Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration
Health Care Facility Improvement Project
for the
California State Prison, Los Angeles County
Lancaster, California

Prepared for:

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Facility Planning, Construction and Management Division
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B
Sacramento, CA 95827

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October 7, 2013

FACILITY PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B
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California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Public Notice Announcement
Release of an Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration for the Health Care Facility Improvement Project at the California State Prison, Los Angeles County

What's Being Planned: The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has released for public review the Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration (IS/Proposed ND) for the Health Care Facility Improvement Project at the California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC). The proposed project includes renovations and additions to existing health care facilities, the construction of small new facilities, and associated infrastructure improvements, all within the developed area of LAC. Specifically, the project includes construction of a new administrative segregation unit primary care clinic, two new complex primary care clinics, medication distribution rooms, and a new health care administration and health records building, totaling 20,092 square feet of new building space. The project also includes interior renovations (6,424 square feet) for medication distribution rooms and central health services. All construction would be consistent in character, design, and height with other existing buildings and would not exceed one story. No high-mast lighting would be installed as part of the project. The project does not include any new inmate beds. Nine additional employees would be hired. The project would not result in expansion of the existing secure perimeter. The project would include minor upgrades to the existing electrical system to serve the new and expanded buildings.

The LAC project would remedy deficiencies in its health care delivery at LAC through renovation of existing health care facilities and construction of new health care facilities. CDCR anticipates construction of the proposed project would begin in winter 2015, with an estimated completion date of spring 2016.

Project Location: LAC is located at 44750 60th Street West in the City of Lancaster. LAC is located on a State-owned, 262-acre parcel designated as Public Use under the Lancaster General Plan. The entire proposed project would be built within existing LAC boundaries. LAC is surrounded by undeveloped land and residential uses. LAC is approximately 4.5 miles west of central Lancaster, three miles north of central Quartz Hill, and 45 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. LAC is surrounded by the Mira Loma Detention Center, Challenger Memorial Youth Center, and undeveloped land (north); undeveloped land and rural residences (east); undeveloped land and medium-density residential (south); and undeveloped land (west).

Environmental Effects: CDCR has prepared an IS/Proposed ND pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15063. CDCR has studied the effects that the proposed project may have on the environment. The studies show that the project would have less than significant effects on the quality of the environment and no mitigation is required.

Where You Come In: As lead agency under CEQA, CDCR is releasing the IS/Proposed ND for public review and comments. The IS/Proposed ND is available for a 30-day public review period from **October 8, 2013** to **November 6, 2013**.

Where to Review the Environmental Document and Provide Comments: Formal comments regarding the IS/Proposed ND may be submitted in writing via mail, e-mail, or fax any time during the public review period. The IS/Proposed ND is available for a 30-day public review period from **October 8, 2013 to November 6, 2013**. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the IS/Proposed ND or any questions regarding the document should be postmarked no later than **November 6, 2013**. Comments may be sent to:

Roxanne Henriquez, Senior Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Section
Facility Planning, Construction and Management
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B
Sacramento, CA 95827
Phone: (916) 255-3010
Fax: (916) 255-3030
Email: Roxanne.Henriquez@cdcr.ca.gov

Copies of the IS/Proposed ND and all documents referenced in the IS/Proposed ND are available for public review during regular business hours at the office of CDCR identified above.

Digital copies of the IS/Proposed ND are available on the internet at http://www.cdcr.ca.gov /FPCM/Environmental.html.

Paper copies of the IS/Proposed ND are available for public review at the following locations:

Lancaster Library
601 W. Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, CA 93534

Quartz Hill Library
42018 N. 50th Street West
Quartz Hill, CA 93536

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: **Health Care Facility Improvement Project for California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC), Lancaster, California (SCH No. *to be determined)***

Lead Agency: **California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)**

Project Description: The proposed project includes renovations and additions to existing health care facilities, the construction of small new facilities, and associated infrastructure improvements, all within the developed area of LAC. Specifically, the project includes construction of a new administrative segregation unit primary care clinic, two new complex primary care clinics, medication distribution rooms, and a new health care administration and health records building, totaling 20,092 square feet of new building space. The project also includes interior renovations (totaling 6,424 square feet) for medication distribution rooms and central health services. All construction would be consistent in character, design, and height with other existing buildings and would not exceed one story. No high-mast lighting would be installed as part of the project. The project does not include any new inmate beds. Nine additional employees would be hired. The project would not result in expansion of the existing secure perimeter. The project would include minor upgrades to the existing electrical system to serve the new and expanded buildings.

The LAC project would remedy deficiencies in health care delivery at LAC through renovation of existing health care facilities and construction of new health care facilities. These improvements would provide the necessary facility infrastructure to support a timely, competent, and effective medical care delivery system at LAC.

Environmental Findings: An Initial Study (IS) was prepared to assess the significance of the project's potential impacts on the environment. Based on the IS, and due to environmental protection features that CDCR has committed to before release of the proposed Negative Declaration (ND) and IS for public review, in light of the whole record, CDCR finds that the project will not have substantial adverse effects on the environment and no mitigation is necessary. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- The proposed project would have no impact to agricultural and forest resources, land use and planning, mineral resources, or recreation.

- The proposed project would have less than significant impacts on aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, population and housing, public services, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems.

Questions or comments regarding this ND and IS may be addressed to:

Roxanne Henriquez, Senior Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Section
Facility Planning, Construction and Management
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B
Sacramento, CA 95827
Roxanne.Henriquez@cdcr.ca.gov
Phone: 916-255-3010

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, CDCR may (1) adopt the ND and approve the proposed project, (2) undertake additional environmental studies, or (3) disapprove the project. If the project is approved, CDCR may proceed with implementation of the project.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, CDCR has independently reviewed and analyzed the IS and ND for the proposed project and finds that the IS and ND reflect the independent judgment of CDCR.

I hereby approve this project:

Signature Pending Close of 30-day Public Comment Period _____

DEBORAH HYSEN Date
Deputy Director
Facility Planning, Construction and Management
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF APPENDICES

The digital version of this IS/Proposed ND and its Appendices are available on the CD affixed to the back cover.

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF EXHIBITS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

°F	degrees Fahrenheit
AB	Assembly Bill
AQAP	Air Quality Attainment Plan
ARB	California Air Resources Board
AVEK	Antelope Valley-East Kern
BTEX	benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and total xylenes
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
Cal OSHA	California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CBC	California Building Code
CCHCS	California Correctional Health Care Services
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDC	California Department of Conservation
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Emergency Services Act
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game[1]
CFG	California Fish and Game
CHS	Central Health Services
CMP	Congestion Management Plan
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
CWHR	California Wildlife Habitat Relationship System
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DMG	Division of Mines and Geology

[1] Consistent with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the title and acronym California Fish and Game (CFG) is used herein when referring to the CDFG's code of regulations (CFG Code).

DPM	diesel particulate matter
DPP	Disability Placement Program
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMMP	Farmland and Mapping Monitoring Program
GHG	greenhouse gas
gpm	gallons per minute
gpd	gallons per day
HCFIP	Health Care Facility Improvement Project
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HSA	Hydrologic Subarea
I	Interstate
IS	Initial Study
ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers
kVA	kilovolt-ampere
LAC	California State Prison, Los Angeles County
LACFD	Los Angeles County Fire Department
L_{eq}	equivalent sound level
L_{max}	Maximum sound level
L_{min}	minimum sound level
LOS	level of service
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
LWRP	Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant
MBA	Michael Brandman Associates
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mgd	million gallons per day
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
$MTCO_2e$	metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents
ND	Negative Declaration
NESHAP	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NOA	Naturally Occurring Asbestos
NO_x	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PFC	Perfluorocarbon
PM	particulate matter
PM_{10}	particulate matter with a diameter between 10 micrometers and 2.5 micrometers
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometers
ppm	parts per million
PPV	peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
R&R	Receiving and Release
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROG	reactive organic gases
SR	State Route
SWP	State Water Project
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TAC	toxic air contaminant
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGBC	United States Green Building Council
UST	Underground Storage Tank
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VOC	volatile organic compound
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 - Introduction and Regulatory Guidance

This Initial Study/Proposed Negative Declaration (IS/Proposed ND) has been prepared by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with implementing health care facility improvements as part of CDCR's Health Care Facility Improvement Program (HCFIP) at the California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC), located in the City of Lancaster in Los Angeles County. The proposed project includes renovations and additions to existing health care facilities, the construction of small new facilities, and associated infrastructure improvements, all within the existing LAC footprint. Proposed improvements would include a total of 6,424 square feet of renovation, 20,092 square feet of new building space, and 12,400 square feet of exterior impervious surface. All construction would be consistent in character, design, and height with other existing buildings and would not exceed one story. No high-mast lighting would be installed as part of the project. The project does not include any new inmate beds. Nine additional employees would be hired to meet the staffing needs of the new buildings. The project would not result in expansion of the existing secure perimeter.

This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq.). Under CEQA, an Initial Study (IS) can be prepared by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a)) and, thus, to determine the appropriate environmental document. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a "public agency shall prepare . . . a proposed negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration . . . when: (a) The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence . . . that the project may have a significant impact on the environment, or (b) The initial study identifies potentially significant effects but revisions to the project plans or proposal are agreed to by the applicant and such revisions would reduce potentially significant effects to a less-than-significant level." In this circumstance, the lead agency prepares a written statement describing its reasons for concluding that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

As described in Section 3 of this IS/Proposed ND, CDCR has found no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. Based on the IS/Proposed ND, and because of environmental protection features that CDCR has committed to before release of the IS/Proposed ND for public review, the proposed project would avoid environmental effects to a point where, clearly, no significant effects would occur. Therefore, an IS/Proposed ND is the appropriate document for compliance with the requirements of CEQA. This IS/Proposed ND conforms to these requirements and to the content requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15071.

1.2 - Purpose of this Document

Under CEQA, the lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over approval of the proposed project. CDCR is the lead agency for the proposed project. CDCR has directed the preparation of an analysis that complies with CEQA. At the direction of CDCR, Michael Brandman Associates (MBA) has prepared this document. The purpose of this document is to present to decision-makers and the public the environmental consequences of implementing the proposed project. This disclosure document is being made available to the public for review and comment. The IS/Proposed ND is available for a 30-day public review period from October 8, 2013 to November 6, 2013.

If you wish to send written comments (including via e-mail), they must be postmarked by November 5, 2013. Written comments should be addressed to:

Roxanne Henriquez, Senior Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Section
Facility Planning, Construction and Management
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B
Sacramento, CA 95827
Roxanne.Henriquez@cdcr.ca.gov

If you have questions regarding the IS/Proposed ND, please call Roxanne Henriquez at (916) 255-3010.

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, CDCR may (1) adopt the ND and approve the proposed project; (2) undertake additional environmental studies; or (3) abandon the project. If the project is approved and funded, CDCR could proceed with all or part of the project.

A copy of the IS/Proposed ND is available for public review online at http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/FPCM/Environmental.html and at the following public libraries:

Lancaster Library
601 W. Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, CA 93534

Quartz Hill Library
42018 N. 50th Street West
Quartz Hill, CA 93536

1.3 - Summary of Findings

Section 3, Environmental Checklist of this document contains the analysis and discussion of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Based on the issues evaluated in that section, it was determined that the proposed project would have no impacts requiring the incorporation of mitigation.

The project was determined to have no impacts related to the following issue areas:

- Agricultural and Forest Resources
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Recreation

Impacts of the proposed project were determined to be less than significant for the following issue areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

1.4 - Document Organization

This IS/Proposed ND is organized as described below.

Section 1: Introduction. This section introduces the environmental review process. It describes the purpose and organization of this document and presents a summary of findings.

Section 2: Project Description and Background. This section describes the purpose of and need for the proposed project, including its place within the HCFIP, and provides a detailed description of the proposed project.

Section 3: Environmental Checklist. This section presents an analysis of a range of environmental issues identified in the CEQA Environmental Checklist and determines if each of a range of impacts would result in no impact, a less than significant impact, a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated, or a potentially significant impact. If any impacts were determined to be potentially significant, an EIR would be required. However, for this project, CDCR has committed to and incorporated environmental protection features that would ensure all impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, the proposed project would avoid the effects to a point where, clearly, no significant effects would occur and no mitigation is required.

Section 4: References. The section lists the references used in preparation of this IS/Proposed ND.

Section 5: List of Preparers. This section identifies report preparers.

SECTION 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1 - Introduction

CDCR plans to implement various health care facility improvements at LAC located in Lancaster, California. The improvements include the renovation of existing facilities and addition of small new health care facilities, all of which would be located within the existing LAC footprint. The proposed improvements to existing facilities would add health care treatment space, clinical support space, and office space to support the existing health care program. The proposed project would also support LAC's existing operations as an "Intermediate" institution within the CDCR HCFIP strategy to address statewide prison health care deficiencies in its facilities. Intermediate inmate-patients are those identified as having multiple chronic and/or terminal illnesses requiring a high level of care such that tertiary care consultation and specialized services must be available. Intermediate institutions are those designed with the capability of providing specialized medical services and consultation, including those that utilize advanced technologies such as cardiology for inmate-patients with chronic illnesses (see Health Care Facility Improvement Program, Program Overview [April 2012]).

LAC's inmate population has been decreased by 970 inmates, or 21 percent of the 2004 population, as of 2012. CDCR's long-term plan of operations, as detailed in the Future of California Corrections (referred to as the Blueprint), calls for further decreases in the population at LAC. Along with inmate population reductions, LAC has seen a corresponding reduction of the prison's impacts on environmental and infrastructure resources such as water, sewer, solid waste, and energy.

The proposed project does not include any new inmate beds. Nine additional staff members would be added to LAC to meet the custody and building maintenance needs of the new buildings. The concentration of inmate-patients requiring an Intermediate level of care, at 11 facilities statewide, allows the specialized services required to be delivered more effectively in areas where they are available locally and inside the institution, reducing the need to transport inmates to other institutions or community settings to receive services. This approach focuses facility improvements and upgrades at locations where health care services can most effectively be provided and results in savings to capital and transportation costs. This approach is also aimed at reducing inmate-patient community treatment expenses. Furthermore, providing these services in hubs is more effective than attempting to include such services at all CDCR institutions.

The proposed project at LAC is one of several that are being funded through Assembly Bill (AB) 900, the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007 as amended by Chapter 22, Statutes of 2010 and Senate Bill 1022 approved in June 2012. These acts authorize the design and construction of health care facilities, support space, and program space—and improvements to existing spaces—within existing prison facilities.

This IS prepared for the LAC improvements concludes that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record, that the improvements would have a significant effect on the environment. Thus, CDCR has determined that preparation of an ND is appropriate.

2.2 - Background

In April 2001, a class action lawsuit, *Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, was filed by a group of prison inmates against the State of California contending that CDCR provided inadequate medical care to prison inmates in violation of the Eighth Amendment (prohibiting cruel and unusual punishment) and the Fourteenth Amendment (providing the right to due process and equal protection) of the United States Constitution. In 2006, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California placed California's prison health care system in receivership in response to the April 2001 *Plata v. Schwarzenegger* lawsuit.

The main goal of the HCFIP is to sufficiently improve the infrastructure at various existing CDCR facilities, including LAC, to better ensure a timely, competent, and effective health care delivery system with appropriate health care diagnostics and treatment, medication distribution, and access to care for inmates. Implementation of the various HCFIP projects is intended to improve the overall delivery of adequate medical health care to the existing inmate population.

To this end, facility assessments have been performed at each of CDCR's adult institutions to determine the infrastructure deficiencies requiring improvement that exist within the prison system. The existing conditions and capabilities of the health care facilities were evaluated for conformance to the health care components established by the California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) division of CDCR. Based on the facility assessments, CDCR and CCHCS found that the existing health care facilities constructed between 1852 and the 1990s have some deficiencies. These deficiencies include lack of space or design to take advantage of advances in medical equipment used for various diagnostic, treatment, and medical technologies. These and other factors have resulted in the need for increased and/or modified health care space.

2.3 - Need for the LAC Project

As noted above, LAC is one of 11 existing institutions designated as an Intermediate institution based on an institution's ability to recruit and retain clinicians and its access to medical specialists and community medical centers of care. LAC currently houses Custody Levels I and IV adult male inmates.

LAC was opened in 1993 and was built according to the design standards in place at that time. Current code requirements and nationally accepted standards for health care spaces such as those developed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs have more clearly defined health care

space requirements. Improvements are therefore needed to more effectively provide an Intermediate level of inmate care services.

In December 2008 and again in April 2012, a health care facility assessment was performed at LAC to identify and document the existing conditions. The existing conditions and capabilities of the health care facilities were evaluated for conformance with the Medical Health Care Facility Components established by the CCHCS. The assessment included an inventory of existing health care spaces, including room size, availability of sinks, data and power connectivity, general features, and notable variations from generally accepted clinical standards. The type and number of inventoried spaces were compared with the CCHCS Health Care Components and related clinical utilization models to determine the infrastructure deficiencies that existed within the institution. Through this assessment process, existing facilities at LAC were determined either to meet the requirements and objectives of each health care component or as having some deficiencies.

Deficiencies were identified at LAC in the following seven health care components and their related objectives:

- Medication Distribution
- Primary Care
- Specialty Care
- Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) Clinic
- Health Care Administration
- Health Records
- Accessibility Housing Modifications and Upgrades

The noted deficiencies of LAC's existing facilities have the potential to compromise both proper infectious control protocols and the confidentiality of inmate health care information and treatment. Specifically, LAC lacks sufficient outpatient and clinic support space to accommodate inmates' health care needs. As the volume and frequency of use for medical diagnostics, treatments, and technologies have increased and evolved, the staff at LAC have attempted to remedy their need for additional space by utilizing janitor closets and small supply rooms as temporary exam rooms. These temporary areas typically lack sanitation and infection controls such as sinks or the ability to separate waste from sterile supplies. Direct Observation Therapy, which involves a caregiver observing and verifying that medication has been taken correctly, was also not practiced or designed for when LAC was constructed.

To address the identified inadequacies, the proposed project includes seven sub-projects (described in detail in Section 2.5, Project Description). These sub-projects have been designed to remedy the health care deficiencies identified at LAC and would enable LAC to operate at an Intermediate level of care, supporting the CDCR health care system. Renovation of the existing facilities and the

construction of new facilities would be in accordance with the CDCR Institution Support Space Standards for health care spaces. These Space Standards were developed in 2010 based on the nationally accepted standards of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, state and federal regulatory standards and codes, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Prevention Guidelines for Infection Control, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, and the American Correctional Association.

2.4 - Project Location and Existing Conditions

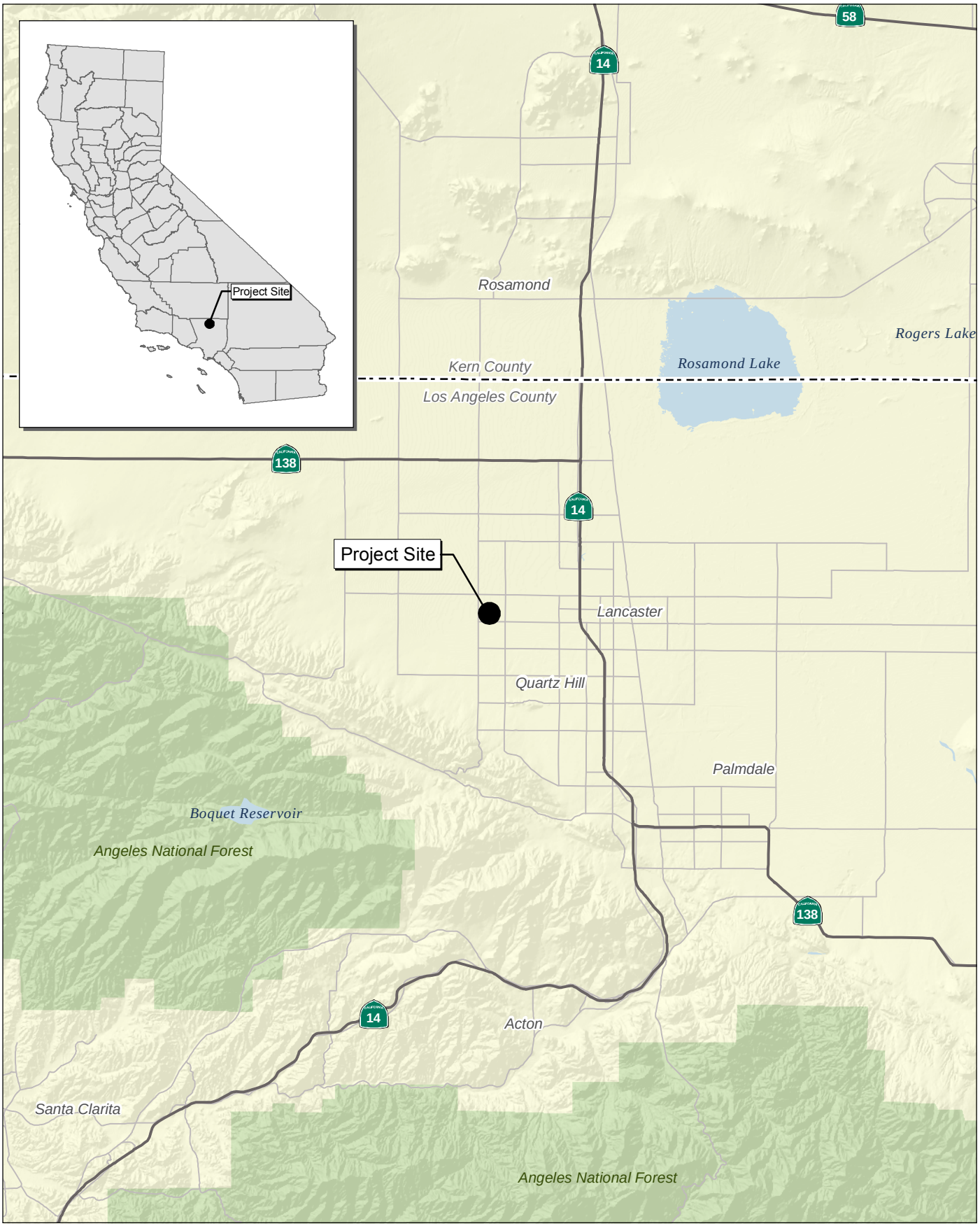
LAC is located on 262 acres at 44750 60th Street West in western Lancaster, California. LAC is approximately 4.5 miles west of central Lancaster, three miles north of central Quartz Hill, and 45 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. LAC is surrounded by the Mira Loma Detention Center, Challenger Memorial Youth Center, Los Angeles County Animal Care Center, and undeveloped land (north); 50th Street West, undeveloped land, and rural residences (east); West Avenue J, undeveloped land, and medium density residences (south); and 60th Street West and undeveloped land (west). Regional location and vicinity maps are presented in Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2, respectively.

