency finds no evidence that the project, either as proposed or as modified to include the mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study, may cause a significant effect on the environment, the Lead Agency shall find that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment and shall prepare a Negative Declaration. Such determination can be made only if “there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the Lead Agency” that such impacts may occur (*PRC* Section 21080(c)).

The environmental documentation, which is ultimately selected by the City in accordance with CEQA, is intended as an informational document undertaken to provide an environmental basis for subsequent discretionary actions relevant to the project. The resulting documentation is not, however, a policy document and its approval and/or certification neither presupposes nor mandates any actions on the part of those agencies from whom permits and other discretionary approvals would be required.

The environmental documentation and supporting analysis are subject to a public review period. During this review, agency and public comments on the document relative to environmental issues should be addressed to the City. Following review of any comments received, the City will consider these comments as a part of the project’s environmental review and include them with the Initial Study documentation for consideration by the City.



1.2 PURPOSE

The purposes of an Initial Study are to:

1. Identify environmental impacts;
2. Provide the lead agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an EIR or a negative declaration;
3. Enable an applicant or lead agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is required to be prepared;
4. Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of the project;
5. Document the factual basis of the finding in a negative declaration that a project would not have a significant environmental effect;
6. Eliminate needless EIRs;
7. Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used for the project; and
8. Assist in the preparation of an EIR, if required, by focusing the EIR on the effects determined to be significant, identifying the effects determined not to be significant, and explaining the reasons for determining that potentially significant effects would not be significant.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15063 identifies specific disclosure requirements for inclusion in an Initial Study. Pursuant to those requirements, an Initial Study shall include:

- A description of the project, including the location of the project
- Identification of the environmental setting
- Identification of environmental effects by use of a checklist, matrix, or other method, provided that entries on a checklist or other form are briefly explained to indicate that there is some evidence to support the entries
- Discussion of ways to mitigate significant effects identified, if any
- Examination of whether the project is compatible with existing zoning, plans, and other applicable land use controls
- The name(s) of the person(s) who prepared or participated in the preparation of the Initial Study

1.3 RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES

Certain projects or actions undertaken by a Lead Agency require subsequent oversight, approvals, or permits from other public agencies in order to be implemented. Such other agencies are referred to as Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies. Pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15381 and 15386, as amended, Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies are respectively defined as follows:

“Responsible Agency” means a public agency, which proposes to carry out or approve a project, for which [a] Lead Agency is preparing or has prepared an EIR or Negative Declaration. For the purposes of *CEQA*, the term “responsible agency” includes all public agencies other than the Lead Agency, which have discretionary approval power over the project. (Section 15381.)



“Trustee Agency” means a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project, which are held in trust for the people of the State of California. Trustee Agencies include: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, The State Lands Commission, The State Department of Parks and Recreation, and The University of California with regard to sites within the Natural Land and Water Reserves System. (Section 15386.)

For this project, the City of Cerritos is the Lead Agency and has the sole responsibility of processing and approving the project. There are no Responsible or Trustee Agencies that have oversight, approval, or permit responsibility associated with the project, or require consultation with the City of Cerritos. In addition, no other agency is required to approve the 2021-2029 Housing Element, but it will be reviewed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development for the purpose of determining whether it complies with the requirements of State Housing Element law.

1.4 CONSULTATION

The City complied with Tribal Cultural Resources consultation requirements under *CEQA* and Assembly Bill (AB) 52 (Statutes [Stats.] of 2014, Chapter [Ch.] 532), and *PRC* Section 21080.3.1. Formal notification was sent to 11 tribes. The City received no requests for consultation.

1.5 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Pertinent documents relating to this Initial Study have been cited in accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15150, which encourages incorporation by reference as a means of reducing redundancy and length of environmental reports. The following documents are hereby incorporated by reference into this EIR. Information contained within these documents has been utilized for this Initial Study. These documents are available for review at the City of Cerritos Community Development Department, located at 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California 90703, and online, if available, with the links provided below.

Cerritos General Plan. The *Cerritos General Plan* was adopted on January 6, 2004 and is a long-range planning document that guides decisions related to land use. The *Cerritos General Plan* includes an Introduction Chapter and the following ten elements: Land Use, Community Design, Circulation, Housing, Safety, Conservation, Open Space/Recreation, Air Quality, Noise, and Growth Management.

http://www.cerritos.us/GOVERNMENT/city_regulations/cerritos_general_plan.php

Cerritos General Plan Update Environmental Impact Report. The Final Environmental Impact Report for the Cerritos General Plan and Zoning Code Update (State Clearinghouse Number [SCH No.] 2002081107) evaluates the environmental effects associated with the adoption and implementation of the General Plan Update initiated by the City of Cerritos.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) reviewed the following topics: Land Use; Population, Employment, and Housing; Aesthetics; Traffic/Circulation; Air Quality; Noise; Geology and Seismic Hazards; Hydrology and Drainage; Public Services and Utilities; Parks, Recreation, and Trails; Public Health and Safety; and Cultural Resources.



The following topics were determined to have no impact or less than significant impacts in the Initial Study.

- Aesthetics – Scenic Vista, Scenic Resources
- Agriculture – All Topics
- Air Quality – Objectionable Odors
- Biological Resources – All Topics
- Cultural Resources – Human Remains
- Geology and Soils – Soils Incapable of Supporting Septic Tanks, Alquist Priolo Fault Zones, Landslides
- Public Health and Safety/Hazardous and Hazardous Materials – Airport/Airport Land Use Plan, Private Airstrip, Interfere with Emergency Response or Plan, Wildland Fires
- Hydrology and Water Quality – Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow Inundation;
- Land Use – Physically Divide Community, Conflict with Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan
- Mineral Resources – All Topics
- Noise – Excessive Noise from Public Airport, Excessive Noise from Private Airstrip
- Population and Housing – Displace Housing/Necessitate Replacement Housing Construction
- Transportation – Change in Air Traffic Patterns, Hazards Due to Design Features, Inadequate Emergency Access, Inadequate Parking Capacity

The EIR concluded the following project and cumulative significant unavoidable impacts:

- Air Quality – Construction, Mobile Sources, Stationary Sources
- Transportation/Circulation – Two Roadway Segments
 - South Street, west of Studebaker Road
 - South Street, between I-605 and Gridley Road

The EIR concluded less than significant impacts for Land Use; Population, Employment, and Housing; Aesthetics; Noise; Geology and Seismic Hazards; Hydrology and Drainage; Public Services and Utilities; Parks, Recreation, and Trails; Public Health and Safety; and Cultural Resources.

The City Council certified the *Cerritos General Plan Update Environmental Impact Report* on January 6, 2004, as well as adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for significant, unavoidable impacts, and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Cerritos Municipal Code. The *Cerritos Municipal Code*, codified through Ordinance 1035, November 12, 2020, consists of codes and ordinances adopted by the City. The *Cerritos Municipal Code* states standards intended to regulate land use, development, health and sanitation, water quality, public facilities, and public safety, inclusive of those within *Title 15*, Buildings and Construction; *Title 21*, General Plan; *Title 22*, Development Plan; and *Title 23*, Use Regulations.

<http://www.codepublishing.com/ca/cerritos.html>



2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Cerritos 2021-2029 Housing Element applies to all properties within the municipal boundaries of the City of Cerritos (City), Los Angeles County, California. The City of Cerritos is located in the center of the Los Angeles Basin bordering Los Angeles County and Orange County. The City of Cerritos is bisected by the City of Artesia and is bordered by the Cities of Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, La Mirada, Buena Park, La Palma, Lakewood, Bellflower, Hawaiian Gardens, and Cypress. Regional access is provided by three major freeways including: the Artesia Freeway (SR-91), which runs east-west traversing the northern and central portions of the City; the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605), which travels north-south along the western edge of the City, and the Santa Ana Freeway (I-5), which provides for diagonal northwest to southeast travel. Refer to [Exhibit 2-1, Regional Location](#), and [Exhibit 2-2, Cerritos City Boundary](#).

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

2.2.1 EXISTING LAND USES

The project is the 2021-2029 Housing Element that will be applied Citywide. Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years, and development is characterized primarily as a residential community with a mix of housing types, commercial and industrial businesses located primarily along major highways and streets, and public institutional and open space uses.

2.2.2 SURROUNDING LAND USES

The approximately 8.95-square-mile City is bisected by City of Artesia and bordered by the Cities of Norwalk, La Mirada, and Santa Fe Springs on the north; Hawaiian Gardens and Cypress on the south; Buena Park and La Palma on the east; and Lakewood and Bellflower on the west. The neighboring cities and communities are also fully urbanized with a mix of residential, commercial, industrial, public institutional, and open space uses.

2.3 GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING DESIGNATIONS

Not Applicable (Citywide).



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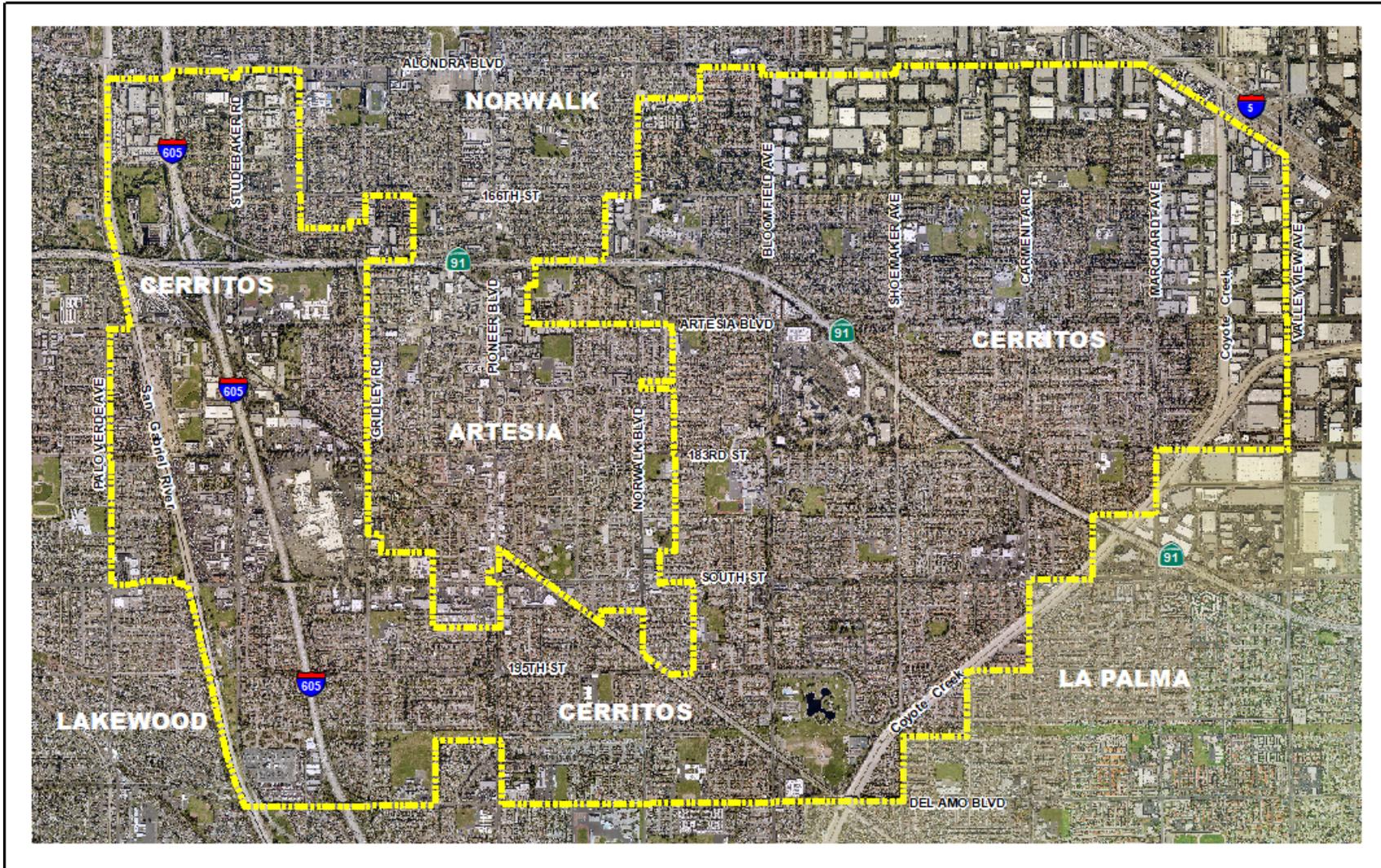
Exhibit 2-1 Regional Location



Source: City of Cerritos, *Cerritos General Plan Update Environmental Impact Report* (January 2004)



Exhibit 2-2 Cerritos City Boundary



Source: City of Cerritos, October 2020 Aerial Image - LARIAC



2.4 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

2.4.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The project is the adoption and implementation of the Cerritos 2021-2029 Housing Element, which represents an update of the City’s 2013-2021 Housing Element. The Housing Element is an integral component of the City’s General Plan, as it addresses existing and future housing needs of all types for persons of all economic segment groups in the City. The Housing Element serves as a tool for decision-makers and the public in understanding and meeting housing needs in Cerritos. While the law does not require local governments to actually construct housing to meet identified needs, it does require that the community address housing needs in its discretionary planning actions.

