



Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

City of Agoura Hills

Palo Comado Creek
Linear Park Project



1561 E. Orangethorpe Avenue, Suite 240
Fullerton, California 92831
TEL (714) 526-7500 | FAX (714) 526-7004
www.cwecorp.com



Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Palo Comado Creek Linear Park Project

Prepared for:



City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, California 91301
TEL (818) 597-7300

Prepared by:



1561 E. Orangethorpe Avenue, Suite 240
Fullerton, California, 92831

TEL (714) 526-7500 | FAX (714) 526-7004 | www.cwecorp.com

February 2021

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS..... i

LIST OF FIGURES i

ACRONYMS..... ii

1. INTRODUCTION..... 1

 1.1 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION 1

 1.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS..... 1

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION..... 2

 2.1 PROJECT LOCATION 4

3. INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST 5

 3.1 AESTHETICS..... 8

 3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES..... 10

 3.3 AIR QUALITY..... 12

 3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES 15

 3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES..... 19

 3.6 ENERGY 22

 3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS 23

 3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS..... 26

 3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS 27

 3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY 29

 3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING 32

 3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES 33

 3.13 NOISE 34

 3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING..... 36

 3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES 37

 3.16 RECREATION 39

 3.17 TRANSPORTATION..... 40

 3.18 TRIBAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES 42

 3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS 45

 3.20 WILDFIRE 47

 3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE 49

4. REFERENCES 51

List of Figures

Figure 2-1 Conceptual Layout of the Palo Comado Creek Linear Park..... 3

Figure 2-2 Location of Proposed Linear Park..... 4



Acronyms

AIN	Assessor Identification Number
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
BMP	Best Management Practice
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CGP	Construction General Permit
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
LACFCD	Los Angeles County Flood Control District
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MT	Million Tons
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PPV	Peak Particle Velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCCIC	South Central Coastal Information Center
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Services
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled

1. Introduction

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared on behalf of the City of Agoura Hills (City) to identify potential site-specific environmental constraints associated with the Palo Comado Creek Linear Park Project, located over the Palo Comado Creek concrete rectangular channel adjacent to Agoura Road, from Cornell Road to the Whizen Shopping Center driveway closest to Cornell Road, south of the Ventura Freeway (United States Route 101), and near the City's southern boundary. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.), and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 et seq).

This IS/MND is an informational document intended for use by the City of Agoura Hills and members of the general public as a preliminary analysis to determine if there is substantial evidence that the Project may have significant effects on the environment. If site-specific environmental constraints are found to potentially have a significant effect on the environment, with mitigation, a site-specific Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be prepared; otherwise the lead agency may adopt a negative declaration or MND. This IS/MND was compiled for the City with the assistance of CWE. The City is serving as the Lead Agency for the proposed Project pursuant to CEQA §21067 and CEQA Guidelines Article 4 and §15367. "Lead Agency" refers to the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a Project.

1.1 Purpose and Document Organization

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Project. Mitigation measures, if required, have been incorporated into the project to eliminate potential significant impacts or reduce them to a less-than-significant level.

This IS/MND is organized as follows:

- Section 1 – Introduction
- Section 2 – Project Description
- Section 3 – Initial Study/Environmental Checklist
- Section 4 – References

1.2 Summary of Findings

The CEQA Appendix G Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist is included in **Section 3**. The Initial Study Checklist identifies potential environmental impacts, by sections, and provides a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed Project. Each response checked in the environmental checklist is discussed and supported with sufficient data and analysis as necessary. As appropriate, each section has discussion that describes and identifies specific impacts anticipated with project implementation.

2. Project Description

The City of Agoura Hills (City) as the lead agency is constructing the Palo Comado Creek Linear Park Project (Project), located over the Palo Comado Creek, a rectangular concrete channel, adjacent to Agoura Road, from Cornell Road to the Whizen Shopping Center driveway closest to Cornell Road, south of the Ventura Freeway (United States Route 101), and near the City's southern boundary. This multi-benefit project, which will enhance local recreational opportunities, expand green space and tree canopy coverage, and increase water conservation through planting of native and drought tolerant plants, will be built atop a concrete-lined channel that is owned and maintained by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) at Agoura Road and Cornell Road, upstream of Palo Comado Creeks' confluence with Medea Creek. The proposed park will be constructed utilizing LACFCD right-of-way, which lies between the commercial property to the north, and Agoura Road to the south. The Linear Park will be approximately 1.3 acres in size. Features in the park may include: shaded seating areas, concrete seat walls, benches, monarch butterfly garden, wayfinding and interpretive signage, flagstone paving areas, lighting, and litter receptacles. Furthermore, the project will represent a significant urban greening opportunity with the planting of western sycamores, oak trees, and shrubs in planting areas throughout the park. The park will also incorporate decomposed granite equestrian and pedestrian trails that will connect to the Rim of the Valley trailhead located further east on Agoura Road. These trails will enhance connectivity for pedestrians, bikes, and equestrians consistent with the City's trail master plan to connect to the Rim of the Valley trailhead. No buildings will be constructed over the channel, per LACFCD requirements. The project will create a confined space within the channel due to the cover, so maintenance access holes will be provided at a maximum of every 500 feet for inspection access.

More broadly, the new park will create a new urban green space in the City of Agoura Hills south of the 101 freeway, where there are currently no parks. This project aims to create new outdoor recreational opportunities that can be accessed without a motorized vehicle for current and future residents who live south of the 101 Freeway. Currently, residents in this area cannot access outdoor recreation in other areas of the City without a motorized vehicle and must cross the freeway to reach these opportunities, which limits residents' ability to access recreational opportunities via active transportation alternatives. This challenge will be exacerbated as planned residential development projects in this southern part of the City move forward, and there are a number of inclusionary housing and mixed-use developments undergoing the planning process. These developments will be located on land parcels adjacent to the project site, as well as on nearby parcels along Agoura Road. This project will serve as a critical resource to connect current and future residents to the many natural environments that surround the City and to encourage health-related active transportation for this community. The Project's concept is shown in **Figure 2-1**.

Key goals and objectives of the linear park include expanding green park space and tree canopy coverage in the City; enhancing local active recreation opportunities; enhancing local ecosystems; increasing regional trail connectivity; increasing water conservation and preservation of scarce water resources through native and drought-tolerant plants; and improving the use of lands at an existing facility by creating a park that will enrich the lives of current and future community members.



Figure 2-1 Conceptual Layout of the Palo Comado Creek Linear Park

2.1 Project Location

The proposed Project will be constructed in the City of Agoura Hills, in Los Angeles County, California. The City of Agoura Hills is located in the western part of Los Angeles County. The Project is proposed on LACFCD right-of-way, located over the Palo Comado Creek concrete rectangular channel adjacent to Agoura Road from Cornell Road to the Whizen Shopping Center driveway closest to Cornell Road (located approximately 700 feet to the east). The Assessor Identification Numbers (AINs) associated with the linear park is 2061-007-905 and 2061-007-906. **Figure 2-2** illustrates the location of the project site and surrounding parcel boundaries.



