
**CITY OF RIDGECREST
HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE
INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Prepared for:

**CITY OF RIDGECREST
100 W. CALIFORNIA AVENUE
RIDGECREST, CA 93555**

Prepared by:

PMC[®]

**860 WALNUT STREET, SUITE B
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401**

FEBRUARY 2015

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This document is an Initial Study and Negative Declaration (ND) prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the City of Ridgecrest 2015–2023 Housing Element (referred to as the 2015–2023 Housing Element, the proposed Housing Element, or the project). This ND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines.

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if the Initial Study indicates that the proposed project under review may have a potentially significant impact on the environment. A negative declaration may be prepared instead, if the lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore why it would not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a negative declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- a) *The Initial Study shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or*
- b) *The Initial Study identified potentially significant effects, but:*
 - (1) *Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed negative declaration is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and*
 - (2) *There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.*

If revisions are adopted into the proposed project in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b), a mitigated negative declaration (MND) is prepared.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." Based on these criteria, the City of Ridgecrest is the lead agency.

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this ND is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the City of Ridgecrest 2015–2023 Housing Element. This document is divided into the following sections:

- 1.0 Introduction:** Provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.0 Project Information:** This section provides general information regarding the project, including the project title, lead agency and address, contact person, brief description of the city's location, identification of surrounding land uses, and identification of other public agencies whose review, approval, and/or permits may be required. Also included in this section is a checklist of the environmental factors that are potentially affected by the project.
- 3.0 Project Description:** This section provides a detailed description of the proposed project.
- 4.0 Environmental Checklist and Evaluation:** Describes the environmental setting for each of the environmental subject areas and evaluates a range of impacts classified as no impact, less than significant impact, less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated, or potentially significant impact in response to the environmental checklist.
- 5.0 References:** This section identifies documents, websites, people, and other sources consulted during the preparation of this Initial Study.

2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project title:** City of Ridgecrest 2015–2023 Housing Element
2. **Lead agency name and address:** City of Ridgecrest
100 W. California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Matthew Alexander, City Planner
(760) 499-5063
4. **Project location:** City of Ridgecrest
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:** City of Ridgecrest
100 W. California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
6. **General Plan designation:** Various
7. **Zoning:** Various
8. **Description of project:** Adoption of the 2015–2023 Housing Element for the City of Ridgecrest. The Housing Element includes programs that require amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance to comply with state law. These amendments are described in Section 3.0.
9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** Ridgecrest is located in eastern Kern County at the edge of the Mojave Desert in the Indian Wells Valley. The city covers 21.4 square miles and is bounded by four mountain ranges. Ridgecrest is located approximately 112 miles from Bakersfield and 83 miles from Barstow.
10. **Other public agencies whose approval may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):**

While the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) must verify that the Housing Element meets statutory requirements, HCD does not approve the Housing Element. No other permits or approvals are necessary.

2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

11. Environmental factors potentially affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “potentially significant impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

12. Determination: (To be completed by the lead agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only 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.

Seth A. Myers
Signature

February 27, 2015
Date

Seth Myers
Printed Name

City of Ridgecrest
Lead Agency

Environmental Planner
Title

2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

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3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE 2015–2023 HOUSING ELEMENT

The 2015–2023 Housing Element identifies the policies and programs which the City will implement to ensure that housing in Ridgecrest is affordable, safe, and decent. The Housing Element addresses housing needs by encouraging the provision of an adequate quantity of sites designated for multi-family housing, by assisting in affordable housing development, and through the preservation and maintenance of existing affordable housing stock.

The 2015–2023 Housing Element does not propose changes in any existing General Plan land use designations or zoning districts. No physical development projects are proposed as part of the 2015–2023 Housing Element. The Housing Element includes programs that require amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance to comply with state law. These amendments, all proposed as part of Housing Element Implementation Program R and Implementation Program S, include the following:

2015–2023 Housing Element Implementation Program R

- The Zoning Ordinance shall be amended to allow group homes by right in residential zones for small group homes (six persons or fewer) and with a conditional use permit for large facilities (seven persons or more) consistent with state law.
- The Zoning Ordinance shall be amended to update the definition of “family” to remove any limit on number of persons consistent with state law.
- The Zoning Ordinance shall be amended to allow mobile homes of 10 years of age or less in all single-family zones.
- The Zoning Ordinance shall be amended to permit single-room occupancy (SRO) units subject to site plan review and without a conditional use permit in the R-2, R-3, and R-4 zones.
- The Zoning Ordinance shall be amended to allow transitional and supportive housing as residential uses in all zones allowing residential uses, subject only to those restrictions that apply to other residential uses of the same type in the same zone. The Zoning Ordinance will also be amended to include the following definitions related to transitional and supportive housing per Government Code Sections 65582(f), (g) and (h):
 - “Supportive housing” means housing with no limit on length of stay, that is occupied by the target population, and that is linked to an on-site or off-site service that assists the supportive housing resident in retaining the housing, improving his or her health status, and maximizing his or her ability to live and, when possible, work in the community.
 - “Target population” means persons with low incomes who have one or more disabilities, including mental illness, HIV or AIDS, substance abuse, or other chronic health condition, or individuals eligible for services provided pursuant to the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Division 4.5 (commencing with Section 4500) of the Welfare and Institutions Code) and may include, among other populations, adults, emancipated minors, families with children, elderly persons, young adults aging out of the foster care system, individuals exiting from institutional settings, veterans, and homeless people.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- “Transitional housing” means buildings configured as rental housing developments, but operated under program requirements that require the termination of assistance and recirculating of the assisted unit to another eligible program recipient at a predetermined future point in time that shall be no less than six months from the beginning of the assistance.

2015–2023 Housing Element Implementation Program S

- The Zoning Ordinance shall be amended to comply with the state Employee Housing Act (Health and Safety Code Sections 17021.5 and 17021.6) to treat employee housing for farmworkers or other employees that serves six or fewer persons as a single-family structure and permitted in the same manner as other single-family structures of the same type in the same zone (Section 17021.5).
- The Zoning Ordinance shall be amended to treat employee housing consisting of no more than 12 units or 36 beds as an agricultural use and permitted in the same manner as other agricultural uses in the same zone in zones where agricultural uses are permitted (Section 17021.6).

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND SURROUNDING LAND USES

The City of Ridgecrest General Plan was adopted by the City Council in December 2009. This document was designed to serve as a long-term guide for orderly growth and development in Ridgecrest. The General Plan also forms the foundation for zoning, subdivision regulation, and other planning decisions. The General Plan includes seven elements, one of which is the Housing Element. The Housing Element has been periodically updated through the years. The 2015–2023 Housing Element is a continuance of this update process and, if adopted by the City, will require an amendment to the General Plan for the inclusion of the 2015–2023 Housing Element. Additionally, the proposed Housing Element includes programs, as indicated previously, that will require amendments to the City’s Zoning Ordinance. The way in which these changes impact the physical environment in the city is the basis of the analysis provided in this Initial Study.