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSING ELEMENT

The Housing Element is one of the seven mandatory elements of the General Plan. Through policies, procedures, and incentives, it provides an action-plan for maintaining and expanding the housing supply in the City of Cerritos.

The Housing Element is organized into the following chapters and appendices:

Chapters	Appendices
Executive Summary	A. Public Participation
1. Overview and Public Participation	B. Residential Sites Inventory
2. Review of Past Accomplishment	C. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
3. Existing Housing Needs	
4. Special Housing Needs	
5. Project Housing Needs	
6. Site Inventory Analysis	
7. Constraints	
8. City of Cerritos Housing Program	

Cerritos’s Housing Element for the 6th cycle planning period of October 15, 2021 to October 15, 2029 describes policies and programs in Chapters 2 through 8 that include:

- Identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs, resources, and constraints;
- A statement of goals, policies, quantified objectives, and scheduled programs for preservation, improvement and development of housing;
- Identification of adequate sites for housing; and
- Adequate provision for existing and projected needs of all economic segments of the community.



Appendices

Appendix A contains a list of organizations invited to participate in the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Appendix B contains a parcel-specific listing of potential sites for housing development. Appendix C contains an analysis of areas of segregation, racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, disparities in access to opportunity, and disproportionate housing needs including displacement risk.

HOUSING GOALS AND POLICIES

The 2021-2029 Housing Element goals and policies are listed below. Refer to the 2021-2029 Housing Element (separate document) for a full description of the programs associated with each goal.

GOAL HOU-1 ENCOURAGE THE PROVISION OF A WIDE RANGE OF HOUSING TYPES.

- Policy HOU-1.1 Facilitate the development of housing for all household types, including special needs.
- Policy HOU-1.2 Coordinate and cooperate with state, regional and local governments and agencies toward the attainment of the state housing goal.
- Policy HOU-1.3 Pursue programs and funding sources designed to maintain and improve the affordability of existing housing units and for the construction of new housing for lower income households and special needs groups.
- HOU-1.4 Discourage the conversion of existing affordable units to market-rate units where such conversion will diminish the supply of very-low-, low-, and moderate-income housing.

GOAL HOU-2 PROMOTE THE MINIMIZATION OF CONSTRAINTS ON HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

- Policy HOU-2.1 Provide incentives to affordable housing developers in the form of Low and Moderate Income Housing Asset Funds or alternative funding sources, density bonuses, land contributions, development and design flexibility, and fee waivers to facilitate residential development.
- Policy HOU-2.2 Assist developers in the identification of suitable residential sites.
- Policy HOU-2.3 Support the development and enforcement of federal and state anti- discrimination laws.
- Policy HOU-2.4 Minimize permit and development review costs for housing of all types and income levels.
- Policy HOU-2.5 Promote flexibility in development standards for innovative developments.

GOAL HOU-3 PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE EXISTING HOUSING STOCK.

- Policy HOU-3.1 Continue to provide proactive code enforcement activities to maintain and improve housing and neighborhood qualities.
- Policy HOU-3.2 Support neighborhood associations and residents in the pursuit of City-wide pride and property maintenance.
- Policy HOU-3.3 Encourage the conservation of natural resources and the reduction of energy conservation through the promotion of alternative energy sources.
- Policy HOU-3.4 Continue with the removal program for lead-based paint and asbestos hazards.
- Policy HOU-3.5 Encourage green building design for residential projects.



Policy HOU-3.6 Have objective standards, by way of documents such as the Residential Design Manual, that result in attractive design for home remodels and enlargements.

GOAL HOU-4 PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOME OWNERSHIP.

Policy HOU-4.1 Foster relationships with public and private agencies to increase first-time homebuyer opportunities.

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

California *Government Code* Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 (commonly referred to as the “Housing Element Law”) sets forth the legal requirements for a housing element and encourages the provision of affordable and decent housing in suitable living environments for all communities to meet statewide goals. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a statement by the City of Cerritos of its current and future housing needs identified in a policy document that sets forth the City’s goals, policies, and programs to address those identified needs.

Specifically, *Government Code* Section 65583 states in part that the housing element shall consist of “...an identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs and a statement of goals, polices, quantified objectives, financial resources and scheduled programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing.” The housing element must also contain a housing plan with quantified objectives for the implementation of the goals and objectives described in the housing element. State law requires the housing element be updated every eight years or as otherwise required by State law.

The Housing Element Law sets forth the legal requirements for a housing element and encourages the provision of affordable and decent housing in all communities to meet statewide goals. This Initial Study evaluates the environmental effects of the adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Cerritos Housing Element. The planning period is from October 15, 2021 through October 15, 2029.

Government Code Section 65583 requires that housing elements include the following components:

- A review of the previous element’s goals, policies, programs, and objectives to ascertain the effectiveness of each of these components, as well as the overall effectiveness of the Housing Element;
- An assessment of housing needs and an inventory of resources and constraints related to the meeting of these needs;
- An analysis and program for preserving assisted housing developments;
- A Statement of community goals, quantified objectives, and policies relative to the preservation, improvement and development of housing;
- A program which sets forth an eight-year schedule of actions that the City is undertaking or intends to undertake, in implementing the policies set forth in the Housing Element.



Several factors influence the demand for housing in the City of Cerritos. Four major “needs” categories considered in the Housing Element include:

- 1) housing needs resulting from overcrowding;
- 2) housing needs that result when households are paying more than they can afford for housing;
- 3) housing needs of "special needs groups" such as the elderly, large families, female heads of households, households with persons with disabilities (including persons with developmental disabilities), and the homeless; and
- 4) housing needs resulting from population growth in the City and surrounding region.

California housing element law requires that each city and county develop local housing programs designed to meet their “fair share” of housing needs for all income groups. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Housing Policy Division develops the Regional Housing Needs Assessments (RHNA) for each region of the State, represented by councils of governments. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) determines the housing allocation for each city and county within its six-county jurisdiction, which includes Los Angeles County. SCAG assigned Cerritos a housing allocation of 1,908 units, as shown in *Table 2-1, Regional Housing Needs Allocation 2021-2029*. The RHNA covers the period of October 15, 2021 to October 15, 2029.

TABLE 2-1
REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION 2021-2029

Income Category	Number of Units
Very Low Income	679
Low Income	345
Moderate Income	332
Above Moderate Income	552
Total Units	1,908

Sites Inventory

Housing Element Chapter 6 summarizes the City’s survey of all available land within its jurisdiction and identifies five sites that are potentially suitable for new residential development. Of these five sites, three locations (Sites 1, 7, and 8) were identified in the 5th Housing Element cycle but remain suitable and realistic for future housing development. Two new locations (Sites A and B) have been identified for the 6th Housing Element cycle. Through the identification of these sites, as well as the projected development of accessory dwelling units, the City will address its RHNA allocation for the 2021- 2029 Housing Element cycle.

The Residential Sites Inventory summarizes the sites available in Cerritos to accommodate the remaining RHNA through residential recycling primarily through infill developments. A parcel-specific list of potential sites for housing development is provided in Housing Element Appendix B.



Comparison of Sites Inventory and RHNA

As detailed in Housing Element Appendix B, identified properties have the combined capacity to accommodate approximately 1,908 additional housing units on underutilized sites; refer to Table 2-2, Comparison of Site Inventory and 2021-2029 RHNA.

**TABLE 2-2
COMPARISON OF SITE INVENTORY AND 2021-2029 RHNA**

	Income Category			
	Lower	Moderate	Above Moderate	Total
SITE INVENTORY				
Site 1	---	---	5	5
Site 7	978	309	142	1,429
Site 8	---	---	3	3
Site A	30	22	20	72
Site B	---	---	375	375
ADUs	16	1	7	24
Site Inventory Total	1,024	332	552	1,908
6TH CYCLE RHNA (2021-2029) ALLOCATION	1,024 ¹	332	552	1,908
Delta (Site Inventory Total Minus 6th Cycle RHNA)	0	0	0	0
Source: 2021-2029 Housing Element (October 2021)				
Notes 1. Lower RHNA = Very Low (679) + Low (345)				

These sites and the associated land use regulations can facilitate the production of 1,024 lower-income units, 332 moderate-income units, and 552 above-moderate-income units during the planning period, which equal the City’s RHNA allocation for the 2021-2029 planning period. Public services and facilities are available to adequately serve all of the potential housing sites. Lateral water and sewer lines would be extended onto the properties from the adjoining public rights-of-way as development occurs. Any missing public improvement (e.g., curbs, gutters, sidewalks, etc.) along the property frontages would also be constructed at that time.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element identifies sites evaluated previously for potential environmental impacts in the *General Plan Update EIR*. The 2021-2029 Housing Element Update identifies a range of tentatively reserved sites that could be developed to meet the City’s sixth cycle RHNA throughout Cerritos. Some of these sites may differ from those identified in the *Cerritos General Plan* and could require land use changes in the future that would allow for increased density or other provisions.



Government Code Section 65583(c)(1)(A) states that cities have up to three years from the time a Housing Element is adopted to rezone sites including adoption of minimum density and development standards, and cities that fail to adopt a Housing Element that HCD finds to be in substantial compliance within 120 days of the statutory deadline for adoption, shall complete rezoning of sites no later than one year from the statutory deadline adoption of the Housing Element. The sites inventory (provided in 2021-2029 Housing Element Appendix B) yields housing units that provide 100 percent of the RHNA requirements, as demonstrated in *Table 2-2*. Furthermore, each future development proposal would be subject to environmental analysis, as applicable, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c) and as required by State law, to evaluate potential impacts specific to that proposal.

Assumptions

This document is based on the following assumptions:

- 1) **General Plan Consistency.** The 2021-2029 Housing Element is consistent with the adopted *Cerritos General Plan*. As the General Plan is updated in the future, the City will ensure that the updated General Plan is consistent with the policies contained in the Housing Element.
- 2) **Purpose of Housing Element Environmental Review.** This Initial Study is not intended to and does not address the particular impacts of future housing projects on any site identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element. The Initial Study is limited to the review of potential environmental impacts resulting from the adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element and is not intended to analyze impacts of current or future specific development activities.
- 3) **Project-Specific Environmental Review.** In the City of Cerritos, all housing development proposals are subject to a CEQA review process.

2.5 PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The City of Cerritos (lead agency under *CEQA*) will use this Initial Study/Negative Declaration in making decisions with regard to the adoption and implementation of the Cerritos 2021-2029 Housing Element.

- General Plan Amendment
- Negative Declaration



3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

3.1 BACKGROUND

1.	Project Title: Cerritos 2021-2029 Housing Element
2.	Lead Agency Name and Address: City of Cerritos 18125 Bloomfield Avenue Cerritos, CA 90703
3.	Contact Person and Phone Number: Ms. Kristin Aguila, Advance Planning Manager P: 562.916.1201 E: kaguila@cerritos.us
4.	Project Location: The City of Cerritos is located in the center of the Los Angeles Basin bordering Los Angeles County and Orange County. The City of Cerritos is bisected by the City of Artesia and is bordered by the Cities of Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, La Mirada, Buena Park, La Palma, Lakewood, and Bellflower. The City encompasses 5,696 acres within its approximately 8.95-square-mile corporate limits. The Cerritos 2021-2029 Housing Element applies to all properties within the municipal boundaries of the City of Cerritos.
5.	Project Sponsor’s Name and Address: City of Cerritos 18125 Bloomfield Avenue Cerritos, CA 90703
6.	General Plan Designation: Not Applicable (Citywide)
7.	Zoning: Not Applicable (Citywide)
8.	Description of the Project: Refer to <u>Section 2.4, Project Characteristics.</u>
9.	Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: Refer to <u>Section 2.2.2, Surrounding Land Uses.</u>
10.	Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval or participation agreement). Refer to <u>Section 2.5, Permits and Approvals.</u>
11.	Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality The City has complied with Tribal Cultural Resources consultation requirements under CEQA and AB 52 (Stats. 2014, Ch. 532). Formal notification was sent to 11 tribes. The City received no requests for consultation.