Figure 2-2 Location of Proposed Linear Park

3. Initial Study/Environmental Checklist

Environmental Checklist Form		
1.	Project Title:	Palo Comado Creek Linear Park Project
2.	Lead Agency Name and Address:	City of Agoura Hills 30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, California 91303
3.	Contact Person and Number:	Kelly Fisher (818) 597-7338
4.	Project Location:	City of Agoura Hills, California; east of Cornell Road, adjacent to Agoura Road to approximately 700 feet east of Cornell Road; south of the Whizen Shopping Center; and north of Agoura Road.
5.	Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	City of Agoura Hills 30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, California 91303
6.	General Plan Designation:	Planned Development
7.	Zoning:	Planned Development
8.	Description of Project:	The Project will construct a linear park atop a concrete-lined runoff channel to increase urban green space and native habitat.
9.	Surrounding land uses and setting:	Open Space, Commercial, Single Family Residential
10.	Other public agencies whose approval is required:	United States Army Corps of Engineers California Department of Fish and Wildlife California State Water Resources Control Board Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles County Flood Control District
11.	Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?^a	The Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, the Barbarefio/Venturefio Band of Mission Indians, and the Gabrieleno-Tongva Tribe have requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. The City of Agoura Hills sent registered letters to all three entities on November 18, 2020, and left telephone messages thereafter. The City of Agoura Hills subsequently met with the Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on January 26, 2021, and with the Barbarefio/Venturefio Band of Mission Indians on February 2, 2021.

a. Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

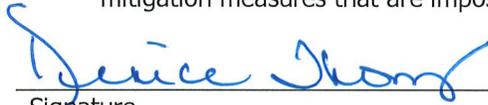


The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

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.



Signature

2/23/21

Date

3.1 Aesthetics

Would the project:

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

Discussion:

- a) The proposed Project site would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, primarily because no view-obscuring construction is proposed to the nearby scenic vistas. The Project is located near the open space area of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area, and specifically, Ladyface Mountain. The project is also nearby adjoining commercial uses and single residential spaces. Views of Palo Comado Creek are already impaired because the creek was channelized decades prior. However, construction of the linear park will include a cover over the existing channel, and will therefore, have a less than significant impact to the scenic vista of Palo Comado Creek.
- b) The proposed Project would not substantially affect scenic resources within the viewshed of a state scenic highway because the adjacent road, Agoura Road, is not designated as a state scenic highway. Furthermore, there are no rock outcroppings or formations on the proposed Project site. There are existing oak and young sycamore trees on the Project site, however, work within the dripline of the oak trees will be minimal and any work will use non-mechanized equipment only. The existing trees will be incorporated within the park landscape as much as possible. Any trees removed will be replaced in kind as part of the proposed Park. Therefore, there will a less than significant impact to trees, rock outcroppings and state scenic highways.



- c) The proposed Project would temporarily degrade the existing visual character of the site and immediate surroundings, due to park construction activities, including excavating, grading, and drilling of piles for the channel cover. Construction equipment and materials will be temporarily visible and may block views for the duration of construction. The purpose of the linear park is to include an area for public enjoyment and recreation. The design of the park's features, including native landscaping, a pedestrian and horse path, lighting, trash receptacles, signage, and concrete seating areas are compatible with the surrounding natural environment. Therefore, there is less than a significant impact because construction will temporarily degrade the existing visual quality of the site.

- d) The only new sources of light or glare in the park will be installed lamp posts throughout the park to light up pedestrian pathways during nighttime. Views from Agoura Road of the park lamps will likely be obscured by native vegetation. Accordingly, no substantial light or glare will adversely affect day or nighttime views, and therefore, there is no anticipated impact.

3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X

Discussion:

- a) According to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation, the Project site is designated as urban and built-up land; no prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance will be converted, and therefore, there will be no anticipated impact.
- b) The land the park is being built on is owned by the City of Agoura Hills and is currently zoned as open space. The portion of the park being built atop the Palo Comado Channel is on LACFCD right-of-way. There is no private Williamson Act contract, and therefore, there is no anticipated impact.
- c) A biological resources assessment was prepared for the Project by LSA Associates and found that the area covered by the proposed Project had no forest trees, or areas designated for timberland. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact.



- d) A biological resources assessment was prepared for the Project by LSA Associates and found that the area covered by the proposed Project had no forest trees, and therefore, is not forest land. No anticipated impact to forest lands will result from the Project.
- e) There are no farmlands or forest lands as described above in parts (a) through (d). No anticipated impacts to farmland or forest land will occur from the proposed Project.

3.3 Air Quality

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			X	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

Discussion:

- a) The City of Agoura Hills is within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which is bound by the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains to the north and east, and the Pacific Ocean to the south and west. The air quality in the SCAB is managed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAB has a history of recorded air quality violations and is an area where both state and federal ambient air quality standards are exceeded, and therefore, is subject to the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The 2016 AQMP includes integrated strategies and control measures needed to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Construction of the linear park will conform with the requirements of the 2016 AQMP and will use the strategies in the AQMP during all phases of construction. The Project will result in temporary impacts to air quality due to the construction activities, and will therefore, have a less than significant impact with the 2016 AQMP.
- b) The Project is located in the SCAB, which is a non-attainment area for respirable particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and Ozone. The SCAB is a designated attainment area for all other criteria pollutants. The SCAQMD has established Regional Significance Thresholds for each criteria pollutant. Potential air emissions were calculated using the CalEEMod, Version 2016.3.2, a model used to quantify air impacts from land use projects located throughout California. The following table shows the daily emissions rate for unmitigated construction during the summer, in comparison to the Regional Significance Thresholds.



Pollutant	NOx	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SOx	CO
Maximum Emissions rate (lbs/day)	16.66	6.51 ^a	3.55 ^b	0.03 ^c	14.44
Mass Daily Thresholds (lbs/day)	100	150	55	150	550
Exceed Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No
^a PM ₁₀ total modeled emissions ^b PM _{2.5} total modeled emissions ^c SO ₂ modeled emissions					

The Project is not expected to result in a measurable long-term increase in air pollutant emissions. The Project will not provide on-site parking; therefore, the Project will not generate vehicle trips to the site, but could increase traffic to nearby commercial areas. According to a Traffic Assessment prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates in October 2020, the preliminary trip generation analysis within the assessment showed an estimation of an increase of only two daily trips during peak hours, leading to a very minimal impact to air quality.

Since the proposed project will not generated air pollutants in excess of the SCAQMD’s regional significance threshold, the proposed project will not cause of substantially contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation, would not result in a cumulatively increase of any criteria pollutant, and will not impact air quality long term. Therefore, impacts to air quality are less than significant.

- c) Certain residents, such as the very young, the elderly and those suffering from certain illnesses or disabilities, are particularly sensitive to air pollution and are considered sensitive receptors. In addition, active park users, such as participants in sporting events, are sensitive air pollutant receptors due to increased respiratory rates. Land uses where sensitive air pollutant receptors congregate include schools, day care centers, parks, recreational areas, medical facilities, rest homes, and convalescent care facilities. Residents of homes and long-term care facilities may be subject to both long-term/chronic and acute exposures to poor air quality, whereas park users are primarily at risk from acute exposure to air quality.

The only sensitive receptor in the immediate project vicinity is a single-family residence roughly 100 feet south of the Project’s location. However, the proposed project will not exceed the Regional Significance Threshold of criteria pollutants, and the duration of project construction is anticipated to be short; therefore, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact on nearby sensitive receptors.

- d) Project construction equipment and activities, including diesel exhaust emissions, could generate odors. There may be situations where construction activity odors would be noticeable by persons working at or visiting nearby facilities, but these odors would not be unfamiliar or objectionable. In addition, these odors would be temporary and would dissipate rapidly from the source with an increase in distance. There are no long-term odors anticipated from the construction of the park. Because there may be short-term odors as a result from the temporary construction of the park, impacts will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:



Although all air quality impacts are less than significant, and no mitigation is required, the following measure will be implemented during construction to further ensure that air quality impacts are minimized, pursuant to the SCAQMD requirements for dust minimization measures.