The proposed project affects land in Ridgecrest, which is located in eastern Kern County adjacent to State Route 178 and just east of State Route 395. Ridgecrest is bounded by four mountain ranges and is also located adjacent to the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake. Ridgecrest is located approximately 112 miles from Bakersfield and 83 miles from Barstow.

The individual setting for each impact analysis area is described in each analysis section.

3.3 OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED

There are no other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement) for the proposed Housing Element. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) reviews and determines whether the proposed Housing Element complies with state law; however, HCD approval is not required for the City’s adoption of the Housing Element.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.1 AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

Ridgecrest sits at the edge of the Mojave Desert in the Indian Wells Valley and is surrounded by four mountain ranges: the Sierra Nevada to the west, the Cosos to the north, the Argus Range on the east, and the El Paso Mountains to the south. The city's aesthetic setting can generally be described as an urban area with a rural backdrop. Consequently, the city is defined by several natural and human-made aesthetic resources, including a variety of natural features (desert areas, mountain views, etc.), scenic corridors, and urban landscapes (urban parks and low-rise residential development). Scenic vistas of the mountains and the surrounding desert are found throughout the city. Desert landscapes comprise desert scrub habitats. Views of these desert habitat areas would include a variety of unique plant species including creosote bush, desert agave, barrel cactus, and Mojave yucca.

The City's General Plan identifies scenic corridors in the city. The corridors—West Inyokern Road, North and South China Lake Boulevard, East and West Ridgecrest Boulevard, West Bowman Road, College Heights Boulevard, West Drummond Avenue, and Jacks Ranch Road—have been deemed scenic because of their aesthetic qualities and their existing or potential function as the major entries to the city. The corridor boundary is defined by topographic features along the most southerly extent of China Lake Boulevard and by significant landmarks or man-made features.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) identifies several elements that define a State Scenic Highway. There are no Caltrans designated scenic corridors within or adjacent to Ridgecrest (Caltrans 2013).

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Less Than Significant Impact.* Ridgecrest is located in an area defined by several natural aesthetic resources. Scenic vistas of the mountains and the surrounding desert are found throughout the city. Both the City's General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element and Community Design Element contain policies regarding the protection of scenic resources (Ridgecrest 2009). For instance, Open Space and Conservation Element Policy OSC-1.3 requires the City to protect natural resource areas, wildlife habitat areas, scenic areas, open space areas, and parks from encroachment or destruction by incompatible development. Policy OSC-1.5 states that in new development areas, the City will encourage the use of open space or recreational buffers between incompatible land

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

uses. The City ensures preservation of important public views and viewsheds by requiring that the scale, bulk, and setback of new development does not significantly impede or disrupt them (Policy OSC-2.1). Per Policy OSC-2.1, the City requires development to provide physical breaks to allow views into these vistas and view corridors. Furthermore, the Community Design Element contains design standards for development (Goal CD-2 and associated policies), including setback restrictions and building siting requirements for the purpose of minimizing potential impacts on the local viewshed.

Implementation of the proposed Housing Element would not allow development beyond that identified on the City's General Plan Land Use Map, as the proposed revisions to the City's Zoning Ordinance would be consistent with the General Plan. The Housing Element does not propose any land use changes. The 2015–2023 Housing Element would not adversely affect any scenic vista. Therefore, this impact is considered to be less than significant.

- b) *No Impact.* There are no State-designated scenic highways within the confines of the city. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not adversely affect a scenic highway.
- c) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document. While the Housing Element encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels, it does not include any specific designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would degrade the city's existing visual character. The Housing Element anticipates land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use Map. Future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to aesthetic resources and Zoning Ordinance requirements associated with site planning and development regulations.

The strategies contained in the General Plan Land Use Element and Community Design Element relative to urban design, pedestrian circulation, and community and neighborhood identity would ensure physical, visual, and functional compatibility between residential and other uses, as well as encourage high-quality development in keeping with the city's desired character. For instance, Land Use Element Policy LU-1.3 promotes development patterns that are compact and use space in an efficient but aesthetic manner to promote more walking, biking, and use of public transit. The Community Design Element requires that new developments be designed to encourage pedestrian mobility options through the provision of sidewalks, walkways, and trails and other design amenities that make a location more interesting and inviting for public use. Community Design Element Policy CD-1.6 encourages development that is visually and functionally compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods by maintaining a height and density of development compatible with adjacent developed neighborhoods and by accenting entrances to new neighborhoods with varied landscaping, hardscaping, and signage treatment. In addition, subsequent residential development projects would be subject to Community Design Element Policy CD-2.6 requiring that developers revegetate newly developed land. Therefore, implementation of the Housing Element would result in no impacts associated with the degradation of the city's visual character.

- d) *Less Than Significant Impact.* As discussed above, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would increase daytime glare or nighttime illumination in the city. Light and glare impacts of subsequent development projects would be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Future residential development

projects will be required to comply with General Plan policies related to lighting, including Community Design Element Policy CD-2.13, which states that a lighting plan is required for all new commercial, industrial, and subdivision developments. The lighting plan must include the type and height of all outdoor illumination and provide a point-to-point or iso-foot-candle diagram showing the illumination of all areas on-site and any light spillage on off-site properties based on a horizontal reading. As all future projects must comply with CEQA and the General Plan, implementation of the proposed Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts associated with increased light and glare.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. 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 nonagricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

The soils in the Ridgecrest area are composed of sand, silt, and clay, and these are not typically good prime agricultural soil types. Therefore, agriculture is very sparse in Ridgecrest. The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program categorizes farmland acreages throughout the state by soil quality. According to the California Department of Conservation, there are no agricultural lands in the city (California DOC 2010).

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a–b) *No Impact.* As identified on the Kern County Important Farmland Map published by the California Department of Conservation's (2010) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, there are no agricultural lands in the city. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not conflict with or convert existing agricultural uses or Williamson Act lands. All existing land use designations in the city would remain as is with adoption of the proposed Housing Element.

c) *No Impact.* The city does not contain any forest resources or any lands zoned for forest use.

d) *No Impact.* The city does not contain any forest resources or any lands zoned for forest use.

- e) *No Impact.* The placement of nonagricultural uses adjacent to agricultural uses can result in agriculture-urban interface conflicts that inadvertently place growth pressure on agricultural lands to convert to urban uses. These conflicts include inconveniences or discomforts associated with dust, smoke, noise, and odor from agricultural operations, restrictions on agricultural operations (such as pesticide application) along interfaces with urban uses, farm equipment and vehicles using roadways, and trespassing and vandalism on active farms. The project does not involve the construction or expansion of residential development. Furthermore, as identified on the Kern County Important Farmland Map published by the California Department of Conservation's (2010) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, there are no agricultural lands in the city. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not result in conversion of farmland or forestland to nonagricultural use.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.3 AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

Ridgecrest is located in the Kern County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin, which is under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (APCD). The APCD is required to monitor criteria air pollutant levels to ensure that air quality standards are met and, if they are not met, to develop strategies to meet the standards. Depending on whether the standards are met or exceeded, the local air basin is classified as being in attainment or nonattainment. The Ridgecrest area of Kern County is classified a nonattainment area for state ozone and coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) standards, though is in attainment for all other air pollutants under state standards. In terms of federal standards, the Ridgecrest area of Kern County is classified as in attainment/unclassified for all criteria air pollutants (EKAPCD 2014).