3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is “Potentially Significant Impact,” as indicated by the Initial Study Checklist questions in [Section 4.1](#) through [Section 4.20](#).

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



4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This section analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the project. The issue areas evaluated in this Initial Study include those cited in [Section 3.2](#).

The environmental analysis in this section is patterned after the Initial Study Checklist recommended by the *CEQA Guidelines* and used by the City of Cerritos (City) in its environmental review process. For the preliminary environmental assessment undertaken as part of this Initial Study's preparation, a determination that there is a potential for significant effects indicates the need to more fully analyze the development's impacts and to identify mitigation.

For the evaluation of potential impacts, the questions in the Initial Study Checklist are stated and an answer is provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the Initial Study. The analysis considers the long-term, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the development. To each question, there are four possible responses:

- **No Impact.** The development will not have any measurable environmental impact on the environment.
- **Less Than Significant Impact.** The development will have the potential for impacting the environment, although this impact will be below established thresholds that are considered to be significant.
- **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** The development will have the potential to generate impacts which may be considered as a significant effect on the environment, although mitigation measures or changes to the development's physical or operational characteristics can reduce these impacts to levels that are less than significant.
- **Potentially Significant Impact.** The development will have impacts, which are considered significant, and additional analysis is required to identify mitigation measures that could reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

Where potential impacts are anticipated to be significant, mitigation measures would be required, so that impacts may be avoided or reduced to a less than significant level.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The following sections include a discussion of potential project impacts as identified in the Initial Study Checklist.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would not change land use designations or in and of itself authorize any development within the City. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element.

Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes.



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4.1 AESTHETICS

Would the project, except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				✓
B. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓
C. In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). In an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			✓	
D. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			✓	
Note: Certain projects within a transit priority area need not evaluate aesthetics (Public Resources Code Section 21099).				

A. WOULD THE PROJECT HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON A SCENIC VISTA?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which identified that the City does not include scenic vistas due to its flat topography. In addition, the majority of the land within the City has already been developed with urban uses.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element includes policies and programs that are applicable City-wide and are designed to facilitate the construction of housing units to meet the City's share of the regional housing need. The proposed project does not involve construction on any particular site in the City and would have no adverse impacts relative to scenic vistas. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY DAMAGE SCENIC RESOURCES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TREES, ROCK OUTCROPPINGS, AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS WITHIN A STATE SCENIC HIGHWAY?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which identified that there are no scenic resources, trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within a state scenic highway in the City.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element applies to the entire City, and only identifies sites where new housing may be developed consistent with the *Cerritos General Plan* and *Cerritos Municipal Code*. The proposed project does not involve construction on any particular site in the City. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.



Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. IN NONURBANIZED AREAS, WOULD THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY DEGRADE THE EXISTING VISUAL CHARACTER OR QUALITY OF PUBLIC VIEWS OF THE SITE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS? (PUBLIC VIEWS ARE THOSE THAT ARE EXPERIENCED FROM PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE VANTAGE POINT). IN AN URBANIZED AREA, WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE ZONING AND OTHER REGULATIONS GOVERNING SCENIC QUALITY?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos is considered an urbanized area. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Therefore, it is not possible at this time to conduct an assessment of potential site-specific visual impacts relative to future development proposals. Instead, a case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to ensure that existing views and aesthetic conditions are preserved. In addition, future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, project-specific conditions, and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes, including all applicable *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations relative to visual character and scenic quality. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT CREATE A NEW SOURCE OF SUBSTANTIAL LIGHT OR GLARE WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT DAY OR NIGHTTIME VIEWS IN THE AREA?

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not address new lighting sources, nor does it include any site-specific development proposals. As such, it is not possible at this time to conduct an assessment of potential site-specific light and glare impacts relative to future development proposals. Generally, potential glare and lighting glare impacts can be mitigated through use of non-reflective building materials and lighting that is shielded downward.

A case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to ensure that light and glare impacts are addressed through minimization and/or mitigation. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes, including all applicable *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations relative to light and glare. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project, and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓

A. WOULD THE PROJECT 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?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which identified that the City is largely built out and did not contain any known farmland resources in 2002. Based upon a November 2021 review of the California Important Farmland Finder (CIFF), the City contains no land designated as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, but does contain Unique Farmland on the California Important Farmland Finder (CIFF) and Los Angeles County Important Farmland Maps published by the State of California, Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

There are 17.5 acres of Unique Farmland located along the City's western border within a west-east utility easement. The Unique Farmland area generally extends within a utility easement west of Gridley Park on the east to Studebaker Road on the west. This type of farmland is described as lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This farmland is usually irrigated, but may include non-irrigated orchards



or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California, and must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

The CIFF designates the remainder of the City as Urban and Built-Up Land. The Urban and Built-Up Land category is defined as land developed at a density of at least 1 dwelling unit (du) per 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. Land uses include, but are not limited to, residential, industrial, office/commercial, institutional, and public administration.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that does not involve any site-specific designs or proposals. Because no properties in Cerritos are designated as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance, no impact would result from adoption or implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH EXISTING ZONING FOR AGRICULTURAL USE, OR A WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACT?

No Impact. The City and surrounding area are developed and urbanized. A small number of properties are zoned as Agriculture within the City. These properties are located in the western portion of the City east of the San Gabriel River. No property within the City is under a Williamson contract.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that does not involve any site-specific designs or proposals. Therefore, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not affect any land zoned for agricultural uses and would not conflict with a Williamson Act Contract. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT 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))?

No Impact. There is no zoning designation for forest land in the City of Cerritos, and no areas within the City are classified as forest or timberland as defined by *Public Resources Code* Section 4526. Forestry operations do not occur within the City. Also, no property within the City supports trees capable of 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, or that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits. Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in the rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



D. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN THE LOSS OF FOREST LAND OR CONVERSION OF FOREST LAND TO NON-FOREST USE?

No Impact. Refer to Response 4.2.C.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

E. WOULD THE PROJECT 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?

No Impact. The adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in changes to the environment that would result in the conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use or forest land to a non-forest use. Thus, there would be no potential for the conversion of these resources. No impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.3 AIR QUALITY

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

- A. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH OR OBSTRUCT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPLICABLE AIR QUALITY PLAN?**
- B. WOULD THE PROJECT 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?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which is a non-attainment area for Federal and State criteria air pollutants, including ozone, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that establishes City direction for facilitating housing development pursuant to adopted land use plans. Future development proposals would be required to comply with the density and intensity standards set forth in the *Cerritos General Plan* Land Use Element and *Cerritos Municipal Code* Development Plan regulations.

Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not directly result in the construction of new housing or pollutant emissions, but would facilitate housing construction consistent with the *Cerritos General Plan* and *Cerritos Municipal Code*. Nevertheless, future development proposals facilitated by the 2021-2029 Housing Element programs have the potential to result in pollutant emissions. A case-by-case review of future development proposals would be necessary to ensure that potential pollutant emissions do not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan nor result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant.

Future development proposals would be reviewed for consistency with all applicable Federal, State, and local air quality regulations and standards; the applicable Air Quality Management Plan; South Coast Air Quality Management District rules; *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation measures; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations relative to air quality. This review would be necessary to ensure that air quality is



protected and mitigated, if applicable. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT EXPOSE SENSITIVE RECEPTORS TO SUBSTANTIAL POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS?

Less Than Significant Impact. Land uses that are considered more sensitive to changes in air quality than others are referred to as sensitive receptors. Land uses such as primary and secondary schools, hospitals, and convalescent homes are considered to be sensitive to poor air quality because the very young, the old, and the infirm are more susceptible to respiratory infections and other air quality-related health problems than the general public. Residential uses are considered sensitive because people in residential areas are often at home for extended periods of time, so they could be exposed to pollutants for extended periods.

Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not directly result in the exposure of persons to substantial pollutant concentrations. Future development proposals would be required to comply with the density and intensity standards set forth in the *Cerritos General Plan* Land Use Element and *Cerritos Municipal Code* Title 22, Development Plan regulations. In addition, a case-by-case review of future development proposals would be necessary to ensure that potential emissions do not adversely affect sensitive receptors and to ensure consistency with all applicable all applicable *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation measures; *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations; SCAQMD rules; and *Building Code* requirements. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN OTHER EMISSIONS (SUCH AS THOSE LEADING TO ODORS) ADVERSELY AFFECTING A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE?

Less Than Significant Impact. Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not directly result in the exposure of persons to other emissions or odors. Future development proposals would be required to comply with the density and intensity standards set forth in the *Cerritos General Plan* Land Use Element and *Cerritos Municipal Code* Title 22, Development Plan regulations. In addition, a case-by-case review of future development proposals would be necessary to ensure that potential other emissions or odors do not adversely affect a substantial number of people and are consistent with all applicable with all applicable *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation measures; *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations; SCAQMD rules; and *Building Code* requirements. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				✓
B. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				✓
C. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				✓
D. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				✓
E. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			✓	
F. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				✓

A. WOULD THE PROJECT HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH HABITAT MODIFICATIONS, ON ANY SPECIES IDENTIFIED AS A CANDIDATE, SENSITIVE, OR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES IN LOCAL OR REGIONAL PLANS, POLICIES, OR REGULATIONS, OR BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which identified that the City did not contain any known biological resources. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years. As such, the City does not contain habitat supportive of special status plant or wildlife species. Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any sensitive species. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



B. WOULD THE PROJECT HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON ANY RIPARIAN HABITAT OR OTHER SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED IN LOCAL OR REGIONAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS OR BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which identified that the City did not contain any known riparian habitat areas or sensitive natural communities. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years and, as such, is void of riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON FEDERALLY PROTECTED WETLANDS AS DEFINED BY SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MARSH, VERNAL POOL, COASTAL, ETC.) THROUGH DIRECT REMOVAL, FILLING, HYDROLOGICAL INTERRUPTION, OR OTHER MEANS?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which identified that the City did not contain any known wetlands. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years and, as such, is void of Federally protected wetlands. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT 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?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which identified that the City did not contain any known wildlife corridors. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years. Due to the lack of quality biological habitat and wildlife corridors within the City, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not interfere with the movement of fish or wildlife or impact wildlife corridors. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



E. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH ANY LOCAL POLICIES OR ORDINANCES PROTECTING BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES, SUCH AS A TREE PRESERVATION POLICY OR ORDINANCE?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos has no local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, but does have a tree preservation ordinance codified in *Cerritos Municipal Code* Chapter 9.75, Trees and Landscape.

Since Cerritos was first established, City crews have planted more than 30,000 trees in City parks and along sidewalks and street medians. This community forest gives the City its character, provides shade and beauty, and enhances property values. *Cerritos Municipal Code* Chapter 9.75, Trees and Landscape, is applicable to existing development and future development proposals, and Chapter 9.75 encompasses the following: 1) establishes goals, policies and regulations to ensure compliance with the City's objective to create and maintain a community forest as an essential element of the City's character; 2) provides a unifying influence throughout city parks and streetscapes through the selective planting of trees according to the streetscape and median development guidelines; 3) registers and conserves heritage trees; 4) sustains the standards and expectations of being a member of Tree City USA; and 5) establishes the Property Preservation Commission as the advising body to the City Council for tree-related issues.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Thus, it is not possible at this time to conduct an assessment of potential site-specific tree impacts relative to future development proposals. Instead, a case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to ensure that existing trees are preserved, as applicable. In addition, future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations relative to trees. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

F. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF AN ADOPTED HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN, NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN, OR OTHER APPROVED LOCAL, REGIONAL, OR STATE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN?