AIR-1 – Pursuant to Rule 403 of the SCAQMD, the following dust minimizing measures shall be implemented:

1. City of Agoura Hills and its designees shall comply with all applicable SCAQMD Rules and Regulations, including Rule 403 ensuring the cleanup of construction-related dirt on approach routes to the site. Rule 403 prohibits the release of fugitive dust emissions from any active operation, open storage pile or disturbed surface area visible beyond the property line of the emission source.
2. City of Agoura Hills and its designees shall comply with all SCAQMD established minimum requirements for construction activities to reduce fugitive dust and PM₁₀ emissions.
3. Adequate water techniques shall be employed to mitigate the impact of construction-related dust particulates. Portions of the site that are undergoing surface earth moving operations shall be dewatered such that a crust will be formed on the ground surface, and then watered again at the end of each day. Site watering shall be performed as necessary to mitigate blowing dust.
4. Any vegetative cover to be utilized onsite shall be planted as soon as possible to reduce the disturbed area subject to wind erosion. Irrigation systems required for these plants shall be installed as soon as possible to maintain good ground cover and to minimize wind erosion of the soil.
5. Grading operations shall be suspended during first stage ozone episodes or when winds exceed 25 mph. A high wind response plan shall be formulated for enhanced dust control if winds are forecast to exceed 25 mph in any upcoming 24-hour period.
6. Any construction equipment using direct internal combustion engines shall use a diesel fuel with a maximum of 0.05 percent sulfur and four-degree retard.
7. Construction operations affecting off-site roadways shall be scheduled by implementing traffic hours and shall minimize obstruction of through traffic lanes.
8. The engines of idling trucks or heavy equipment shall be turned off if the expected duration of idling exceeds five minutes.
9. On-site heavy equipment used during grading and construction shall be equipped with diesel particulate filters unless it is demonstrated that such equipment is not available, or its use is not cost-competitive.
10. All haul trucks leaving or entering the site shall be covered or have at least two feet of freeboard.
11. Any on-site stockpiles of debris, dirt or other dusty material shall be covered or watered twice daily.
12. Any site access points within 30 minutes of any visible dirt deposition on any public roadway shall be swept or washed.

3.4 Biological Resources

Would the project:

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

Discussion:

- a) The proposed linear park project could potentially affect biological resources or their habitats because construction of the project would require clearing existing open space, excavation activities, grading activities, and installation of piles on the outside of the Palo Comado Creek channel. A biological resource assessment was performed between September 2019 and November 2019 to determine how the Project will affect nearby plant and wildlife species. The assessment determined that the project area does not contain any California Sensitive Natural Communities, but the project is located near existing Valley Oak Woodlands. Furthermore, surveys conducted did not observe any



threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species in the area, nor are any expected to occur based on the existing and previous land uses. The site is also in a urbanized area which is between a commercial complex and Agoura Road. Although a burrowing owl survey was not completed, the channel is concrete lined for over 1,000 feet both upstream and downstream of the project site. Therefore, it is unlikely that burrowing owls exist within the project's limits.

Indirect impacts, such as percussive construction noise and vibration could interfere with roosting, nesting, and foraging activities in nearby habitat. Implementation of various mitigation measures will be required, including conducting pre-construction species surveys and carrying out protective measures in the event that special status species are found. Impacts would be less than significant if the mitigation measures, BIO-1 through BIO-5, listed later in this section, are incorporated.

- b) The proposed project will permanently cover a portion of Palo Comado Creek. Palo Comado Creek is a jurisdictional water of the United States and is under the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) jurisdiction. The project is subject to notification under the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide 404 Permit, a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW, and a use agreement from the LACFCD. Impacts to the creek will be reduced to the extent feasible in the design of the Project. Pile installation will be required during the construction of the channel cover, but the pile installation activities will be completed outside of the channel. Impacts on waters of the U.S. would be less than significant if mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-5 are incorporated.
- c) There are no marsh, vernal pools, wetlands etc. at the proposed project site. As discussed in Section 3.4(b) above, waters of the U.S. and areas under CDFW jurisdiction would be impacted by the project. A Nationwide 404 Permit, a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the LARWQCB, and a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW will be required for the project. Impacts on waters of the U.S. are considered potentially significant unless mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-5 are incorporated to compensate for impacts and losses.
- d) The proposed Linear Park could interfere with localized wildlife movement, as the area is likely used by wildlife for foraging, breeding, and movement to other open space areas. However, the Linear Park is proposing to plant native species and will likely encourage wildlife to forage after construction has been completed. After construction, there will be no restriction on wildlife movement. There are no wildlife nursery sites in or adjacent to the City of Agoura Hills. Therefore, there is less than a significant impact because impacts are only temporary until construction is completed.
- e) The project will not require the removal of any protected biological species. There are several oak trees on the site. The work design will incorporate work outside of the dripline and a 5-foot buffer from the dripline. Work within the dripline will be minimal like placing benches and seating areas. Any trees that are currently at the project location will be incorporated into the design of the park. There will be no anticipated impact, as the project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.
- f) The proposed project is not within the boundaries of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved conservation plans; therefore, no anticipated impacts to such plans would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

BIO-1 – Prior to ground-disturbing activities in areas that could support sensitive biological resources, a habitat assessment shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine the potential for special-status wildlife species to occur within affected areas, including areas directly or indirectly impacted by construction. The qualified biologist will provide an overview of required avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, and will explain the correct reporting requirements during construction activities.

BIO-2 – If a special-status wildlife species is determined to be present or potentially present within the limits of construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys of proposed work zones and within an appropriately sized buffer around each area as determined by a qualified biologist within 14 days prior to ground disturbing activities. Following the surveys, the biologist shall prepare a Rare Plant Survey Letter Report detailing the results of the field surveys, including any avoidance and minimization measures, if necessary, and provide the report to the City's Environmental Analyst for review and acceptance. If any special-status species are found, or if any potential habitat capable of supporting a special-status wildlife species is found, the City of Agoura Hills and/or qualified biologist shall consult with the appropriate regulating agency (USACE/USFWS or CDFW) to determine a strategy for compliance with the Endangered Species Act, California Fish and Game Code, and other regulations protecting special-status species and sensitive habitats. Follow-up measures to minimize impacts by the project could include: flagging and fencing individual plants, translocation of sensitive plant species to an off-site protected and species-appropriate location, collecting seeds of cuttings for cultivation at the USFWS/CDFW-approved facility; or other resource agency-approved measures. Construction of the project will not begin until the appropriate permits from the regulatory agencies are approved. If no special-status species are found, no additional measures are required.

BIO-3 – If construction and vegetation removal is proposed between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist holding appropriate state and federal permits shall conduct a pre-construction survey for breeding and nesting birds and raptors within 500-feet of the construction limits to determine and map the location and extent of breeding birds that could be affected by the project. Active nest sites located during the pre-construction surveys shall be avoided until the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site for survival as determined by a qualified biologist. The biologist will need to prepare a Presence/Absence report, detailing the survey results, and provide a report to the City of Agoura Hills. If a breeding or nesting bird and/or raptor is found, the project biologist shall consult with the pertinent resource agencies and implement required avoidance and/or deterrence measures, which may include placing construction tape or fencing between the habitat area and the construction footprint, placing signs indicating sensitive habitat, placing barricades to block access to the habitat, and more. If a breeding and nesting bird and/or raptor is found in the direct construction area, then construction will halt, and pertinent regulatory agencies will be contacted and consulted. If no breeding and nesting birds and/or raptors are found, then construction may proceed as scheduled with no additional monitoring or measured required.