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *No Impact.* A project would conflict with or obstruct APCD air quality planning if it is inconsistent with the General Plan growth assumptions in terms of population, employment, or regional growth in vehicle miles traveled. The APCD uses these population forecasts to develop appropriate air pollutant reduction strategies.

The proposed Housing Element does not identify specific development, nor does it include programs to change land use designations in the city. Development of the housing units identified in the Housing Element to meet the Regional Housing Needs Allocation would not increase the number of dwelling units or the population beyond the assumptions used in the General Plan. Therefore, the 2015–2023 Housing Element would be consistent with the growth projections established in the General Plan and used by the APCD for air quality planning. In addition, all future development would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. For example, the General Plan Health and Safety Element contains Policy HS-2.12, which requires major development projects, as defined by the APCD, to mitigate air quality impacts associated with the project. Mitigations may include, but are not limited to, providing bicycle access and

parking facilities, providing walkable and pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods, and providing increased access to public transportation. For these reasons, implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact associated with obstructing implementation of the regional air quality attainment plan.

- b–c) *No Impact.* The Ridgecrest area is a nonattainment area for two criteria air pollutants, ozone and PM₁₀, though it is in attainment for all other air pollutants under state standards. In terms of federal standards, the Ridgecrest area is classified as in attainment/unclassified for all criteria air pollutants (EKAPCD 2014). Future development of housing units facilitated by the implementation of the proposed Housing Element could result in an increase in criteria pollutants during both construction and operational activities and could also contribute to the area's existing nonattainment status. Construction activities such as excavation and grading operations, construction vehicle traffic, and wind blowing over exposed earth could generate exhaust emissions and fugitive particulate matter emissions that would affect local air quality. This is variable depending on the weather, soil conditions, and the amount of activity taking place, as well as the nature of dust control efforts. Likewise, operational air quality impacts are dependent on the density and size of specific residential land uses.

The proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future development would be required to be in accordance with local regulations. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered, pursuant to CEQA, on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. General Plan Health and Safety Element Policy HS-2.11 requires developers to implement dust suppression measures during excavation, grading, and site preparation activities, and Policy HS-2.7 requires developments to be located, designed, and constructed in a manner that would minimize the production of air pollutants and avoid land use conflicts. As previously stated, Policy HS-2.12 requires major development projects, as defined by the APCD, to mitigate air quality impacts associated with the project. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Housing Element would have no impact associated with contributing substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation and increasing criteria pollutants during both construction and operational activities.

- d) *No Impact.* Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Sensitive population groups include children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill, especially those with cardiorespiratory diseases. Residential areas are considered to be sensitive receptors to air pollution because residents (including children and the elderly) tend to be at home for extended periods of time, resulting in sustained exposure to any pollutants present. Housing units facilitated by the proposed Housing Element would be considered sensitive receptors that could be exposed to pollutant concentrations. However, as discussed previously, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Future residential development would be required to comply with General Plan policies related to air quality and meet national ambient air quality standards and APCD significance thresholds during both construction and operational activities. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would have no impact associated with exposing sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations.
- e) *No Impact.* Residential developments are not considered to be an emission source that would result in objectionable odors. No impact would occur.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.4 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 Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 wetlands, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

Land uses within the city limits consist primarily of residential and commercial/industrial areas. However, several open lots and spaces could provide suitable habitat for special-status species. According to the City's General Plan (2009), the Ridgecrest Planning Area comprises a limited number of habitats due to the dry desert-like conditions. These habitats primarily consist of alkali and desert scrub habitats in addition to urban areas that provide some minimal habitat values to wildlife. Outside of urban areas, desert scrub habitat dominates. In addition to wildlife habitats, several unique special-status species have the potential to occur in the Ridgecrest region. These species include the American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), and California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*).

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) document species that may be rare, threatened, or endangered. Federally listed species are fully protected under the mandates of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). "Take" of listed species incidental to otherwise lawful activity may be authorized by either the USFWS or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), depending on the species.

Under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), the CDFW has the responsibility for maintaining a list of threatened and endangered species. The CDFW also maintains lists of candidate species and species of special concern, which serve as “watch lists.” State-listed species are fully protected under the mandates of the CESA. Take of protected species incidental to otherwise lawful management activities may be authorized under California Fish and Game Code Section 2081.

Under Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code, it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders of Falconiformes or Strigiformes (raptors) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

The Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code Sections 1900–1913) prohibits the taking, possessing, or sale within the state of any rare, threatened, or endangered plants as defined by the CDFW.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *No Impact.* Future residential development projects consistent with the proposed Housing Element may result in impacts to biological resources. Prior to the approval of any development on sites that have the potential to contain special-status species or critical or sensitive habitats or are within 100 feet of such areas, developers are required to have the site surveyed by a qualified biologist in order to determine the biological impact of the development (General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element Policy OSC-5.5). Such surveys identify and map any existing rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species and recommend appropriate mitigation measures.

The proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document. While it encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels, it does not include any specific development designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. The 2015–2023 Housing Element does not propose any policies or programs that would conflict with existing General Plan policies regarding the protection of biological resources. All future residential development occurring as a result of implementation of the proposed Housing Element would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including General Plan goals and policies regarding the protection of biological resources. Future subsequent development projects would also be required to comply with the environmental reporting requirements of CEQA following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Housing Element would not cause adverse impacts to special-status plant and animal species or to their habitats, and as such, it would have no impact to these biological resources.

- b–c) *No Impact.* Future residential development resulting from implementation of the proposed Housing Element may result in adverse impacts to sensitive natural communities such as riparian habitat and federally protected wetlands. As discussed under a) above, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. The 2015–2023 Housing Element does not propose any policies or programs that would conflict with existing General Plan policies regarding the protection of biological resources, and all future development in the city would be required to adhere to biological resource-related General Plan policies. In addition, future residential development projects will be required to comply with the environmental reporting requirements of CEQA, which if necessary, would ensure that new development identifies the presence of special-status species. As

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

stated above, General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element Policy OSC-5.5 states that prior to the approval of any development on sites which have the potential to contain special-status species or critical or sensitive habitats or are within 100 feet of such areas, developers are required to have the site surveyed by a qualified biologist in order to determine the biological impact of the development. Such surveys identify and map any existing rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species and recommend appropriate mitigation measures. Therefore, implementation of the Housing Element would have no impact to federally protected wetlands and riparian resources.