No Impact. The City of Cerritos is not located within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved habitat conservation plan. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.5 CULTURAL AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?			✓	
B. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?			✓	
C. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			✓	
D. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
1) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?			✓	
2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.			✓	

A. WOULD THE PROJECT CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE CHANGE IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A HISTORICAL RESOURCE AS DEFINED IN CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City is largely built out and does not contain any known historical resources or any historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places or on the California Historic Resources Inventory maintained by the State Office of Historic Preservation. Within the City, there are locally identified and designated Heritage Trees. These Heritage Trees are significant within the community or have historic significance. The City has recognized the importance of preserving its history and character through policies such as ensuring all items of historic and cultural significance are preserved (General Plan Policy CON-9.1) and the identification, recordation, mapping and evaluation of all potential historic and cultural resources (General Plan Policy CON-9.2) within the City.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Thus, it is not possible at this time to conduct an assessment of potential site-specific historical resource impacts relative to future development proposals. Instead, a case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to ensure that historically significant buildings and resources are preserved, as applicable. In addition, future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact



processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations relative to historic resources. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE CHANGE IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City is largely built out and does not contain any known archaeological resources. Given that the potential for uncovering archaeological resources within the City is considered remote, and that no such resources had been discovered during prior development activity, it is not anticipated that new development on previously developed sites would uncover or impact archaeological resources.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. A case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to confirm the absence or presence of archaeological resources, as applicable. In addition, future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations relative to archaeological resources. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT DISTURB ANY HUMAN REMAINS, INCLUDING THOSE INTERRED OUTSIDE OF FORMAL CEMETERIES?

Less Than Significant. The Artesia Cemetery, located at 11142 Artesia Boulevard, is the only formal cemetery within the City of Cerritos. And due to the level of past disturbance associated with development throughout the City, it is not anticipated that human remains exist elsewhere within the City.

Human remains are defined as any physical remains of a human being. The term "human remains" encompasses more than human bones. In ancient as well as historic times, Tribal Traditions included, but were not limited to, the burial of associated cultural resources (funerary objects) with the deceased, and the ceremonial burning of human remains. These remains are to be treated in the same manner as bone fragments that remain intact. Associated funerary objects are objects that, as part of the death rite or ceremony of a culture, are reasonably believed to have been placed with individual human remains either at the time of death or later; other items made exclusively for burial purposes or to contain human remains can also be considered as associated funerary objects.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) provides guidance that agencies shall consult with organizations on whose aboriginal lands the remains and cultural items might be discovered, who are reasonably known to have a cultural relationship to the human remains and other cultural items.

In the event human remains are encountered during earth removal or disturbance activities associated with future development proposals, all activities would cease immediately and a qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor would be immediately contacted. California *Health and Safety Code* Section 7050.5 states that no further



disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to *Public Resources Code* Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner would notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials. Compliance with the above protocols per *Health and Safety Code* and *Public Resources Code* ensures no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- D. WOULD THE PROJECT CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE CHANGE IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE, DEFINED IN PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21074 AS EITHER A SITE, FEATURE, PLACE, CULTURAL LANDSCAPE THAT IS GEOGRAPHICALLY DEFINED IN TERMS OF THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF THE LANDSCAPE, SACRED PLACE, OR OBJECT WITH CULTURAL VALUE TO A CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE, AND THAT IS:**
- 1. LISTED OR ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING IN THE CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES, OR IN THE LOCAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES AS DEFINED IN PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5020.1(K)?**
 - 2. A RESOURCE DETERMINED BY THE LEAD AGENCY, IN ITS DISCRETION AND SUPPORTED BY SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, TO BE SIGNIFICANT PURSUANT TO CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION (C) OF PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5024.1? IN APPLYING THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION (C) OF PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5024.1, THE LEAD AGENCY SHALL CONSIDER THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESOURCE TO A CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE.**

Less Than Significant Impact.

Tribal Consultation

Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014 (AB 52), requires that Lead Agencies evaluate a project's potential to impact "tribal cultural resources." Such resources include "[s]ites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical resources or included in a local register of historical resources." AB 52 also gives Lead Agencies the discretion to determine, supported by substantial evidence, whether a resource qualifies as a "tribal cultural resource."

Also per AB 52 (specifically *Public Resources Code* Section 21080.3.1), Native American consultation is required upon request by a California Native American tribe that has previously requested that the City provide it with notice of such projects.



The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted by the City in early July 2021 requesting a list of potential Native American contacts for consultation. The NAHC provided a Tribal Consultation List to the City on July 6, 2021. In addition, the City reviewed its list of tribes that had requested AB 52 notification. The City sent letters via email for the purposes of SB 18¹ and AB 52 consultation to 11 tribes listed below on July 7, 2021:

1. Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation - Andrew Salas, Chairperson
2. San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians – Anthony Morales, Chairperson
3. Gabrielino/Tongva Nation – Sandonne Goad, Chairperson
4. Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council – Robert Dorame, Chairperson
5. Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council – Christina Conley
6. Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe – Charles Alvarez
7. Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation – Belardes – Matias Belardes, Chairperson
8. Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians – Lovina Redner, Chairperson
9. Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians – Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson
10. Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – Michael Mirelez, Cultural Resource Coordinator
11. Gabrieleno – Tongva Tribe – Sam Dunlap

The City's letter specifically noted that the Housing Element is required to be updated every eight years, and within Los Angeles County, jurisdictions are required to prepare, adopt, and receive certification from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) of their 6th cycle Housing Element by October 15, 2021. As such, the City respectfully requested that each tribe respond within 30 days for the both the SB 18 and AB 32 consultation.

At the conclusion of the 30-day period, the City received no requests for SB 18 or AB 52 consultation.

Impact Analysis

Whatever the linguistic affiliation, Native Americans in and around the project area exhibited similar organization and resource procurement strategies. Villages were based on clan or lineage groups. Their home/base sites are marked by midden deposits, often with bedrock mortars. During their seasonal rounds to exploit plant resources, small groups would migrate within their traditional territory in search of specific plants and animals. Their gathering strategies often left behind signs of special use sites, usually grinding slicks on bedrock boulders, at the locations of the resources.

Given the long-standing history of the multiple tribes in and around the City of Cerritos, there is the potential that the construction of future development proposals would impact tribal cultural resources. Past construction and development practices in the City were not as sensitive to tribal cultural resources as current practices. Thus, ground-disturbing activities, such as grading or excavation, could disturb previously unidentified subsurface resources.

¹ SB 18 (Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (Government Code Section 65352.3) requires cities and counties to contact and consult with California Native American tribes prior to amending or adopting any general plan or specific plan, or designating land as open space.



The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. A case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to confirm the absence or presence of tribal cultural resources, as applicable. In addition, future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations relative to tribal cultural resources. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.6 ENERGY

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

A. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DUE TO WASTEFUL, INEFFICIENT, OR UNNECESSARY CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY RESOURCES, DURING PROJECT CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION?

B. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH OR OBSTRUCT A STATE OR LOCAL PLAN FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY OR ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

No Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations; and the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code* and *California Green Building Standards Code*. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts to energy resources, or conflict with or obstruct any plans addressing renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

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

A. WOULD THE PROJECT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CAUSE POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS, INCLUDING THE RISK OF LOSS, INJURY, OR DEATH INVOLVING:

1. RUPTURE OF A KNOWN EARTHQUAKE FAULT, AS DELINEATED ON THE MOST RECENT ALQUIST-PRIOLO EARTHQUAKE FAULT ZONING MAP ISSUED BY THE STATE GEOLOGIST FOR THE AREA OR BASED ON OTHER SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF A KNOWN FAULT? REFER TO DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY SPECIAL PUBLICATION 42.

No Impact. Southern California, including the City of Cerritos, is subject to the effects of seismic activity due to the active faults that traverse the area. Active faults are defined as those that have experienced surface displacement within Holocene time (approximately the last 11,000 years) and/or are in a State-designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. No Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault zones exist within the City of Cerritos. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



2. STRONG SEISMIC GROUND SHAKING?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos, similar to the rest of California, is located within a seismically active region as a result of being located near the active margin between the North American and Pacific tectonic plates.

Although there are no identified Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within the City of Cerritos, there are several known faults within close proximity. These faults include: Newport-Inglewood Fault Zone, Whittier-Elsinore Fault, Norwalk Fault and Elysian Park Fault. The closest fault is the projected trace of the buried Norwalk Fault, approximately one mile to the north of Cerritos. Additional faults within a 50-mile radius of Cerritos are capable of producing substantial effects from ground shaking. These faults include the San Andreas, Chino, Sierra Madre-Cucamonga, and San Fernando faults. A major earthquake produced along any of these faults has the potential to produce strong ground shaking in Cerritos. Also, the Puente Hills fault system, discovered in 2003, is comprised of three sections that run under downtown Los Angeles and into the Coyote Hills of northern Orange County. The Puente Hills Fault has been credited with causing the 1987 Whittier Narrows Earthquake. No active faults have been identified at the ground surface within the City; however, the City overlies the Puente Hills segment of the Elysian Park blind thrust fault.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element. The *California Building Code* includes specific design measures, which are based on the determination of Site Classification and Seismic Design Categories specific to the project site. These design measures are intended to maximize structural stability in the event of an earthquake. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with site-specific geologic studies, project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations; and the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code*. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

3. SEISMIC-RELATED GROUND FAILURE, INCLUDING LIQUEFACTION?

4. LANDSLIDES?

Less Than Significant Impact.

The geologic and topographic characteristics of an area often determine its potential for landslides. Steep slopes, the extent of erosion, and the rock composition of a hillside all contribute to the potential slope failure and landslide events.

The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years. In addition, the City of Cerritos has a relatively flat topography with no more than a five to ten foot change in elevation throughout the City. According to *Cerritos*



General Plan Update EIR Section 4.7, Geology and Seismic Hazards, the City of Cerritos does not have the potential for landslides.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with site-specific geologic studies, project-specific conditions, and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations; and the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code*. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts relative to landslide ground failures.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL SOIL EROSION OR THE LOSS OF TOPSOIL?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Future development proposals involving demolition and/or construction activities would be subject to compliance with the *California Building Code*, as well as the requirements set forth in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water General Construction Permit for construction activities. The NPDES Storm Water General Construction Permit requires preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, which would identify specific erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices that would be implemented to protect storm and non-storm water runoff during construction and post-development activities, inclusive of low impact development (LID) design considerations and operational and maintenance requirements. Compliance with the *California Building Code* and NPDES would minimize effects from erosion and ensure consistency with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Water Quality Control Plan. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT 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 AN ON-SITE OR OFF-SITE LANDSLIDE, LATERAL SPREADING, SUBSIDENCE, LIQUEFACTION OR COLLAPSE?

Less Than Significant Impact. Seismic agitation of relatively loose saturated sands, silty sands, and some silts can result in a buildup of pore pressure. If the pore pressure exceeds the overburden stresses, a temporary quick condition known as liquefaction can occur. Liquefaction effects can manifest in several ways including: 1) loss of bearing; 2) lateral spread; 3) dynamic settlement; and 4) flow failure. Lateral spreading has typically been the most damaging mode of failure. In general, the more recent that a sediment has been deposited, the more likely it will be susceptible to liquefaction. Other factors that must be considered are groundwater, confining stresses, relative density, and the intensity and duration of seismically-induced ground shaking.

According to the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* Section 4.7, Geology and Seismic Hazards and Exhibit 4.7-2, Potential Liquefaction Areas, the entire City of Cerritos is in a liquefaction hazard zone. Liquefaction is associated



with intense ground shaking, wherein the strength and stiffness of a soil is reduced. Liquefaction occurs in saturated soils, where the space between individual solid particles is completely filled with water. This water exerts a pressure on soil particles that influence how tightly the particles themselves are pressed together. Earthquake shaking can cause the water pressure to increase to the point where the soil particles can readily move with respect to each other. Its effects are most commonly observed in low-lying areas.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with site-specific geologic studies, project-specific conditions, and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations; and the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code*. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts relative to liquefaction.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT BE LOCATED ON EXPANSIVE SOIL, AS DEFINED IN TABLE 18-1-B OF THE UNIFORM BUILDING CODE (1994), CREATING SUBSTANTIAL RISKS TO LIFE OR PROPERTY?

Less Than Significant Impact. Expansive soils can be a problem, as variation in moisture content will cause a volume change in the soil. Expansive soils heave when moisture is introduced and contract as they dry. During inclement weather and/or excessive landscape watering, moisture infiltrates the soil and causes the soil to heave (expansion). When drying occurs the soils will shrink (contraction). Repeated cycles of expansion and contraction of soils can cause pavement, concrete slabs on grade and foundations to crack. This movement can also result in misalignment of doors and windows.

Cerritos is located in the northeastern portion of the coastal plain. In this area sedimentary and volcanic rocks in the subsurface attain great thickness. Alluvial deposits about 1,000 feet in thickness, consisting predominantly of marine and nonmarine sand and silt underlie this portion of the coastal plain. Newer alluvial deposits exist along the San Gabriel River. These soils may become unstable during intense ground shaking.