BIO-4 – To ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code, all project activities shall be conducted during the non-nesting season for raptors (July 1 to January 31) and the non-nesting season for birds (September 16 to February 28) to avoid any potential disturbance of avian breeding activities. However, biological monitors may survey the surrounding area and if no active nesting is occurring within 500 feet of the impact area, the construction may proceed during the nesting timeframes. The extent of the survey buffer area surrounding the site shall be established by the biologist to ensure that direct and indirect effects to

nesting birds are avoided. The surveys shall be timed such that the last survey is concluded no more than one week prior to ground and vegetation disturbance activities. If ground or vegetation disturbance activities are delayed, then additional pre-disturbance surveys shall be conducted such that no more than one week shall have elapsed between the last survey and the ground disturbing activities.

The biologist shall establish a suitable buffer (e.g., 30-150 feet for passerines; 300-500 feet for raptors) around active (defined as a nest with eggs or young) nests. No construction shall occur within the buffer until the biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active (e.g., the nestlings have fledged and are no longer reliant on the nest). Encroachment into the buffer shall only occur at the discretion of a qualified biologist.

Limits of construction to avoid a nest site shall be established in the field with flagging and stakes or construction fencing, and construction personnel shall be instructed regarding the ecological sensitivity of the fenced area. If no active nests are found during the survey(s), construction shall continue as scheduled. A report discussing the results of the nesting bird survey(s) shall be submitted for review by the City Environmental Analyst prior to any vegetation removal, and issuance of a Building Permit or Grading Permit, whichever occurs first.

If no nesting birds are found within the biologically sensitive area during the pre-construction survey, construction activities may proceed as scheduled with no additional monitoring or measures implemented.

BIO-5 – To avoid impacts to riparian habitats and sensitive natural communities, the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented:

- 1) The project footprint/work area shall be delineated with high-contrast flagging and stakes or other fencing to prevent inadvertent access by construction equipment and personnel into adjacent sensitive habitat areas, including habitat for special status species. The flagging/staking or fencing shall be designed such that wildlife may continue to pass through the area.
- 2) The project footprint shall be sized to the minimum dimensions required to accomplish the project to minimize impacts to the waterway.
- 3) All trash shall be cleaned up and disposed of properly at the end of each workday.
- 4) Equipment shall be maintained and inspected so that no contaminant leaks occur.
- 5) Silt fencing shall be installed in upland areas to reduce potential for pollutants to enter the channel, including topsoil and construction debris. Construction supervisors shall ensure that the silt fencing is cleared of debris following storm events.

3.5 Cultural Resources

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?		X		
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?			X	

Discussion:

- a) The Project is within a low sensitive archaeological and paleontological area. An archaeological field survey of the entire project area did not find any prehistoric material in the project area. Much of the Project site has already been disturbed and/or developed, especially by the channelization of Palo Comado Creek and construction of Agoura Road. Consequently, sensitive archaeological, cultural, and historic resources that may have been in existence have been nearly eliminated from the area. The Anza National Historic Trail Route Corridor, which transverses nearby the Project, is not defined as a historical resource per CEQA Section 15064.5. There are no other historic resources within or nearby the Project; therefore, there are no impacts anticipated.
- b) An Archaeological Assessment was also conducted for the Project by LSA Associates in December 2019. The assessment includes a record search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), which showed that no resources within the project area of a 1.0-mile radius are listed in the Historic Properties Directory. The record search also showed that 87 previous studies were conducted within a mile of the project area. Two prehistoric sites were recorded in the project area, including CA-LAN-41 and CA-LAN-1352. However, no artifacts were found but at the ridgetop south of Agoura Road and east of Cornell Road. An archaeological field survey of the entire project area did not find any prehistoric material in the project area. Because of the massive amount of previous disturbance to areas of the project where construction activities are proposed, no additional archaeological work or monitoring is required. Therefore, impacts to archaeological and paleontological resources are considered less than significant with mitigation measure CUL-1 and CUL-2 incorporated.
- c) A Paleontological Resources Assessment was conducted for the Project by LSA Associates. The assessment was conducted to address the potential for the project to impact paleontological resources and, if needed, mitigation measures and other recommendations to minimize these impacts. The majority of the project site contains Artificial Fill, which has no paleontological sensitivity. However, below the Artificial Fill, at a depth below 15 feet, there is Undifferentiated



Alluvium and rocks from the dacite bearing upper zone of the Conejo Volcanic, which have high paleontological sensitivity. Considering the paleontological sensitivities of the geologic units in the project area, the construction methods involved, and minimal grading and excavation activities, the potential for the Project to impact scientifically significant fossils during project development is low. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, however, in the event any remains are found, the project will comply with CUL-3.

Mitigation Measures:

The following mitigation measures are required to reduce the impacts to a less than significant level:

CUL-1 - Because of the low sensitivity of the project area for archaeological resources, there is no monitoring work anticipated.

- A Worker's Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training also known as "Environmental Awareness," or "Cultural Resource Sensitivity," training will be provided to the construction crews prior to any ground-disturbing construction activities and the procedures to follow when such material is found.
- A Qualified Archaeologist shall be present at the pre-construction meeting to advise construction personnel about the sensitive nature of cultural resources that may be found during project ground-disturbing construction activities.
- Construction personnel shall be informed of the types of archaeological or tribal cultural resources that may be encountered, and of the proper protocols for notification. Construction personnel shall attend the training and shall retain documentation demonstrating attendance.

CUL-2

- If any cultural resources or artifacts are discovered during construction, the City's Environmental Analyst shall be notified immediately, and construction activities shall cease until the archaeologist has examined the find. If a Native American site is uncovered, construction in that area shall be suspended until the project archaeologist, can properly assess the resource(s) and identify the appropriate measures to ensure that the resource(s) would not be adversely affected. If cultural resources are identified during project construction, a professional archaeologist and a Native American monitor shall be present for the remainder of ground-disturbing project construction activities. If cultural resources are identified during project construction, a professional archaeologist and a Native American monitor shall be present for the remainder of ground-disturbing project construction activities.
- Equipment stoppages prescribed by the archaeologist shall involve only construction work that will damage the archaeological deposits, as prescribed by the archaeological monitor (or lead project archaeologist) and the Native American monitor. Other construction work may continue outside the area of the find, at a distance determined by the archaeological monitor (or lead project archaeologist) and the Native American monitor, if that outside area is being monitored by an archaeological monitor. The purpose of stopping the equipment is to protect cultural resources that would otherwise be impacted and said equipment may undertake work in other areas of the project away from discovered resources.
- If the archaeologist determines that an archaeological resource may be a unique resource, as defined by Section 21083.2 of the PRC, or a historical resource, as defined by Section 21084.1, or

an important resource, as defined by the previous Appendix K of the CEQA guidelines, Phase II testing or surface evaluation (if determined adequate by the qualified archaeologist) of the find shall be conducted. According to the City's General Plan Policy HR-3.2, excavation of deposits of Native American origin will be coordinated with and monitored by recognized Chumash representatives.

- The site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2, Section 21084.1, or the previous CEQA Guidelines Appendix K, with mitigation as appropriate. Depending on the nature of the find, such mitigation may include, but would not be limited to, avoidance, documentation, data collection, or other appropriate actions to be determined by the archaeologist, and where applicable, the Native American monitor.
- If unique or important archaeological resources cannot be avoided, a data collection program may be warranted, including mapping the location of artifacts, surface collection of artifacts, or excavation of the cultural deposit to characterize the nature of the buried portions of the sites. Curation of the excavated artifacts or samples shall occur as specified by the archaeologist. If the find is determined not to be a unique, significant, or important archaeological resource, no further archaeological action is necessary, and construction may continue.

CUL-3 - In compliance with Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are encountered, all ground disturbing activities shall be immediately suspended within 100 feet of the discovery, and the Los Angeles County Coroner should be notified immediately. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American in origin, they must notify the NAHC within 24 hours of such identification so that the NAHC can contact the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD shall be provided access to the discovery and will provide recommendations for treatment of the remains within 48 hours of accessing the discovery site. Disposition of human remains and any associated grave goods, if encountered, shall be treated in accordance with procedures and requirements set forth in Sections 5097.94 and 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code; Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.