- d) *No Impact.* As discussed under a) above, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document. It does not include any site-specific designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. The 2015–2023 Housing Element does not propose any policies or programs that would conflict with existing General Plan policies regarding the protection of biological resources. The potential for the proposed Housing Element to impede native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or the uses of wildlife nursery sites, in and of itself, is nonexistent. While additional impacts may result from the implementation of future individual residential projects in the city, environmental review would be required of these future proposals and would identify mitigation for any impacts to native wildlife corridors and nursery sites. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Housing Element would have no impact regarding the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, nor would it impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- e) *No Impact.* There are currently no adopted or proposed local policies or ordinances that affect the proposed Housing Element. Furthermore, as discussed in a) through d) above, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would affect biological resources. Future residential development would be required to comply with CEQA. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.
- f) *Less Than Significant Impact.* The 9.4-million-acre West Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan encompasses most of California's western Mojave Desert. It extends from Olancho in Inyo County on the north to the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains on the south, and from the Antelope Valley on the west to the Mojave National Preserve on the east. About one-third of the West Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan is private land, another third is within military bases, and the final third consists of public lands managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The goal of the West Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan is to conserve and protect the desert tortoise and nearly 100 other sensitive plants and animals, as well as the ecosystems on which they depend. At the same time, the plan provides developers of public and private projects with a streamlined program for compliance with the California and federal Endangered Species Acts that regulates consistently, reduces delays and expenses, eliminates uncertainty, and applies the costs of compensation and mitigation equitably to all agencies and parties.

As discussed in a) through e) above, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would affect biological resources. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. This impact is considered to be less than significant.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

Cultural resources are defined as buildings, sites, structures, or objects that have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance. The Indian Wells Valley was once settled by the Kawaiisu Indians; the valley's rich history extends well before western settlement of the area (Ridgecrest 2009, p. 7-4). Cultural resources are located throughout the Ridgecrest region.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-d) *No Impact.* In addition to "known" resource areas, the potential exists for undiscovered paleontological and archeological resources that would be encountered and potentially impacted by future construction activities. These resources could include human remains located outside of cemeteries. The proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document. While the Housing Element encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels, it does not include any specific development designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would adversely affect archaeological, paleontological, or historic resources. All future residential development occurring in the city would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including General Plan policies regarding cultural resources in the city. For instance, General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element Policy OSC-3.1 states that the City will use appropriate state and federal standards in evaluating the significance of historical resources that are identified in the city. Policy OSC-3.7 states that in the event archaeological/paleontological resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, the City will require that grading and construction work within 100 feet of the find be suspended until the significance of the features can be determined by a qualified professional archaeologist/paleontologist, as appropriate, who will provide recommendations for measures necessary to protect the find or will undertake data recovery, excavation, analysis, and curation of archaeological/paleontological materials, as appropriate. If human remains are discovered during future development of a site, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the find, and the county coroner must be notified, according to California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission and the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5(d) and (e) must be followed.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis for each specific development proposal. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Housing Element is considered to have no impact on cultural resources.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.6 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

Southern California is a seismically active area. Ridgecrest has experienced strong seismic shaking in the past, and regional faults are capable of earthquakes producing strong ground shaking. Several earthquake faults exist in the Ridgecrest area as indicated on the 2010 Fault Activity Map of California (CGS 2010). Notable faults include the Garlock, Airport Lake, Canyon, and Little Lake faults. While most of the faults in the region have not shown evidence of any activity in the last 11,700 years, the Airport Lake and Little Lake faults have been active as recently as 1995 and 1982, respectively (CGS 2010). Portions of Ridgecrest are located in an Earthquake Fault Zone (CGS 2012). Earthquake Fault Zones are regulatory zones identified by the California Geological Survey that encompass surface traces of active faults that have a potential for future surface fault rupture.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a)

i-iii) *No Impact*. The Housing Element includes policies and programs designed to facilitate the construction and conservation of housing, which could increase exposure of people and structures to seismic hazards, including rupture of a fault, strong seismic shaking, and seismic-related ground failure. However, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels rather than identifying any specific designs or development proposals. The Housing Element does not involve the construction or expansion of any residential land uses. All future residential development occurring as an indirect result of adoption of the Housing Element would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. The Health and Safety Element of the General Plan contains policies with respect to geologic and seismic hazards, with the objective of minimizing the potential for loss of life and property. The policies address hazards associated with seismicity. For example, Health and Safety Element Policy HS-5.1 states that the City will prohibit the construction of development on identified active or potentially active fault traces based on the best available geologic information. Policy HS-5.12 states that the City will require that all new buildings are built in accordance with California Building Standards Code seismic requirements pertaining to the design of structures and grading relative to seismic hazards. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact related to seismic hazards.

iv) *No Impact*. Health and Safety Element Policy HS-5.3 requires detailed geologic and soils investigations for development in areas where slopes exceed 20 percent. In addition, Policy HS-5.13 limits new development in areas with severe slopes. Potential landslide impacts of subsequent development projects would be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal.

b) *No Impact*. Future construction in the city would result in the moving and grading of topsoil, which would lead to disturbed soils that are more likely to suffer erosion from a variety of sources, such as wind and water. However, as discussed in a) i-iii) above, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific development and does not directly result in adverse impacts associated with substantial loss of topsoil or erosion. All future residential development would be subject to CEQA's environmental analysis requirements, including the identification of erosion impacts. In addition, any future development would be required to prepare a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) in order to comply with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) General Construction Storm Water Permit. SWPPPs are required to identify best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented on a project site during construction activities in order to minimize soil erosion and protect existing drainage systems. Compliance with the State's General Construction Storm Water Permit minimizes soil erosion and loss of topsoil from development. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Housing Element would have no impact regarding this issue.

c-d) *No Impact*. Future residential development on unstable or expansive soils could create substantial risks to life or property and result in adverse impacts such as on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Expansive or shrink-swell soils are soils that swell when subjected to moisture and shrink when dry. Expansive soils

typically contain clay minerals that attract and absorb water, greatly increasing the volume of the soil. This increase in volume can cause damage to foundations, structures, and roadways. As discussed in a) i-iii) above, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific development. All future residential development occurring in the city would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. Health and Safety Element Policy HS-5.12 requires that all new buildings are built in accordance with California Building Standards Code requirements pertaining to the design of structures. Standard procedures used in the construction of concrete footings as required by the California Building Standards Code reduce the potential impacts associated with unstable or expansive soils. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Housing Element would have no impact regarding this issue.

- e) *No Impact.* The Housing Element includes policies and programs designed to facilitate the construction and conservation of housing. The City is responsible for the collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal of wastewater generated in Ridgecrest. All future housing allowed under the 2015–2023 Housing Element will be located in a predominantly developed area and served by the City's wastewater treatment facilities. No septic or alternative wastewater systems would be installed as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.7 GREENHOUSE GASES. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gasses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

State Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (2006), the Global Warming Solutions Act, directs public agencies in California to support the statewide goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. To date, neither the City of Ridgecrest nor the Eastern Kern APCD has prepared a plan to assist in the reduction of GHG emissions associated with land use development projects.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-b) *No Impact.* Future development of housing units could result in an increase in GHG emissions during both construction and operational activities. However, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would be considered, pursuant to CEQA, on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. There is no impact.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.8 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a federal, state, or local agency or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. A hazardous material is defined in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 662601.10, as follows:

A substance or combination of substances which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may either (1) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of or otherwise managed.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Most hazardous material regulation and enforcement in Kern County is managed by the Kern County Environmental Health Services Department (KCEHSD), which refers large cases of hazardous materials contamination or violations to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). When issues of hazardous materials arise, it is not at all uncommon for other agencies to become involved, such as the applicable air pollution control district and both the federal and state Occupational Safety and Health Administrations (OSHA).