The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with site-specific geologic studies, project-specific conditions, and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations; and the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code*. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



E. WOULD THE PROJECT HAVE SOILS INCAPABLE OF ADEQUATELY SUPPORTING THE USE OF SEPTIC TANKS OR ALTERNATIVE WASTE WATER DISPOSAL SYSTEMS WHERE SEWERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE WATER?

No Impact. All existing development within the City is connected to a sewer system for the disposal of wastewater. Future development proposals would be required to connect to a sewer system, as well as comply with all applicable regulations, development standards, project-specific conditions, and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

F. WOULD THE PROJECT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY DESTROY A UNIQUE PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCE OR SITE OR UNIQUE GEOLOGIC FEATURE?

No Impact. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years and does not contain any known paleontological resources or unique geologic features. The potential for uncovering paleontological resources or unique geologic features within the City is considered remote, given that no such resources have been discovered during prior development activity. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.8 GREENHOUSE GASES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✓	
B. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			✓	

- A. WOULD THE PROJECT GENERATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THAT MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT?**
- B. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH AN APPLICABLE PLAN, POLICY, OR REGULATION ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element establishes policy to facilitate the development of 1,908 housing units for the eight-year period, pursuant to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The RHNA process allocates numerical housing goals to cities and counties in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region to accommodate anticipated regional population growth that is consistent under SB 375 with the *2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy of the Southern California Association of Governments* (also referred to as *Connect SoCal*), which was adopted on May 7, 2020.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element.

Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations; and the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code* and *California Green Building Standards Code*. In addition, the *Cerritos General Plan* includes resource conservation (air quality, energy resources, waste management, stormwater management, community forest) and water quality policies in the Air Quality and Conservation Elements that support actions to reduce the use of resources and energy, and thus, the creation of greenhouse gas emissions. Future development proposals would be subject to these policies, as applicable.

Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts to greenhouse gas emissions or conflict with adopted plans, policies, and regulations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓

- A. WOULD THE PROJECT CREATE A SIGNIFICANT HAZARD TO THE PUBLIC OR THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE ROUTINE TRANSPORT, USE, OR DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS?**
- B. WOULD THE PROJECT 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. WOULD THE PROJECT EMIT HAZARDOUS EMISSIONS OR HANDLE HAZARDOUS OR ACUTELY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, SUBSTANCES, OR WASTE WITHIN ONE-QUARTER MILE OF AN EXISTING OR PROPOSED SCHOOL?**
- D. WOULD THE PROJECT 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?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years. Businesses that use, transport, or dispose of hazardous materials are required to comply with Federal, State, and local hazardous materials regulations. Specifically, truck traffic, including trucks that transport chemicals, is restricted to designated routes per *Cerritos Municipal Code* Chapter 10.18, Truck Routes.



The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database is an online search tool. EnviroStor provides access to detailed information on hazardous waste permitted and corrective action facilities, as well as existing site cleanup information. EnviroStor provides site/facility name, site/facility type, clean-up status, address/description, any restricted use (recorded deed restrictions), past use(s) that caused contamination, potential contaminants of concern, potential environmental media affected, site history, planned, and completed activities. As of November 14, 2021, the EnviroStor search results (Cortese List) identified a total of two active sites, one inactive site, one closed site, and five referral sites within City of Cerritos; refer to Table 4.9-1. The cleanup status and type of cleanup required for each site is listed in Table 4.9.1.

**Table 4.9-1
EnviroStor Search Results**

Site/Facility Name	EnviroStor Id	Program Type	Status	Address
Cerritos Regional Park	19490186	Historical	Refer: Other Agency	19700 South Bloomfield Avenue
Cline-Buckner, Inc.	19281205	Historical	Refer: RWQCB	16137 Piuma Avenue
Continental Cleaners	19720034	Evaluation	Refer: 1248 Local Agency	11450 South Street
Fredrick Ramond, Inc.	60000918	Voluntary Cleanup	Active	16121 Carmenita Road
GNB Technologies	CAT000617258	Haz Waste - RCRA	Closed	12981 166th Street
GNB Technologies	80001794	Corrective Action	Refer: SMBRP	12981 166th Street
J&R Cerritos Properties, LLC	60001328	Evaluation	Inactive - Needs Evaluation	12981 166th Street
Landmark Square Cerritos	60001163	Voluntary Cleanup	Active	11300-11338 South Street
Metro Biological Laboratories	19281214	Voluntary Cleanup	No Further Action	14905 Carmenita Road
Rettan Corporation	19280810	Historical	Refer: Other Agency	17301 Edwards Road

Source: California Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor, Hazardous Waste And Substances Site List (Cortese); <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/>; accessed November 14, 2021.

In addition, The *Cerritos General Plan* Safety Element addresses the protection of residents and business employees from potential hazards with the following policies:

- Policy SAF-3.1 Encourage the proper disposal of household hazardous waste through the dissemination of information through educational and outreach activities.
- Policy SAF-3.2 Monitor facilities or businesses that utilize, store or handle hazardous materials to ensure practices and procedures will reduce the threat of damage to life and property.
- Policy SAF-3.3 Enforce Federal, State, and local laws and regulations relating to the use, storage, transport and clean-up of toxic, explosive and other hazardous materials to prevent unauthorized discharges.



- Policy SAF-3.4 Identify specific routes, both street and railroad systems, for the safe transport of hazardous materials in and through the City.
- Policy SAF-4.1 Continue to cooperate with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in organizing regular collection of household hazardous waste.
- Policy SAF-4.2 Provide educational and outreach materials to Cerritos residents and businesses that address hazardous materials.
- Policy SAF-4.3 Continuously monitor facilities that utilize, handle or store hazardous materials.
- Policy SAF-4.4 Provide educational materials for residents regarding used oil collection and disposal.
- Policy SAF-4.5 Enforce Federal, State and local laws and regulations relating to the use, storage and transportation of toxic, explosive and other hazardous materials to prevent unauthorized discharges.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, Federal and State laws and regulations; *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not pose a significant hazard to the public or the environment, or involve the transportation, use, or storage of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials. As such, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which concluded that that the City of Cerritos is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. As such, people residing or working in the City would not experience safety hazards. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

F. WOULD THE PROJECT IMPAIR IMPLEMENTATION OF OR PHYSICALLY INTERFERE WITH AN ADOPTED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN OR EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN?

No Impact. The County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has the responsibility of comprehensively planning for, responding to and recovering from large-scale emergencies and disasters that impact Los Angeles County. OEM’s work is accomplished in partnership and collaboration with first response agencies, as well as non-profit, private sector, and government partners. In addition, OEM is responsible for maintaining an approved *Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP)* and providing ongoing leadership



and coordinating disaster plans and exercises with the 88 cities, 137 unincorporated communities and 288 special districts in Los Angeles County. The *OAERP* addresses Los Angeles County's planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural and man-made disasters and technological incidents.

The City of Cerritos Community Safety Services Department develops and administers programs designed to enhance public safety, crime prevention and emergency preparedness. The Community Safety Services Department provides oversight of the City's law enforcement program and directs the City's Code Enforcement Detail, Parking Enforcement Detail, Community Safety Officer Cadre, Animal Services program, Crossing Guard program, Latent Print program, Neighborhood Watch program, Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) program, and the City's Emergency Operations Center.

All jurisdictions within California operate under the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The City of Cerritos, like all local government agencies, has the primary responsibility for emergency management activities within its jurisdiction. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not impair the implementation of the *OAERP* or interfere with emergency responses or evacuation plans. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?			✓	
B. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			✓	
C. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
1) Result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			✓	
2) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			✓	
3) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			✓	
4) Impede or redirect flood flows?			✓	
D. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?			✓	
E. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			✓	

A. WOULD THE PROJECT VIOLATE ANY WATER QUALITY STANDARDS OR WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS OR OTHERWISE SUBSTANTIALLY DEGRADE SURFACE OR GROUND WATER QUALITY?

Less Than Significant Impact. Surface water and groundwater quality in the City of Cerritos is similar to that which is characterized for other urbanized areas surrounding the City and within the County of Los Angeles (County). The City encourages development projects to be designed with pervious materials and landscaped areas to enhance on-site capture and absorption of stormflows. Also, through the implementation of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program requirements, the City guards against high pollutant loads and erosive materials in surface runoff.

Future development proposals would be required to provide for the elimination/reduction of pollutant discharges, including capture and treatment of dry weather and first flush runoff in a manner consistent with Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) requirements. All storm water discharges must comply with applicable provisions of Los Angeles County’s NPDES permit. As a co-permittee, the City is responsible for implementation of the requirements of the NPDES permit issued to the County. Consistent with LARWQCB/NPDES



and City requirements, appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be required throughout construction processes of future development proposals, thereby controlling potential discharge of pollutants, preventing sewage spills, and avoiding discharge of sediments into streets, stormwater channels, or waterways. In addition, long-term water quality impacts associated with future development proposals would also be avoided through the implementation of structural, non-structural and treatment control BMPs and low impact development (LID) design considerations and operational and maintenance requirements that are identified in the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) prepared for each future development proposal to ensure that long-term water quality impacts are minimized. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASE GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES OR INTERFERE SUBSTANTIALLY WITH GROUNDWATER RECHARGE SUCH THAT THE PROJECT MAY IMPEDED SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OF THE BASIN?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos' water system is municipally owned and operated. The Department of Water and Power administers the water utility and incorporates the operating divisions Water Management, Water Production and Distribution, Water Operations (Potable), Water Operations (Reclaimed), Water Inspection, and the operations division of the Cerritos Electric Utility.

City of Cerritos Service Area

The City is located in the southeastern portion of Los Angeles County and comprises an area of approximately 8.95 square miles. Along the southeast boundary of the City, there are residential areas where the City serves residents in the City of La Palma and the City of La Palma serves City residents. There is also a small area near Pioneer Boulevard and South Street within the City where Golden State Water Company (GSWC) provides retail water service.

City of Cerritos Water Supply and Facilities

The City's water supply currently consists of groundwater, imported water, and recycled water, with groundwater making up most of its water supply portfolio. The City purchases imported water from the Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) through Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) to meet its demands. The sources of imported water supplies include the Colorado River and the State Water Project (SWP), delivered via the California Aqueduct. The City also meets non-potable demands with recycled water produced at the Los Coyotes Reclamation Plant and pumped into a recycled water delivery system. The City also provides potable water to Golden State Water Company (GSWC) and surrounding cities on an as needed basis.

Water Sources

Metropolitan. Metropolitan is the largest water wholesaler for domestic and municipal uses in California, serving approximately 18.5 million customers. Metropolitan wholesales imported water supplies to 26 member cities and water districts in six southern California counties.



Central Basin Municipal Water District. In 1954, CBMWD became a member agency of Metropolitan, an agency which provides the region with imported water. CBMWD is one of the largest member agencies of Metropolitan and serves more than two million people living in 24 cities in southeast Los Angeles County as well as unincorporated areas.

Water Replenishment District of Southern California. The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) was formed in 1959 to address over-pumping of the Central Basin and West Coast Groundwater Basin that was causing wells to run dry and seawater intrusion to contaminate coastal freshwater aquifers. WRD is the official groundwater level monitoring entity for Central Basin and West Coast Basin, managing groundwater for nearly four million residents. These basins supply approximately 250,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of groundwater to this population. The State of California relies on WRD to manage, regulate, replenish, and protect the quality of the groundwater supplies in the Central and West Coast groundwater basins. The WRD service area is bounded by the Baldwin, Whittier, and Merced Hills to the north, Orange County to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the south and west. Its service area lies entirely within Los Angeles County and serves 43 incorporated cities including the Cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Downey, and Torrance.

WRD's primary responsibilities are to replenish the West Coast and Central Groundwater Basins sufficiently to meet local water rights and to implement clean water programs. WRD purchases approximately 80,000 to 120,000 AF of water annually to replenish the groundwater basins, either from percolation through spreading grounds or by direct injection into the aquifers using injections wells. Injection wells are used for two purposes, groundwater replenishment and prevention of seawater intrusion into the potable freshwater aquifers.

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The City lies within the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD) boundaries for sewer service. The entire LACSD service area includes independent special districts that serve about 5.6 million people in Los Angeles County. The overall service area is approximately 850 square miles and encompasses 78 cities, as well as unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The main purpose of LACSD is to construct, operate, and maintain facilities to collect, treat, recycle, and dispose of wastewater. The LACSD operates one wastewater treatment plant and ten reclamation plants. The City of Cerritos purchases recycled water from the LACSD Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plant for distribution within its service area.