3.6 Energy

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?				X
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				X

- a) The proposed Linear Park would not require or result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation. Minimal energy will be required during operation of the park for light post facilities to illuminate pedestrian pathways during nighttime. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact.
- b) The proposed Linear Park will not obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact.

3.7 Geology and Soils

Would the project:

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

Discussion:

- a)
- i. The project is not located within a State of California Earthquake Fault Zone or Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. However, the area lies in a region that is seismically active, as is typical throughout Southern California. No active faults are known to cross or trend towards the Project site. The proposed Project would be designed and constructed in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local codes relative to seismic criteria. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects from the rupture of a known earthquake fault, and no anticipated impact will occur.
 - ii. As previously mentioned, there are no known active faults within the Project's area; however, the project is located in a seismically active area, and there is potential for seismic activity to affect the Project throughout the life span of the Project. The potential for hazards associated with strong seismic ground shaking, such as ground surface rupture, is considered low. The proposed Project would be designed and constructed in accordance with the federal, state and municipal building codes relative to seismic criteria. Therefore, the impact from strong seismic ground shaking would be less than significant.
 - iii. Liquefaction is the loss of strength that can occur in saturated coarse-grained soils during earthquake seismic activity. The susceptibility of a granular soil to liquefaction is a function of the gradation, relative density, and fine content of the soil. Susceptibility to liquefaction generally decreases with increasing mean grain size, relative density, fines content, and clay-size fraction of the fines, and the age of the deposit.

The Project site is predominantly underlain by clayey sand and poorly graded sand, with varying amounts of silt and clay, and no expansive soils, according to a geotechnical investigation performed by Terracon on February 6, 2020. Based on the findings of the geotechnical investigation, the proposed construction will not adversely affect geologic stability of the site or adjacent properties. Although the linear park is located within a liquefaction potential zone, no liquefaction is expected to occur with the construction of the park. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact.
 - iv. The project area is not in an area identified as a landslide hazard zone. The Linear Park's structure will not be susceptible to landslides or other ground movements, therefore, there is no anticipated impact.
- b) Project construction would require minimal vegetation removal and various earthwork activities, including grading, excavation, and fill, which could result in localized soil erosion. Standard erosion control measures, however, would be incorporated into the project, including those related to the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), that would be implemented during construction to reduce erosion, including re-vegetating or otherwise stabilizing disturbed areas following construction. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.
- c) Soils within the project area are not subject to liquefaction, according to a geotechnical report prepared by Terracon on February 6, 2020 and as described above in Section 3.7(b)(iii). Therefore, there is no anticipated impact.

- d) The subsurface soils are predominantly underlain by clayey sand and poorly graded sand, with varying amounts of silt and clay, and no expansive soils. There are no habitable structures proposed as part of the project. Therefore, the project would not impose a substantial direct or indirect risk to life or property, and there would be no anticipated impact.
- e) The Project is constructing a Linear Park in an urban environment; it would not require separate septic tanks or wastewater disposal systems. There would be no anticipated impact to waste disposal systems as a result of the Project.
- f) An Archaeological Assessment was conducted for the Project by LSA Associates in December 2019. The assessment includes a record search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), which showed that no resources within the project area of a 1.0-mile radius are listed in the Historic Properties Directory. The record search also showed that 87 previous studies were conducted within a mile of the project area. Two prehistoric sites were recorded in the project area, including CA-LAN-41 and CA-LAN-1352. However, no artifacts were found but the ridgetop south of Agoura Road and east of Cornell Road. An archaeological field survey of the entire project area did not find any prehistoric material in the project area.

In the past, there has been a massive amount of disturbance to areas of the project where construction activities are proposed due to the channelization of Palo Comado Creek. However, the City of Agoura Hills is in an archaeologically sensitive area. Because of the high sensitivity of the general area for archaeological or paleontological resources, and to ensure their protection, all areas where subsurface disturbances during construction will need to follow mitigation measure CUL-1. Therefore, direct or indirect impacts that could destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature, is less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				X

Discussion:

- a) As discussed in the Air Quality impact analysis, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions generated by the proposed project would not exceed the SCAQMD’s recommended threshold of 3,000 MTCO₂e per year for non-industrial projects. The construction phase’s GHG emissions were calculated using the CalEEMod, Version 2016.3.2. The following table shows the unmitigated, yearly emissions rate for in comparison to the Regional Significance Threshold.

Pollutant	CO ₂
Maximum Construction Emissions rate (MT/year)	430.1
Maximum Operations Emissions rate (MT/year)	43.5
SCAQMD Threshold (MT/year)	3000
Exceed Threshold?	No

As a result of the modeled air emissions, the project would have a less than significant impact on generation of greenhouse gas emissions.

- b) The City of Agoura Hills has not adopted any significance thresholds for GHG emissions and there are no adopted GHG significance thresholds that apply to the project. As described in Section 3.8(a), the Project will not exceed SCAQMD’s threshold of 3,000 MTCO₂e per year. Given the small amount of GHG emissions that the proposed Project would generated, the project would not cause a significant adverse climate change impact, and the Project does not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Therefore, there would be no anticipated impact.



3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?			X	

Discussion:

- a) Construction activities required for this project will potentially involve excavation, grading, drilling, and other ground-disturbing activities. These anticipated construction activities may require the transport, storage, use, and disposal of small amounts of hazardous materials that may include gasoline, diesel, hydraulic fluids, oils and lubricants and other similarly related materials for the project site. Operation of the Linear Park would not result in the routine use, storage, disposal,



emission, release, or generation of hazardous materials. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- b) As described above, there is limited to no potential for hazardous materials to cause a significant hazard through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. However, such materials will be used during construction of the Linear Park. Handling and disposal of materials during construction would be conducted in compliance with existing federal, state, and county regulations, and would not be expected to result in the accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- c) The nearest school is the Born Learners preschool, roughly 0.60 miles east of the project. Therefore, there are no schools, or proposed schools, within 0.25 miles of the Project, and there are no anticipated impact.
- d) There are no Federal Superfund or other cleanup sites within the vicinity of the proposed project. Additionally, there are no properties within the vicinity of the project site where hazardous materials are used or are being stored. Therefore, there would be impact.
- e) The nearest airport is the Van Nuys Airport, over 20 miles east of the Project. The project is also not located within an airport land use plan area; therefore, there would be no anticipated impact.
- f) There are no known adopted emergency response or evacuation plans in the area. Additionally, the proposed Linear Park does not feature a parking lot and should not have an impact on traffic circulation; therefore, there would be no anticipated impact.
- g) The City of Agoura Hills is designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. During construction, use of equipment with combustible engines could present a risk for fire; however, this type of equipment is typically fitted with appropriate control measures, such as spark arrestors, that would minimize this risk and would result in a less than significant impact.

Illegal disposal of flammable material by pedestrians or by roadway users along Agoura Road would have the potential to ignite the planned native vegetation. Although the project features new landscaped areas, these areas will be irrigated, maintained, and would limit the amount of flammable materials; therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.