LAC consists of approximately 1,300,000 square feet of buildings and approximately 3,200,000 square feet of total impervious surface area. The majority of the project site is used as part of the existing facility or has been previously disturbed by facility related activities.

2.5 - Project Description

The LAC project would remedy the identified deficiencies in the health care facility components through renovation of existing health care facilities and construction of new health care facilities. These improvements would provide critical facility infrastructure to support a timely, competent, and effective medical care delivery system at LAC. The proposed project is expected to reduce the need for escorted inmate-patient vehicle trips to offsite specialty care treatment, due to the installation of telemedicine capabilities to enable remote diagnostics and treatment, and additional specialty care exam rooms would be provided that would allow additional specialty care treatment to take place onsite.

The proposed project consists of seven sub-projects that include new buildings, renovations to existing buildings, and additions to existing buildings. New buildings and/or renovations are summarized below in Table 1. The proposed project would result in 6,424 square feet of building renovations, 20,092 square feet of new building space, and 12,400 square feet of additional impervious surfaces. Total exterior disturbed area would consist of 56,492 square feet or 1.3 acres (combined total of 20,092 square feet of new building space, 12,400 square feet of additional impervious surface, and 24,000 square feet of temporary construction staging areas).



Source: Census 2000 Data, The CaSIL, MBA GIS 2013.

NORTH

5 2.5 0 5 Miles

Michael Brandman Associates

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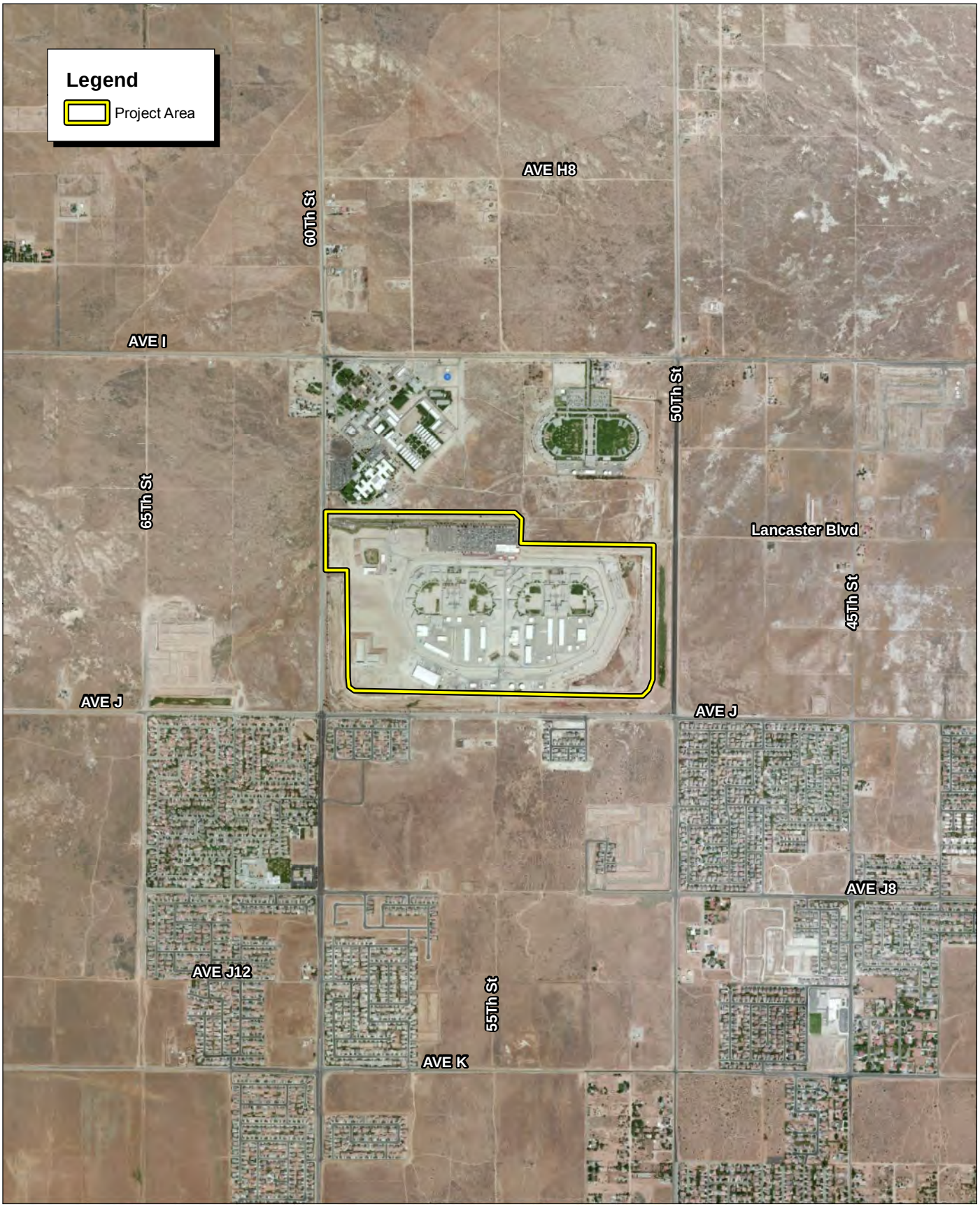
Exhibit 1
Regional Location Map

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
HEALTH CARE FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR LAC
INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery.

NORTH

2,000 1,000 0 2,000 Feet

Michael Brandman Associates

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Exhibit 2
Local Vicinity Map
Aerial Base

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
HEALTH CARE FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR LAC
INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Because many of the new buildings would be constructed in locations that currently contain impervious surface, the total impervious surface added to the institution would be only 29,700 square feet. Approximate existing impervious surface area at LAC is 3,200,000 square feet. Note that all square footage amounts provided in this document are approximate based on conceptual plans.

Table 1: LAC New Building and Renovation Square Footage

Sub-project	Building Renovations	New Buildings and Building Additions	Additional Impervious Areas[1]
1) New Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) Primary Care Clinic	0	2,576	2,200
2) New Complex Primary Care Clinic (Facilities A and B)	0	5,472	6,200
3) New Complex Primary Care Clinic (Facilities C and D)	0	5,472	4,000
4) Medication Distribution Rooms	1,524	812	0
5) New Health Care Administration and Health Records Building	0	5,760	0
6) Central Health Services Renovation	4,900	0	0
7) Disability Placement Program Accessibility Improvements	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	6,424	20,092	12,400

Note:
[1] Accounts for additional parking, roadways, and walkways constructed outside of building footprints.
Source: Vanir Construction Management, 2013.

Each sub-project of the proposed project, as shown in Table 1, is discussed below.

2.5.1 - Sub-project 1: New Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) Primary Care Clinic

A new, 2,576-square-foot ASU Primary Care Clinic would be constructed on vacant land adjacent to housing unit D5 (Exhibit 3). The building would include two exam rooms, one dental operatory, and two non-contact mental health interview rooms. The clinic would also include staff workstations and clinic support spaces. Additional exterior pavement totaling 2,200 square feet would provide for cart parking and connect the clinic to housing unit D5.

2.5.2 - Sub-project 2: New Complex Primary Care Clinic (Facilities A and B)

A new 5,472-square-foot Complex Primary Care Clinic would be constructed between Facility A and Facility B south of the visitation building. The clinic would include eight exam rooms, two multi-purpose rooms, waiting areas, staff workstations, clinic support areas, staff office, and clean and soiled utility rooms. Additional exterior pavement totaling 6,200 square feet would be constructed adjacent to the building.

2.5.3 - Sub-project 3: New Complex Primary Care Clinic (Facilities C and D)

A new 5,472-square-foot Complex Primary Care Clinic would be constructed between Facility C and Facility D south of the visitation building. The clinic would include eight exam rooms, two multi-purpose rooms, waiting areas, staff workstations, clinic support areas, staff office, and clean and soiled utility rooms. Additional exterior pavement totaling 4,000 square feet would be constructed adjacent to the building.

2.5.4 - Sub-project 4: Medication Distribution Rooms (New and Renovation)

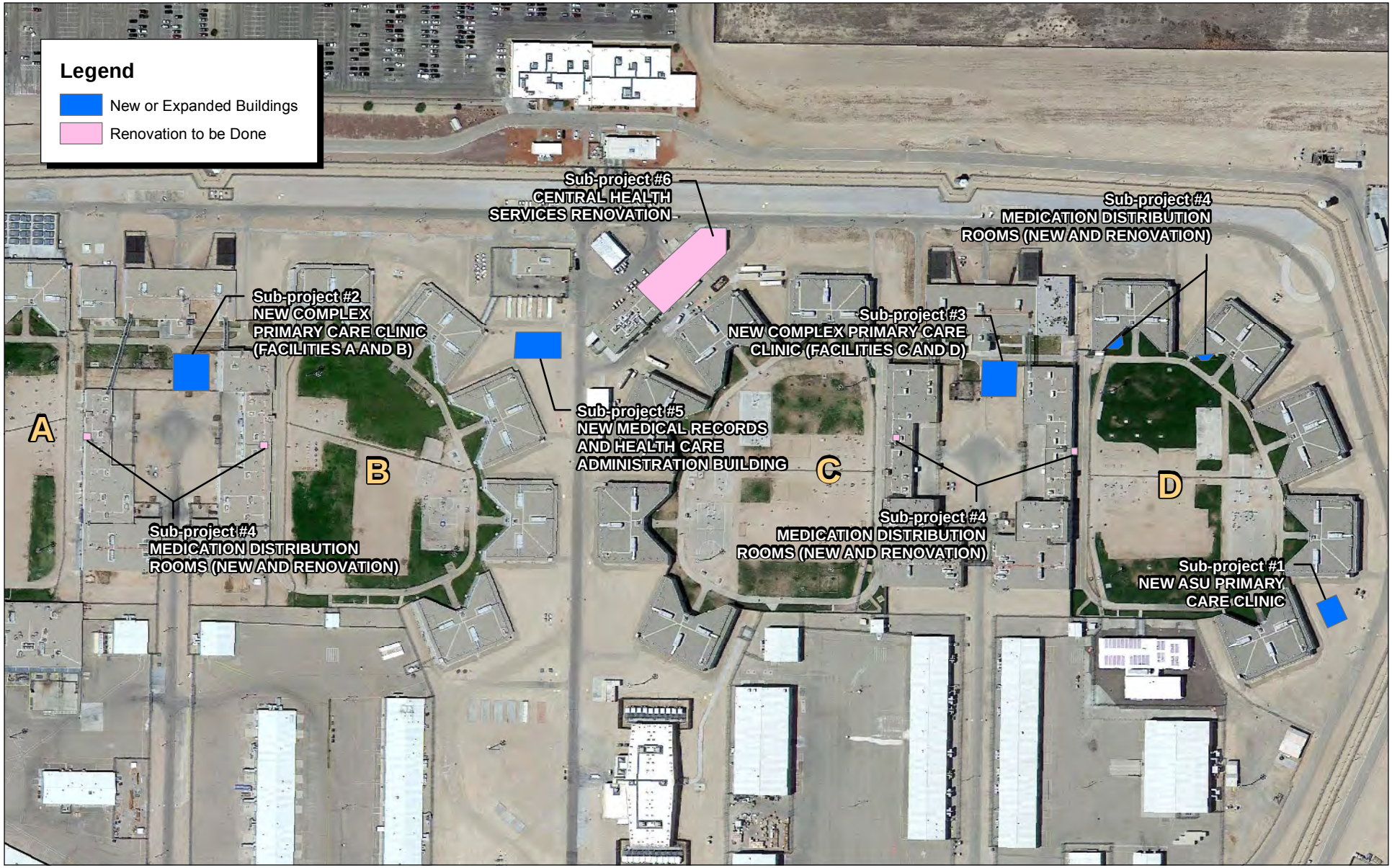
Existing staff workstations at Facilities A, B, C, and D would be reconfigured and renovated to provide medication distribution rooms including distribution windows, secure injection administration space, and secured medication distribution space. In addition, new medication distribution rooms would be constructed at housing units D1 and D2 and would include distribution windows, secure injection administration areas, and secure medication distribution space. All medication distribution rooms would include sinks, countertops, and drinking fountains. Table 2 summarizes the proposed renovation and addition space.

Table 2: Medication Distribution Room Square Footage Summary

Facility	Square Feet	
	Building Renovations	Building Additions
A	381	—
B	381	—
C	381	—
D	381	—
D1 EOP Housing Unit	—	406
D2 EOP Housing Unit	—	406
Total	1524	812
Source: Vanir Construction Management, 2013.		

2.5.5 - Sub-project 5: New Health Care Administration and Health Records Building

A new, 5,760-square-foot, Health Care Administration and Health Records Building would be constructed between Facility B and C to accommodate health care administration staff, staff support spaces, and health records displaced from the Central Health Services Building (Sub-project 6). The new health records area would include space for file preparation, scanning, limited records storage, conference room, staff break room, workroom, and staff offices. It would be equipped with power and data connections to support the electronic health records system.



Source: Google Earth Pro, 2013. MBA GIS Data, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation 2013.

Michael Brandman Associates

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Exhibit 3
Site Plan

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
HEALTH CARE FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR LAC
INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

2.5.6 - Sub-project 6: Central Health Services Renovation

The existing Central Health Services building would undergo 4,900 square feet of renovations to provide appropriately sized exam rooms for physical therapy, ophthalmology/optometry, optical services, telemedicine, and specialty exam rooms. All exam rooms would have sinks and would be sized to meet treatment and equipment needs. Staff workstations, offices, and clinic support spaces, including soiled and clean utility rooms, would also be provided.

2.5.7 - Sub-project 7: Disability Placement Program Accessibility Improvements

A portion of the existing inmate housing would be renovated to provide accessibility accommodation for inmates with disabilities. In addition, accessibility improvements would be made to inmate program and service areas, site areas, and paths-of-travel at various locations throughout the institution in accordance with the 2010 Americans with Disability Act Standards for Accessible Design and the California Building Code (CBC), Title 24, and Title 22. Additional impervious surfaces resulting from these improvements would be minimal and would replace existing paths of travel. All improvements would be minor and completed at existing paths of travel.

2.5.8 - Additional Project Information

Staffing

The proposed project would remedy existing space deficiencies for the provision of health care services already provided at LAC. As such, existing staff would utilize the new and renovated spaces. In addition, approximately nine additional employees would be required to meet the staffing needs of the new buildings at LAC. Eight of the additional employees would serve as custody staff and would be distributed among three separate shifts: 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Custody staff typically arrive earlier than their shift start time to relieve departing staff to ensure overlap. The remaining one additional employee would work a standard daytime shift.

Inmate Population

The proposed project at LAC does not provide additional inmate beds.

Visitation

Visitation procedures for the institution would remain the same as existing visitation protocols. Because the proposed project at LAC does not provide additional inmate beds, visitation levels would not be expected to change.

Parking

Additional staff and visitor parking is not required for the new facilities. Parking for construction workers would be provided at the existing LAC visitor parking area.

Lighting

New buildings would include exterior lighting fixtures mounted on building facades. Exterior lighting would illuminate all recesses formed by the building shape and be consistent with CDCR Design Criteria Guidelines. All lighting would be consistent with the existing lighting of the facility, and no new high-mast lighting would be installed.

Utilities

Utility service—including water, wastewater, stormwater, electricity, natural gas, telephone, and data communications—would be extended to new and renovated building spaces as necessary. Because the proposed project at LAC does not include additional inmate beds and would require the addition of only nine employees, additional water and wastewater needs are expected to be minimal.

2.5.9 - Project Construction

CDCR anticipates the construction of the proposed project to begin in winter 2015. For the purposes of this IS/Proposed ND, it has been assumed that construction would take approximately 16 months and is scheduled to be completed in spring 2016. Primary phases of construction would include site mobilization and security, site preparation, and building construction. Construction of the sub-projects would be sequenced based on phasing requirements. Not all sub-projects would start construction at the same time. However, for the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that all project components would be constructed simultaneously.

Construction Equipment

Construction equipment types and numbers would vary, based on the phasing of project components and the sequencing of construction activities. The following construction equipment is anticipated for use in the site preparation and development of the project:

- Excavator
- Backhoe
- Jack hammer
- Front-end loader
- Tractor
- Dump truck
- Truck
- Grader
- Crane
- Fork lift
- Bobcat
- Air compressor
- Pneumatic lift
- Pneumatic tools

Earth-moving equipment, including backhoes, front-end loaders, and dump trucks, would be used during excavation for utilities and building foundations. Concrete trucks and pumpers would be onsite during concrete pours for foundations and slabs. Forklifts would be used during erection of walls and delivery of material from storage areas. Cranes would be operated for installation of precast panels, structural steel framing members, metal decking, and rooftop mechanical systems.

Construction Hours

Construction would occur between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. CDCR's contractor may request to work additional hours on weekdays and weekends with prior approval by the construction manager and institutional directors.

Site Demolition and Preparation

All proposed onsite buildings and additions would be located within LAC on previously disturbed and developed land. Building areas would be graded and soil engineered as necessary. A site-specific geotechnical engineering study would be completed for the project, and recommended soil preparation and construction methods would be incorporated into project plans and implemented onsite.

Construction Staging Areas

Construction staging for all renovations or improvements would occur within the secure perimeter fence adjacent to construction areas for each sub-project as necessary. Combined, the construction staging areas would total approximately 24,000 square feet. All staging areas would be located in previously disturbed and developed areas. The staging areas would be used for approximately 16 months during project construction. Staging areas would be used for construction vehicles, equipment, and material storage. Small amounts of fuels, lubricants, and solvents may be stored in these areas. Parking for construction workers would be provided at the existing LAC visitor parking area.

Construction Traffic Trips

Construction trips, including construction workers, soil hauling, demolition material removal, and building material delivery are estimated at an average of 72 one-way trips or approximately 36 vehicles traveling to and from the project site per day (Vanir Construction Management 2013; MBA 2013). This average assumes soil hauling and demolition would occur at the same time as building construction and is therefore a conservative estimate. Use of inmate workers as construction workers at LAC allows for reduced offsite traffic trip generation.

2.5.10 - Hazardous Materials

LAC was constructed from 1990 to 1993, after many hazardous materials were banned from construction materials. Nonetheless, prior to project construction, an industrial hygienist would perform a complete hazardous materials assessment of structures to be disturbed by the proposed project. The assessments would include sampling and testing of any suspect materials or coating for asbestos and lead. Any friable materials (material likely to emit asbestos if disturbed) and noted hazardous materials within the project area would be identified for appropriate removal and disposal during construction. All required notifications, equipment, handling, disposal, and clearance testing related to hazardous material removal would be performed in accordance with applicable regulations to ensure worker safety and best management practices (BMPs) are established and followed.

2.6 - Environmental Protection Design Features

The following section describes features of the proposed project that would reduce potential environmental impacts.