Basin Characteristics

The Central Groundwater Basin (Basin) covers an area of about 270 square miles in the Los Angeles Coastal Plain in southeast Los Angeles County and has a total storage capacity of 13,800,000 acre-feet (AF). The Basin is bounded on the north by the Hollywood Basin, and the Elysian, Repetto, Merced, and Puente Hills. The southeast boundary is along Coyote Creek, which is used to separate the Basin from the Orange County Groundwater Basin. The southwest boundary is the Newport-Inglewood fault system and uplift, which separates it from the West Coast Groundwater Basin.

Water bearing formations include Holocene and Pleistocene age sediments at depths that range from 1,000 feet to 2,200 feet. The Basin is divided into two forebays and two pressure areas: the Los Angeles forebay, the Montebello forebay, the Whittier pressure areas, and the Basin pressure area. Both forebays consists of unconfined groundwater conditions and relatively interconnected aquifers that extend up to 1,600 feet deep to provide recharge to the aquifer system. The pressure areas extends 2,200 feet below the surface and are the largest of the Basin divisions, consisting of many aquifers of permeable sands and gravels separated by semi-permeable to impermeable sandy clay.



Groundwater Recharge

For the past 73 years, the Basin has been artificially replenished through the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds (spreading grounds), which were constructed by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and are owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW). Currently, approximately 50,000 AFY of recycled water from the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant, Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant, and Pomona Water Reclamation Plant are used for groundwater replenishment. The various methods of recharging the Basin using imported and recycled water include injection, in-lieu replenishment water, and transfer from the Basin.

Impact Analysis

The City has been fully urbanized for many years with established hydrology and water quality systems. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document and, thus, would not decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. Future development proposals would be reviewed by the City to determine if the proposal decreases groundwater supplies, interferes with groundwater recharge, results in any change to existing runoff conditions, or results in potential increases in the amount of impervious surfaces. In addition, future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, Federal and State laws and regulations; *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations.

Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- C. WOULD THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY ALTER THE EXISTING DRAINAGE PATTERN OF THE SITE OR AREA, INCLUDING THROUGH THE ALTERATION OF THE COURSE OF STREAM OR RIVER, IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD:**
- 1. RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL EROSION OR SILTATION ON- OR OFF-SITE?**
 - 2. SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE RATE OR AMOUNT OF SURFACE RUNOFF IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD RESULT IN FLOODING ON- OR OFF-SITE?**
 - 3. CREATE OR CONTRIBUTE RUNOFF WATER WHICH WOULD EXCEED THE CAPACITY OF EXISTING OR PLANNED STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEMS OR PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF POLLUTED RUNOFF?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document and, as such, does not propose to alter the existing drainage pattern of any site in the City, nor does it propose to alter any streams or rivers resulting in substantial erosion, surface runoff resulting in flooding, or runoff existing the system's capacity. Any future development proposals would occur on urban land consistent with the *Cerritos General Plan* and *Cerritos Municipal Code*, which provides for the protection of existing drainage courses. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.



Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4. IMPEDE OR REDIRECT FLOOD FLOWS?

Less Than Significant Impact. Infrastructure exists with the City, and thus, storm water runoff associated with future development proposals would continue to be conveyed and discharged into the local stormwater system. Additionally, construction of future development proposals would be restricted within the individual site boundary. As such, implementation of the proposed project would not lead to on-site or off-site siltation or erosion impeding or redirecting flood flow. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT IN FLOOD HAZARD, TSUNAMI, OR SEICHE ZONES, RISK RELEASE OF POLLUTANTS DUE TO PROJECT INUNDATION?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Flood Hazards

Per the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) Viewer,² the western and central southern portions of the City are located within Zone A or Zone X. Those properties within Zone X are areas with reduced flood risk due to levees, while the San Gabriel River is within Zone A, which is a special flood hazards area. Within the City, Zone X is shaded, which indicates an area where the annual flood risk is between one percent and 0.2 percent. This is considered a moderate risk. Zone A areas have a 1 percent annual chance of flooding.

Dam Inundation

Cerritos is located within the dam inundation areas of two dams: Whittier Narrows and Prado, as shown on Cerritos General Plan Update EIR Exhibit 4.8-2, *Dam Inundation Areas*.

The Whittier Narrows Dam is located in Los Angeles County on the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers in the City of Pico Rivera, approximately eleven miles north of Cerritos. It is owned by the Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers. The dam is normally empty, except during or immediately after periods of significant runoff. In the event of dam failure, the water would flow south, affecting all of Cerritos, excluding the area north of the SR-91 freeway and east of Bloomfield Avenue. The affected area is comprised of commercial, industrial, educational and residential uses. The flood wave would reach Cerritos in approximately 15 hours and would be about four feet deep.

The Prado Dam is located in Riverside County, south of the City of Corona on the Santa Ana River adjacent to State Route 91 (Riverside Freeway), approximately 27 miles northeast of Cerritos. It is owned by the Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers. The dam is normally empty, except during or immediately after periods of significant runoff.

² Federal Emergency Management Agency, [FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer \(NFHL\) Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-hazard-layer-viewer), accessed November 14, 2021.



In the event of dam failure, the water would inundate most of Orange County and a small portion of Los Angeles County. In Cerritos, the water would first affect the northeastern area and then travel southwest through the City. The affected area is comprised of commercial, industrial, educational and residential uses. The flood wave would reach the City in approximately 8½ hours and would be about seven feet deep.

Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow

The City of Cerritos is not located near any body of water or water storage facility that would be susceptible to seiche. Nor is Cerritos located proximate to the Pacific Ocean and, as such, is not subject to tsunami hazards. Lastly, the City is relatively flat and fully urbanized and thus is not susceptible to mudflows.

Impact Analysis

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, Federal and State laws and regulations; *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

E. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH OR OBSTRUCT IMPLEMENTATION OF A WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN OR SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Less Than Significant Impact. The *Water Quality Control Plan Los Angeles Region, Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (Basin Plan)* is the water quality control plan for the greater Los Angeles Basin, including the City of Cerritos. The *Basin Plan* designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the Basin Plan.

In 2014, the Governor signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) into law, which requires governments and water agencies of high and medium priority basins to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. SGMA empowers local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage basins sustainably and requires those GSAs to adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for crucial groundwater basins in California.

As previously discussed, the City's water supply currently consists of groundwater, imported water, and recycled water, with groundwater making up most of its water supply portfolio. The City purchases imported water from the Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) through Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) to meet its demands. The sources of imported water supplies include the Colorado River and the State Water Project (SWP), delivered via the California Aqueduct. The City also meets non-potable demands with



recycled water produced at the Los Coyotes Reclamation Plant and pumped into a recycled water delivery system. Pursuant to the SGMA, the Central Groundwater Basin was named as an adjudicated groundwater basin³ and thus, the City of Cerritos Department of Public Works/Water and Power is exempt from the requirements of developing a GSP.

The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or a sustainable groundwater management plan. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

³ California Department of Water Resources, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Adjudicated Basins Annual Reporting Systems, [Adjudicated Basin Annual Reporting](#), accessed November 14, 2021.



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4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Physically divide an established community?				✓
B. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			✓	

A. WOULD THE PROJECT PHYSICALLY DIVIDE AN ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY?

No Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element sets forth policies to encourage housing development consistent with the *Cerritos General Plan* and *Cerritos Municipal Code*. As such, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not provide for new land use uses that would divide or disrupt neighborhoods in Cerritos. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT CAUSE A SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DUE TO A CONFLICT WITH ANY APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN, POLICY, OR REGULATION ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVOIDING OR MITIGATING AN ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years with established development throughout the City.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in the regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓

A. WOULD THE PROJECT 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?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which concluded there are no mineral resources in the City. As such, there are no known State or locally designated mineral resources or locally important mineral resource recovery sites in the City. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element project would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT 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?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which concluded there are no mineral resources in the City. As such, there would be no loss of known State or locally designated mineral resources or locally important mineral resource recovery sites in the City. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.13 NOISE

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

- A. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN GENERATION OF A SUBSTANTIAL TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT INCREASE IN AMBIENT NOISE LEVELS IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT IN EXCESS OF STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN THE LOCAL GENERAL PLAN OR NOISE ORDINANCE, OR APPLICABLE STANDARDS OF OTHER AGENCIES?**
- B. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN GENERATION OF EXCESSIVE GROUNDBORNE VIBRATION OR GROUNDBORNE NOISE LEVELS?**

Less Than Significant Impact. While adoption of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not directly result in the construction of housing, implementation of the policies could facilitate the construction of future development proposals consistent with the *Cerritos General Plan* and *Cerritos Municipal Code*. Typically, residential uses do not generate high noise levels. However, individual residential development projects may result in the exposure of persons to noise levels in excess of standards established in the *Cerritos General Plan* or *Cerritos Municipal Code* Section 22.80.480, Noise Standards. Without identifying the location of future development proposals, it is not possible to determine if they would be placed near land uses that would generate noise levels or groundborne vibrations that would exceed acceptable standards.

Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, Federal and State laws and regulations; *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



C. FOR A PROJECT LOCATED WITHIN THE VICINITY OF A PRIVATE AIRSTRIP OR AN AIRPORT LAND USE PLAN OR, WHERE SUCH A PLAN HAS NOT BEEN ADOPTED, WITHIN TWO MILES OF A PUBLIC AIRPORT OR PUBLIC USE AIRPORT, WOULD THE PROJECT EXPOSE PEOPLE RESIDING OR WORKING IN THE PROJECT AREA TO EXCESSIVE NOISE LEVELS?

No Impact. Appendix E of the *Cerritos General Plan Update EIR* includes the Initial Study, which concluded that that the City of Cerritos is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

A. WOULD THE PROJECT INDUCE SUBSTANTIAL UNPLANNED POPULATION GROWTH IN AN AREA, EITHER DIRECTLY (FOR EXAMPLE, BY PROPOSING NEW HOMES AND BUSINESSES) OR INDIRECTLY (FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH EXTENSION OF ROADS OR OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years with established development throughout the City.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the responsible agency for developing and adopting regional housing and population forecasts for local Los Angeles County governments, among other counties, and provides population projection estimates in five-year increments up to 2040. On September 3, 2020, SCAG’s Regional Council unanimously voted to approve and fully adopt *Connect SoCal (2020–2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy)*, and the *Addendum to the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report*. SCAG’s Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for the 2021-2029 housing element period is 1,908 housing units.

As of 2018, the City of Cerritos included a population of 50,058 and 15,562 households. *Connect SoCal* projects a 2040 population of 50,900 and 16,000 households for the City of Cerritos. Refer to Table 4.14-1, 2018 and 2040 Population and Household Projections.

**TABLE 4.14-1
2018 AND 2040 POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS**

	2018	2040	Change 2019 - 2040
Population	50,058	50,900	842
Households	15,562	16,000	438
Sources: Draft 2021-2029 Housing Element (November 2021) Southern California Association of Governments, <i>Profile of the City of Cerritos, Local Profiles Report 2019</i> Southern California Association of Governments, <i>Connect SoCal (2020–2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy) Regional Growth Forecast (2016, 2020)</i>			



The 2021-2029 Housing Element sites inventory projects 1,908 units during the eight-year period. Therefore, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element provides for adequate sites to accommodate the 2021-2019 RHNA number of 1,908 housing units. Assuming 3.2 persons per household, the City's population could increase by up to 6,106 persons for the 1,908 units.

SCAG is responsible for both the developing the Regional Growth Forecast and RHNA, and would be responsible for modifying future population and household growth projections to accommodate the 2021-2029 Housing Element and future housing element RHNA numbers for the City of Cerritos. And therefore, the proposed project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth within the City either directly or indirectly.

In conclusion, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not induce substantial unplanned population growth within the City either directly or indirectly. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT DISPLACE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF EXISTING PEOPLE OR HOUSING, NECESSITATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT HOUSING ELSEWHERE?

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element sets forth policies and programs that encourage and facilitate housing production, as well as aim to preserve and enhance the existing housing stock. While no new development would be authorized by the adoption of the 2021-2029 Housing Element, the future development of vacant properties or underutilized properties with existing homes could result in the displacement of existing housing or people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Displacement would be evaluated, if needed. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs, and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				
1) Fire protection?			✓	
2) Police protection?			✓	
3) Schools?			✓	
4) Parks?			✓	
5) Other public facilities?			✓	

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:

1. FIRE PROTECTION?

2. POLICE PROTECTION?

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. As such, new housing units associated with future development proposals could require additional fire and sheriff services.