3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?			X	
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;			X	
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;				X
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or			X	
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?				X
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				X
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				X

Discussion:

- a) The proposed Project would not significantly violate water quality standards, waste discharge requirements, or surface or ground water quality because project construction would comply with regulations instated by the LARWQCB, Los Angeles County, City of Agoura Hills, Federal Clean Water Act, and other water quality control regulations. Because the site is disturbing an area greater than one acre, the Project will be required to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP). The NPDES CGP requires that any actions that



disturb an acre or more of ground must develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Compliance with the CGP will ensure that the construction of the channel cover will have no permanent impact to water quality. Standard and required BMPs would be incorporated into the design and construction of the Project. Standard construction BMPs may include, but are not limited to, erosion prevent measures, including temporary soil stabilizers and structures such as berms or swales, to prevent and/or slow runoff across disturbed areas; and sediment control measures, including the use of straw bales, silt fences, and sediment traps. The Project would not require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities that could cause significant environmental effects. Therefore, with incorporation of the standard and required BMPs, impacts would be less than significant.

- b) The Linear Park would not degrade groundwater supplies or interfere with recharge. The Project does not require the use of groundwater; water used for the Project would either be delivered by the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, or from a planned low-flow diversion that would be constructed in the future to divert flows from Medea and Palo Comado Creeks to irrigate the park using dry-weather flows. Therefore, groundwater supplies nor recharge would be affected by the Project and there would be no anticipated impact.
- c)
- i. The proposed Project would not significantly affect existing drainage patterns of the site or flows in Palo Comado Creek because no diversion structure or channel narrowing activities are proposed, and pile driving activities for the channel cover will be conducted outside of the channel. As noted above in Section 3.10(a), construction BMPs will be incorporated during the construction of the Project to prevent any erosion or siltation from the Project; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
 - ii. Palo Comado channel is designed to convey runoff from a 50-year rainfall event with a runoff rate ranging from 8,170 cfs to 8,310 cfs and provides a freeboard of between 2 feet and 2.83 feet. The Capital Flood Event of the channel adjacent to the linear park is 9,300 cfs (burned and bulked). With the Capital Flood Event, the channel still provides a minimum of two-feet of freeboard. The cover over the Palo Comado channel will have a minimum vertical clearance of six inches above the existing channel wall, and it will be sized per LACFCD standards so as not to impact the design freeboard of the channel and convey runoff downstream without restrictions within the channel. Because there will be no work done inside the channel, there would be no anticipated impacts that would increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite.
 - iii. The proposed Project will incorporate native vegetation and amended soils into a previously vacant area. The channel cover will slightly increase the imperviousness of the site. However, this area is tabled to contribute to the Palo Camado channel and accounts for the runoff generated from this area. Therefore, the minimal increase in imperviousness at the site will not exceed the capacity of the system, therefore, there will be less than significant impact.
 - iv. The proposed Project will place piles on the outside of the channel to support the channel cover, but they are not expected to impede or direct flood flows. The channel has enough capacity to route the runoff from the upstream section through the project reach. Accordingly, because no work is being done inside the channel, there would be no anticipated impacts which would impede or redirect flood flows.

- d) The proposed Project is not within a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone. The proposed Project is approximately 800 feet above sea level and 8.5 miles north of the Pacific Ocean. Therefore, there are no anticipated impact.

- e) The Project will not conflict with the Los Angeles Region Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. According to the City's General Plan, the City will control all sources of pollutants and will improve and maintain urban runoff water quality through stormwater protection measures consistent with the City's NPDES permit, and any new development will be required to protect the quality of water bodies and natural drainage systems through site design and best management practices. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.11 Land Use and Planning

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				X
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X

Discussion:

- a) The Linear Park would replace existing unused open space within the City of Agoura Hills with park space. The Project would not result in the division of a community and does not anticipate causing a significant increase in traffic towards the area. Therefore, there would be no impact.
- b) The Project would not result in any changes to, or conflict with, land use or zoning, and it would be consistent with both the City’s General Plan and the Agoura Village Specific Plan. The cover being constructed atop the Palo Comado channel is in LACFCD’s right-of-way, but will not conflict with a plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environment effect. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with any applicable plans, and there would be no impact.



3.12 Mineral Resources

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				X

Discussion:

- a) According to the City’s General Plan, there are no important mineral resources or deposits known to exist in Agoura Hills. Most of the City is classified as MRZ-1. This classification defines areas where adequate information indicates that no important mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence. Therefore, there are no significant mineral deposits known to exist within or adjacent to the park, and there would be no impact.
- b) There are no locally important mineral resource recovery sites identified in the City’s General Plan or other relevant plan; therefore, there would be no impact.



3.13 Noise

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?		X		
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X

Discussion:

- a) Construction equipment used during the Project may produce noise and vibrations, which have the potential to negatively impact the surrounding community. The City’s Municipal Code states that noise sources associated with construction, repair, or grading of any real property, may not take place between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, including Saturday, or at any time on Sunday or a legal holiday. Construction activities for this Project will comply with the City’s Noise Ordinance and meet all noise level requirements. Due to the proximity of a nearby sensitive receptor and the surrounding commercial area, the contractor will be required to monitor noise levels, in accordance with the City’s General Plan and the City’s Noise Ordinance. The nearest sensitive receptor, a single-family residence, is a little over 100 feet away. The Project may potentially involve excavation, grading, drilling, trenching, pile driving, and other ground disturbing activities. Noises generated from construction activities would be temporary. A pile driver will be used approximately 170 feet away from the nearest residence; a pile driver at an unrestricted distance of 170 feet would have a noise level of 91 dB. According to the City’s General Plan, any noise above 70 dBA is considered “high,” and should be mitigated. During construction of the Project, the contractor will be required to use construction muffler devices, sound blankets, or other means to reduce noise levels to ambient levels. No long-term noise impacts are anticipated from the Project since the proposed Project is the construction of a linear park. Most noises from the park would be within reasonable noise levels (<60 dBA), in accordance with the City’s General Plan. Activities that would generate noise includes recreational activities performed by park-goers and other ambient noises that would not exceed the 70 dBA threshold that was identified by the General Plan.



Therefore, with incorporation of mitigation measures NOISE-1 and NOISE-2, impacts by noise from construction would be less than significant.

- b) Construction vibration levels were predicted using methodologies described in the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Noise and Vibration Guidance Manual. The Guidance Manual suggests a limit of 0.5 in/sec Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) for the type of equipment used in this project. Pile impact driving activities during construction would cause the most groundborne vibrations from this project. The minimum distance for no impact from vibrations while using an impact pile driver is 52 feet, assuming the limit of 0.5 in/sec PPV is used. Because the nearest sensitive receptor is 100 feet away, and the nearest commercial buildings are 70 feet away, groundborne vibrations generated by the construction of this project would not exceed vibration limits and no damage to the nearby sensitive receptor or commercial buildings is expected with the equipment used on the project, as long as the minimum distance to buildings is followed for no impact to occur. Due to the proximity of the piles from the channel wall, the project specifications will require the use of an auger to support the drilling of the piles. Once construction is complete, all groundborne vibrations will cease.
- c) The project is not within two miles of a private airstrip or area designated by an airport land use plan. The nearest airport is the Van Nuys Airport, over 20 miles east of the Project. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact.

Mitigation Measures:

NOISE-1 - Required general noise control measures include design measures necessary to reduce the construction noise levels to where feasible. These measures include noise barriers, curtains, or shields. Additionally, noise-generating construction activities (e.g., operation of compressors and generators, cement mixing, general truck idling) must be placed as far as possible from the nearest noise-sensitive land uses. Stationary construction noise sources will be located as far from adjacent noise-sensitive receptors as possible. For nearby noise-sensitive land uses, a liaison needs to be identified for these off-site sensitive receptors, such as residents and property owners, to contact with concerns regarding construction noise and vibration. The liaison's telephone number(s) shall be prominently displayed at construction locations. Furthermore, for nearby noise-sensitive land uses, in writing, all landowners and occupants of properties adjacent to the construction area must be notified of the anticipated construction schedule at least 2 weeks prior to groundbreaking.