Under Government Code Section 65962.5, both the DTSC and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) are required to maintain lists of sites known to have hazardous substances present in the environment. Both agencies maintain up-to-date lists on their websites. A search of the DTSC (2013) and SWRCB (2013) lists identified two open case hazardous material sites in Ridgecrest associated with a hazardous material-related release or occurrence. Additionally, the SWRCB list identifies 35 hazardous "Military Sites" in proximity to the city.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-d) *No Impact.* The Housing Element, in and of itself, does not propose the construction of new housing units. However, future development of residential housing units constructed as a result of implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element could create a hazard to future residents via exposure to the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, through exposure to reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment, through exposure to the handling or emission of hazardous materials, or by locating residential development on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. However, impacts associated with hazardous materials would be dependent on the location of future residential development and the nature of surrounding land uses. As stated previously, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels, but it does not include any specific development designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development.

All future development projects in the city will require compliance with General Plan Health and Safety Element Policy HS-7.4, which requires that the routing of hazardous materials be avoided near residential, tourist, and recreational areas, as well as Policy HS-7.5, which prohibits uses that pose an unacceptably high risk to the health, safety, and welfare of residents, workers, and visitors or to the natural environment of the city. In addition to these General Plan policies, the KCEHSD, which is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for all cities and unincorporated areas in Kern County, issues permits to and conducts inspections of businesses that use, store, or handle quantities of hazardous materials and/or waste greater than or equal to 55 gallons, 500 pounds, or 200 cubic feet of a compressed gas at any time. The KCEHSD also implements the Hazardous Material Management Plans that include an inventory of hazardous materials used, handled, or stored at any business in the county, including those in Ridgecrest. The KCEHSD also issues permits to and inspects businesses that handle acutely hazardous materials.

Residential developments do not generally include the routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials that could create a significant hazard to the public. Businesses that handle hazardous materials must comply with the regulations of the City's General Plan Health and Safety Element and the KCEHSD. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment

regarding the transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials and would result in no impact to these issue areas.

- e-f) *No Impact.* Airport-related hazards are generally associated with aircraft accidents, particularly during takeoffs and landings. Airport operation hazards include incompatible land uses, power transmission lines, wildlife hazards (e.g., bird strikes), and tall structures that penetrate the imaginary surfaces surrounding an airport. As discussed in a–d) above, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific development. While the proposed Housing Element identifies the need for additional housing in the city, it does not provide specific details regarding future development.

The city is located adjacent to the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. The City General Plan contains a Military Sustainability Element, which is intended to demonstrate the City's commitment to and support of current and future missions at China Lake. The Military Sustainability Element considers the potential constraints new growth can pose on military readiness activities. As such, future residential development would not be located within a Naval Air Weapons Station hazard area. Therefore, implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact associated with airport-related hazards.

- g) *No Impact.* As discussed previously, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific development. All future residential development occurring in the city would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the City's General Plan. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. The proposed Housing Element would not obstruct evacuation routes or access to critical emergency facilities and therefore would have no impact regarding issues of inconsistency with any emergency response plan.
- h) *Less Than Significant Impact.* Due to the sparse vegetation in the area, naturally occurring wildfires are rare in and around the city (Ridgecrest 2009). Furthermore, as discussed in a–d) above, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific development. While the proposed Housing Element identifies the need for increased density, it does not provide specific details regarding future development. Therefore, this impact is considered to be less than significant.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

The project area is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), one of nine regional boards in the state. The Lahontan RWQCB develops and enforces water quality objectives and implementation plans that safeguard the quality of water resources in its region. Specifically, the RWQCB identifies potential water quality problems, confirms and characterizes water quality problems through assessments, remedies problems by imposing or enforcing appropriate measures, and monitors problem areas to assess the effectiveness of remedial measures. Remedies for problems include prevention and cleanup. Common means of prevention are the issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, waste discharge requirements (WDRs), and discharge

prohibitions and restrictions. Cleanup is implemented through enforcement measures such as Cease and Desist Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders.

The city has two areas with the potential for 100-year flooding, or areas with a flood elevation that has a 1 percent chance of being exceeded each year. These flood zones, located by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for inclusion in its Flood Insurance Rate Map program, are located throughout the city and associated with drainages that are dry the majority of time (FEMA 2008).

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a, f) *No Impact.* Future residential development in the city could result in both construction and operational impacts to water quality and discharge standards. Potential operational impacts include the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides to maintain lawns, as well as motor vehicle operation and maintenance. Potential construction impacts include grading and vegetation removal activities that would result in the exposure of raw soil materials to the natural elements (wind, rain, etc.). However, the purpose of the proposed Housing Element is to identify the policies and programs that the City will implement to ensure housing in Ridgecrest is affordable, safe, and decent. The proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific design or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future residential development occurring in the city would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. For instance, General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element Policy OSC-6.1 requires a construction plan prior to the groundbreaking that uses site design and grading techniques to reduce the amount of impervious surface and runoff for all new urban commercial or residential development projects.

In addition, all new development projects in the city are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater Permit enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The permit requires that the City impose water quality and watershed protection measures for all development projects and prohibits discharges from causing violations of applicable water quality standards or from resulting in conditions that create a nuisance or water quality impairment in receiving waters. In terms of construction-related impacts from future residential development, project construction contractors are required to comply with the requirements of the stormwater permit, including measures designed to reduce or eliminate erosion and runoff into waterways during construction. BMPs include wattles, covering of stockpiles, silt fences, and other physical means of slowing stormwater flow from graded areas to allow sediment to settle before entering stormwater channels. The method used is required to be described in the stormwater permit and may vary depending on the circumstances of construction.

All new development constructed as a result of implementation of the proposed Housing Element would be required to comply with the City's water quality protections and with the environmental review process required by CEQA. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, implementation of the Housing Element would have no impact on water quality and waste discharge.

b) *No Impact.* The water supply for Ridgecrest originates in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin and is administered by the Indian Wells Valley Water District. The water district does not have an immediate concern with water supply reliability (IWWVD 2011, p. 35). Because the district's water supply is groundwater, which is not subject to seasonal or year-to-year climatic change, the district is not subject to short-term water shortages

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

resulting from temporary dry weather conditions (IWVWD 2011, p. 36). The district has not experienced an actual supply deficiency during dry years, and the district is located in an arid high desert region; therefore, supply and demand remain relatively unchanged in the district's service area during dry years (IWVWD 2011, p. 36).

As discussed, the proposed Housing Element does not identify any specific development or grant any entitlements for development. Implementation of the proposed Housing Element would not allow development beyond that identified on the City's General Plan Land Use Map, as the proposed adjustments to the City's Zoning Ordinance would be consistent with the General Plan. Furthermore, the City promotes water conservation both in City operations and in private development in order to minimize the need for the development of new water sources and facilities (Open Space and Conservation Element Policies OSC-6.5 through OSC-6.10). Implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact to groundwater resources in the area.

- c–e) *No Impact*. The proposed Housing Element encourages the development of a range of housing types at varying affordability levels in Ridgecrest. If development of housing units were to occur in previously undeveloped areas, increased impervious surfaces and grading and vegetation removal activities could increase surface runoff, although the City requires all stormwater drainage to be retained on-site. However, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future residential development occurring in the city would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan.