2.6.1 - Inadvertent Discovery Clauses

CDCR would require a standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors that if a potentially significant cultural resource is encountered during subsurface earthwork, a buffer zone would be created around the find and further construction work would cease therein. Construction activities would be discontinued in the vicinity of the find in accordance with California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15064.5[f], until a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist determines whether the discovery requires a significance evaluation in accordance with CCR Section 15064.5(a)(3). Potentially significant cultural resources consist of but are not limited to stone, bone, glass, ceramic, wood, or shell artifacts; or features including hearths, structural remains, or historic dumpsites that are more than 50 years old. In addition, the standard inadvertent discovery clause would require that if a potentially significant paleontological resource is encountered during subsurface earthwork, activities for the proposed project would cease until a qualified paleontologist determines whether the resource requires further study following Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.5.

2.6.2 - Geologic Stability

The proposed project's components have been designed to be consistent with the 2013 CBC, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2, Chapter 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, and as outlined in Appendix D of CDCR's Design Criteria Guidelines. The CBC requires extensive geotechnical analysis and engineering for grading, foundations, retaining walls, and other structures, including criteria for seismic design. Incorporation of standard CBC design and construction methods would ensure that risks resulting from seismic shaking would be minimized. In addition, a geotechnical engineering report would be prepared for the project prior to final design and preparation of grading plans. The geotechnical engineering report would provide site-specific recommendations regarding site preparation, earthwork, appropriate sources and types of fill, structural foundations, grading practices, erosion, slope stability during construction and operation, earthquake resistant design, and road and pavement areas. In accordance with CBC and Appendix D of CDCR's Design Criteria Guidelines, recommendations from the geotechnical engineering report would be incorporated into project plans and implemented during project construction.

2.6.3 - Water Quality Protection

CDCR or its contractor would prepare a grading and erosion control plan consistent with the requirements of the general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (General Permit, 2009-0009-DWQ as amended by 2010-0014-DWA and 2002-006-DWQ). The plan would include the location,

implementation schedule, and maintenance schedule of all erosion and sediment control measures; describe measures designed to control dust and stabilize the construction site road and entrance; and describe the location and methods for storage and disposal of construction materials. In addition, the plan would include a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that identifies specific actions and BMPs to prevent stormwater pollution during construction activities. The SWPPP would identify pollution prevention measures and practices to prevent polluted runoff from leaving the project site and be consistent with the NPDES Construction Permit. Examples of stormwater pollution prevention measures and practices that may be contained in the plan include but are not limited to:

- Perimeter protection (e.g., straw bales or wattles, fiber rolls, silt fencing) to prevent sediment escaping from the construction site
- Drainage inlet protection
- Hydroseeding or landscaping of non-paved surfaces
- Employee training in good housekeeping practices and to inform personnel of stormwater pollution prevention measures

The SWPPP would also contain information related to spill prevention countermeasures, measures to prevent or materials available to clean up hazardous material and waste spills, as well as emergency procedures for hazardous spills. All construction contractors would retain a copy of the approved SWPPP on the construction site.

In addition, CDCR would retain a registered civil engineer to design and implement a post-construction drainage plan that would safely retain, detain, and/or convey stormwater runoff and would be consistent with CDCR Design Criteria Guidelines.

SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Health Care Facility Improvement Project for the California State Prison, Los Angeles County
2. Lead Agency Name and Address	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation 9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B, Sacramento, CA 95827
3. Contact Person and Phone Number	Roxanne Henriquez, Senior Environmental Planner (916) 255-3010
4. Project Location	44750 60th Street West in western Lancaster, California
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation 9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B, Sacramento, CA 95827
6. General Plan Designation	Public Use
7. Zoning	Public Zone
8. Description of Project	See Section 2.5 Project Description
9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting	See Section 2.4 Project Location and Existing Conditions
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval or participation agreement)	Regional Water Quality Control Board State Department of Finance State Public Works Board Joint Legislative Budget Committee

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected					
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by the project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.					
☐	Aesthetics	☐	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☐	Air Quality
☐	Biological Resources	☐	Cultural Resources	☐	Geology/Soils
☐	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐	Hazards/Hazardous Materials	☐	Hydrology/Water Quality
☐	Land Use/Planning	☐	Mineral Resources	☐	Noise
☐	Population/Housing	☐	Public Services	☐	Recreation
☐	Transportation/Traffic	☐	Utilities/Services Systems	☐	Mandatory Findings of Significance
☐	None with Mitigation				

Environmental Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

☐ I find that although the Proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the Proposed Project, nothing further is required.

Nancy MacKenzie — *Signed*

10-2-13 — *Date*

Nancy MacKenzie
Printed Name

Chief, Environmental Planning Section
Title

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Agency

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Aesthetics *Would the project:*				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic building within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

The following discussion is based on the site reconnaissance performed by MBA on June 24, 2013. High-resolution photographs were taken from representative viewpoints in the surrounding vicinity, and visual simulations were created to demonstrate the proposed project's building massing.

Visual Distance Zones

The following distance zones (foreground, middle ground, and background) are used to characterize the dominant visual character from each vantage point and describe views in terms that can be analyzed and compared. As discussed below, sensitivity of views modified from the existing environment is defined in order to establish thresholds for analysis of potential visual impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed project.

Foreground Views. These views include elements that can be seen at a close distance and that dominate the entire view. Impacted views at this distance are generally considered potentially adverse when viewed by a sensitive viewer group, such as surrounding residents, workers, pedestrians, or regular motorists.

Middle Ground Views. These views include elements that can be seen at a middle distance and that partially dominate the view. Impacted views at this distance are generally considered potentially adverse when viewed by a sensitive viewer group.

Background Views. These views include elements that are seen at a long distance and typically do not dominate the view but are a part of the overall visual composition of the view. Impacted views at

this distance are generally considered not to be an adverse impact when viewed by a sensitive viewer group.

Regional Setting

LAC is located on 262 acres at 44750 60th Street West in western Lancaster, California (Exhibit 2). The City of Lancaster is located within Los Angeles County in Southern California (Exhibit 1). The project area is located east of the Sierra Pelona Mountains, south of the Tehachapi Mountains, and northwest of the San Gabriel Mountains. Visually, the region is dominated by views of flat land consisting of low-lying desert vegetation, barren land, and intermittent cities or developed areas. LAC is approximately 4.5 miles west of central Lancaster, three miles north of central Quartz Hill, and 45 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. State Route 14 (SR-14) is located approximately three miles east of the project site. SR-138 is located approximately nine miles southeast of the project site. Mount McDill is located approximately nine miles southwest of the project site.

Visual Setting

LAC is located on state-owned land, surrounded by the Mira Loma Detention Center, Challenger Memorial Youth Center, Los Angeles County Animal Care center, and undeveloped land to the north; 50th Street West, undeveloped land, and rural residences to the east; West Avenue J, undeveloped land, and medium density residences to the south; and 60th Street West and undeveloped land to the west.

Views of the project site from residences immediately south of LAC off West Avenue J consist of middle ground views of undeveloped land, existing LAC buildings, and background views of the Sierra Pelona Mountains, the Tehachapi Mountains, and the San Gabriel Mountains. Views of the project site from rural residences east of LAC consist of middle ground views of undeveloped land and existing LAC buildings. Background views consist of the Sierra Pelona Mountains, the Tehachapi Mountains, and the San Gabriel Mountains.

Offsite views of the existing institution are generally seen from the adjacent roadways and nearby residential areas. LAC is located in middle ground views as seen from these locations. Foreground views consist of undeveloped land, roadways, sidewalks, and minimal landscaping. Background views consist of undeveloped land, and nearby mountain ranges.

Sensitive Viewsheds

Sensitive viewsheds typically consist of those seen from public land use areas (recreation areas, parks, trails, etc.) or views of significant landscape features (e.g., mountain ranges). The nearest public land areas are Lancaster High School and Apollo Community Regional Park, located approximately 1.5 miles to the east and 3.3 miles to the northeast. Views of LAC from these locations are generally negligible because of the intervening distance. Viewsheds as seen from public use areas located within the surrounding mountain areas may include LAC. However, again, because

of distance, such views would be negligible. Views of the mountain ranges surrounding the region are located at a significant distance (the nearest being approximately 4.3 miles to the southwest) and are not blocked by existing LAC buildings. Accordingly, no sensitive viewsheds are present.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No impact. The proposed project at LAC would consist of four new one-story buildings as well as interior renovations and/or minor additions at seven existing LAC buildings. All construction would be consistent in character, design, and height with other existing buildings at LAC and would not exceed one story. The proposed project building additions would be minimally visible from outside the secure perimeters. As such, existing views of the surrounding mountains as seen from outside the facilities would not change and the proposed project would not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. No impact would occur.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic building within a state scenic highway?

No impact. There are no state-designated scenic highways near the project site. The nearest officially designated state scenic highway is SR-2 in Los Angeles County located approximately 28 miles southeast of the project site. The nearest eligible state scenic highways (not officially designated) are SR-14 and SR-58 in eastern Kern County located approximately 28 miles northeast of the project site. Accordingly, no impact would occur.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Less than significant impact. The existing visual character of the project vicinity consists of views of undeveloped land covered in low-lying desert vegetation, existing LAC institutional buildings, nearby institutional facilities, residential areas, and background views of the Sierra Pelona Mountains, the Tehachapi Mountains, and the San Gabriel Mountains. LAC significantly influences the character of the immediate site vicinity.

Locations from which photographs of LAC were taken are illustrated in Exhibit 4a. The photographs are provided in Exhibit 4b and Exhibit 4c, which include block massing examples of several of the proposed facilities. Exhibit 4b provides views of the new ASU Primary Care Clinic building and the new Complex Primary Care Clinic building (Facilities A and B). Exhibit 4c provides views of the proposed new Complex Primary Care Clinic building (Facilities C and D) and the proposed new

Health Care Administration and Health Records building. As indicated in the representative site photographs, the proposed buildings would be consistent with the building massing existing at LAC.

Views of proposed improvements would be available from a limited number of locations, because much of the proposed improvements are located within interior areas of LAC and views would be blocked by existing institution buildings. Furthermore, proposed improvements at LAC would be relatively minor additions to the existing large institution and, because of the distance from nearby viewpoints (adjacent roadways and residential areas), would represent minimal changes in the existing visual setting. As such, the proposed project would not represent a significant visual change as viewed from nearby residential areas, roadways, or public open space in the Sierra Pelona Mountains, Tehachapi Mountains, and San Gabriel Mountains. During construction, temporary staging areas would occur within the institution, and large equipment such as cranes may be used. Views of construction-related activity would be limited to the directly surrounding area and would be temporary. Accordingly, no substantial change would occur to the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Impacts would be less than significant.

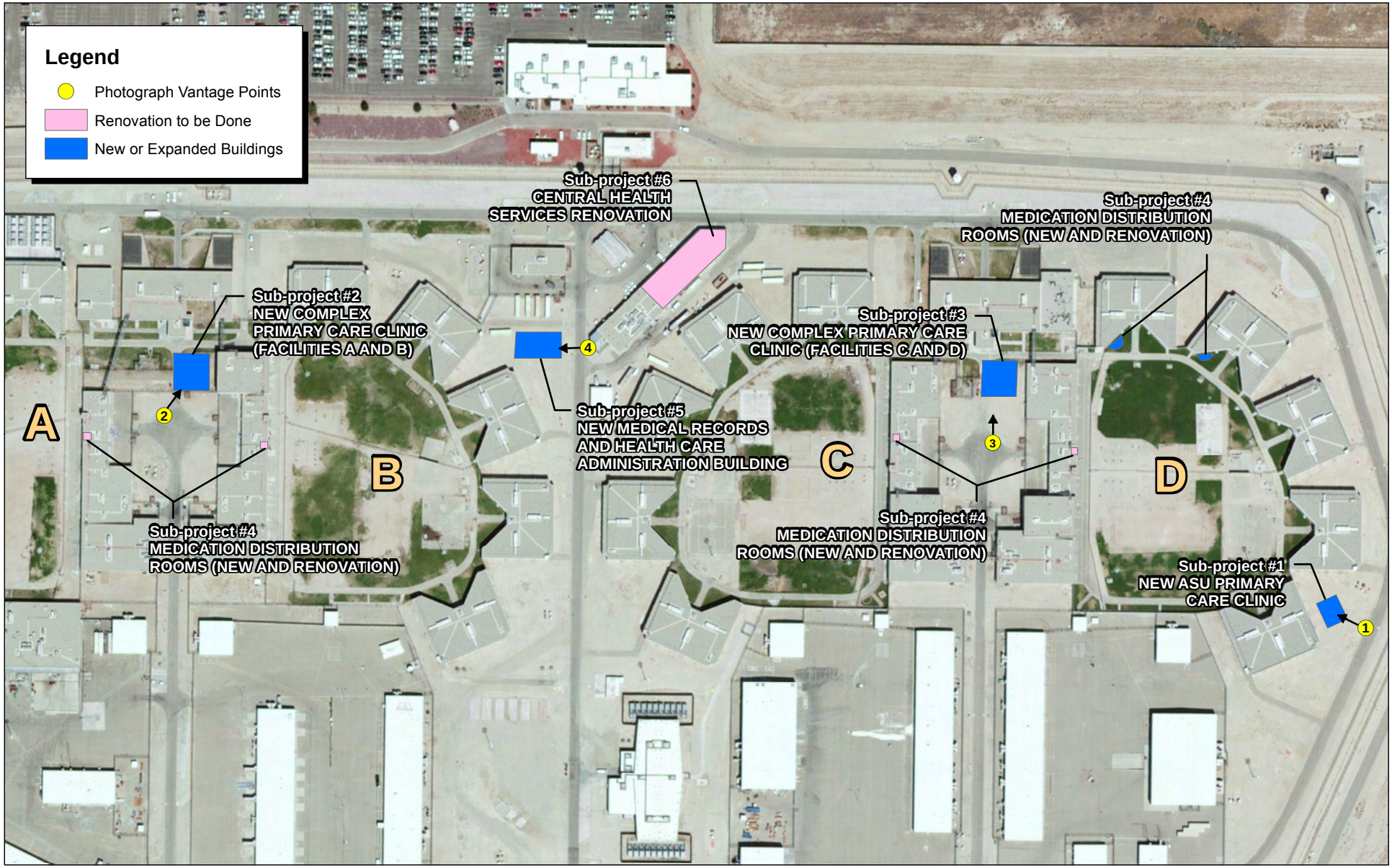
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less than significant impact. The LAC facilities are currently well-lit with onsite high-mast and building mounted lighting. In addition, high-mast lighting is used at the nearby Challenger Memorial Youth Center and Mira Loma Detention Center.

The proposed project would include exterior wall- and/or roof-mounted security lighting associated with the new and renovated structures. No new large sources of lighting (e.g., high-mast lighting) would be installed as part of the project. Existing high-mast lighting would not be altered. Newly added exterior wall and/or roof-mounted lighting would be consistent with CDCR Design Criteria Guidelines to minimize spillover light into surrounding properties. Furthermore, CDCR's Design Criteria Guidelines require a lighting plan for each institution to ensure light spillover is limited.

Given the existing lighting, the additional lighting associated with the proposed project would not increase the intensity of illumination in and around LAC and, therefore, would not be expected to substantially affect nighttime views.

The proposed project does not include any building materials that would be expected to produce substantial amounts of glare. Given the distance to nearby residential development and intervening buildings, no offsite impacts would be expected if glare were to occur. As such, impacts related to lighting and glare would be less than significant.



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery. MBA GIS Data, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation 2013.

Michael Brandman Associates

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Exhibit 4a
Photograph Vantage Points

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
HEALTH CARE FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR LAC
INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Photograph 1: View (facing northwest) of the proposed new ASU Primary Care Clinic building (Sub-project #1).

Photograph 2: View (facing northeast) of the proposed new Complex Primary Care Clinic building (Facilities A and B) (Sub-project #2).

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2013.

Michael Brandman Associates

Exhibit 4b
Site Photographs 1 and 2

Photograph 3: View (facing northeast) of the proposed new Complex Primary Care Clinic building (Facility C and D) (Sub-project #3).

Photograph 4: View (facing west) of the proposed new Health Care Administration and Health Records building (Sub-project #5).

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2013.

Michael Brandman Associates

Exhibit 4c
Site Photographs 3 and 4

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

Environmental Setting

Agricultural production is a million dollar industry in Los Angeles County with 2011 crop production values estimated at $173 million (Los Angeles County, 2012). Woody ornamentals were the leading agricultural crop valued at $48.6 million. Other leading crops include alfalfa, bedding plant, and root vegetables (Los Angeles County 2012). According to the Farmland and Mapping Monitoring Program's (FMMP) 2010 inventory (the most recent available), approximately 271,287 acres of agricultural/grazing land are located in Los Angeles County (FMMP 2011). Currently, there are no active agricultural operations within LAC.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

No impact. Based on a review of maps prepared pursuant to the FMMP of the California Department of Conservation (CDC), the project site does not contain any land designated "Prime Farmland," "Unique Farmland," or "Farmland of Statewide Importance." LAC is designated by the FMMP as Urban and Built-Up Land (FMMP 2011). The proposed project would be located entirely within LAC boundaries and would not impact any undisturbed lands. Therefore, no impact to Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance would occur.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No impact. No Williamson Act contract land exists on the project site. The Williamson Act Program does not map areas in northern Los Angeles County where LAC is located. LAC is designated as Public Use on the Lancaster General Plan Land Use Map and is zoned Public on the Lancaster Central Zoning Map. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with any agricultural zoning. The proposed project is consistent with land use and zoning designations and is not expected to encourage the non-renewal or cancellation of other Williamson Act contract lands or conflict with agricultural zoning. No impact would occur.

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))?

No impact. PRC Section 12220(g) defines forest land as ". . . land that can support 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits." Additionally, timberland is defined by PRC Section 4526 as land ". . . which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products." The project site consists of previously disturbed lands and non-native landscaping within a state correctional institution. Therefore, no forest land or timberland activity could be supported on the project site or in the vicinity of the project site. These conditions preclude the possibility of changes to forest land or timberland zoning resulting from the proposed project. For these reasons, no impact would occur.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No impact. See response to c), above. No forest land or timberland exists on the project site or in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

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?

No impact. Indirect impacts on agricultural lands can occur under two types of conditions: (1) development (urban, residential) can place pressure on adjacent agricultural lands to convert to non-agricultural uses, or (2) land uses (urban, residential) adjacent to existing agricultural lands can create conflicts between the two types of uses, which can, in turn, lead to the abandonment of agricultural uses in the area of conflict.

Improvements to LAC would take place within the existing institutional boundaries and would only function to serve LAC inmates and employees. The proposed land use is consistent with both the Lancaster General Plan land use and zoning designations. No farmland or forest land exists within LAC. Moreover, the proposed project does not include components that would result in changes to surrounding land uses. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in conversion of farmland or forest land, and there are no project elements that would otherwise affect agricultural or forest lands. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:*				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

The project is within the Antelope Valley, which is part of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) and under the jurisdiction of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Monitoring District (AVAQMD or Air District). The MDAB contains most of California's high desert, including eastern Kern County, northern San Bernardino County, eastern Riverside County, and the desert (northern) portion of Los Angeles County. The MDAB is an assemblage of mountain ranges interspersed with long broad valleys that often contain dry lakes. Many of the lower mountains that dot the vast terrain rise from 1,000 to 4,000 feet above the valley floor. Regional and local air quality in the MDAB is impacted by dominant airflows, topography, atmospheric inversions, location, season, and time of day. Prevailing winds in the MDAB are out of the west and southwest (AVAQMD 2011).

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards, also known as federal standards. There are federal standards for six common air pollutants, called criteria air pollutants, which were identified resulting from provisions of the Clean Air Act. The six criteria pollutants are ozone, particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide (CO), lead, and sulfur dioxide. The federal standards are set to protect public

health, including that of sensitive individuals. Thus, the standards are periodically updated as more medical research is available regarding the health effects of the criteria pollutants.

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) administers California ambient air quality standards for the 10 air pollutants designated in the California Clean Air Act. The 10 state air pollutants consist of the six federal criteria pollutants listed above as well as visibility-reducing particulates, hydrogen sulfide, sulfates, and vinyl chloride.

Health effects of the criteria pollutants may be found at the ARB's website (ARB 2012). The Air District is designated as non-attainment for the state and federal ozone standards, as wells as the state PM_{10} standard. Therefore, the pollutants of concern for the project area are primarily ozone and particulate matter (PM).

Elevated levels of ozone, PM, and CO are seasonal in nature. Significant ozone formation generally requires an adequate amount of ozone precursors in the atmosphere and several hours in a stable atmosphere with strong sunlight. Ozone precursors are primarily oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The conditions for ozone formation are prevalent during the summer when thermal inversions are most likely to occur. PM levels tend to be highest during the winter months when the meteorological conditions favor the accumulation of localized pollutants. This occurs when relatively low inversion levels trap pollutants near the ground and concentrate the pollution. In addition, CO concentrations are higher in winter.