NOISE-2 - All construction activities that employ mechanized stationary equipment that generate noise levels shall comply with the applicable noise standards established by the City of Agoura Hills. The equipment shall be designed with noise-attenuating features (e.g., enclosures) and/or located at areas (e.g., belowground) where nearby noise-sensitive land uses would not be exposed to a perceptible noise increase in their noise environment.

3.14 Population and Housing

Would the project:

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

Discussion:

- a) The project is being developed on a vacant area and atop a flood control channel. The Project is also located near the proposed Agoura Village Specific Plan. Much of the specific plan is designated for mixed-use development, including some housing. However, the proposed Project is just constructing a park for recreational use. The Project’s would incorporate designs that actively discourage people-experiencing-homelessness encampments atop or around the planned channel cover. Overall, the design of the Project does not feature any elements that could induce population growth; therefore, there would be no impact.
- b) No residential areas, housing units, or other buildings would be impacted by the Project. There is only one single residence, roughly 100 feet south of the Project, that would not be displaced by the Project. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact.



3.15 Public Services

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i. Fire protection?			X	
ii. Police protection?			X	
iii. Schools?			X	
iv. Parks?			X	
v. Other public facilities?			X	

Discussion:

- a)
 - i. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department provides fire assistance to the City of Agoura Hills. There are no fire stations in the immediate project area. The closest fire stations are Fire Station 89, located at 29575 Canwood Street, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 and Fire Station 65, located at 4206 Cornell Road, Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Both stations are just over a mile away from the Project area. No traffic control activities will be required as part of project construction or operation; therefore, fire protection service response times will not be affected. However, the construction of the Linear Park will increase urban green space, and as a result, could potentially require emergency services should a fire or other significant emergency occur at the park; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
 - ii. There are no police stations within the Project’s area. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department provides police protection to all of Agoura Hills, which operates out of the Lost Hills Sheriff station, located at 27050 Agoura Road. The station is approximately 2.5 miles east of the proposed Project. As mentioned in Section 3.15(a)(i), the construction of the Linear Park could attract people for recreational purposes, and therefore, could require emergency services in the future. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.



- iii. There are no schools within the Project's area. The nearest schools are Lindero Canyon Middle School and Agoura High School, however, neither will be affected by the Project, so impacts would be less than significant.
- iv. The proposed Project is to construct a Linear Park in a vacant space. There are no other parks near or within the Project's area. This will provide a benefit to the community by creating additional park space in the area. The City will maintain the park facilities and will have less than a significant impact.
- v. Other services, such as City Hall, are located on Ladyface Court, near Agoura Road, but are outside of the Project's area. Impacts would be less than significant.

3.16 Recreation

Would the project:

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

Discussion:

- a) The proposed Project will create new public park space and will increase public open space in an urban environment. The Project will replace vacant space and would not induce population growth; however, it would increase the use of the existing neighborhood for recreational purposes. Because the proposed Project is the construction of a Linear Park, existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities would not substantially deteriorate since the Project would not induce population growth. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.
- b) The proposed Project is the construction of a Linear Park. The Park will feature amenities such as native landscaping, pedestrian and horse trails, lighting, seating areas, and trash receptacles. The native landscaping in the proposed park will likely enhance the surrounding environment, and thereby, increase and improve recreational services available within the local community. As such, impacts would be less than significant.



3.17 Transportation

Would the project:

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

Discussion:

- a) The Project would not conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. The proposed Linear Park will not affect traffic resources but may increase pedestrian traffic to the previously vacant area. Access to the park will be from nearby residents or patrons from the nearby Whizen Shopping Plaza because the Park will not have its own parking lot. The recreational area could result in minor impacts to nearby transportation. Temporary impacts include an increase in construction-related traffic levels, which would temporarily increase the levels of congestion on Agoura Road, adjacent to the project’s location. Vehicle trips would be generated by construction workers commuting to and from the work site, and by trucks hauling materials and equipment to and from the site. A Traffic Assessment was conducted by Kimley-Horn and Associates in October 2020 to characterize permanent effects of the proposed linear park on nearby traffic. The Project will not provide on-site parking; therefore, the Project will not generate vehicle trips to the site but could increase traffic to nearby commercial areas. A preliminary trip generation analysis was conducted, which resulted in an estimation of only two daily trips during peak hours. Because the calculation does not meet the City’s minimum thresholds, outlined in the City’s Transportation Impact Assessment Guidelines, and does not meet screening criteria based on the California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research’s Technical Advisory, a CEQA Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis is not required and the presumption of less-than-significant transportation impact can be applied. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- b) CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) gives criteria for analyzing transportation impacts, including land use projects, transportation projects, qualitative analysis, and methodology. According to the guidelines, projects within one-half mile of either an existing transit stop or transit corridor



should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

- c) The Project does not require street reconfiguring, lane geometry and re-striping for vehicles and bicycles, lane transitions, transit stop and bus shelters, or curb and street engineering modifications. The Project does not include the construction of a parking lot, and would not require any sort of Traffic Control Plan since no work is being done on Agoura Road. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact.
- d) Because the proposed Project is a new recreational area with no adjacent parking lot, emergency access for services will be provided from Agoura Road. The site will be open and accessible via the walking and equestrian trail and is less than 140 feet from Agoura Road edge. It is anticipated that emergency services will park along Agoura Road or go through the nearby commercial plaza in case of an emergency. The Project does not change or reconstruct existing roadways, so impacts would be less than significant.

3.18 Tribal and Cultural Resources

Would the project:

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

Discussion:

- a)
 - i) A Cultural Resources Assessment was performed by LSA Associates April 2020 to determine if the project could cause an adverse change in the significance of a tribal and/or cultural resources. A record search was performed at the SCCIC in the California Register of Historical Resources. Additionally, a California State Historic Resource Inventory was examined, which includes the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, California State Historical Landmarks, and California State Points of Historical Interest. The record search and cultural resource assessment included the entire Project area and a 1.0-mile radius buffer. LSA determined that the Project area is negative for known prehistoric objects and artifacts. The proposed linear park is being constructed in an area that has been completely disturbed in the past due to the channelization of Palo Comado Creek, construction of Agoura Road, and construction of nearby commercial areas. These areas have been assessed in the past with no cultural resources found in the area. Therefore, there would be less than a significant impact.



- ii) The City of Agoura Hills in its entirety is a highly sensitive archaeological and paleontological area, in accordance with the City's General Plan. The City reached out to the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians, and the Gabrieleno/Tongva Tribe. The City of Agoura Hills sent registered letters to all three entities on November 18, 2020, and left telephone messages thereafter. The City of Agoura Hills subsequently met with Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on January 26, 2021, and with the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians on February 2, 2021. The Project will incorporate Mitigation Measures CUL-1, CUL-2, and CUL-3 to ensure Native American resources are not disturbed during the Project. Therefore, with mitigation measures incorporated, impacts are less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

CUL-1 - Because of the low sensitivity of the project area for archaeological resources, there is no monitoring work anticipated.

- A Worker's Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training also known as "Environmental Awareness," or "Cultural Resource Sensitivity," training will be provided to the construction crews prior to any ground-disturbing construction activities and the procedures to follow when such material is found.
- A Qualified Archaeologist shall be present at the pre-construction meeting to advise construction personnel about the sensitive nature of cultural resources that may be found during project ground-disturbing construction activities.
- Construction personnel shall be informed of the types of archaeological or tribal cultural resources that may be encountered, and of the proper protocols for notification. Construction personnel shall attend the training and shall retain documentation demonstrating attendance.