Fire protection in the City of Cerritos is provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). The LACoFD provides Emergency Medical Services (EMS), fire and rescue services, and safe haven services for unincorporated Los Angeles County and for contract cities. Within the City of Cerritos, the LACoFD operates two fire stations: 1) Fire Station 30 (Battalion 9 Headquarters), located at 19030 Pioneer Boulevard and 2) Fire Station 35, located at 13717 Artesia Boulevard. In addition to the firefighting assets assigned to provide fire protection service to the City of Cerritos, the LACoFD also provides service on a regional basis without regard to jurisdictional boundaries wherein the closest available resources are dispatched to an incident, regardless of the incident location. Back-up responses to incidents within the City of Cerritos would be provided by the closest LACoFD resources to the incident location.



The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) provides police service for the City of Cerritos, which includes patrol deployments, station detectives, narcotic detectives, special assignment team, traffic enforcement, motor deputies, gang enforcement, neighborhood and business watch programs, and special event deployment. The Cerritos Sheriff station is located at 18135 South Bloomfield Avenue in the Cerritos Civic Center.

Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs, and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations. In addition, as part of its annual budget process and periodic review of its contracts with the LACoFD and LASD, the City evaluates fire and police protection service levels, and adjusts budgets accordingly to meet identified demand and service goals. This process would continue through the course of the 2021-2029 Housing Element period. With continued application of these programs, the City would be able to address anticipated increased service demands. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

3. SCHOOLS?

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development.

The ABC Unified School District serves public school needs for the cities of Artesia, most of Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, as well as portions of Lakewood, Long Beach, and Norwalk. The ABC Unified School District includes 19 elementary schools, five middle schools, three comprehensive high schools, a college prep 7-12 school, a continuation high school, infant/children centers, extended-day care, and an adult school. Within the City of Cerritos, there are eight elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools, and one continuation high school.

New residents in the future housing developments could place an increased demand on school facilities within the ABC Unified School District. As allowed by State law, the District collects fees for new residential construction to help offset the costs of providing additional education facilities and services. Such fees would be paid by developers at the time individual building permits are issued. Pursuant to SB 50, payment of fees to the School Districts is considered full mitigation for project impacts, including impacts related to 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, or other performance objectives for schools. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4. PARKS?

Less Than Significant Impact. Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, including parks facilities, throughout the City.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. New residents in the future housing developments could place an increased demand on City park facilities. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs, and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations. Potential impacts to recreation facilities associated with future development proposals would be mitigated on a project-by-project basis, as applicable, per *Cerritos Municipal Code* requirements. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element project would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5. OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES?

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. As such, the future development could necessitate public agency oversight, including but not limited to actions by the following City of Cerritos Departments – Community Development, Community Safety Services, Community and Cultural Services, and Public Works/Water and Power; Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department; and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. These actions typically fall within routine tasks of these agencies. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.16 RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, including recreation facilities, throughout the City.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. New residents in the future housing developments could place an increased demand on City park facilities. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs, and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations. Potential impacts to recreation facilities associated with future development proposals would be mitigated on a project-by-project basis, as applicable, per *Cerritos Municipal Code* requirements. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

No Impact. The proposed project is the adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element and, as such does not include plans for or construction of any recreational facilities. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.17 TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?			✓	
B. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?			✓	
C. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			✓	
D. Result in inadequate emergency access?			✓	

A. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH AN APPLICABLE PLAN, ORDINANCE OR POLICY ADDRESSING THE CIRCULATION, INCLUDING TRANSIT, ROADWAY, BICYCLE, AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, roads, and transportation systems.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development consistent with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no new development would be approved and no substantial changes to development patterns or transportation systems would result from adoption of the 2021-2029 Housing Element. All future development would be evaluated, if applicable, for potential conflicts with relevant circulation plans, ordinances, or policies relative to transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and roadway facilities. Thus, it is not anticipated that adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would significantly impact the effectiveness or performance of existing pedestrian, bicycle, or multi-purpose trail facilities, nor would it limit the accessibility for pedestrians or future cyclists, or their ability to utilize existing facilities.

In addition, there is the potential for future development proposals at specific locations throughout Cerritos to contribute to congestion on roadways and at intersections. The City may also require specific roadway or signal improvements to address impacts directly attributable to a specific development proposal. These practices would continue as a means of addressing potential traffic concerns associated with individual projects. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



B. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT OR BE INCONSISTENT WITH CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15064.3 SUBDIVISION (B)?

Less Than Significant Impact. *Public Resources Code* Section 21099 defines Transit Priority Areas (TPAs) as an area within one-half mile of a major transit stop that is existing or planned, if the planned stop is scheduled to be completed within the planning horizon included in a Transportation Improvement Program. *Public Resources Code* Section 21155(b) defines High Quality Transit Areas (HQTAs) to include areas within one-half mile of a fixed guideway transit stop or a bus transit corridor where buses pick up passengers at a frequency of every 15 minutes or less during peak commuting hours.

The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, roads, and transportation systems. There are currently no TPAs/HQTAs identified by SCAG within the City of Cerritos. SCAG identifies one future TPA/HQTA in Cerritos in 2045 near the intersection of South Street and Pioneer Boulevard and along a future rail line on the Pacific Electric Railway and Southern Pacific Railroad lines in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. There is the potential that future development proposals would be sited within ½-mile of the future TPA/HQTA with access to bus and rail transit, and, thus, would have the potential to reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT).

All future development proposals would be evaluated, if applicable, for VMT impacts and any development-related mitigation measures. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE HAZARDS DUE TO A DESIGN FEATURE (E.G., SHARP CURVES OR DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS) OR INCOMPATIBLE USES (E.G., FARM EQUIPMENT)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, roads, and transportation systems.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Future development proposals would be evaluated to determine the appropriate land use permit for authorizing its use and the conditions for their establishment and operation. At a minimum, compliance with relevant *Cerritos Municipal Code* standards would be required.

In addition, future development proposals would be subject to review and approval by the City of Cerritos Community Development and Public Works Departments. Access to a future development proposal site would be required to comply with all City design standards, which preclude the potential for dangerous conditions.



Also, future development proposals would be evaluated to ensure that adequate access and circulation to and within the future development site is provided. Access to a site must comply with all City design standards and would be reviewed by the City of Cerritos and the Los Angeles County Fire Department to ensure that inadequate design features or incompatible uses do not occur and that they are designed to meet adopted standards. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN INADEQUATE EMERGENCY ACCESS?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, roads, and transportation systems.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. The City of Cerritos and the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) would review the future development proposals in order to ensure that they are designed to meet adopted standards and provide adequate emergency access. In addition, roadways and driveways associated with future development proposals would be required to meet LACoFD emergency access standards, as well as comply with requirements from LACoFD and Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) on a project-by-project basis. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.18 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

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

A. WOULD THE PROJECT REQUIRE OR RESULT IN THE RELOCATION OR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW OR EXPANDED WATER, WASTEWATER TREATMENT OR STORM WATER DRAINAGE, ELECTRIC POWER, NATURAL GAS, OR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, THE CONSTRUCTION OR RELOCATION OF WHICH COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS?

Less Than Significant Impact. Existing water, sanitary sewer (wastewater, sewer), storm drain, electrical, natural gas, and telecommunication facilities exist in the City of Cerritos.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Future development proposals would be required to install or relocate, as applicable, on-site and off-site water, wastewater, storm drain, street, electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications infrastructure to serve the development. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



B. WOULD THE PROJECT HAVE SUFFICIENT WATER SUPPLIES AVAILABLE TO SERVE THE PROJECT AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT DURING NORMAL, DRY, AND MULTIPLE DRY YEARS?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Central Basin Watermaster

The Central Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) is the agency charged with administering adjudicated water rights and managing groundwater resources within the watershed and groundwater basin known as the Central Basin in Los Angeles County, California.

Watermaster Responsibilities

Watermaster's primary responsibilities include the following:

- Manage and control the withdrawal and replenishment of water supplies in the Basin.
- Determine annually the Operating Safe Yield (the amount of groundwater that can safely be extracted) for the succeeding fiscal year, and notify the pumpers of their shares thereof.
- Acquire and spread replacement water as needed.
- Coordinate local involvement in efforts to preserve and restore the quality of groundwater in the Basin.
- Assist and encourage regulatory agencies to enforce water quality regulations affecting the Basin.
- Collect production, water quality, and other relevant data from producers.
- Prepare an annual report of Watermaster activities, including financial activities, and summary reports of pumping and diversion.

Watermaster Rules and Regulations

Watermaster operates under a formal set of Rules and Regulations, which spell out the procedures by which Watermaster-controlled actions are to be carried out. Under the Rules and Regulations, water producers in the Basin must obtain Watermaster approval for activities such as:

- Constructing or modifying a well.
- Constructing a groundwater treatment plant.
- Increasing groundwater extraction.
- Spreading water in the Basin.
- Spreading and storing supplemental water under a cyclic storage agreement.

In order to fund its operation, Watermaster is authorized to levy and collect assessments from the producers based upon their amounts of production during the preceding fiscal year. These assessments are applied primarily to the purchase of replacement water and to administrative costs.



Domestic Water Service

The City of Cerritos provides domestic water service within its municipal boundaries. The City's Water Utility maintains approximately 16,000 water service connections citywide; ensures that the water supply is uninterrupted; collects water samples on a weekly basis to make sure the water meets or exceeds all water quality standards; maintains the City's three wells, three system reservoirs containing a total of 24 million gallons of water, approximately 181 miles of water transmission lines and 1,646 fire hydrants; and operates a recycled water distribution system of approximately 25 miles of pipe that serves more than 230 customers.

The City receives its water from three main sources: local groundwater, Metropolitan Water District (MWD), and recycled water from treated wastewater. The connection with MWD is located in the area of South Street and Palo Verde Avenue. Cerritos water is tested regularly and continually meets or exceeds all State and Federal quality standards.

Urban Water Management Plans

State law requires an urban water supplier (supplier), providing water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 urban connections/customers or providing more than 3,000 acre-feet annually, to adopt an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) every five years demonstrating water supply reliability in normal, single dry, and multiple dry water years.

These plans support the suppliers' long-term resource planning to ensure that adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water needs. Within the UWMP, urban water suppliers must: 1) assess the reliability of water sources over a 20-year planning time frame; 2) describe demand management measures and water shortage contingency plans, 3) report progress toward meeting a targeted 20 percent reduction in per-capita (per-person), 4) urban water consumption by a specified year (e.g., 2020, 2025, 2030), and 5) discuss the use and planned use of recycled water. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reviews the submitted plans to ensure they have addressed the requirements identified in the Water Code and submits a report to the Legislature summarizing the status of the plans for each five-year cycle.

The City of Cerritos has an approved *2015 Amended UWMP*.⁴ Refer to [Section 4.10, Hydrology and Water Quality](#) for additional information regarding the *2015 Amended UWMP*.

Impact Analysis

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Future development proposals would be required to comply with the City and other applicable water supplier's rules and regulations regarding water connection, service, and conservation, as well as the Los Angeles County Fire Department's requirements relative to the size of water lines and systems necessary to provide adequate fire flow service to the development.

Implementation of the proposed project would not adversely affect the ability of the City of Cerritos to have sufficient water supplies available during normal, dry, and multiple dry year conditions for future development

⁴ Arcadis U.S., Inc., *City of Cerritos 2015 Amended Urban Water Management Plan*, June 2018.



proposals within the City. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT 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?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos is located in County Sanitation Districts 2, 3, 18, and 19 of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD). Sewer waste generated with Cerritos is sent to the LACSD Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) or Long Beach WRP for treatment.

The Los Coyotes WRP is located at 16515 Piuma Avenue in the City of Cerritos. This WRP, which began operations in 1970, occupies 34 acres at the northwest junction of Interstate 605 and State Route 91. Twenty of the 34 acres are occupied by the Iron Wood Nine Golf Course, which is built on adjoining LACSD property. This WRP provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for a design capacity of 37.5 million gallons of wastewater per day (MGD), of which 5 million gallons per day are reused at over 270 sites, and serves a population of approximately 370,000 people.

The Long Beach WRP is located at 7400 E. Willow Street in the City of Long Beach. This WRP, which began operations in 1973, occupies 17 acres west of Interstate 605. The WRP was expanded in 1984 to reach its current design capacity of 25 MGD of wastewater. The WRP serves a population of approximately 250,000 people and LBWRP treats approximately 25 million gallons of wastewater per day, of which 6 million gallons per day are reused at over 60 sites.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Future development proposals would be required to comply with applicable LACSD's rules and regulations regarding wastewater connection and service, including the wastewater lines and systems necessary to provide adequate services to the development. In addition, a future development proposal's wastewater (sewer) plans would be reviewed by the City Engineer and would be required to provide sufficient capacity and comply with City standards.