Existing local air quality, historical trends, and projections of air quality are best evaluated by reviewing relevant air pollutant concentrations near the project area. The Air District operates an air monitoring station in Lancaster on Division Street, approximately six miles southeast of the project. The Lancaster-Division Street ambient air monitoring station (Lancaster Station) measures 1 hour and 8-hour ozone, daily PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$, 8-hour CO, and 1-hour NO_2. Table 3 summarizes 2010 through 2012 published monitoring data from ARB's Aerometric Data Analysis and Management System for the Lancaster Station.

Table 3: Lancaster Station Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Summary

Air Pollutant	Averaging Time	Measurement/Standard	Year		
			2010	2011	2012
Ozone	1 Hour	Max 1 hour measurement (ppm)	0.107	0.115	0.112
		Days above CAAQS of 0.09 ppm	11	19	13
	8 Hour	Max 8 hour measurement (ppm)[1]	0.096	0.100	0.096
		Days above CAAQS of 0.07 ppm	78	76	72
		Days above NAAQS of 0.075 ppm	45	53	39
Particulate matter (PM_{10})	24 Hour	State Annual Average ($\mu g/m^3$)[2]	*	*	18.5
		Max 24 hour measurement ($\mu g/ m^3$)	829.0	49.0	43.0
		Est. days above CAAQS of 50 $\mu g/ m^3$	*	*	0
		Est. Days above NAAQS of 150 $\mu g/ m^3$	*	0	0
Fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	24 Hour	Annual Average ($\mu g/m3$)[2]	*	*	*
		Max 24 hour measurement ($\mu g/m^3$)[1]	15.0	50.0	14.0
		Measured days above NAAQS of 35 $\mu g/m^3$	0	1	0
Carbon monoxide (CO)	8 Hour	Max 8 hour measurement (ppm)	1.23	1.33	1.00
		Days above CAAQS standard of 9.0 ppm	0	0	0
		Days above NAAQS Standard of 9 ppm	0	0	0
Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2)	Annual	Annual Average (ppm)	0.012	0.012	*
	1 Hour	Max 1 hour measurement (ppm)	0.056	0.058	0.049
		Days above CAAQS standard of 0.18 ppm	0	0	0

Abbreviations:
ppm = parts per million $\mu g/m^3$ = micrograms per cubic meter
* = Insufficient/No data Max = maximum Est. = Estimated
CAAQS = California ambient air quality standards
NAAQS = National ambient air quality standards
[1] From the California Measurement
[2] Federal Annual Average
Source: ARB 2013a, 2013b.

Sensitive Receptors

Certain populations, such as children, the elderly, and persons with preexisting respiratory or cardiovascular illness, are particularly sensitive to the health impacts of air pollution. For purposes of CEQA, the Air District considers residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds, and medical facility to be sensitive receptors.

The proposed project has the potential to impact the existing sensitive inmate population and staff at LAC. Some of the existing inmates may be considered sensitive receptors because they are long-term residents with pre-existing illnesses. Sensitive receptors also exist near the project site, as residential areas are located in the immediate vicinity. In addition, the Challenger Memorial Youth Center, a probation facility, and Mira Loma Detention Center are located immediately adjacent to the north of the project site.

Air District Thresholds of Significance

While the final determination of whether or not a project has a significant effect is within the purview of the lead agency pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(b), the Air District recommends that its air pollution thresholds be used to determine the significance of project emissions. The criteria pollutant thresholds and various assessment recommendations are contained in the Air District's 2011 CEQA and Federal Conformity Guidelines (Guidelines), and are discussed under the CEQA checklist questions below.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Less than significant impact. To meet federal Clean Air Act requirements, air districts must prepare attainment plans for pollutants for which they are in nonattainment. The Air District prepared a 2004 Ozone Attainment Plan (AVAQMD 2004). The Air District has also prepared a Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan for the Western Mojave Desert Nonattainment Area that addresses existing and forecast ozone precursor producing activities within the Antelope Valley through the year 2020. (AVAQMD 2008). The Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan demonstrates that the Air District will meet attainment of the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard by June 2021 and presents the progress the Air District will make towards meeting ozone planning milestones.

The Air District's Guidelines indicate that a project is consistent with the attainment plans if it complies with all applicable control measures included therein; complies with all applicable Air District rules and regulations; and is consistent with the land use plan that was used to generate the growth forecast.

Air quality attainment plans list control measures in two categories: existing control measures and proposed control measures. Neither the 2004 Ozone Attainment Plan nor the Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan contains proposed control measures. For existing control measures, both plans defer to the AVAQMD's existing rules and regulations, which are discussed in more detail below. The proposed project would implement and comply with the following Air District rules and regulations:

- Rule 401: Visible Emissions
- Rule 402: Nuisance
- Rule 403: Fugitive Dust
- Rule 404: Particulate Matter
- Rule 442: Usage of Solvents
- Rule 1000: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP)
- Rule 11102: Emissions from Stationary, Non-road & Portable Internal Combustion Engines
- Rule 1113: Architectural Coatings
- Rule 1403: Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities

The project would be consistent with the applicable control measures from the attainment plans through compliance with applicable AVAQMD rules and regulations. In addition, because the project would be consistent with the existing General Plan designation of Public Use and zoning classification of Public, it would be consistent with the growth forecast in the attainment plans. As such, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plans and impacts would be less than significant.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Less than significant impact. This impact relates to localized criteria pollutant impacts. Potential localized impacts would be exceedances of State or federal standards for $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} or CO. Particulate matter emissions (both $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}) are of concern during construction because of the potential to emit fugitive dust during earth-disturbing activities. CO emissions are of concern during project operation because operational CO hotspots are related to increases in on-road vehicle congestion. Each is discussed separately below.

Construction Fugitive Dust

Dust emissions from grading and trenching can create nuisances and localized health impacts related to fugitive dust. The Air District does not have specific guidance on assessing and mitigating fugitive dust from construction activities. However, the Air District's Guidelines recommends that wind erosion from construction be discussed in CEQA documents.

As discussed in Section 6, Geology and Soils, the proposed project's construction activities would involve grading and excavation that could expose barren soils to sources of wind resulting in the potential for erosion. Compliance with the environmental protection design features described in Section 2.6—Construction General Permit, SWPPP, and BMPs—would ensure that potential impacts from soil erosion or loss of topsoil would be less than significant. In addition, the proposed project would implement appropriate dust control measures during each phase of construction, as required by

the Air District's Rule 403, Fugitive Dust. Therefore, the proposed project would not emit a significant quantity of fugitive dust during construction activities.

Operational CO Hotspot

Localized high levels of CO (CO hotspots) are associated with traffic congestion and idling or slow-moving vehicles. As discussed in Section 3.16, Transportation/Traffic, construction traffic would not occur during peak traffic hours. As stated in the Project Description, the project is not anticipated to result in an increase in visitation levels because no new inmate beds would be added. Inmate or delivery trips associated with the institutions would not increase. Eight of the nine additional employees would serve as custody staff and would be distributed among three separate shifts: 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., thereby requiring no work commute trips during peak traffic hours. Custody staff make only two trips per day, one trip to and one trip from LAC. The addition of traffic trips from the remaining additional employee, who would work during a standard daytime shift, and could make up to four trips per day (two trips to and two trips from LAC), would be minimal compared with the existing number of employee traffic trips to and from LAC. Furthermore, the project would be expected to result in a reduction of existing vehicle trips generated by LAC, as the increased capacity of onsite medical services would alleviate the existing need for transport between LAC and offsite medical service locations. Therefore, operation of the project would result in a minimal increase in employee vehicle trips and a reduction of existing inmate transport trips, and therefore, would not contribute significantly to traffic congestion. Impacts related to operational CO hotspots would be less than significant.

Conclusion

In summary, the project would not emit a significant quantity of fugitive dust and would not significantly contribute to a CO hotspot. Therefore, the project would not contribute substantially to an existing or projected localized air quality violation. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Less than significant impact. This impact is related to regional criteria pollutant impacts. The non-attainment regional pollutants of concern are ozone and PM_{10}. Ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but is a regional pollutant formed by a photochemical reaction in the atmosphere. Ozone precursors, VOC and NO_x, react in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight to form ozone. Therefore, the Air District does not have a recommended ozone threshold, but it does have thresholds of significance for VOC and NO_x. In addition, the Air District provides significance thresholds for construction and operational-generated CO, SO_x, and $PM_{2.5}$. Therefore, this impact section includes analysis of, and significance determinations for, those pollutants.

Construction Emissions

The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2011.1.1 was used by MBA to quantify project-generated construction emissions. The analysis methodology, assumptions and the CalEEMod output are provided in Appendix A. Table 4 summarizes daily construction-related emissions and Table 5 summarizes annual emissions. As shown in the tables, emissions of VOC, NO_x, CO, SO_x, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ would not exceed the Air District's significance thresholds during the proposed project construction phases. Impacts would be less than significant.

Table 4: Construction Air Pollutant Daily Emissions

Source (year)		Emissions (pounds per day)					
		VOC	NO_x	CO	SO_x	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
2014	Demolition	1.09	9.89	5.86	0.01	8.07	0.55
	Site Preparation	0.44	3.00	2.51	0.00	0.43	0.18
	Grading	0.78	5.76	4.23	0.00	11.05	0.55
	Construction	0.65	4.63	3.85	0.01	0.46	0.27
2015	Construction	0.59	4.19	3.71	0.01	0.43	0.23
	Paving	0.66	3.59	3.67	0.00	0.51	0.28
	Painting	58.29	2.67	2.02	0.00	0.22	0.22
Maximum Daily Emissions		**58.92**	**9.89**	**5.86**	**0.01**	**11.05**	**0.55**
Significance threshold		137	137	548	137	82	82
Significant impact?		No	No	No	No	No	No

Notes:
The maximum daily emissions refer to the maximum emissions that would occur in one day; it was assumed that the grading activities do not occur at the same time as the other construction activities. Therefore, their emissions are not summed. Emissions include onsite and offsite activities.
VOC = volatile organic compounds NO_x = nitrogen oxides CO = carbon monoxide
SO_x = sulfur oxides PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter
Source of emissions: CalEEMod Output (Appendix A).
Source of thresholds: AVAQMD 2011.

Table 5: Construction Air Pollutant Annual Emissions

Source (phase)	Emissions (tons per year)					
	VOC	NO_x	CO	SO_x	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Demolition	0.02	0.12	0.08	0.00	0.09	0.00
Site Preparation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grading	0.05	0.36	0.27	0.00	0.64	0.03
Building Construction (2014)	0.08	0.52	0.42	0.00	0.06	0.03
Building Construction (2015)	0.01	0.07	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paving	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
Painting	0.38	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	**0.54**	**1.11**	**0.87**	**0.00**	**0.79**	**0.06**
Significance threshold	25	25	100	25	15	15
Significant impact?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Notes:
VOC = volatile organic compounds NO_x = nitrogen oxides CO = carbon monoxide
SO_x = sulfur oxides PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter <0.01 = less than 0.01
Source of emissions: CalEEMod Output (Appendix A).
Source of thresholds: AVAQMD 2011.

Operational Emissions

Operational emissions occur over the lifetime of the project and are from two main sources: area sources (e.g., boilers, water heaters) and mobile sources (e.g., motor vehicles). Project-specific assumptions and modeling parameters are provided in Appendix A: Air Quality Model Methodology and Output and are shown in Table 6 and Table 7 for daily and annual emissions, respectively. As shown in the tables, the project's operational emissions do not exceed the Air District's significance thresholds.

Table 6: Operational Air Pollutant Daily Emissions

Source	Emissions (pounds per day)					
	VOC	NO_x	CO	SO_x	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Area	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Energy	0.04	0.35	0.29	0.00	0.03	0.03
Mobile	0.64	1.30	5.51	0.01	1.11	0.09
Total Daily Emissions	**1.58**	**1.65**	**5.8**	**0.01**	**1.14**	**0.12**
Significance threshold	137	137	548	137	82	82
Significant impact?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Notes:
VOC = volatile organic compounds NO_x = nitrogen oxides CO = carbon monoxide
SO_x = sulfur oxides PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter
Source of emissions: CalEEMod Output (Appendix A).
Source of thresholds: AVAQMD 2011

Table 7: Operational Air Pollutant Annual Emissions

Source	Emissions (tons per year)					
	VOC	NO_x	CO	SO_x	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Area	0.16	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Energy	0.01	0.06	0.05	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Mobile	0.10	0.23	0.88	<0.01	0.18	0.02
Total Annual Emissions	**0.27**	**0.29**	**0.93**	**<0.01**	**0.18**	**0.02**
Significance threshold	25	25	100	25	15	15
Significant impact?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Notes:
VOC = volatile organic compounds NO_x = nitrogen oxides CO = carbon monoxide
SO_x = sulfur oxides PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter <0.1 = less than 0.1
Source of emissions: CalEEMod Output (Appendix A).
Source of thresholds: AVAQMD 2011.

Conclusion

In summary, the project would not exceed the Air District's significance thresholds for construction or operational pollutants. Therefore, the project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment. Impacts would be less than significant.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than significant impact. This discussion addresses whether the project would expose sensitive receptors to asbestos, construction-generated fugitive dust (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), construction-generated diesel particulate matter (DPM), operational related toxic air contaminants (TACs), or operational CO hotspots.

The AVAQMD considers a sensitive receptor to be any land use containing residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds, and/or medical facilities. The proposed project may be considered a sensitive receptor because some of the existing inmates are long-term residents with pre-existing illnesses. Sensitive receptors also exist near the project site including existing nearby residences (the closest of which are approximately 1,500 feet south of the nearest sub-project); the Challenger Memorial Youth Center, a probation facility located immediately adjacent to the northeast of the project site; and the Mira Loma Detention Center, located immediately adjacent to the northwest of the project site.

Asbestos

Asbestos-Containing Materials

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral which is both naturally occurring in ultramafic rock (a rock type commonly found in California), and used as a processed component of building materials. Because asbestos has been proven to cause a number of disabling and fatal diseases, such as asbestosis and lung cancer, it is strictly regulated either based on its natural widespread occurrence, or in its use as a building material. In the initial Asbestos National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants rule promulgated in 1973, a distinction was made between building materials that would readily release asbestos fibers when damaged or disturbed (friable) and those materials that were unlikely to result in significant fiber release (non-friable). The EPA has since determined that, severely damaged, otherwise non-friable materials can release significant amounts of asbestos fibers. Asbestos has been banned from many building materials under the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Consumer Product Safety Act. However, most uses of asbestos for building material are not banned. Therefore, the potential source of asbestos exposure for the project is the renovation activity of the existing structures.

Because the proposed project would involve renovation activity, various regulatory requirements may apply, including the requirements stipulated in the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (40 CFR 61, Subpart M - asbestos) as well as Air District Rule 1403 (Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities). These requirements include but are not limited to (1) notification to the AVAQMD, (2) an asbestos survey conducted by a Certified Asbestos Inspector, and (3) applicable removal and disposal requirements of identified asbestos-containing materials. Compliance with AVAQMD, federal, and state regulations reduces the potential of asbestos-containing material exposure to a less than significant impact.

Naturally Occurring Asbestos

The California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) has a published guide for generally identifying areas that are likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) (DMG 2000). The DMG map indicates that there are no areas within Los Angeles County that are likely to contain NOA. Therefore, disturbance of NOA during project construction is not a concern for the project.

Construction: Fugitive Dust

Dust emissions from grading, trenching, or land clearing can create nuisances and localized health impacts related to fugitive dust. As shown in Section 3.3, Discussion b) above, the project would not exceed the threshold of significance for construction-generated PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ because the appropriate dust control measures would be implemented during each phase of construction, as required by Air District's Rule 403, Fugitive Dust. Therefore, the project would not expose receptors to substantial PM_{10} or $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations from construction activities.

Construction: Diesel Particulate Matter

Studies have demonstrated that DPM from diesel-fueled engines is a human carcinogen and that chronic (long-term) inhalation exposure to DPM poses a chronic health risk. The project would generate diesel exhaust, a source of DPM, during project construction. Onsite emissions of DPM would occur during construction from the operation of heavy-duty construction equipment and from vendor trucks that operate on the project site.

Construction phase risks would be considered acute health risks as opposed to cancer risks, which are long-term. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has yet to define acute risk factors for diesel particulates that would allow the calculation of a hazards risk index. Thus, evaluation of this impact would be speculative and no further analysis is necessary.

Operation: Toxic Air Contaminants

The Air District's Guidelines state that residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds and medical facilities are considered sensitive receptor land uses. The Guidelines state that evaluation is required if the project were to result in existing or planned sensitive receptors being located in close proximity to certain land use types that are known to be sources of operational TACs. Specifically, further evaluation is required if sensitive receptors would be located less than the following distances to any of the following land use types:

- 1,000 feet of any industrial project;
- 1,000 feet of a distribution center (40 or more trucks per day);
- 1,000 feet of a major transportation project (50,000 or more vehicles/day);
- 500 feet of a dry cleaner using perchloroethylene; or
- 300 feet of a gasoline dispensing facility.

The Air District's significance threshold for TACs is as follows:

> A project is significant if it exposes sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, including those resulting in a cancer risk greater than or equal to 10 in a million and/or a Hazard Index (non-cancerous) greater than or equal to 1.

The proposed project is not an industrial project, distribution center, transportation land use, dry cleaner (using perchloroethylene), or a gasoline dispensing facility. Therefore further evaluation of the project's impacts on sensitive receptor land uses is not required. As such, operation of the project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial operational TACs.

Operation: CO Hotspot

As shown in Section 3.3, Air Quality, Discussion b) above, the project would not create a localized CO hotspot. Therefore, the project would not expose receptors to substantial CO concentrations from operational activities.

Conclusion

The project would not expose receptors to substantial quantities or significant concentrations of asbestos from renovation or soils disturbance, construction-generated fugitive dust, construction-generated DPM, operational TACs, or CO hotspots. Therefore, the project would result in a less than significant impact.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Less than significant impact. The AVAQMD does not currently provide CEQA guidance on assessing the impacts of objectionable odors. Land uses typically associated with odors include wastewater treatment facilities, waste disposal facilities, or agricultural operations. The project does not contain land uses typically associated with emitting objectionable odors.

Diesel exhaust and VOC (considered by some to be objectionable odors) would be emitted during construction of the project but emissions would disperse rapidly from the project site and would not be at a level that would induce a negative response. As such, impacts associated with the generation of objectionable odors would be less than significant.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4. Biological Resources *Would the project:*				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

LAC is located in the City of Lancaster in the Antelope Valley of the western Mojave Desert. Local topography within the City is generally flat. Urban areas of Lancaster are located to the south and east of the project site, while undeveloped land is located to the north and west. Temperatures in the project vicinity range from an average monthly high of 98.7 degrees Fahrenheit (ºF) in July to an average monthly low of 26.3 ºF in December. The average annual rainfall in the project area, as recorded between 1971 and 2000, is 4.43 inches (Western Regional Climate Center [WRCC] 2013).

Vegetation Communities and Wildlife Habitats

Vegetation communities are assemblages of plant species that occur together in the same area and are defined by their structure and by the relative abundance of associated plant species. The vegetation communities within the project site are classified as urban according to the Guide to Wildlife Habitats (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988). By using this classification system, it is possible to predict the wildlife species likely to occur within the project site using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship System (CWHR). CWHR is based upon the Guide to Wildlife Habitats, a predictive model that lists species likely to occur in a given location under certain habitat conditions.

The proposed improvements at LAC are within the existing secure perimeter lethal electrified fence surrounding the facility. The proposed site does not support any native vegetative communities. Vegetated areas within LAC are mowed as part of ongoing facility maintenance. Soils are compacted and have been disturbed during previous construction. The areas associated with the proposed project are considered to have low habitat quality and provide limited habitat for wildlife species.

Wildlife diversity at the site of the proposed project is low because of the relatively low-quality habitat provided by the ruderal and lawn vegetation and generally high levels of disturbance in the vicinity. Wildlife species observed or expected to occur on the project site are limited to those adapted to disturbed conditions, such as northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), and common raven (*Corvus corax*).

Special-Status Species

Special-status species are those wildlife and plant species that, in the judgment of the resource agencies, trustee agencies, and certain non-governmental organizations, warrant special consideration in the CEQA process. These includes the following species:

- Officially designated “threatened,” “endangered,” or “candidate” species federally listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- Officially designated “rare,” “threatened,” “endangered,” or “candidate” species. State listed by the CDFW and protected under the California Endangered Species Act. CDFW also maintains a list of “Fully Protected” species as well as “California Species of Special Concern” that are also generally included as special-status species under CEQA.
- Taxa considered rare, threatened, or endangered under the conditions of Section 15380 of the CEQA Guidelines, such as plant taxa identified on lists 1A, 1B, and 2 in the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.
- Bat species listed as Medium or High Priority by the Western Bat Working Group.