All future residential development projects that are constructed as a result of Housing Element implementation will require compliance with General Plan goals and policies related to hydrology and water quality standards. In addition, all new development projects in the city are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater Permit enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The permit requires that the City impose water quality and watershed protection measures for all development projects and prohibits discharges from causing violations of applicable water quality standards or from resulting in conditions that create a nuisance or water quality impairment in receiving waters.

Compliance with the provisions of the NPDES and best management practices would reduce the impacts of future development. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not result in significant impacts to drainage or runoff, as no development is proposed. In addition, future development envisioned by the Housing Element would be subject to the regulations discussed above.

- g–h) *No Impact*. The proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Future development projects would be subject to the General Plan Health and Safety Element, which includes Policy HS-4.8 and Policy HS-4.10. These policies require new residential construction to have its lowest habitable floor elevated above the base flood level elevation as determined by FEMA standards, and require that development within the 100-year floodplain comply with standards established in City ordinances and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not place structures within a 100-year flood zone without the proper mitigation. As a result, implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact regarding flooding.

- i) *No Impact.* Ridgecrest is not located downstream of any dams. Furthermore, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of the failure of a dam. No impact would occur.

- j) *No Impact.* The Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any site-specific development, designs, or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would expose people and structures to inundation by seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows. In addition, Ridgecrest is not located near any ocean, coast, or seiche hazard areas and therefore would not expose people or structures to inundation by seiche, or tsunami. No impact would occur.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.10 LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

Ridgecrest is characterized by low-rise buildings (one or two stories), lower-density residential, and commercial uses surrounded by vast open space and military uses. Most of the city's higher-intensity development (commercial, office, civic, and institutional) lies adjacent to primary thoroughfares such as Ridgecrest Boulevard, State Route 178, Bowman Road, and China Lake Boulevard. Location along these roadways concentrates nonresidential land uses into a largely linear urban form with focal points of intensive uses at the intersections of arterial streets. Less intensive land uses, including rural residential and natural open space, are located on the city's urban fringe.

The basis for land use planning in Ridgecrest is the City's General Plan. The Land Use Element provides the primary guidance on issues related to land use and land use intensity. The Land Use Element provides designations for land in the city and outlines goals concerning development and use of that land. In concert with the General Plan, the Ridgecrest Zoning Ordinance establishes zone districts in the city and specifies allowable uses and development standards for each district. Under state law, each jurisdiction's zoning ordinance must be consistent with its general plan.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-b) *No Impact.* The Housing Element is consistent with the land uses envisioned in the General Plan and would not remove policy provisions that currently protect environmental resources. The 2015–2023 Housing Element is a policy-level document that encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels. The proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. The Housing Element anticipates land uses that are consistent with the current land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use Element and Land Use Map. Future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to land use and Zoning Ordinance requirements associated with zoning districts, allowable uses, and development standards. For example, Land Use Element Policy LU-2.8 requires the City to protect existing residential neighborhoods from the encroachment of incompatible activities and land uses (traffic, noise) and environmental hazards (flood, soil instability). While the Housing Element proposes changes to the Zoning Ordinance, these changes do not alter existing land use designations or the existing development pattern. Additionally, the modified provisions for

the Zoning Ordinance are necessary to comply with state law. All future residential development occurring in the city would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, implementation of the Housing Element would have no impact related to land use or the potential to physically divide a community.

- c) *Less Than Significant Impact.* The 9.4-million-acre West Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan encompasses most of California's western Mojave Desert. It extends from Olancho in Inyo County on the north to the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains on the south, and from the Antelope Valley on the west to the Mojave National Preserve on the east. About one-third of the West Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan is private land, another third is within military bases, and the final third consists of public lands managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The goal of the West Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan is to conserve and protect the desert tortoise and nearly 100 other sensitive plants and animals, as well as the ecosystems on which they depend. At the same time, the plan provides developers of public and private projects with a streamlined program for compliance with the California and federal Endangered Species Acts that regulates consistently, reduces delays and expenses, eliminates uncertainty, and applies the costs of compensation and mitigation equitably to all agencies and parties.

The proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would affect biological resources. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. This impact is considered to be less than significant.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.11 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

The State Mining and Geology Board has the responsibility to inventory and classify mineral resources and could designate such mineral resources as having a statewide or regional significance. If this designation occurs, the local agency must adopt a management plan for such identified resources. Ridgecrest does not contain any areas identified as having substantial mineral resources and has no operating mine or quarry operations.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-b) *No Impact.* No identified or described significant mineral resources currently exist in Ridgecrest, nor does the city contain any mineral extraction activities. The city is not designated as containing any minerals of regional or local importance. The 2015–2023 Housing Element is a policy-level document that encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels. The proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Therefore, no impact to mineral resources would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.12 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 of applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

The primary sources of noise in the city are the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and local automobile traffic. The primary sources of stationary noise are industrial and commercial uses.

NOISE FUNDAMENTALS

Noise is generally defined as sound that is loud, disagreeable, or unexpected. The selection of a proper noise descriptor for a specific source is dependent on the spatial and temporal distribution, duration, and fluctuation of the noise. The noise descriptors most often encountered when dealing with traffic, community, and environmental noise include an overall frequency-weighted sound level in decibels that approximates the frequency response of the human ear (in dBA).

Noise can be generated by a number of sources, including mobile sources, such as automobiles, trucks, and airplanes, and stationary sources, such as construction sites, machinery, and industrial operations. The rate depends on the ground surface and the number or type of objects between the noise source and the receiver. Mobile transportation sources, such as highways, and hard and flat surfaces, such as concrete or asphalt, have an attenuation rate of 3.0 dBA per doubling of distance. Soft surfaces, such as uneven or vegetated terrain, have an attenuation rate of about 4.5 dBA per doubling of distance from the source. Noise generated by stationary sources typically attenuates at a rate of approximately 6.0 to 7.5 dBA per doubling of distance from the source (EPA 1971).

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Sound levels can be reduced by placing barriers between the noise source and the receiver. In general, barriers contribute to decreasing noise levels only when the structure breaks the “line of sight” between the source and the receiver. Buildings, concrete walls, and berms can all act as effective noise barriers. Wooden fences or broad areas of dense foliage can also reduce noise, but are less effective than solid barriers.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a–d) *Less Than Significant Impact.* The proposed Housing Element encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels. Housing is not considered a major source of noise in the city, but placing housing adjacent to major sources of noise could expose people to temporary or permanent noise levels in excess of standards established in the City's General Plan. However, the Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to noise standards. In 2009, the City adopted the General Plan, including the Health and Safety Element with noise-related policies. State planning guidelines specify that the City must analyze and quantify noise levels and community noise exposure. Local data for various noise generators was collected to develop noise control policies that minimize community exposure to excessive noise (Health and Safety Element Policies HS-8.1 through HS-8.20). Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, adverse impacts related to a temporary or permanent increase in noise levels would be less than significant.
- e–f) *No Impact.* As discussed in a–d) above, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would expose people to excessive noise levels. Per General Plan Military Sustainability Element Policy MIL-3.3, new development is required to be reviewed for compatibility with all vicinity aircraft facilities and operations, including the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, and the findings and recommendations identified in the Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). Therefore, implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact associated with airport-related noise impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

According to the California Department of Finance (2014), the population of Ridgecrest was approximately 28,638 as of January 2014, with 10,939 occupied dwelling units and an average of 2.6 persons per household.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Less Than Significant Impact.* The proposed Housing Element contains housing goals intended to encourage housing to meet Ridgecrest's affordable housing needs and would therefore accommodate growth rather than induce it. Furthermore, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels. It does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would induce population growth. The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for the 2015–2023 Housing Element planning period is 1,346 units. Based on an average of 2.6 persons per household (California DOF 2014) and the RHNA of 1,346 units, implementation of the proposed Housing Element has the potential to increase the city's population by 3,500, which is consistent with the projected growth anticipated in the City's General Plan.