Future development proposals would result in the generation of raw sewage that would be collected in the existing or new sewer collection facilities to support the development, and then transported to the Los Coyotes WRP or Long Beach WRP where it would be treated and ultimately discharged. The wastewater treatment requirements issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB for the LACSD treatment plant that would receive wastewater from the project site were developed to ensure that adequate levels of treatment would be provided for the wastewater flows emanating from all land uses in its service area.

Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not adversely affect the ability of the City or LACSD to provide adequate capacity and service to existing and future developments. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.



Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT GENERATE SOLID WASTE IN EXCESS OF STATE OR LOCAL STANDARDS, OR IN EXCESS OF THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE, OR OTHERWISE IMPAIR THE ATTAINMENT OF SOLID WASTE REDUCTION GOALS?

Less than Significant Impact. Solid waste disposal within the City is subject to the requirements established in *Cerritos Municipal Code* Chapter 6.08, Garbage and Refuse. Solid waste management facilities operated by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) include the Downey Area Recycling and Transfer Facility (DART), the South Gate Transfer Station, and the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (PHMRF).

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Presently, capacity is available at the several solid waste management facilities serving the City of Cerritos, and these facilities would be available to service future development proposals.

In addition, future development proposals would be required to comply with the *Cerritos Municipal Code*, which requires providing adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials in concert with Countywide efforts and programs to reduce the volume of solid waste entering landfills. In addition, the location of recycling/separation areas is required to comply with all applicable Federal, State, public health, or local laws relating to fire, building, access, transportation, circulation, or safety. Compliance with all applicable State and Los Angeles County regulations for the use, collection, and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes is also mandated. It can be assumed that future development proposals would include adequate, accessible, and convenient areas for collecting recyclable materials. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

E. WOULD THE PROJECT COMPLY WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION STATUTES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SOLID WASTE?

Less Than Significant Impact. State, County, and local agencies with regulatory authority related to solid waste include the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD), and the City of Cerritos. Regulations specifically applicable to the development proposals include the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Stats. 1989, Ch. 1095), *CalGreen Code* Section 4.408, which the *Cerritos Municipal Code* has adopted by reference, and AB 341 (Stats. 2011, Ch. 476), which requires multi-family residential development and commercial uses to implement recycling programs.

The Integrated Waste Management Act, which requires every City and County in the State to prepare a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) to its Solid Waste Management Plan, identifies how each jurisdiction will meet the State's mandatory waste diversion goal of 50 percent by and after the year 2000. The diversion goal has been increased to 75 percent by 2020 by SB 341.



Cerritos Municipal Code Chapter 6.08, Garbage and Refuse, stipulates standards and regulations for the collection and management of solid waste in the City, in accordance with the Integrated Waste Management Act. *CalGreen Code* Section 4.408 requires preparation of a Construction Waste Management Plan that outlines ways in which the contractor would recycle and/or salvage for reuse a minimum of 50 percent of the nonhazardous construction and demolition debris, which is codified in *Cerritos Municipal Code* Chapter 6.10, Construction and Demolition Debris Diversion.

In addition, the City is required to adopt an ordinance on or before December 31, 2021 establishing organic waste requirements pursuant to SB 1383 (Stats. 2016, Ch. 395). On November 22, 2021 the Cerritos City Council introduced an ordinance adding Chapter 6.09 to the *Cerritos Municipal Code* establishing such requirements. The City Council's second reading of the ordinance is expected on December 9, 2021, and if approved would take effect 30 days following the approval.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. During the construction phase, future development proposals would comply with the *CalGreen Code* through the recycling and reuse of at least 50 percent of the non-hazardous construction and demolition debris from the development site.

Future development proposals would not have unusual waste production characteristics and, thus, would not include any components that would conflict with State laws governing construction or operational solid waste production or diversion. Also, future development proposals would subject to all applicable Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including the California Integrated Waste Management Act, Los Angeles County, and City of Cerritos recycling programs, ensuring compliance with Federal, State, and local statutes and implementation requirements related to the management of solid waste. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.19 WILDFIRE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?				✓
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
B. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓
C. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				✓
D. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				✓
E. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				✓

A. WOULD THE PROJECT EXPOSE PEOPLE OR STRUCTURES, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF LOSS, INJURY, OR DEATH INVOLVING WILDLAND FIRES?

No Impact. The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years with established development throughout the City. The City of Cerritos is not located within wildland urban interface (WUI) area, as shown on the State Wildland Urban Interface map (CAL FIRE, 2019). Current development and future development proposals within the City would not 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. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



- B. IF LOCATED IN OR NEAR STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS OR LANDS CLASSIFIED AS HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES, SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIR AN ADOPTED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN OR EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN?
- C. IF LOCATED IN OR NEAR STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS OR LANDS CLASSIFIED AS HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES, WOULD THE PROJECT, DUE TO SLOPE, PREVAILING WINDS, AND OTHER FACTORS, EXACERBATE WILDFIRE RISKS, AND THEREBY EXPOSE PROJECT OCCUPANTS TO POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS FROM A WILDFIRE OR THE UNCONTROLLED SPREAD OF A WILDFIRE?
- D. IF LOCATED IN OR NEAR STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS OR LANDS CLASSIFIED AS HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES, WOULD THE PROJECT REQUIRE THE INSTALLATION OR MAINTENANCE OF ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (SUCH AS ROADS, FUEL BREAKS, EMERGENCY WATER SOURCES, POWER LINES, OR OTHER UTILITIES) THAT MAY EXACERBATE FIRE RISK OR THAT MAY RESULT IN TEMPORARY OR ONGOING IMPACTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT?
- E. IF LOCATED IN OR NEAR STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS OR LANDS CLASSIFIED AS HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES, WOULD THE PROJECT EXPOSE PEOPLE OR STRUCTURES TO SIGNIFICANT RISKS, INCLUDING DOWNSLOPE OR DOWNSTREAM FLOODING OR LANDSLIDES, AS A RESULT OF RUNOFF, POST-FIRE SLOPE INSTABILITY, OR DRAINAGE CHANGES?

No Impact. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is focused on fire protection and stewardship of over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. Preventing wildfires in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) is a key component of CAL FIRE's mission, and in more recent decades, CAL FIRE has adapted to the evolving destructive wildfires and succeeded in significantly increasing its efforts in fire prevention. CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Program consists of multiple activities including wildland pre-fire engineering, vegetation management, fire planning, education and law enforcement. Typical fire prevention projects include brush clearance, prescribed fire, defensible space inspections, emergency evacuation planning, fire prevention education, fire hazard severity mapping, and fire-related law enforcement activities. The Office of the State Fire Marshall has the responsibility for Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), inclusive of the fund preparing the Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) mapping.

The City of Cerritos has been fully urbanized for many years with established development throughout the City. No portion of the City is located within either a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) FHSZ⁵ or State responsibility Area (SRA).⁶

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document and, as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Current development and future development proposals within the City would not be subject to high fire hazard severity impacts. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

⁵ CAL FIRE, *Los Angeles County, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA Map*, September 2011.

⁶ CAL FIRE, *Los Angeles County, Fire Hazard Severity Zones in SRA Map*, November 2007.



4.20 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			✓	
B. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?			✓	
C. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			✓	

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, SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OR RESTRICT THE RANGE OF A RARE OR ENDANGERED PLANT OR ANIMAL, OR ELIMINATE IMPORTANT EXAMPLES OF THE MAJOR PERIODS OF CALIFORNIA HISTORY OR PREHISTORY?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. The City of Cerritos site does not contain threatened or endangered species, sensitive habitats, historical resources, or archaeological resources. However, there is potential to impact the City's community forest and Heritage Trees (historical and biological resources) or tribal cultural resources in the City.

While there is the potential to degrade the environment with respect to historical, biological, and tribal cultural resources, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not authorize any new housing development, but does include policies that would facilitate the development of future development proposals. Future development proposals pursued in accordance with the 2021-2029 Housing Element policies and programs must be consistent with Federal and State laws and regulations; *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations, as well as conduct on a case-by-case basis, historical and biological resources or tribal cultural resources. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.



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)?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. As discussed previously in [Section 4.1](#) through [Section 4.19](#), the 2021-2029 Housing Element does not directly involve any construction activity. Future development proposals pursued in accordance with the 2021-2029 Housing Element policies and programs must be consistent with Federal and State laws and regulations; *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations and, as such, would reduce the potential for considerable incremental effects of the 2021-2029 Housing Element when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects, or probable future projects. No new cumulative impacts would result from adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.

C. DOES THE PROJECT HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH WILL CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ON HUMAN BEINGS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY?

Less Than Significant Impact. As supported throughout this Initial Study, the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in substantial adverse effects on human beings. Under each environmental consideration addressed in this Initial Study checklist, the proposed project is considered to have no impacts or less than significant impacts.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document and does not identify any specific housing development projects. All future development proposals would be reviewed to ensure compliance with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce or avoid potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. This can include, but is not limited to, Federal and State laws and regulations; *Cerritos General Plan* goals, policies, and implementation programs; and *Cerritos Municipal Code* regulations. Where necessary, mitigation measures would be imposed on future development proposals to address potentially significant impacts. As such, the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in environmental impacts that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.



4.21 REFERENCES

Following is a list of reference documents and maps utilized in the preparation of this Initial Study.

- Arcadis U.S., Inc., *City of Cerritos 2015 Amended Urban Water Management Plan*, June 2018
- California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, California Important Farmland Finder (CIFF), <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/app>, accessed November 13, 2021
- California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, *Los Angeles County South Important Farmland Map*, 2018
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, *State Wildland Urban Interface Map*, 2019
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), *Los Angeles County Very High Severity Zones in LRA (Los Responsibility Area) Map*, September 2011
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), *Los Angeles County Fire Hazard Severity in SRA (State Responsibility Area) Map*, November 7, 2007
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor, Puente Valley (San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site) (60001338), accessed August 20, 2021
- California Department of Water Resources, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Adjudicated Basins Annual Reporting Systems, [Adjudicated Basin Annual Reporting](#), accessed November 14, 2021
- City of Cerritos, *Cerritos General Plan*, January 6, 2004
- City of Cerritos, *Cerritos General Plan Update Environmental Impact Report*, January 6, 2004
- City of Cerritos, *Cerritos Municipal Code*, codified through Ordinance 1035, November 12, 2020
- City of Cerritos, *2021-2029 Cerritos Housing Element*, Draft October 2021
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, [FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer \(NFHL\) Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](#), accessed November 14, 2021
- Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, *Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan*, February 17, 1998
- Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, *Sanitation Districts Service Area Map*, April 2015
- Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, [Facilities \(lacsds.org\)](#), accessed November 30, 2021
- Southern California Association of Governments, *Connect SoCal (2020–2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy)*, May 7, 2020
- Southern California Association of Governments, *Addendum to the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report*, May 7, 2020
- Southern California Association of Governments, High Quality Transit Areas (HQTA) 2016 – SCAG Region, [High Quality Transit Areas \(HQTA\) 2016 – SCAG Region | High Quality Transit Areas \(HQTA\) 2016 – SCAG Region | Southern California Association of Governments \(arcgis.com\)](#), accessed November 14, 2021



Southern California Association of Governments, High Quality Transit Areas (HQTA) 2045 – SCAG Region, [High Quality Transit Areas \(HQTA\) 2045 – SCAG Region | High Quality Transit Areas \(HQTA\) 2045 – SCAG Region | Southern California Association of Governments \(arcgis.com\)](#), accessed November 14, 2021



4.22 REPORT PREPARATION PERSONNEL

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Collette L. Morse, AICP, Principal, Project Manager



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5.0 CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATION

Based on the information and environmental analysis contained in the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist, I recommend that the City of Cerritos prepare a Negative Declaration for the 2021-2029 Housing Element Project. I find that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on any environmental issues, and no mitigation measures are required. I recommend that the first category be selected for the City of Cerritos's determination (see [Section 6.0, Lead Agency Determination](#)).

December 2, 2021

Date

Collette L. Morse, AICP
Project Manager
Morse Planning Group



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6.0 LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

I find that although the proposal could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in Section 4.0 have been added. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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

I find that the proposal MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated.” An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

Signature: 
Title: Advance Planning Manager
Printed Name: Kristin Aguila
Agency: City of Cerritos
Date: December 2, 2021



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