Methodology

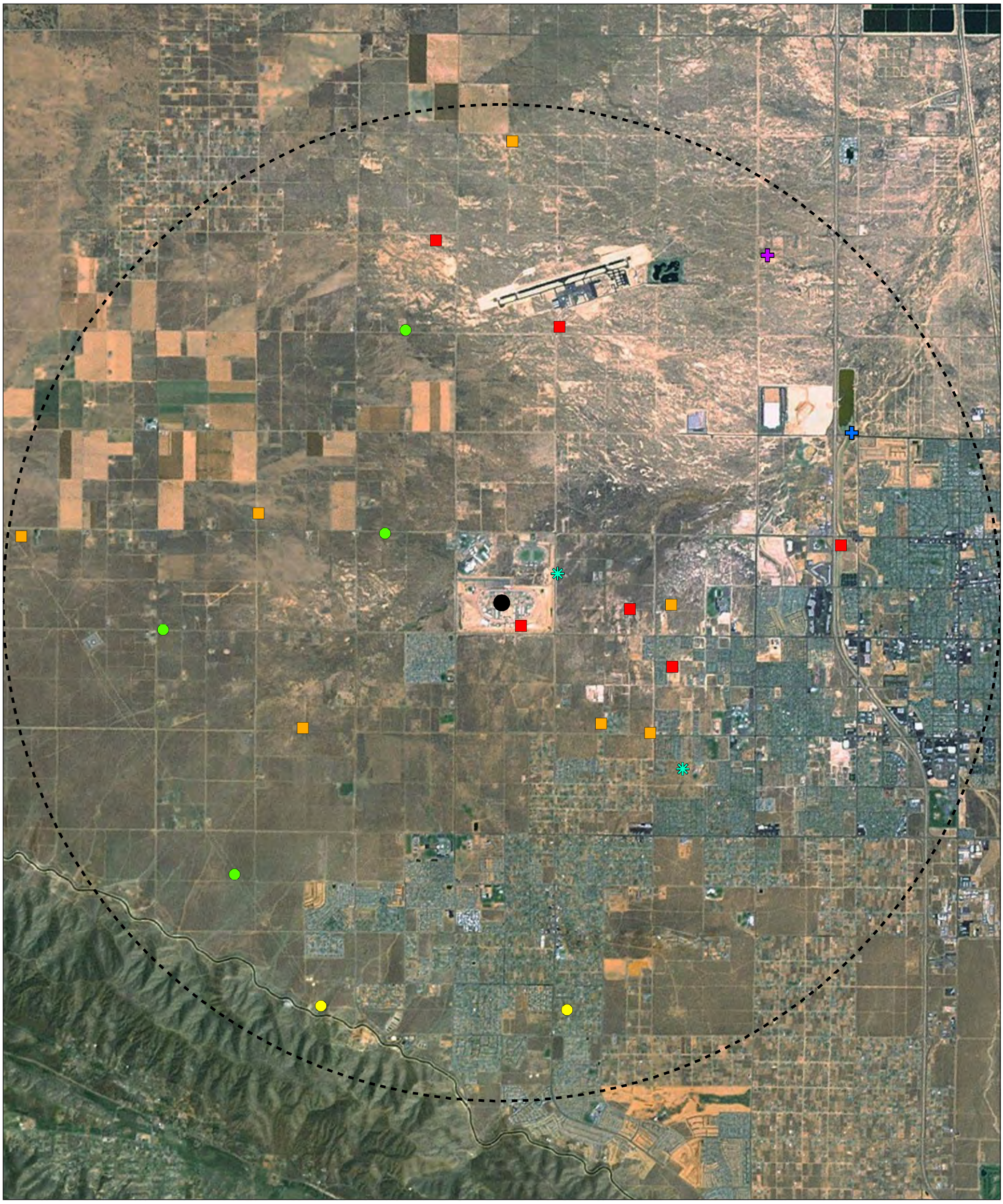
This evaluation of biological resources includes a review and inventory of potentially occurring special-status species (including those officially designated endangered or threatened), wildlife habitats, vegetation communities, and jurisdictional waters of the U.S. or State of California. The setting descriptions provided in this section are based upon a combination of literature reviews, site photographs, aerial photographs, and database queries. The reference data reviewed for this report include the following:

- Lancaster West and Del Sur, California, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles (USGS 1980)
- CDFW California Wildlife Habitat Relationship System (CDFW 2013a)
- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), RareFind 4 computer program for the Lancaster West and Del Sur, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles (CDFW 2013b)
- California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants for the Lancaster West and Del Sur, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles (CNPS 2013)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Office. Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that Occur in Lancaster West and Del Sur USGS 7.5-Minute Quads (USFWS 2013a)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species (USFWS 2013b)
- Special Animals List (CDFW 2013c)
- Endangered and Threatened Animals List (CDFW 2010d)
- Special Plants List (CDFW 2013e)

Special-Status Plant Species

The special-status plant species reviewed for this document are included in several lists provided in Appendix B. These lists were compiled from query results from CNDDB and the CNPS online inventory. CNDDB-recorded occurrences of special-status plant species within five miles of the project site are shown in Exhibit 5.

As indicated in Appendix B, several regionally occurring species have no potential to occur within the project site, either because the distribution of the species does not extend into the vicinity or because the habitat and/or micro-site conditions (e.g., serpentine soils) required by the species are not present. As shown on Exhibit 5, the presence of alkali Mariposa lily (*Calochortus striatus*), a CNPS species of concern has been recorded onsite. However, this recorded observation was made in 1988, prior to construction of LAC. No suitable habitat for alkali Mariposa lily currently exists onsite. There are no other special-status plants with potential to occur within the project site.



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery. CNDB Data, July 2013.

Legend

- Project Site
- 5 Mile Buffer

Common Name - Scientific Name

- alkali mariposa-lily - Calochortus striatus
- burrowing owl - Athene cunicularia
- coast horned lizard - Phrynosoma blainvillii
- ferruginous hawk - Buteo regalis
- least Bell's vireo - Vireo bellii pusillus
- merlin - Falco columbarius
- silvery legless lizard - Anniella pulchra pulchra

NORTH

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

Michael Brandman Associates

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Exhibit 5
CNDDB-Recorded Occurrences of Special-Status Species
Within Five Miles of the Project Site

Special-Status Wildlife Species

The special-status wildlife species reviewed for this document are included in several lists provided in Appendix B. Both the CNDDB and USFWS lists were queried for results. However, the USFWS database yielded no results for the project area, and only CNDDB's list, therefore, is used in this analysis. CNDDB-recorded occurrences of special-status wildlife species within five miles of the project site are shown in Exhibit 5. No critical habitat occurs within or adjacent to the proposed project site.

As indicated in Appendix B, several regionally occurring species were determined not to have potential to occur within the project site, either because the distribution of the species does not extend into the vicinity, or because the habitat or habitat elements (e.g., caves, tall snags) required by the species are not present. As indicated in Exhibit 5, the silvery legless lizard (*anniella pulchra pulchra*), a California species of concern, has been recorded on lands directly adjacent to the project site. However, as indicated in Appendix B, these species have a low potential to occur onsite.

Other Sensitive Biological Resources

The MBTA protects all common wild birds found in the United States except the house sparrow, starling, feral pigeon, and resident game birds such as pheasant, grouse, quail, and wild turkey. Resident game birds are managed separately by each state. The MBTA makes it unlawful for anyone to kill, capture, collect, possess, buy, sell, trade, ship, import, or export any migratory bird including feathers, parts, nests, or eggs (defined as "take").

Section 3503 of the CFG Code makes it illegal to destroy any birds' nest or any birds' eggs that are protected under the MBTA. Section 3503.5 further protects all birds in the orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes (birds of prey such as hawks and owls) and their eggs and nests from any form of take.

A review of the USFWS's Critical Habitat designations for threatened and endangered species across the United States indicated that no critical habitat exists within the proposed project's vicinity. According to the query, the nearest existing critical habitat is located over 17 miles southwest of the proposed project site (USFWS 2013b).

Improvements associated with LAC would occur within the existing lethal electrified fence. There are no additional sensitive biological resources within or immediately adjacent to any of the project components. There are no wetlands, native trees, critical habitat, or existing ornamental trees that would be altered or removed during construction.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less than significant impact. Based on a field reconnaissance survey performed on June 24, 2013, a literature review (as previously discussed), and the distance from known recorded occurrences of sensitive plant and wildlife species, the project site consists of developed and disturbed land and does not provide suitable habitat for any federally or state listed threatened or endangered species, or other sensitive plant or wildlife species, and it is highly unlikely that any sensitive plant or wildlife species would be directly impacted during project construction. All construction activities would occur on pre-developed or graded land within LAC's existing footprint.

As previously mentioned, the alkali Mariposa lily and silvery legless lizard have been recorded on or adjacent to the project site. However, these recorded occurrences were made in 1988, prior to construction of LAC. Because the proposed project would be located on previously disturbed land where current institution related activities prevent the growth of native vegetation, there is a very low likelihood for alkali Mariposa lily to be present. The silvery legless lizard prefers loose, moist, sandy soils, which do not occur within the institution's developed areas. While such soils may occur in the storm drain basin that partially surrounds LAC, the proposed project does not include any modifications to such areas.

There are no shrubs or trees capable of providing suitable nesting habitat for migratory birds within 300 feet of the proposed project's components. Suitable habitat for ground dwelling birds (e.g., burrowing owl) may be present outside LAC's secure perimeter fence and on surrounding undeveloped land. However, no ground-level nesting activity or evidence of nesting activity was observed during the site visit performed by an MBA biologist on June 24, 2013. No ground disturbance would occur outside of the secure perimeter fence. Because of the existing level of human activity and ground disturbance within LAC, the likelihood for ground dwelling birds to be present on immediately adjacent undeveloped land is low and indirect impacts would not be likely to occur. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No impact. The proposed site does not support any native vegetative communities. Vegetated areas within LAC are mowed as part of ongoing facility maintenance. There are no riparian habitats or other natural communities identified by CDFW, USFWS, or within regional plans or policies that

would be impacted by the proposed project (confirmed by MBA biologist field reconnaissance survey, June 24, 2013). No impacts would occur.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No impact. There are no state or federally regulated wetlands or drainage features as defined by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the State Water Control Board, or the CDFW within the project site (confirmed by MBA biologist field reconnaissance survey, June 24, 2013). No impacts would occur.

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 wildlife nursery sites?

No impact. Because of the developed nature of the project site and the existing secure perimeter, development would not create an impediment to any existing migratory corridor or movement of wildlife. All proposed development would occur within LAC's existing footprint. No impacts would occur.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No impact. As a state agency, CDCR is generally exempt from local plans, policies, and regulations, but it does consider them for purposes of complying with federal or state law. The City of Lancaster 2030 General Plan Policy 3.4.4(d) requires that impacts to Mariposa lily be mitigated through the acquisition of replacement habitats. Because of the disturbed nature of the project site, Mariposa Lily is not present onsite. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

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?

No impact. CDCR has an approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for its Statewide Electrified Fence Project (1999). The HCP covers the operation of lethal electrified fences that surround 27 state prisons, including LAC. The proposed project would not involve impacts or modification to the existing lethal electrified. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with the HCP.

The proposed project site is within the boundaries of the West Mojave Desert Plan (for which an HCP is expected to be produced), the California Desert Conservation Area, and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Area. However, none of these plans have officially adopted policies that would be applicable to the project site. As such, no impact would occur.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
5. Cultural Resources *Would the project:*				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

Review of historic topographic maps dated 1953, 1959, 1965, 1971, 1974, and 2005 were examined as a part of this analysis to determine previous uses of the project site (NETROnline 2013). The project site is shown as undeveloped up to the 1974 map. The area was most likely vacant prior to the opening of LAC in 1993.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

Less than significant impact. Historic aerials and topographic maps indicate that the LAC site had been vacant prior to its use as a correctional institution. All onsite structures were constructed in 1990 or after and therefore would not qualify as historical resources as defined in CCR Section 15064.5. LAC's grounds have been extensively graded and disturbed over the years by previous excavations, trenching, and development projects. Since the project would conduct only minor excavations of less than three feet below existing grade at the proposed sub-project locations, there would be no impact to previously undisturbed soils. As such, impacts to historical resources would be less than significant.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Less than significant impact. According to the EIR prepared prior to the initial construction of LAC, the project site did not exhibit any known archaeological resources (EIP Associates 1988). No archaeological resources were found during construction of LAC. Thus, it is highly unlikely that archaeological resources exist onsite. The proposed project would be constructed on disturbed and developed areas within the prison. Furthermore, implementation of the inadvertent discovery clause described under Environmental Protection Design Features in Section 2.6 would ensure this impact would be less than significant.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Less than significant impact. According to the Geologic Map of the Lancaster West 7.5' Quadrangle, the project site is underlain by Holocene alluvial fan deposits, Holocene to late Pleistocene younger alluvial fan deposits, and Holocene to late Pleistocene younger alluvial fan deposits that are clay rich (California Department of Conservation [CDC] 2010). The Holocene sediments are considered not sensitive for fossil resources, whereas Late Pleistocene sediments, which are very deep, would be moderately sensitive. However, all onsite soils, including all land inside the institution not yet built upon, was graded and engineered during construction of LAC from 1990 to 1993. Significant archaeological resources cannot survive the grading and compacting process required under modern soil engineering. Thus, it is highly unlikely paleontological resources exist onsite. Furthermore, implementation of the inadvertent discovery clause described under Environmental Protection Design Features in Section 2.6 would ensure this impact would be less than significant.

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less than significant impact. Human remains are unlikely to be found in the disturbed soil horizons of the project site. Nonetheless, implementation of the inadvertent discovery clause described under Environmental Protection Design Features in Section 2.6 would ensure this impact would be less than significant.

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

Environmental Setting

LAC is located in the Antelope Valley of the Mojave Desert Geomorphic Province of California. Local topography within the project vicinity is generally flat. The Sierra Pelona Mountains are located to the west, the Tehachapi Mountains to the north, and the San Gabriel Mountains to the southeast.

According to the Geologic Map of the Lancaster West 7.5' Quadrangle, the project site is underlain by Holocene alluvial fan deposits, Holocene to late Pleistocene younger alluvial fan deposits, and Holocene to late Pleistocene younger alluvial fan deposits that are clay rich (CDC 2010).

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey, LAC is located on soils consisting primarily of Tray sandy loam (saline-alkali), pond loam, and pond silty clay loam (NRCS 2013).

The two closest faults to the project site are the San Andreas Fault, located approximately six miles to the south, and the Garlock Fault, located approximately 24 miles to the northwest.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on 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. The Alquist-Priolo Act (PRC Sections 2621-2630) was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting to structures designed for human occupancy. Surface rupture is an actual cracking or breaking of the ground along a fault during an earthquake. Structures built over an active fault can be structurally compromised if the ground ruptures. Surface ground rupture along faults is generally limited to a linear zone a few yards wide. The Alquist-Priolo Act was created to prohibit the location of structures designed for human occupancy across the traces of active faults, thereby reducing the loss of life and property from an earthquake. The closest fault to the project site is the San Andreas Fault, located approximately six miles to the south. According to the Alquist-Priolo Map by the (CDC), the project site is located outside the fault zone of the San Andreas Fault (CDC, 2013). In summary, there are no active faults designated on the Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone maps underneath or directly adjacent to the project site. Any surface ground rupture along the San Andreas Fault would be located six miles south of the project site. As such, the project site would not be susceptible to fault rupture and no impact would occur.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less than significant impact. Ground shaking—motion that occurs because of energy released during faulting—could result in damage or collapse of buildings and other structures, depending on the magnitude of the earthquake, the location of the epicenter, and the character and duration of the

ground motion. Other factors that determine the amount of potential damage from strong seismic ground shaking are the characteristics of the underlying soil and rock, the building materials used, and the workmanship of the structure.

Ground motions from seismic activity can be estimated by a probabilistic method at specified hazard levels. These levels are determined by projecting earthquake rates based on earthquake history and fault slip rates (CGS 2007). Ground shaking is expressed in terms of peak ground acceleration using a percentage of gravity or a percentage of the earth's normal gravitational strength. The intensity of ground shaking depends on the distance from the earthquake epicenter to the site, the magnitude of the earthquake, site soil conditions, and the characteristic of the source. According to the City's General Plan, the City is located in an area vulnerable to severe ground shaking in the event of an earthquake that could lead to many casualties, extensive property damage, and other ensuing catastrophes (City of Lancaster, 2009)

The San Andreas Fault lies approximately six miles south of the project site and runs northwest to southeast. The San Andreas Fault is a continental transform fault of about 800 miles in length (USGS 2013). Since 1994, the largest earthquake recorded near Lancaster was a 4.1 magnitude earthquake in 2012 in Yorba Linda (EarthquakeTrack 2012), approximately 80 miles southeast of Lancaster. The San Andreas Fault has resulted in catastrophic earthquakes in San Francisco in 1906 and Loma Prieta in 1989. Both of these earthquakes were several hundred miles north of the project site. The Garlock Fault, located approximately 24 miles northwest of the project site, extends 200 miles northeast from Castaic Lake through the Tehachapi Mountains. It is a northeast-trending fault system with a left lateral displacement. The Garlock Fault is considered active with a recurrence interval of 500 to 700 years. The most recent activity on the Garlock Fault occurred in 1992 in the form of a 5.7 magnitude earthquake in the town of Mojave, approximately 25 miles to the north of the project site. As such, there is the potential for strong seismic ground shaking at the project site.

As described under Section 2.6, Environmental Protection Design Features, the proposed project has been designed to be consistent with CBC Title 24 regulations and Appendix D of CDCR's Design Criteria Guidelines. The CBC requires extensive geotechnical analysis and engineering for grading, foundations, retaining walls, and other structures, including criteria for seismic design. Incorporation of standard CBC design and construction methods would ensure that risks resulting from seismic shaking would be minimized. In addition, a geotechnical engineering report would be prepared as a part of the project. The geotechnical engineering report would provide site-specific recommendations regarding site preparation, appropriate sources and types of fill, structural foundations, grading practices, erosion/winterization, slope stability, and earthquake-resistant design. Incorporation of recommendations from the geotechnical engineering report and conformance to the CBC would ensure that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to seismic ground shaking.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less than significant impact. Liquefaction is a process by which water-saturated materials (including soils, sediment, and certain types of volcanic deposits) lose strength and may fail during strong ground shaking. Liquefaction occurs most frequently where unconsolidated sediments and a high water table coincide. In some cases, a complete loss of strength occurs and catastrophic ground failure may result. Factors determining the liquefaction potential are soil type, the level and duration of seismic ground motions, the type and consistency of soils, and the depth to groundwater.

According to the Seismic Hazard Zones Lancaster West Quadrangle Map by the CDC, the project site is located within a designated liquefaction zone (CDC 2005). Higher water tables are associated with more severe liquefaction. According to the NRCS' Web Soil Survey, onsite water table depth is approximately 6.5 feet below ground surface (NRCS 2013).

As previously noted, and as included in Section 2.6, the proposed project's components have been designed to be consistent with CBC Title 24 regulations and Appendix D of CDCR's Design Criteria Guidelines. These regulations require the preparation of a geotechnical engineering report (that would address onsite liquefaction potential) and incorporation of resulting recommendations into project plans, thereby ensuring that impacts related to liquefaction would be less than significant.

iv) Landslides?

Less than significant impact. Landslides include many phenomena that involve the downslope displacement and movement of material, either triggered by static (gravitational) or dynamic (earthquake) forces. Steep, unstable slopes in weak soil or bedrock units typically characterize areas susceptible to landslides. LAC is located on flat terrain and contains previously graded and engineered soils. Areas surrounding LAC are primarily flat. The nearest terrain potentially capable of producing a landslide is more than four miles to the southwest. As such, no impact related to landslides would occur.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would be constructed within the current LAC boundary. Surface soils at LAC consist primarily of Tray sandy loam (saline-alkali), pond loam, and pond silty clay loam (NRCS 2013). All soil types onsite are moderately well drained with slow runoff and the erosion hazard is slight. The proposed project would disturb approximately 56,492 square feet or 1.3 acres of land inclusive of construction staging areas. All exterior areas to be disturbed have been previously graded or disturbed. Construction activities associated with the proposed project would involve grading and excavation activities that could expose barren soils to sources of wind or water, resulting in the potential for erosion and sedimentation on and off the project site. The NPDES stormwater permitting programs overseen by the State Water Resources

Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board regulate stormwater quality from construction activities. Compliance with the environmental protection design feature for water quality protection described in Section 2.6—Construction General Permit, SWPPP, and BMPs—would ensure that potential impacts from soil erosion or loss of topsoil would be less than significant.

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?

Less than significant impact. All project components would be located within the developed LAC footprint on soils that have been previously graded and engineered and do not contain any significant slopes. As indicated in Section 2.6, Environmental Protection Design Features, conformance with CBC requirements and implementation of soil preparation recommendations of the site-specific geotechnical engineering report would ensure that onsite soils are stable prior to building construction. Existing buildings undergoing renovations as a part of the project are not located on unstable soils. As such, impacts related to a geologic unit or soil that is unstable would be less than significant.