All future residential development in the city would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, growth-inducing impacts would be less than significant.

b–c) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element encourages the provision and preservation of a range of housing types and affordability levels to meet Ridgecrest's housing needs. Implementation of the Housing Element would not displace or decrease housing units in the city. Therefore, no impact would occur.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.14 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 following public services:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

FIRE PROTECTION

The Kern County Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services (KCFD) provides fire protection services to the City of Ridgecrest. Fire Stations No. 77 and No. 74 provide primary response to the city. Backing up these two fire stations is Fire Station No. 73, located in Inyokern. All three fire stations have 24-hour full-time personnel trained to the emergency medical technician level on duty with an engine and a patrol available for all emergencies (fire, rescue, medical aid, hazardous materials) and Basic Life Support capability.

POLICE PROTECTION

The Ridgecrest Police Department (RPD) provides police protection services to the city. The RPD has 34 sworn officers, which include 1 chief of police, 2 captains, 6 sergeants, and 25 officers. The RPD has one police facility, located at 100 West California Avenue in Ridgecrest, that provides primary response in the entire city.

SCHOOLS

The city is located in the Sierra Sands Unified School District, which provides education to students in grade levels K–12. The district serves more than 5,390 students who attend the district's seven elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, one continuation school, and two adult education programs (SSUSD 2014).

PARKS AND RECREATION

The City of Ridgecrest offers a variety of recreational opportunities through its Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department. In the Ridgecrest Planning Area, the City operates seven parks totaling 103.5 acres of parkland. Parks in Ridgecrest range from as small as half an acre to as large as 56 acres. Parkland in the city includes parks owned and operated by the City as well as a park owned by Kern County and operated by the City (Leroy Jackson Park Sports Complex). Ridgecrest also has a variety of sports complexes to serve youth and adult recreational sports programs and leagues. These sports complexes include about 68 acres of baseball fields, football fields, tennis courts, and soccer fields. In addition, the City operates two special purpose facilities—a skate park and community pool.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-e) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element includes policies and programs designed to facilitate the construction and conservation of housing to meet Ridgecrest's affordable housing needs. Subsequent residential development projects could result in an increase in demand for public services. However, the Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. While the Housing Element proposes changes to the Zoning Ordinance, it does not involve the construction or expansion of any residential land uses.

Public services generally identify future need using the projections established in a jurisdiction's general plan. All potential housing sites in the 2015–2023 Housing Element are located on parcels that have been identified in the General Plan as allowing residential uses and therefore would not create development beyond the potential anticipated in the General Plan. Additionally, future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to the provision of public services. Furthermore, environmental impacts of subsequent development projects, including impacts to public services, would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact regarding public services.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.15 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

Recreational opportunities for both youth and adults are varied in Ridgecrest. In addition to the parks and sports facilities previously described, Ridgecrest has a multifunctional community center (the Kerr McGee Community Center) and a senior center (Ridgecrest Senior Center) that provide services to the city's residents. Furthermore, several national, state, county, and BLM wildernesses are located in close proximity to Ridgecrest, which complement the city's recreational resources. Opportunities include Inyo National Forest, El Paso Mountains Wilderness, Golden Valley Wilderness, Kiavah Wilderness, Owens Peak Wilderness, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, and Death Valley National Park. In addition, the BLM has extensive land holdings in the area, many of which are available to the public to support a range of outdoor activities.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-b) *No Impact*. Future residential development consistent with the 2015–2023 Housing Element could increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities and require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. However, the proposed Housing Element does not change General Plan land use designations or zoning districts in the city. As such, it does not result in growth not already anticipated in the General Plan. The Housing Element is a policy-level document. While it encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would result in an increased demand for parks and recreational facilities.

Future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to parks. Open Space and Conservation Element Policy OSC-1.3 requires the City to strive to protect parks from encroachment or destruction by incompatible development. All future residential development occurring in the city would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including General Plan parkland standards. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact regarding park and recreational services.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.16 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

Ridgecrest is served by State Route 178, State Route 395, and a series of arterial, secondary, collector, and local streets. Public transit in the city is mainly served by bus transportation services, which provide local transportation as well as access to the wider regional area. The City of Ridgecrest operates a dial-a-ride system in the greater Ridgecrest area and a contract for dial-a-ride, on a reservation basis only, to Randsburg and the Inyokern area. The City of Ridgecrest and Kern Regional Transit operate an intercity public transit service between Ridgecrest through California City to Mojave. The Inyo-Mono County bus service connects with the Kern Regional Transit system in Ridgecrest.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-b) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element includes policies and programs designed to facilitate the construction and conservation of housing to meet Ridgecrest's affordable housing needs. Subsequent residential development projects could result in an increase in traffic on city roadways and a decrease in level of service (LOS) on those roadways. However, the Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future residential development occurring in the city would be required to be in

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. For instance, Circulation Element Policy C-1.7 requires developers to provide mitigation (i.e., street improvements, traffic signs or signals) for potential adverse impacts of development on the existing street system. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact regarding traffic levels of service.

- c) *No Impact.* Future residential development under the proposed Housing Element would not dramatically increase the use of airports in the vicinity. Therefore, no impact would occur relative to an increase in air traffic.

- d–e) *No Impact.* As discussed in a–b) above, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would affect the site design, emergency access, or parking of any developments. Future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan programs related to traffic and circulation. For instance, Circulation Element Policy C-1.7 requires developers to provide mitigation (i.e., street improvements, traffic signs or signals) for potential adverse impacts of development on the existing street system. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact regarding traffic levels of service.

- f) *No Impact.* As discussed previously, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Future residential development would be required to comply with General Plan policy provisions related to alternative transportation. For instance, Circulation Element Policy C-5.7 states that the City will encourage clustering of land uses in areas that are sufficiently served by existing or planned transit systems, especially when land uses are complementary. Implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact regarding alternative transportation.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SETTING

WATER

Water supply for Ridgecrest originates from the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin and is administered by the Indian Wells Valley Water District. The groundwater basin encompasses a surface area of 382,000 acres (597 square miles) in portions of Kern, Inyo, and San Bernardino counties (IWVWD 2011, p. 24). The Sierra Nevada border the basin on the west, the Coso Range on the north, the Argus Range on the east, and the El Paso Mountains on the south. The basin is not adjudicated. The basin is characterized as overdrafted based on data available in 1985, and it is estimated that current quantities of groundwater stored in the basin are probably less than the 1985 quantities (IWVWD 2011, p. 24). The Indian Wells Valley Water District anticipates a continued reliance on groundwater as its source of potable water and has consistently made efforts to efficiently manage the valuable groundwater resources in the basin (IWVWD 2011, p. 27). As part of these efforts, the district actively participates in the Indian Wells Valley Cooperative Groundwater Management Group, which was formed in 1995 to protect these groundwater resources and develop a plan to ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the residents of the Indian Wells Valley.