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?

Less than significant impact. Expansive soils are mainly comprised of clay. According to the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the three main types of soil located on the project site range from approximately 12 to 26 percent clay. Since clay is not the main component of the onsite soils, risks from expansion are expected to be low to moderate. Nonetheless, as indicated in Environmental Protection Design Features in Section 2.6, prior to construction, all necessary soil preparation procedures that would occur are recommended by a site-specific geotechnical engineering report. As such, impacts related to expansive soils would be less than significant.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No impact. The proposed project does not include the installation or use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Wastewater generated at LAC is pre-treated on the facility grounds and then discharged to Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 sanitary sewer system. The wastewater is treated and disposed of at the Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant (LWRP). As such, no impacts to soils due to septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems would occur.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions *Would the project:*				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

Climate change is a change in the average weather of the earth that may be measured by changes in wind patterns, storms, precipitation, and temperature. These changes are assessed using historical records of temperature changes that have occurred in the past, such as during previous ice ages. Many of the concerns regarding climate change use this data to extrapolate a level of statistical significance specifically focusing on temperature records from the last 150 years (the Industrial Age) that differ from previous climate changes in rate and magnitude.

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are greenhouse gases (GHGs). The effect is analogous to the way a greenhouse retains heat. Common GHGs include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, chlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, ozone, and aerosols. Natural processes and human activities emit GHG. The presence of GHGs in the atmosphere affects the earth's temperature. However, it is believed that emissions from human activities, such as electricity production and vehicle use, have elevated the concentration of these gases in the atmosphere beyond the level of naturally occurring concentrations.

There have been significant legislative and regulatory activities that directly and indirectly affect climate change and GHGs in California. The primary climate change legislation in California is AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 requires that GHGs emitted in California be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. "Greenhouse gases" as defined under AB 32 include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. The ARB is the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of GHGs that cause global warming in order to reduce emissions of GHGs.

The ARB approved the Climate Change Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan) in December 2008. The Scoping Plan contains measures designed to reduce the State's emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. The Scoping "proposes a comprehensive set of actions designed to reduce overall greenhouse

gas emissions in California, improve our environment, reduce our dependence on oil, diversify our energy sources, save energy, create new jobs, and enhance public health" (ARB 2008). The measures in the Scoping Plan were to be developed over the subsequent two years through rule development at the ARB and other agencies.

Emissions Inventories and Trends

California is the second-largest contributor in the United States of GHGs and the sixteenth-largest in the world (California Energy Commission [CEC] 2006). In 2004, California produced 500 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents ($MTCO_2e$), including imported electricity and excluding combustion of international fuels and carbon sinks or storage (CEC 2006). The major source of GHGs in California is transportation, contributing 41 percent of the State's total GHG emissions in 2008. Electricity generation (both in and out of State) is the second largest source, contributing 22 percent of the State's GHG emissions (CEC 2006).

Potential Environmental Effects

For California, climate change in the form of warming has the potential to incur/exacerbate environmental impacts, including but not limited to changes to precipitation and runoff patterns, increased agricultural demand for water, inundation of low-lying coastal areas by sea-level rise, and increased incidents and severity of wildfire events (Moser et al. 2009). Cooling of the climate may have the opposite effects. Although certain environmental effects are widely accepted to be a potential hazard to certain locations, such as rising sea level for low-laying coastal areas, it is currently infeasible to predict all environmental effects of climate change on any one location.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less than significant impact. The proposed project may contribute to climate change impacts through its contribution of GHGs. The proposed project would generate a variety of GHGs during construction and operation, including several defined by AB 32, such as CO_2, methane (CH_4), and nitrous dioxide (N_2O) from the exhaust of equipment and the exhaust of vehicles for employees, visitors, and construction hauling trips. The proposed project may also emit GHGs that are not defined by AB 32. For example, the proposed project may generate aerosols from diesel particulate matter exhaust. Aerosols are short-lived GHGs, as they remain in the atmosphere for approximately one week. The proposed project would emit NO_x and VOCs, which are ozone precursors. Ozone is a GHG. However, unlike the other GHGs, ozone in the troposphere is relatively short-lived and is being reduced in the troposphere on a daily basis.

Certain GHGs defined by AB 32 would not be emitted by the project. Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) are typically used in industrial applications, none of which would be used by the project. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the proposed project would emit PFCs or SF_6.

The project's estimated construction and operational emissions of greenhouse gases are provided below. For assumptions used in estimating these emissions, please refer to Appendix A.

Construction

Greenhouse gas emissions for construction are shown in Table 8. As shown in the table, the maximum daily emissions and the annual emissions do not exceed the Air District's significance thresholds. Therefore, construction emissions are less than significant.

Table 8: Construction Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Activity	CO_2e Emissions (pounds/day)			Days	Emissions ($MTCO_2e$)
	Onsite	Offsite	Subtotal		
Demolition	454.60	1,110.72	1,565.32	26	18.3
Site Preparation	354.39	51.57	405.96	3	0.5
Grading	461.56	384.12	845.68	129	49.1
Building Construction	494.22	259.94	7.54.16	260	88.2
Paving	387.08	181.04	568.12	13	3.3
Painting	281.96	20.12	302.08	13	1.8
Maximum daily emissions and total			1,565.32	—	161.2
Air District's significance threshold			548,000	—	100,000
Does project exceed threshold? Significant impact?			No	—	No

Note:
Maximum emissions that would occur on any one day. The maximum emissions do not equal the summation of the construction phases, and not all phases will occur at the same time. The maximum daily emissions are projected to occur in 2014.
CO_2e = carbon dioxide equivalents
Source of emissions in pounds per day: Michael Brandman Associates and CalEEMod output (Appendix A).
Sources of tons $MTCO_2e$ = pounds per day x days x 0.00045 pounds per metric ton.

Operation

As shown in Table 9, operation of the project would generate approximately 1,386.25 pounds CO_2e per day, or 463.03 $MTCO_2e$ per year, after full buildout in 2020. This emissions estimate is for facilities expansion and does not incorporate the increased energy efficiency estimates from renovation of existing facilities. Therefore, this is a conservative, "worst-case" estimate. Project-generated emissions are expected to decrease over time.

Table 9: Operational CO2 Generation (Year 2020)

Source	Emissions (lbs CO_2e per day)	Emissions ($MTCO_2e$ per year)
Energy	423.77	208.89
Mobile	962.48	142.04
Waste	—	98.70
Water	—	13.40
Total	**1,386.25**	**463.03**
Air District's significance threshold	548,000	100,000
Significant impact?	No	No

Note:
$MTCO_2e$ = metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.
Source: CalEEMod output (Appendix A).

Conclusion

As shown in Table 8 and Table 9, the proposed project's construction and operational emissions would be far below the Air District's daily and annual significance thresholds for CO_{2e} emissions. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Less than significant impact. The City of Lancaster does not have a climate action plan or greenhouse gas reduction plan adopted as of the date of this analysis. Therefore, the applicable adopted law is AB 32, and the applicable plan is the Scoping Plan adopted by ARB, as discussed previously under Environmental Setting above.

The Scoping Plan states, "The 2020 goal was established to be an aggressive, but achievable, mid-term target, and the 2050 GHG emissions reduction goal represents the level scientists believe is necessary to reach levels that would stabilize climate" (ARB 2008). The year 2020 GHG emission reduction goal of AB 32 corresponds with the mid-term target established by Executive Order S-3-05, which aims to reduce California's fair-share contribution of GHGs in 2050 to levels that would stabilize the climate.

Construction of the proposed project is estimated to generate GHGs. However, AB 32 requires that GHG emissions generated in California in year 2020 be equal to or less than California's statewide inventory from 1990. Construction emissions would occur before the year 2020, so the project's construction would not contribute to year 2020 emissions. Therefore, construction emissions would not conflict with the AB 32 Scoping Plan.

The Scoping Plan identifies recommended measures for multiple GHG emission sectors and the associated emission reductions needed to achieve the year 2020 emissions target—each sector has a different emission reduction target. Most of the measures target the transportation and electricity sectors. As stated in the Scoping Plan, the key elements of the strategy for achieving the 2020 GHG target include:

- Expanding and strengthening existing energy efficiency programs as well as building and appliance standards.
- Achieving a statewide renewable energy mix of 33 percent.
- Developing a California cap-and-trade program that links with other Western Climate Initiative partner programs to create a regional market system.
- Establishing targets for transportation-related GHG emissions for regions throughout California and pursuing policies and incentives to achieve those targets.
- Adopting and implementing measures pursuant to existing State laws and policies, including California's clean car standards, goods movement measures, and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard.
- Creating targeted fees, including a public goods charge on water use, fees on high global warming potential gases, and a fee to fund the administrative costs of the State's long-term commitment to AB 32 implementation.

As an institutional facility (rather than a residential, energy sector, or commercial facility), the majority of the Scoping Plan's recommended measures do not apply. The Scoping Plan's recommended measures mainly target reductions in the transportation and electricity sectors. Implementation of certain Scoping Plan measures may obliquely affect the project, such as the low carbon fuel standard and enactment of the Pavley standards, as part of California AB 1493. AB 1493 (Pavley) required the ARB to develop and adopt regulations that reduce GHGs emitted by passenger vehicles and light duty trucks. The only measure directly applicable to the proposed project is energy efficiency.

Consistent with Executive Order S-20-04, sustainable measures and conservation features would be implemented in accordance with the Green Building Code, assuring minimal energy use and further minimizing direct and indirect GHG emissions from project operations. In addition, LAC operates a recycling and salvage program for metal, cardboard, and white paper, resulting in a 40-percent reduction of solid waste delivered to landfills. Finally, LAC reduces the consumption of new materials through source reduction measures, such as using reusable cups and trays, use of electronic forms, and double-sided copies.

The CDCR is also a member of the Cool Planet Project and the Climate Registry. CDCR operates solar power fields at Ironwood State Prison; California State Prison, Los Angeles County; and Chuckawalla Valley State Prison. Six more solar fields are slated for construction. The CDCR also has a variety of BMPs for water management and conservation for the prisons, including items such as eliminating nonessential water use, modifying practices for water efficient landscaping, and leak detection and repair in buildings.

The proposed project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for reducing the emissions of GHGs for the following reasons:

- The project would generate low levels of GHGs at project buildout (see Section 3.7, Greenhouse Gases, Discussion a).
- The project would continue the water efficiency, recycling, and source reduction measures enacted at LAC.
- Sustainable measures and conservation features will be implemented for the LAC project in accordance with the Green Building Code.

Accordingly, GHG impacts from the proposed project would be less than significant.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials *Would the project:*				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

LAC was constructed between 1990 and 1993, prior to which, the project site was undeveloped.

LAC is not listed on the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Hazardous Waste and Substances List (DTSC 2013) or the Superfund National Priorities List (EPA 2013). However, LAC is listed as a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) small-quantity generator of hazardous waste (related to telecommunication equipment production) according to the EPA's Envirofacts database (EPA 2013). In addition, there are three leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites listed on the DTSC's Envirostor database within 0.5 mile of LAC, each of which has a case-closed status (DTSC 2013).

The project area was visually inspected for hazardous materials during a site visit on June 24, 2013 by a qualified environmental professional. No potential hazards were identified at any of the sub-project locations. The following discussion is based on database reviews, findings of the inspection, and conversations with institution personnel.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less than significant impact.

Short Term Construction Impacts

Construction and operation of the proposed project would involve the transport and handling of hazardous substances such as diesel fuels, lubricants, solvents, asphalt, hospital supplies and waste. Handling and transport of these materials could result in the exposure of workers to hazardous materials. However, the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment, because project construction and operation would comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws pertaining to the safe handling and transport of hazardous materials, including California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal OSHA) requirements. For example, the California Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Law of 1985 (Business Plan Act) required preparation of Hazardous Materials Business Plans and disclosure of hazardous materials inventories. In addition, the proposed project's SWPPP and associated BMPs would include spill prevention and cleanup measure applicable to hazardous waste.

The proposed project would be in accordance with LAC's Hazardous Materials Business Plan, which includes an inventory of hazardous materials handled, facility floor plans showing where hazardous materials are stored, an emergency response plan, and provisions for employee training in safety and

emergency response procedures (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.95, Article 1). In addition, Cal OSHA's regulations for the use of hazardous materials in the workplace, as detailed in CCR Title 8, include requirements for safety training, availability of safety equipment, accidents and illness prevention programs, hazardous substance exposure warnings, and the emergency action and fire prevention plan preparation. Cal OSHA enforces hazard communication program regulations that contain training and information requirements, including procedures for identifying and labeling hazardous substances, communicating hazard information related to hazardous substances and their handling, and preparing health and safety plans to protect workers and employees at hazardous waste sites. The hazard communication program requires that Material Safety Data Sheets be available to employees and that employee information and training programs are documented.

Long-Term Operations

Medical facility operations, such as those included in the proposed project, typically involve the transport, storage, and use of relatively small quantities of materials that would be classified as hazardous. Types of hazardous materials found in medical facilities include pharmaceuticals; chemicals used to sterilize equipment; formaldehyde for specimen preservation; solvents, oxidizers, corrosives, and stains used in clinical laboratories; photographic processing chemicals used in some x-ray equipment; and certain biohazardous toxins used in treatment and processing. Facilities maintenance activities require various common hazardous materials, including cleaners (typically soaps and detergents, but also solvents and corrosives), paint, pesticides and herbicides (used in building maintenance), fuels (e.g., diesel), and oils and lubricants.

The medical facilities would also use and store radioactive material, used primarily to treat certain types of cancer. X-ray equipment is also regulated as radioactive material. Radioactive materials decay (become non-radioactive) over time. The time it takes for a material to shed approximately one-half of its radioactivity is referred to as the material's half-life. Radioactive materials with half-lives greater than 90 days are considered long-lived radioactive materials, while those with half-lives less than 90 days are considered short-lived radioactive materials. Some long-lived radioactive materials that may be used at the facility, such as those used in x-ray equipment, would essentially be a sealed, stationary source of radiation. Both short-lived and long-lived radioactive materials would be used for patient treatment, primarily for the treatment of cancer. Long-lived radioactive materials (such as cesium 137 used in cancer radiation therapy) are not disposed of but are retained over time for patient treatment.

State and federal laws require detailed planning to ensure that hazardous materials are properly transported, handled, used, stored, and disposed of, and, in the event that such materials are accidentally released, to prevent or to mitigate injury to health or the environment. The California Department of Public Health's Medical Waste Management Act governs the management of medical waste to prevent the dissemination of potentially infectious organisms and the spread of infection to

others within the medical center and in the community. Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs) are responsible for local regulation and enforcement of hazardous materials laws and regulations. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department (LACFD) Health Hazardous Materials Division serves as the City of Lancaster's CUPA.

Conclusion

Use of hazardous materials during construction would be temporary and in accordance with regulation. Furthermore, operation of project components would be consistent with regulations regarding hazardous materials. As such, impacts related to the routine use, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials would be considered less than significant.

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?

Less than significant impact. Based on the nature of the hazardous materials that would be used, stored, and/or disposed of during construction (e.g., diesel-fueled equipment, asphalt) and operation (e.g., medical waste) of the proposed project, it is unlikely that upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment would occur. As indicated in Discussion 3.8(a) above, all hazardous materials would be handled in accordance with applicable laws. Medical wastes would be appropriately stored onsite and subsequently disposed of in accordance with health and safety regulations.

Furthermore, because the existing institution was constructed between 1990 and 1993, it is unlikely that building materials contain hazardous substances (e.g., asbestos, lead, polychlorinated biphenyls and others that were once commonly used in building construction). Nonetheless, prior to project construction, an industrial hygienist would perform a complete hazardous materials assessment of structures to be disturbed by the proposed project. The assessments would include sampling and testing of any suspect materials or coating for asbestos and lead. Any friable materials (material likely to emit asbestos if disturbed) and noted hazardous materials within the project area would be identified for appropriate removal and disposal during construction. All required notifications, equipment, handling, disposal, and clearance testing related to hazardous material removal would be performed in accordance with applicable regulations to ensure worker safety and best management practices are established and followed. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Less than significant impact. No schools are located or proposed to be located within 0.25 mile of the project site. The Challenger Memorial Youth Center, an educational probation facility where youths are housed, is located approximately 1,000 feet north of LAC's northern boundary and 1,600

feet north of the nearest sub-project (Sub-project 6). Based on the distance from the Youth Center and the proposed project's components, less than significant impacts would occur related to emissions or handling of hazardous materials within 0.25 mile (1,320 feet) of a school or similar type facility.

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?

Less than significant impact. As previously indicated, LAC is not listed on the DTSC Hazardous Waste and Substances List (DTSC 2013) or the Superfund National Priorities List (EPA 2013). However, LAC is listed as a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) small quantity generator of hazardous waste according to the EPA's Envirofacts database (EPA 2013). LAC's listing is related to onsite telecommunication equipment production. No records of past or present violations were noted and the project would not affect any operations related to any existing onsite hazardous waste generation. The three LUST sites located within 0.5 mile of the institution all have a case-closed status and, therefore, are not considered an environmental concern to the project site.

A qualified hazardous materials professional conducted a site visit on June 24, 2013 and did not identify any potentially hazardous materials or conditions within the areas to be disturbed by the proposed project. Interviews with institution staff further confirmed that there are no potentially hazardous conditions at the project site, and all hazardous materials are handled and stored in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. In summary, while LAC is listed as a small quantity generator of hazard waste, implementation of the project would not affect any existing operations that generate hazardous waste and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.

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. The nearest public airports to LAC are the General William J. Fox Airfield (2.75 miles to the north) and the Palmdale Regional Airport (7 miles to the southeast). LAC is not located within the land use plan or safety zone of either airport. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area as a result of being located near a public airport. No impact would occur.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No impact. The nearest private airstrip to LAC is Bohunk's Airpark located approximately 2.25 miles west of the project site. Because of the distance from the private airstrip, no safety hazards exist for people residing or working in the project area, and no impacts would occur.

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than significant impact. The California Emergency Services Act (CESA) of 1970 established authority for the preparation of an Emergency Preparedness Plan for correctional institutions. Each CDCR institution must assign an emergency coordinator to implement this plan and must prepare an Emergency Preparedness Plan for submission to the CDCR Office of Correctional Safety for review and approval. In accordance with CESA, such a plan was developed for LAC according to the requirements of the State Office of Emergency Services and organized according to the specific site needs for this institution. The plan has a sub-plan that clearly identifies measures to be taken pertaining to specific emergencies in each area of the institutions. All institutions are required to ensure preparedness in dealing with disasters such as earthquakes, fires, and floods. The emergency plan for LAC includes a contingency plan to respond to the following types of emergency situations: war, flood, civil disturbance, pollution, earthquake, and fire. The plan provides detailed routes of egress to more secure buildings and/or areas in the event of an emergency evacuation of buildings and/or other areas within LAC. Employees are trained to follow specific instructions and precautionary measures for emergencies, and in the use of emergency equipment and medical aids. The proposed project would not interfere with appropriate compliance with this plan in case of an emergency. The plan would be amended as necessary to ensure adequate coverage for the proposed project and associated buildings and operations. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not physically interfere with or impair implementation of the emergency response plan and impacts would be less than significant.

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Less than significant impact. LAC is not located within a very high fire hazard severity zone according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Areas map. According to the Master Environmental Assessment for the City of Lancaster 2030 General Plan, most of the desert scrub vegetation surrounding the City has a fairly low level of combustion due to the type and spacing of plants (City of Lancaster 2009).

All of the proposed project's components would be constructed within the existing LAC institution. The proposed project would not include additional inmate beds and would not construct residences. The buildings that would be constructed as part of the proposed improvements would be designed to meet all fire code requirements that would address ignition-resistive construction, interior fire sprinklers, and/or sufficient water supply (volume) and pressure. As such, impacts related to the exposure of persons or structures to wildfire would be less than significant.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
9. Hydrology and Water Quality *Would the project:*				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Climate

Temperatures in the project vicinity range from an average monthly high of 98.7 ºF in July to an average monthly low of 26.3 ºF in December. The average annual rainfall in the project area, as recorded between 1971 and 2000, is 4.43 inches (WRCC 2013).

Regional Hydrology

The project site is located within the South Lahontan Hydraulic Region, which covers approximately 21.2 million acres (33,100 square miles) in Inyo County, much of Mono and San Bernardino counties, and parts of Kern and Los Angeles counties. The South Lahontan Hydraulic Region includes the Owens, Mojave, and Amargosa River systems, the Mono Lake drainage system, and many other internally drained basins.

Within the South Lahontan Hydraulic Region, LAC is located in the Antelope Valley Drainage Basin, which consists of a series of alluvial fans extending north from the San Gabriel and Sierra Pelona mountains to south to the dry lake beds at Edwards Air Force Base north of Lancaster. The basin has no natural outlet to the sea, which restricts the removal of runoff to percolation or evaporation. The primary drainage pattern is south to north. Natural and manmade drainage channels throughout the Basin are dry most of the year. Amargosa Creek traverse the Drainage Basin through the City of Lancaster from south to north via natural and manmade elements (City of Lancaster 2003).

Local Drainage

Local drainage channels consist of Amargosa Creek, Anaverde Creek, Fairmont Creek, and Little Rock Creek. Existing local and regional flood control facilities, including channels, storm drains, and retention basins, are located throughout the City of Lancaster (City of Lancaster 2009).

Site Drainage

The onsite drainage system for LAC is limited to grading of the site that directs surface runoff away from the buildings and recreation yard into existing drainage facilities. There is an existing storm drain basin that partially surrounds LAC to the east, south, and west.

Flood Mapping

LAC is not located within a 100-year flood zone according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map Number 06037C0405F. According to the 2030 General Plan, much of the City of Lancaster is susceptible to periodic flooding (flash flooding) because of its relatively flat topography, nearby mountains, and surrounding washes. Flooding is primarily caused by runoff from the San Gabriel and Sierra Pelona mountains to the south. Existing local and regional flood control facilities in the City control local stormwater (City of Lancaster 2009).

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Less than significant impact. Short-term impacts to water quality standards might occur during project construction due to demolition, grading and construction activities resulting in the potential for stormwater to carry sediment and small quantities of pollutants into the stormwater system and local waterways. Implementation of the environmental protection design feature for water quality protection described in Section 2.6 would ensure that the proposed project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted?

No impact. According to California Water Code Section 55338, LAC receives State Water Project surface water from the Antelope Valley-East Kern (AVEK) Water Agency through the Los Angeles County Water Works District 40, and only receives groundwater from the Antelope Valley groundwater basin as a supplementary source of drinking water or as an emergency backup supply. LAC has three onsite groundwater wells that are no longer utilized (Kitchell CEM 2007). The proposed project would not change the source of potable water, and no groundwater wells would be drilled as part of the proposed project. Furthermore, since water usage at CDCR institutions is largely driven by the number of inmates, and no increase in inmate beds would occur, water use increases would be minimal and would not require the use of groundwater as an emergency backup supply. Accordingly, the proposed project would not deplete groundwater supplies.

The proposed project would increase impervious surface coverage at LAC by 29,700 square feet or approximately 0.9 percent (based on existing impervious surface area of approximately 3,200,000 square feet). This addition of impervious surface area is minimal and would be located throughout the institution where undeveloped areas would continue to offer recharge potential. Therefore, the proposed project would not interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. No impact would occur.

c-e) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding on- or off-site?

Less than significant impact. As stated in Discussion 3.9 b), the increase in impervious surface area at LAC would be insignificant (0.9 percent) relative to the existing impervious areas and 262-acre

parcel on which the institution is located. Furthermore, the existing stormwater system would be sufficient to handle runoff from the proposed project components. As indicated under Section 2.6, implementation of a SWPPP and a finalized engineered drainage plan would ensure that stormwater quality would be properly managed and runoff would be properly directed to existing facilities, thereby inhibiting any erosion, siltation or flooding from occurring on- or offsite. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

Less than significant impact. Based on the discussion provided regarding the preceding checklist questions, the proposed project does not include any actions that are expected to substantially degrade water quality, and a less than significant impact to water quality would occur.

g-h) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map or impede or redirect flood flows?

No impact. The proposed project does not include any housing. According to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map entitled Community Parcel Number 06037C0405F, the project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area and, therefore, would not situate housing or structures in such a way that flood flows would be impeded or redirected. No impact would occur.

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

No impact. The Lancaster 2030 General Plan's Master Environmental Assessment recognizes potential flooding risks resulting from a failure of the California Aqueduct (4.25 miles to the south) or Little Rock Dam (18 miles to the southeast). Given LAC's distance to these features, and the low likelihood of failure, no impact to people or structures at the project site would occur.

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

No impact. Seiches are waves in inland bodies of water produced by earthquakes or landslides. The project site is not located near an inland body of water capable of producing seiches. The project site is located more than 50 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and is not at risk for inundation by a tsunami. While the project site is located near foothills capable of producing debris-laden flows, mudflows would not be expected to occur on or affect the project site because of intervening distance. No impact would occur.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
10. Land Use and Planning *Would the project:*				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural communities conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

This section describes the existing land use and potential effects from project implementation on the site and its surrounding area. As a state agency, CDCR is generally exempt from local plans, policies, and regulations, but it does consider them for purposes of complying with federal or state law.

Site Vicinity Setting

LAC is designated as Public Use on the Lancaster General Plan Land Use Map and is zoned Public on the Lancaster Central Zoning Map. LAC is surrounded by the Mira Loma Detention Center, Challenger Memorial Youth Center, Los Angeles County Animal Care Center, and undeveloped land (north); 50th Street West, undeveloped land, and rural residences (east); West Avenue J, undeveloped land, and medium density residences (south); and 60th Street West and undeveloped land (west). LAC is approximately 4.5 miles west of central Lancaster, three miles north of central Quartz Hill, and 45 miles north of downtown Los Angeles.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

No impact. The proposed project would not physically divide an established community. LAC is located on approximately 262 acres under CDCR jurisdiction and is surrounded by the Mira Loma Detention Center, Challenger Memorial Youth Center and undeveloped land. Residential areas to the south of the project site are separated from LAC by West Avenue J, a four-lane major roadway. All

project components would be located within the existing LAC boundary. Thus, the proposed project would not physically divide an established community and no impact would occur.

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No impact. The proposed project would be located within existing LAC boundaries. LAC is designated as Public Use on the Lancaster General Plan Land Use Map and is zoned Public on the Lancaster Central Zoning Map. As a correctional institution, LAC is consistent with both the land use and zoning designations. The proposed project would be consistent with existing institutional land uses and would not change existing operations. As such, no impact would occur.

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural communities conservation plan?

No impact. CDCR has an approved HCP for its Statewide Electrified Fence Project (1999). The HCP covers the operation of lethal electrified fences that surround 27 state prisons, including LAC. The proposed project would not involve impacts or modification to the existing lethal electrified fence. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with the HCP.

The proposed project site is within the boundaries of the West Mojave Desert Plan (for which an HCP is expected to be produced), the California Desert Conservation Area, and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Area. However, none of these plans have officially adopted policies that would be applicable to the project site. As such, no impact would occur.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
11. Mineral Resources *Would the project:*				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The City of Lancaster 2030 General Plan indicates there are no active mines within the City. However, the City is located in the Palmdale Production Consumption region and contains State Geologist Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) classifications 1 and 3. MRZ-1 indicates an area that contains no resources and MRZ-3 indicates an area that potentially contains resources. LAC is located within a designated Mineral Reserve Zone as shown on Figure 2-4 of the 2030 General Plan. However, it is noted that the Mineral Reserve Zone includes no known mineral resource (only inferred presence). Furthermore, it is recognized that the Lancaster area, including the project site, is not likely to contain large, valuable mineral and aggregate deposits (City of Lancaster 2009).

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

No impact. The project site is completely within existing LAC boundaries and does not contain any known mineral resources as indicated by the City of Lancaster 2030 General Plan. In addition, the existing CDCR institutions preclude mineral extractions from occurring onsite. As such, no impact would occur.

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?

No impact. As identified in Discussion 3.11 a) above, the project site does not contain any known mineral resources. The existing CDCR institutions preclude mineral extractions from occurring. Furthermore, no proposed, existing, or known abandoned mines exist at LAC. As such, no impact would occur.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
12. Noise *Would the project result in:*				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Sound levels are presented in logarithmic decibels (dB). The dB is a logarithmic unit, which expresses the ratio of the sound pressure level being measured to a standard reference level. A-weighted decibels (dBA) approximate the subjective response of the human ear and are adjusted to reflect only those frequencies that are audible to the human ear. The equivalent sound level (L_{eq}) represents a steady-state sound level containing the same total energy as a time varying signal over a given sample period. L_{eq} values for the evening period (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.) are increased by five dB, while L_{eq} values for the nighttime period (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) are increased by 10 dB. Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is used to characterize sound levels over a 24-hour period, with weighting factors included for evening and nighttime sound levels.

Applicable Regulations

Table 3-1 of the City of Lancaster 2030 General Plan provides noise compatible land use objectives and indicates that the maximum exterior noise level for residential uses is 65 dBA CNEL.

General Plan Policy 4.3.2(d) states, "As a condition of approval, limit non-emergency construction activities to daylight hours between sunrise and 8:00 pm."

Subsection 8.24.040 of the Lancaster Municipal Code states that "A person at any time on Sunday or any day between the hours of eight p.m. and seven a.m. shall not perform any construction or repair work of any kind upon any building or structure or perform any earth excavating, filling or moving where any of the foregoing entails the use of any air compressor, jack hammer, power-driven drill, riveting machine, excavator, diesel-powered truck, tractor or other earth-moving equipment, hard hammers on steel or iron or any other machine tool, device or equipment which makes loud noises within five hundred (500) feet of an occupied dwelling, apartment, hotel, mobile home or other place of residence."

Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive noise receptors are, in general, those areas of human habitation or substantial use where the intrusion of noise has the potential to adversely impact the occupancy, use, or enjoyment of the environment. These can include residences, schools, hospitals, parks, and places of business requiring low levels of noise. Correctional and government facilities, such as LAC and the proposed project's additions and renovations, are not considered noise-sensitive land uses. The majority of the properties surrounding LAC are undeveloped or consist of correctional and government facilities. However, residential developments are located to the south of LAC, opposite of West Avenue J.

Existing Noise Levels

To determine the existing noise at and adjacent to the project site, field monitoring was conducted on June 24, 2013. Short-term noise measurements were taken at four locations in the project study area and were monitored for a minimum period of 10 minutes. The locations and results of the measurements are presented in Table 10. A map illustrating the measurement locations is provided in Appendix C.

Table 10: Short-Term Noise Level Monitoring Results

Site No.	Site Description	Start Time and Duration (Minutes)	Noise Level (dBA L_{eq})
NM1	Approximately 3,500 feet north of LAC's northern boundary and north of the Mira Loma Detention Center, off 57th Street	12:45 p.m. (15:00)	49.0
NM2	Approximately 1,700 feet northeast of LAC's eastern boundary and east of the Challenger Memorial Youth Center, off Jackman Street	1:18 p.m. (10:00)	61.6
NM3	Approximately 100 feet south of LAC's southern boundary, on the southwest corner of West Avenue J and 50th Street West	1:43 p.m. (15:00)	61.0
NM4	Approximately 265 feet southeast of LAC's southern boundary, at the end of the Jade Court cul-de-sac	2:06 p.m. (15:00)	56.0
Source: MBA 2013.			

As shown in Table 10, the monitored existing noise levels ranged from 49.0 to 61.6 dBA L_{eq}, with the highest noise measurement at Site NM2. A comparison of sites NM3 and NM4, which were monitored in nearby locations, demonstrates the noise reduction effectiveness of the approximately six-foot tall masonry block wall separating the nearby residential area from adjacent 50th Street West.

Discussion

Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Less than significant impact. The City of Lancaster's 2030 General Plan provides noise compatible land use objectives indicating the maximum exterior noise level for residential uses is 65 dBA CNEL and limits construction noise to daylight hours between sunrise and 8:00 p.m. The Lancaster Municipal Code further prohibits construction noise within 500 feet of residences on Sundays and between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Saturday.

Short-term construction noise impacts would occur during construction activities from the transport of workers and movement of construction materials to and from the project site, and from the noise generated onsite during ground clearing, grading, and construction activities. Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending on the nature or phase of construction. Equipment required during the construction process would typically include backhoes, dozers, compactors, graders, front-end loaders, and trucks. Additional equipment, such as a portable crane and paving equipment,

may also be required on a short-term and intermittent basis. Noise generated by construction equipment can reach high levels. Typical noise levels for individual pieces of construction equipment are summarized in Table 11. Renovation activities occurring within existing LAC facilities would not be likely to produce significant noise capable of affecting the surrounding areas.

Table 11: Typical Construction Equipment Noise Levels

Type of Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 feet
Concrete Saw	90
Jack Hammer	88
Grader	85
Pneumatic Tools	85
Scraper	84
Compactor	83
Concrete Breaker	82
Dozer	82
Concrete Pump	81
Crane, Mobile	81
Generator	81
Water Pump	81
Front-end Loader	79
Air Compressor	78
Backhoe	78
Asphalt Paver	77
Trucks	74-81
Source: Federal Transit Administration 2011.	

All but one of the project's sub-projects would be constructed at locations that are surrounded by existing facilities that would block line-of-site, and therefore attenuate construction and operational noise at nearby sensitive receptors. Sub-project 1, which consists of the new, 2,576-square-foot ASU Primary Care Clinic proposed in the eastern portion of the institution's property, would be the closest and only component with direct exposure to existing surrounding sensitive receptors. The location of Sub-project 1 is illustrated on Exhibit 3.

Offsite noise sensitive receptors (residences) are located approximately 1,500 feet south and 1,900 feet southeast of the Sub-project 1. Both of these locations have existing masonry block walls of approximately six feet in height, at their property lines, facing the project site.

Noise from a point source (such as a stationary piece of equipment) propagates at different rates, depending on the surfaces intervening between it and the receiver. With hard surfaces (such as concrete), noise is reduced at a rate of three dBA per doubling of distance from the source; with soft surfaces (such as natural landscaping), noise is reduced at a rate of six dBA for every doubling of distance.

Based on previously mentioned distances and assuming that certain piece of construction equipment can generate maximum noise levels of 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet, resulting equipment-specific noise levels at the nearby sensitive receivers would be 60.4 dBA at residences to the south and 58.4 dBA at residences to the southeast. Taking the existing masonry block walls into account, the noise levels would be 54.9 dBA and 52.8 dBA at sensitive receivers, respectively.

The total resulting noise levels, including worst-case construction activities, would be well below the maximum allowable exterior noise level of 65 dBA CNEL Therefore, any construction-related noise would have a less than significant noise impact.

Once fully operational, the proposed project's components would not involve the use of any major stationary noise sources or activities, nor would the project significantly change the existing noise generating activities onsite. Exterior mechanical equipment would be required for the new buildings and possibly the building additions. Noise levels generated by exterior mechanical equipment typically average between 55 and 85 dBA at three feet from the source (EPA 1971). Mechanical equipment is typically shielded from direct public exposure and usually housed on rooftops, within equipment rooms, or within exterior enclosures. The project's components would result in operations similar to those existing at LAC. As discussed under Threshold 12 c) below, operational noise impacts from the proposed facilities would not exceed the exterior residential noise standard of 65 dBA CNEL at nearby sensitive receptors. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less than significant impact. The metric for measuring groundborne noise and vibration is peak ground velocity (measured in inches per second). During the site preparation and construction phase, which includes site excavation activities, groundborne vibration and groundborne noise may occur. However, these excavation activities do not include activities known to induce strong vibration effects, such as those produced by tunneling or blasting. Furthermore, the site has already been graded as part of previous LAC construction activities.

The ground vibration levels associated with common construction equipment are depicted in Table 12. Ground vibration generated by construction equipment spreads through the ground and diminishes in strength with distance. The effects of ground vibration can vary from no perceptible

effects at the lowest levels, low rumbling sounds and detectable vibrations at moderate levels, and slight damage to nearby structures at the highest levels. At the highest levels of vibration, damage to structures is primarily architectural (e.g., loosening and cracking of plaster or stucco coatings) and rarely results in structural damage. For most structures, a peak particle velocity (PPV) threshold of 0.5 inch per second is sufficient to avoid structural damage, with the exception of fragile historic structures or ruins. There are no fragile historic structures or ruins within the project's vicinity.

Table 12: Representative Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment		Peak Particle Velocity at 25 feet (in/sec)
Pile Driver (impact)	Upper range	1.518
	Typical	0.644
Pile Driver (sonic)	Upper range	0.734
	Typical	0.170
Large Bulldozer		0.089
Caisson Drilling		0.089
Loaded Trucks		0.076
Jackhammer		0.035
Small Bulldozer		0.003
Source: Federal Transit Administration 2006.		

Long-term operation of the project would not involve the use of any equipment or processes that would result in potentially significant levels of ground vibration. Ground vibration generated by the proposed construction activities would be primarily associated with the use of jackhammers, loaded trucks, and other mobile equipment, which, as shown in Table 12, would result in vibration levels of less than 0.09 inch per second PPV at 25 feet. Impact pile driving would not be required during project construction. Most ground vibration during construction would consist of onsite truck activity, which typically generates levels less than 0.08 in/sec PPV at 25 feet. In addition, the nearest sensitive receptor to the project is more than 1,500 feet south of the nearest sub-project site.

Construction and development of the project are anticipated to result in vibration levels that would not exceed the PPV threshold of 0.5 inch per second. Furthermore, long-term operation of the proposed project would not involve the use of any equipment or processes that would result in potentially significant levels of ground vibration. As a result, impacts related to groundborne vibration levels will be less than significant.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Less than significant impact. The project's potential to substantially increase ambient noise levels in its vicinity is determined by the definition of the term "substantial." Substantial is not defined in the CEQA Guidelines. However, research into the human perception of sound level increases indicates the following:

- A one-dBA, or less increase is difficult to perceive,
- A three-dBA increase is just perceptible,
- A five-dBA increase is clearly perceptible, and
- A 10-dBA increase is perceived as being twice as loud.

Under typical outdoor ambient conditions, where constantly varying noise levels are occurring over time, people typically cannot clearly perceive increases in ambient noise levels until they reach approximately three dBA. Therefore, three dBA is generally accepted as the threshold beyond which increases to local ambient noise levels resulting from projects are considered substantial.

Considering the sound level perception thresholds and noise standards discussed above, a potentially significant increase in ambient noise levels would occur if noise generated by the project would permanently increase outdoor noise levels by three dBA or more, and if outdoor noise levels at a sensitive receiver would exceed the applicable noise standards.

The primary source of sound in the project's vicinity is from the nearby roadways, as evidenced in Table 10, above. Traffic volumes on West Avenue J, a major arterial, south of the project site between 60th Street West and 50th Street West average 6,400 trips per day (City of Lancaster 2009). Traffic trips would increase temporarily during construction because of construction workers traveling to and from the site and delivery of construction material and equipment. Once constructed, only a minimal increase in vehicle trips (related to the nine additional employees) to the project site would be expected. Furthermore, the project would be expected to result in a reduction of existing vehicle trips generated by LAC, as the increased capacity of onsite medical services would alleviate the existing need for transport between LAC and offsite medical service locations. Typically, a doubling of vehicle traffic is required before a noticeable (three dBA or greater) increase in traffic noise levels would occur. Consequently, the proposed project would not result in a perceptible increase in local traffic noise levels.

In addition, long-term operational noise levels attributed to the proposed project are not anticipated to exceed applicable noise standards and/or result in any noticeable increase of three dBA or more in average daily ambient noise levels. Once fully operational, the proposed new buildings and additions would not involve the use of any major stationary noise sources or activities. In general, noise levels

generated by building mechanical systems typically average between 55 and 85 dBA at three feet from the source (EPA 1971). Building mechanical equipment is typically shielded from direct public exposure and usually housed on rooftops, within equipment rooms, or within exterior enclosures. As shown by Table 10, noise levels at nearby sensitive receptors are already 49.0 to 61.6 dBA. The project components would result in operations similar to those existing at LAC and, as such, would not result in a significant perceptible change in ambient noise levels.

In summary, noise generated from operation of the proposed project would not create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise, and impacts would be less than significant.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Less than significant impact. Construction of the project could generate a temporary increase in noise, corresponding to the particular phase of building construction and the noise-generating equipment used during construction. Certain pieces of construction equipment can generate noise levels of 85 dBA or louder at a distance of 50 feet. Typical operating cycles for these types of construction equipment may involve one or two minutes of full power operation followed by three to four minutes at lower power settings. Although there could be relatively high, single-event noise exposure potential resulting in potential short-term intermittent annoyances, the effect in long-term ambient noise levels would be small when averaged over the total time period.

As shown by the existing noise reading results in Table 10, offsite ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project are between 49.0 and 61.6 dBA L_{eq}. As discussed above, the closest sensitive receivers to the project are at a distance of approximately 1,500 feet. At that distance, assuming a 6 dBA drop-off rate, construction equipment that generates 90 dBA at 50 feet would be reduced to 60.4 dBA at the subject property lines. However, behind the existing masonry block walls, in the noise-sensitive areas of the properties, the construction-sourced noise level would be further reduced to 54.9 dBA. When combined with ambient noise levels, the total maximum noise level during construction would be 64.0 dBA at the closest sensitive receiver, which is below the allowable 65-dBA threshold for residential uses (see Appendix C for calculation printouts).