When the most recent Urban Water Management Plan was produced by the Indian Wells Valley Water District in 2011, the District did not have an immediate concern with water supply reliability (IWVWD 2011, p. 35). Because the district's water supply is groundwater, which is not subject to seasonal or year-to-year climatic change, the district is not subject to short-term water shortages

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

resulting from temporary dry weather conditions (IWVWD 2011, p. 36). However, periods of extended drought can result in impacts to the groundwater basin. The current severe drought is a concern in the area. Water conservation measures are in place and required; however, the district is currently in an overdraft groundwater basin and other sources of water will need to be identified in the next 10 to 20 years. Conducting a water study is beyond the scope of the Housing Element Update. The City will rely on the data available from the Water District to support its housing unit projections.

WASTEWATER

The City of Ridgecrest is responsible for the collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal of wastewater generated in both the city and the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. All wastewater collected is conveyed through regional wastewater conveyance facilities (trunk sewer, lift station, and force main) to the City's Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The treatment plant is located on Navy property and generates secondary treated effluent. The plant's current capacity is 3.6 million gallons per day (approximately 11 acre-feet per day), and the plant is currently operating at approximately 75 percent or less of capacity (IWVWD 2011, p. 31). More than one-third of the wastewater treated at the plant is generated by the Navy, with the remainder generated in Ridgecrest (IWVWD 2011, p. 31).

STORM DRAINAGE

The City of Ridgecrest manages its stormwater and drainage infrastructure. The City requires new development to be responsible for expansion of existing water, sewer, and storm drainage systems made necessary by project construction.

SOLID WASTE

Garbage and recycling in Ridgecrest is collected by Ridgecrest Sanitation and is taken to the Ridgecrest Recycling and Sanitary Landfill. The landfill has been estimated to operate until the end of 2045 (CalRecycle 2011).

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-b, d-e) *No Impact*. Future residential development in the city would require adequate municipal wastewater service and adequate domestic water service, including water supplies and wastewater treatment capacity. Increased demand for wastewater and water service can also result in the exceedance of wastewater treatment requirements and the need for new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. As stated previously, the Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future residential development occurring in the city would be required to be in accordance with local regulations. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal.

Additionally, future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to utilities. Future development proposals would be reviewed by the appropriate service agencies as part of the development application review process in order to ensure that sufficient capacity in all utilities would be available on time to maintain desired service levels. As previously stated, the City relies on its water supply from a ground basin that is currently in overdraft and other sources of water will need to be

identified in the next 10 to 20 years. While conducting a water study is beyond the scope of the Housing Element Update, General Plan Land Use Element Policy LU-10.13 requires new development to consider water availability. A sufficient water supply to accommodate any new development would have to be assured before construction takes place. Therefore, implementation of the 2015–2023 Housing Element would have no impact regarding a significant increase in demand for wastewater and water services.

- c) *No Impact.* The future development of housing consistent with the 2015–2023 Housing Element could increase runoff and alter normal drainage patterns on project sites. However, General Plan Land Use Element Policy LU-10.4 requires new developments to be responsible for expansion of existing storm drainage systems made necessary by their construction. Per Policy LU-10.5, stormwater detention facilities are encouraged to mitigate drainage impacts and reduce storm drainage system costs. As discussed in a–b) d–e) above, the Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Any future residential development in the city would be subject to further CEQA review. Therefore, impacts associated with the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities is considered to have no impact.

- f–g) *No Impact.* As discussed previously, the proposed Housing Element includes policies and programs designed to facilitate the construction and conservation of housing to meet Ridgecrest's affordable housing needs, but it does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Any future residential development would increase the demand for solid waste services in the area and would increase the amount of solid waste generated and sent to local landfills. Solid waste collection and disposal for single-family and multi-family residential units in Ridgecrest is taken to the Ridgecrest Recycling and Sanitary Landfill. The landfill has been estimated to operate until the end of 2045 (CalRecycle 2011). All potential housing sites in the 2015–2023 Housing Element are located on parcels that have been identified as allowing residential uses in the General Plan and therefore would not create development beyond the potential anticipated in the General Plan. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Housing Element would have no impact regarding solid waste.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.18 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 rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a, c) *Less Than Significant Impact.* The Housing Element is a policy-level document. While the Housing Element encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels, it does not include specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment to adversely affect human beings. While the Housing Element proposes changes to the Zoning Ordinance, the changes are procedural or designed to comply with state law and do not involve the construction or expansion of any residential land uses, nor does the Housing Element propose any land use designation changes. All future residential development occurring in the city would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Future residential development projects would require compliance with General Plan goals and policies and other City ordinances intended to protect the environment. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would result in less than significant adverse impacts to the environment or to human beings as a result of environmental degradation.
- b) *Less Than Significant Impact.* As discussed above, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific development. Therefore, identifying or analyzing cumulative impacts would be speculative at this time. Future residential development projects and/or policies would be subject to environmental review, including a review of cumulative impacts. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

5.0 REFERENCES

5.1 DOCUMENTS REFERENCED IN INITIAL STUDY AND/OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents were used to determine the potential for impact from the proposed project. Compliance with federal, state, and local laws is assumed in all projects.

- Cal Fire (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection). 2000. Kern County Natural Hazard Disclosure Map (Fire).
- California DOC (California Department of Conservation). 2010. Division of Land Resource Protection Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. East Kern County Important Farmland Map. <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2010/>.
- California DOF (California Department of Finance). 2014. *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2011–2014, with 2010 Benchmark*. <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-5/2011-20/view.php>.
- CalRecycle (California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery). 2011. Facility/Site Summary Details: Ridgecrest Recycling and Sanitary Landfill (15-AA-0059). Accessed December 15, 2014.
- Caltrans (California Department of Transportation). 2013. *Scenic Highway Program*. http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm.
- CGS (California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey). 2010. 2010 Fault Activity Map of California. <http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/FAM/faultactivitymap.html>.
- . 2012. *Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones*. <http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/WH/regulatorymaps.htm>.
- DTSC (California Department of Toxic Substances Control). 2013. EnviroStor database. <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>.
- EKAPCD (Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District). 2014. *Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District Attainment Status*.
- EPA (US Environmental Protection Agency). 1971. *Noise from Construction Equipment and Operations, Building Equipment, and Home Appliances*.
- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). 2008. Flood Insurance Rate Map, Map Number 06029C1600E. <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.
- IWVWD (Indian Wells Valley Water District). 2011. *2010 Urban Water Management Plan*.
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- SWRCB (State Water Resources Control Board). 2013. GeoTracker database. <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>.