Furthermore, construction activities would occur in accordance with Municipal Code subsection 8.24.030, which prohibits construction noises within 500 feet of residences on Sundays and any day between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Since temporary construction activities at the LAC institution are not expected to exceed the maximum allowable noise level of 65 dBA at nearby sensitive receivers, impacts related to the temporary increase in ambient noise levels would be less than significant.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No impact. The nearest public airports to LAC are the General William J. Fox Airfield (2.75 miles to the north) and the Palmdale Regional Airport (7 miles to the southeast). LAC is outside the 55 dBA CNEL of both airports thereby precluding the exposure of people residing or working in the project areas to excessive airport noise levels. As such, no impact would occur.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No impact. The nearest private airstrip to LAC is Bohunk's Airpark located approximately 2.25 miles west of the project site. This distance precludes exposure of people residing or working in the project area to excessive airport noise levels. As such, no impact would occur.

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

Environmental Setting

LAC is designated as Public Use on the Lancaster General Plan Land Use Map and is zoned Public on the Lancaster Central Zoning Map.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would not include additional inmate beds. Nine additional employees would be required to meet the staffing needs of the new buildings at LAC. The potential relocation of up to nine employees to the project area would not be considered direct substantial population growth. The improvements include the addition and renovation of existing facilities and small new health care facilities, all of which would be located within the existing LAC footprint and serve existing inmates. As such, the proposed project is not anticipated to induce substantial population growth in the area either directly or indirectly. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The proposed project would not displace any existing housing units, inmates, or staff, and, therefore, would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impact would occur.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The proposed project would not displace any existing housing units, inmates, or staff, and, therefore, would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impact would occur.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
14. Public Services *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:*				
a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Fire Services

Fire and paramedic services are provided to LAC by the LACFD. There are currently six fire stations within the City of Lancaster. The nearest fire station to LAC is Fire Station 130 located at 44558 40th Street West, approximately 1.25 miles to the east.

Police Protection

LAC provides law enforcement within its boundaries and is supplemented by mutual aid agreements with the Lancaster Sheriff's Station, located at 501 W Lancaster Boulevard, Lancaster, CA 93534, which is part of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Lancaster Sheriff's Station 2013).

Schools

The project site is located within the Lancaster School District and Antelope Valley Union High School District. The Lancaster School District includes one alternative education, one K-8, four middle, and thirteen elementary schools and a preschool program. The Antelope Valley Union High School District includes eight high schools, as well as alternative and adult education options.

Parks

Nearby recreational facilities consist of the City of Lancaster's eleven city parks and recreation facilities and Los Angeles County's Apollo Community Regional Park.

Discussion

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:

a) Fire protection?

Less than significant impact. The LACFD currently provides fire protection and emergency response services to LAC and would continue to do so with the construction of the proposed project. All proposed buildings and renovations would be constructed in compliance with applicable fire code regulations. Because the proposed project does not include additional inmate beds, and would require only nine additional staff members, a significant increase in fire protection and emergency medical services or facilities is not anticipated. The project would include the construction of new health care facilities and renovation of existing health care facilities, which would increase the medical capacity and decrease the number of medical-related emergency response calls. Therefore, the proposed project would not require the construction of new fire protection facilities or alter existing facilities to maintain performance objectives, and impacts would be less than significant.

b) Police protection?

Less than significant impact. LAC handles all law enforcement needs at the institution without local public law enforcement assistance and has sufficient resources to serve the proposed project. Because the proposed project does not include additional inmate beds, and would require the addition of nine additional staff members (eight of whom would serve as law enforcement within LAC), an increase in police protection services or facilities is not anticipated. Therefore, the proposed project would not interfere with local law enforcement agency services and would not require the construction of new facilities or alterations to existing facilities to maintain performance objectives. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Schools?

No impact. The proposed project does not include additional inmate beds at LAC and would require the addition of only nine staff positions. The additional nine staff members would not result in a substantial increase in population requiring school facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would not require the construction of new school facilities or alterations to existing facilities to maintain performance objectives, and the current school facilities would continue to meet the demand for schools. No impact would occur.

d-e) Parks? Other public facilities?

No impact. As previously indicated, the proposed project does not include additional inmate beds at LAC and would require only nine additional staff positions. The addition of nine staff members would not result in a substantial increase in population requiring parks or other public facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would not require the construction of parks or other public facilities or alterations to existing facilities to maintain performance objectives. No impact would occur.

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

Environmental Setting

Nearby recreational facilities consist of the City of Lancaster's eleven city parks and recreation facilities and Los Angeles County's Apollo Community Regional park. Regional recreational facilities consist of the Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park and the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area.

Discussion

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?

No impact. Operation of the proposed project does not include additional inmate beds but would require nine additional employees at LAC, which would not be considered substantial population growth. Therefore, the proposed project would not cause a substantial increase in the use of local or regional recreational facilities. As such, substantial physical deterioration of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities would not take place. No impacts would occur.

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 does not include the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impacts would occur.

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

Environmental Setting

LAC is approximately 4.5 miles west of central Lancaster, three miles north of central Quartz Hill, and 45 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. Regional access to LAC is provided by SR 138 and SR-14 to the north and east. Local access is provided by numerous local roadways including West Avenue I, West Avenue J, and 60th Street West. LAC is primarily accessed via an entrance off 60th Street West. A secondary access is located on West Avenue J but is not typically used by institution staff or visitors.

The nearest public transportation service is the Antelope Valley Transit Authority Route 7, which provides bus stops along 60th Street West, including a stop at LAC. Metrolink provides rail services via the Antelope Valley Line. The Lancaster Metrolink Station is located five miles to the east of LAC off Sierra Highway and Lancaster Avenue. Sidewalks are provided adjacent to the residential areas along West Avenue J.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

Less than significant impact. The quality of roadway facility operations is described with the term "level of service" (LOS). Six levels are defined, with LOS A representing the best operating conditions (minimal vehicular congestion) and LOS F representing the worst operating conditions (substantial vehicular congestion). The City of Lancaster 2030 General Plan indicates that LOS D is the minimum acceptable LOS during peak hour traffic. The following intersections generally surround the proposed project:

1. 50th Street West and Lancaster Boulevard
2. 50th Street West and West Avenue J
3. 60th Street West and West Avenue J
4. 50th Street West and West Avenue I
5. 60th Street West and West Avenue I

As indicated by the Lancaster 2030 General Plan, all roadway sections located adjacent to the above listed intersections operate above at LOS A and have existing daily trip volumes ranging from 2,000 to 6,400 (City of Lancaster 2009).

Project construction would result in short-term traffic increases on local roadways during off-peak hours. Proposed project construction work shifts would occur from 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Construction activities would average approximately 72 one-way trips or approximately 36 vehicles traveling to and from the project site per day (Vanir Construction Management 2013; MBA 2013). Because construction trips would be temporary and construction workers would arrive and depart during off-peak hours, thereby avoiding conflicts with adjacent street peak hour traffic conditions, construction traffic impacts would be less than significant.

The proposed project does not include additional inmate beds. As such, existing traffic levels related to inmate visitation would not be expected to change. The proposed project would only require nine new employees. The addition of these employee's traffic trips to and from the project site would not result in a significant increase in traffic levels. Eight of the additional employees would serve as custody staff and would be distributed among three separate shifts: 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., thereby requiring no work commute trips during peak traffic hours. The addition of traffic trips from the remaining additional employees, who would work during a standard daytime shift, would be minimal compared with the existing number of employee traffic trips to LAC. Furthermore, the project would be expected to result in a reduction of existing vehicle trips generated by LAC, as the increased capacity of onsite medical services would alleviate the existing need for transport between LAC and offsite medical service locations. The addition of nine employees would not be expected to result in a substantial increase in mass transit ridership. Furthermore, the proposed project does not include any modifications to the existing circulation system outside of the institution. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

Less than significant impact. The 2010 Congestion Management Program (CMP) for Los Angeles County requires that the traffic impacts of individual development projects of potential regional significance be analyzed. The CMP requires that all CMP monitored intersections be analyzed where a project would likely add 50 or more trips during either the AM or PM weekday peak hours. In addition, any CMP freeway monitoring segment where a project is expected to add 150 or more trips in any direction during the weekday peak hours is to be analyzed. However, as previously mentioned, the proposed project would result in the addition of only nine employees and related traffic trips and, therefore, no analysis is required.

Project related construction trips would be temporary, and primarily occur during off-peak hours, thereby avoiding conflicts with adjacent street peak-hour conditions. Additionally, the project would increase the capacity of onsite medical services, which is expected to reduce the current need for transportation to and from offsite medical service facilities and potentially result in a decrease in number of trips and vehicle miles traveled. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with the applicable congestion management program and would not conflict with applicable level of service standards for designated roads or highways. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

No impact. The nearest airports to LAC are the General William J. Fox Airfield (2.75 miles to the north), the Palmdale Regional Airport (7 miles to the southeast), and Bohunk's Airpark (2.25 miles to the west). The project site is not located within a safety zone of any of these airports. The proposed project does not contain any uses that could alter air traffic patterns. Therefore, no impact would occur.

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No impact. The proposed project is located on the grounds of the existing LAC institution. Existing roadways on the project site have been designed to safely serve the institution. The proposed project does not include the construction of any new roads. Minor driveways and reconfiguration of existing roadways would occur. All roadway configurations implemented as part of the proposed project would conform to CDCR design and safety standards. Therefore, project construction and operation would not increase hazards that are due to a design feature or incompatible use, and no impact would occur.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

No impact. According to existing LAC staff, emergency access to the project site is adequate and in conformance with CDCR standards. Onsite emergencies are generally handled onsite and do not require outside access from emergency responders. Proposed project construction activities would occur entirely within the existing LAC property and would not change or impair emergency vehicle access to the institution. Project operation would not result in an increase in inmate beds and would add only nine employees. As such, existing emergency access would continue to be sufficient and no impact would occur.

f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

No impact. The proposed project would be located within the existing LAC property boundaries. Construction and operation of the proposed project is not expected to impact existing alternative transportation. Furthermore, the project is not expected to generate increases in pedestrian, bicycle, and bus transit demand. The proposed project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. As such, no impact would occur.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
17. Utilities and Service Systems *Would the project:*				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

Potable Water

Water is supplied to the entire Antelope Valley region through two primary sources, imported water from the State Water Project (SWP) via the California aqueduct and groundwater extracted from the Antelope Valley groundwater basin. AVEK holds the majority of the entitlements to SWP water. SWP water purchased through AVEK is the primary source of imported water to the City of Lancaster. According to Water Code 55338, LAC receives water from the AVEK through the Los Angeles County Water Works District 40, and only receives groundwater from the Antelope Valley groundwater basin as a supplementary source of drinking water or as an emergency backup supply.

The water entitlement for LAC is 928,000 gallons per day. Currently, LAC uses 750,000 gallons per day, which is only 80 percent of its entitlement.

Wastewater

The collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater within the City of Lancaster and adjacent unincorporated areas are under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County Sanitation District Number 14. The County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Water Works District is responsible for LAC's sewer facilities. Wastewater generated at LAC is pre-treated on the facility grounds and then discharged to the District Number 14 sanitary sewer system. The wastewater is treated and disposed at the LWRP. The LWRP provides tertiary treatment for up to 18 million gallons of wastewater per day. The recently adopted 2020 Facilities Plan will expand LWRP's capacity to 26 mgd by the year 2020 (Los Angeles County Sanitation District 2013).

Conditions and costs for wastewater treatment and disposal service are established by an agreement between LAC and the Sanitation District based on an Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit issued by the Sanitation District. Currently, the permitted annual average discharge is 818,000 gallons per day (gpd), with a permitted peak discharge of 1,400 gallons per minute (gpm). Historically, LAC's average dry weather flow has varied, but has averaged about 800,000 gpd (Kitchell CEM 2007). According to the LAC plant operations staff the wastewater system is within its authorized entitlements and has sufficient capacity to accommodate the improvements.

Stormwater

Much of the City of Lancaster and its General Plan study area are susceptible to flooding because of its relatively flat topography. There are a number of existing local and regional flood control facilities in the City, including channels, storm drains, and retention basins. The onsite drainage system for LAC is limited to grading of the site that directs surface runoff away from the buildings and recreation yard into drainage facilities. There is an existing storm drain basin located adjacent to LAC to the east.

Solid Waste

There are two landfill sites that serve the project area: the Lancaster Landfill and the Palmdale Landfill also known as the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility. The Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center is located on 276 acres of land with a 209-acre disposal site at 600 East Avenue F. The Lancaster Landfill's maximum permitted daily capacity is 1,700 tons per day, and as of 2009 was anticipated to serve the existing population for the next 16 to 18 years. The Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility is located at 1200 West City Ranch Road in Palmdale, and recently underwent an expansion to encompasses 185 acres of land with 125 acres permitted for waste disposal. The Palmdale Landfill is expected to serve the existing population past the year 2025.

LAC operates a recycling and salvage program that reduces waste delivered to landfills by as much as 40 percent. Regulated medical waste is collected by a private contractor for processing and final disposal.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Electricity is provided by the Southern California Edison Company. Power is supplied via a 1,200-megawatt, 12,470-volt substation on the facility grounds next to an emergency generator room located on the south end of the facility. Emergency power is supplied by one of two 2,000-kilowatt generators. In addition, a dedicated 200 kilowatt emergency generator is located outside of the Correctional Treatment Center. Electrical capacity is near 80 percent.

Natural gas is provided by Southern California Gas Company. All building heating is provided by natural gas furnaces.

Discussion

Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

Less than significant impact. LAC is authorized to release an annual average wastewater discharge of 818,000 gpd, with a permitted peak discharge of 1,400 gpm. LAC's existing onsite wastewater collection system meets current demands, and has sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed improvements. Discharged wastewater is directed to the LWRP, which provides tertiary treatment for up to 18 million gallons of wastewater per day. The recently adopted 2020 Facilities Plan will expand LWRP's capacity to 26 mgd by the year 2020 (Los Angeles County Sanitation District 2013). The treatment plant is required to operate in compliance with its current NPDES permit, thereby ensuring wastewater treatment requirements are met.

The proposed project includes upgrades to existing health care service facilities and expansion of facilities to support improvement of health care services to the existing inmate population. The proposed project does not include additional inmate beds. Only nine additional staff members would be required. Since water usage and, therefore, wastewater production at CDCR institutions are largely driven by inmate levels, and since no increase in inmate beds would occur, water usage increases would be minimal. Furthermore, the new buildings and renovations would be constructed using the best available water conservation devices. Accordingly, the proposed project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements and impacts would be less than significant.

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No Impact. Water and wastewater facilities are discussed separately below.

Water Facilities

As mentioned previously, LAC currently uses 750,000 gallons per day of water, which is well within its 928,000 gallons per day entitlement. Water usage at LAC has recently been reduced significantly as a result of the installation of toilet flush control valves and a reduction in inmate population. More importantly for the proposed project, negligible additional water consumption would result from installation of new health care facilities because they would continue providing services already performed at the institution. No new inmate beds would be added. Only nine additional staff members would be required at LAC. Since water usage at CDCR institutions is largely driven by the number of inmates, and no increase in inmate beds would occur, water use increases would be minimal. Furthermore, the new buildings and renovations would be constructed using the best available water conservation devices. As such, no new or expanded water facilities are necessary for the proposed project. No impact would occur.

Wastewater Facilities

LAC is authorized to release an annual average discharge of 818,000 gpd, with a permitted peak discharge of 1,400 gpm. LAC's existing onsite wastewater collection system meets current demands, and has sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed improvements. Discharged wastewater is directed to the LWRP, which provides tertiary treatment for up to 18 million gallons of wastewater per day. The recently adopted 2020 Facilities Plan will expand LWRP's capacity to 26 mgd by the year 2020 (Los Angeles County Sanitation District 2013). As such, sufficient capacity is available.

As previously indicated, the project primarily includes upgrades to existing health facilities and expansion of facilities to support improvement of existing health care services to the inmate population. No new inmate beds would be added, and only nine additional staff members would be required. Since wastewater usage at CDCR institutions is largely driven by inmate levels, and no increase in inmate beds would occur, wastewater production increases would be minimal. Furthermore, the new buildings and renovations would be constructed using the best available water conservation devices. As such, sufficient capacity is available to serve the proposed project.

In summary, the proposed project would not require or result in the construction or expansion of water or wastewater facilities and no impacts would occur.

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Less than significant impact. The proposed project components would increase impervious surface coverage at LAC by 29,700 square feet or approximately 0.9 percent. This increase in impervious surface area is a nominal amount compared with the existing 3,200,000 square feet of impervious surfaces. Therefore, existing stormwater infrastructure would be sufficient to serve the proposed project. Furthermore, as indicated in Section 2.6, Environmental Protection Design Features, CDCR would contract with a registered civil engineer to design and implement a drainage plan that would safely retain, detain, and/or convey stormwater runoff. The plan would be consistent with CDCR Design Criteria Guidelines and with the General Construction NPDES Permit. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

No impact. See response to Question 3.17 (b) above. Increase in water demand associated with the project would be minimal. Therefore, current supplies would be sufficient. No impact would occur.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

Less than significant impact. See response to Question 3.17 (b) above. Because wastewater production at CDCR institutions is largely driven by inmate levels and no increase in inmate beds would occur, wastewater production increases would be minimal. Wastewater generated at LAC is pre-treated on the facility grounds and then is treated and disposed at the LWRP, which provides tertiary treatment for up to 18 million gallons of wastewater per day. The recently adopted 2020 Facilities Plan will expand LWRP's capacity to 26 mgd by the year 2020 (Los Angeles County Sanitation District 2013). As such, the wastewater treatment provider can adequately serve the proposed project. Impacts would be less than significant.

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Less than significant impact. There are two landfill sites that serve the project area: the Lancaster Landfill and the Palmdale Landfill, also known as the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility. The Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center is located on 276 acres of land with a 209-acre disposal site at 600 East Avenue F. The Lancaster Landfill's maximum permitted daily capacity is 1,700 tons per day, and as of 2009 was anticipated to serve the existing population for the next 16 to 18 years. The Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility is located at 1200 West City Ranch

Road in Palmdale, and recently underwent an expansion to encompasses 185 acres of land with 125 acres permitted for waste disposal. The Palmdale Landfill is expected to serve the existing population past the year 2025.

Project construction would result in solid waste over the 16-month construction period. Construction-related solid waste would be recycled to the extent possible and remaining waste would be disposed at either landfill. Since construction waste disposal would be temporary and sufficient capacity exists, impacts would be less than significant.

CDCR bases waste generation rates on a factor of 3.6 pounds per inmate per day. However, the proposed project would not result in an increase in inmate beds. As such, negligible increases in operational waste production would be expected. While medical facilities have the potential to generate substantial amounts of waste, the proposed project would provide replacement and expanded space for existing medical facilities and services. As such, negligible increases in the existing medical waste production would be expected. Given the permitted capacities and anticipated closure dates, sufficient permitted capacity is available at both the Lancaster and Palmdale Landfills to accommodate the project's waste disposal needs. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Less than significant impact. As part of standard procedure, the proposed project would be required to abide by all applicable local, state, and federal solid waste disposal regulations. As previously discussed, LAC implements several recycling programs. Furthermore, solid waste created by the construction and operation of the proposed project would be a small percentage of the overall waste production of the institution. As such, impacts related to solid waste regulation compliance would be less than significant.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
18. Mandatory Findings of Significance				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Evaluation

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less than significant impact. As evaluated in this IS/Proposed ND, the proposed project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment; substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species; cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species; or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. As described under Section 2.6, the project includes specific environmental protection design features to ensure avoidance of impacts to avian species, previously undiscovered human remains, and water quality. Therefore, less than significant impacts from project implementation would occur.

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. Cumulative air quality and traffic impacts are considered in Section 3.3 and Section 3.16, respectively, in this IS/Proposed ND. As described in the impact analyses in Sections 3.1 through 3.17 of this IS/Proposed ND, the proposed project would not result in any potentially significant impacts requiring mitigation. The project would also not cause, or result in, a cumulatively considerable contribution to any significant adverse impacts when considered in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects, or probable future projects, primarily because the incremental contributions of the HCFIP are so modest.

Other current or probable future projects near the proposed project site that could cause related impacts are listed in Appendix D. No other projects that could cause related impacts are proposed by CDCR, and as discussed in this document, the proposed project's impacts are so limited they would not contribute considerably to any significant local or regional impacts. As explained in this IS/Proposed ND, CDCR has incorporated measures into the project such that its incremental impacts will not be cumulatively considerable (see Section 2.6, Environmental Protection Design Features). Accordingly, the incremental addition of impacts from the proposed project would be considered less than cumulatively considerable.

c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. Air quality and/or noise would be the only avenues through which the project could have a substantial effect on human beings. However, all potential effects of the proposed project related to air quality and noise are identified as less than significant. The impact analysis included in this IS/Proposed ND indicates that for all other resource areas, the proposed project would have either no impact or less than significant impact.

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