CUL-2

- If any cultural resources or artifacts are discovered during construction, the City's Environmental Analyst shall be notified immediately, and construction activities shall cease until the archaeologist has examined the find. If a Native American site is uncovered, construction in that area shall be suspended until the project archaeologist, can properly assess the resource(s) and identify the appropriate measures to ensure that the resource(s) would not be adversely affected. If cultural resources are identified during project construction, a professional archaeologist and a Native American monitor shall be present for the remainder of ground-disturbing project construction activities. If cultural resources are identified during project construction, a professional archaeologist and a Native American monitor shall be present for the remainder of ground-disturbing project construction activities.
- Equipment stoppages prescribed by the archaeologist shall involve only construction work that will damage the archaeological deposits, as prescribed by the archaeological monitor (or lead project archaeologist) and the Native American monitor. Other construction work may continue outside the area of the find, at a distance determined by the archaeological monitor (or lead project archaeologist) and the Native American monitor, if that outside area is being monitored by an archaeological monitor. The purpose of stopping the equipment is to protect cultural resources that would otherwise be impacted and said equipment may undertake work in other areas of the project away from discovered resources.

- If the archaeologist determines that an archaeological resource may be a unique resource, as defined by Section 21083.2 of the PRC, or a historical resource, as defined by Section 21084.1, or an important resource, as defined by the previous Appendix K of the CEQA guidelines, Phase II testing or surface evaluation (if determined adequate by the qualified archaeologist) of the find shall be conducted. According to the City's General Plan Policy HR-3.2, excavation of deposits of Native American origin will be coordinated with and monitored by recognized Chumash representatives.
- The site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2, Section 21084.1, or the previous CEQA Guidelines Appendix K, with mitigation as appropriate. Depending on the nature of the find, such mitigation may include, but would not be limited to, avoidance, documentation, data collection, or other appropriate actions to be determined by the archaeologist, and where applicable, the Native American monitor.
- If unique or important archaeological resources cannot be avoided, a data collection program may be warranted, including mapping the location of artifacts, surface collection of artifacts, or excavation of the cultural deposit to characterize the nature of the buried portions of the sites. Curation of the excavated artifacts or samples shall occur as specified by the archaeologist. If the find is determined not to be a unique, significant, or important archaeological resource, no further archaeological action is necessary, and construction may continue.

3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

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

Discussion:

- a) The proposed Project includes the construction and operation of a new, public park. The park will include native vegetation, which will require minimal irrigation. No restroom facilities are proposed that would generate wastewater or increase the use of potable water. The park will have small walking path lights and will require an electric meter from Southern California Edison. As such, the proposed Project is not expected to substantially increase the load on any utility and serve system. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- b) The Linear Park will include native landscaping, which typically survives through normal and dry years. Furthermore, a Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's recycled water line is in Agoura Road and extends to the project site which also could be used for irrigation during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- c) Refer to Section 3.19(a) above. No restroom facilities are proposed that would generate wastewater. Therefore, there are no anticipated impacts.



- d) During construction, some debris would be generated with the construction of the Palo Comado Creek channel cover and various amenities at the park. However, the amount of waste generated would be minor and would not be expected to be in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, and would not impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Ongoing operation of the park would have refuse containers that would be installed, which would also not exceed the capacity of local infrastructure. Therefore, impacts to local infrastructure and solid waste reduction goals would be less than significant.

- e) Disposal will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations for waste disposal; therefore, there is no anticipated impact.

3.20 Wildfire

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?			X	
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				X
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?			X	

Discussion:

- a) The City’s General Plan has outlined information, policies, and regulations regarding wildfire and urban fire hazards. The General Plan describes action items to reduce fire hazards within the city, including coordination with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, wildfire mitigation protocols, adoption of up-to-date building and fire codes, and fuel modification. Any new development (such as the proposed Project), in accordance with the General Plan, will comply with all current state, county, and City, fire safe building code requirements, as appropriate. It is important to note that the City is within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Although there is no known adopted emergency response or evacuation plan in the area, considering the location of the Project in proximity to the undeveloped hills across Agoura Road, impacts would be less than significant.
- b) Because of the Project’s proximity to the undeveloped hillsides across Agoura Road, there is potential for wildfire to spread across the road and into the Linear Park. The proposed Project will feature native trees, bushes, and flowers, which are all flammable and susceptible to wildfires. These areas would be irrigated, maintained, and would limit the amount of flammable materials; therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.
- c) The Project will not require the installation or maintenance of infrastructure, such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities. Therefore, the project would not exacerbate fire risk, and there would be no impact.



- d) A portion of the proposed Project will be built atop the Palo Comado Creek Channel, with the rest of the Project being adjacent to the concrete box channel, which would collect a significant amount of runoff or flooding in an emergency event. The cover placed atop the Palo Comado Creek Channel will be stabilized and built within standards to prevent damage from a significant flooding or landslide. Additionally, the proposed Project is located near the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area, which if affected by a wildfire, could impact the proposed Project. As mentioned in Section 3.20(a-c), every attempt will be made to maintain the park and reduce flammable risks; therefore, impacts are less than significant.

3.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X		
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("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)?		X		
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X		

Discussion:

- a) Surveys of the project area, including areas along Palo Comado Creek and along Agoura Road, indicate no such species were detected at the time of the surveys. However, construction activities could potentially result in direct and/or indirect impacts on these species during construction and grading activities. There are no known archaeological/paleontological sites in the project area that would be impacted. However, with the proposed WEAP training, findings of any historical, cultural, and paleontological resources will be reviewed on an ongoing basis in the event such resources are inadvertently uncovered.

With the incorporation of the measures listed in Section 3.4 and Section 3.5, as well as compliance with any necessary regulatory permits (such as a Section 404 Nationwide Permit (NWP) Authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level.



- b) There are notable past projects within a mile of the Project, including the channelization of Palo Comado Creek and the City of Agoura Hills Roadside Bridge Widening Project. Along with planned projects in the future, the proposed Project could contribute to cumulative impacts related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gases, noise, and water quality.

While the project would contribute to cumulative impacts, the Project itself would not result in any significant impacts with the proposed mitigation incorporated. Therefore, the project's contribution to cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

- c) The project would have potential environmental effects on humans, most of which are construction related. Those impacts would occur specifically in the areas of noise and air quality. As discussed in Section 3.3 and 3.13, either these impacts are less than significant or appropriate mitigation is required to protect nearby sensitive receptors. The Project would comply with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations, and the impacts identified that would be considered potentially significant are appropriately dealt with through the implementation of mitigation measures. Therefore, potential impacts on human beings would be less than significant.

4. References

- Agoura Hills, City of. City of Agoura Hills Municipal Code. https://library.municode.com/ca/agoura_hills
- Agoura Hills, City of. City of Agoura Hills General Plan. <https://www.agourahillscity.org/department/planning-community-development/general-plan>
- Agoura Hills, City of. City of Agoura Hills Agoura Village Specific Plan. October 2008. <https://www.agourahillscity.org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=13167>
- Agoura Hills, City of. Zoning Ordinance. February 1987.
- California Department of Conservation. California Important Farmland Finder. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/>
- California Department of Transportation. California Scenic Highway Mapping System. http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.html
- California Office of Planning and Research. Technical Advisory on Evaluation Transportation Impacts in CEQA, December 2018.
- Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc. Medea/Palo Comado Creek Linear Park Traffic Assessment, October 2020.
- LSA Associates Inc. Archaeological Survey Report, Medea & Palo Comado Creek Stormwater Treatment Plant, April 2020
- LSA Associates Inc. Biological Resources Assessment Report, Medea & Palo Comado Creek Stormwater Treatment Plant and Linear Park, November 2019
- LSA Associates Inc. Paleontological Analysis of the Medea and Palo Comado Creek Stormwater Treatment Plant and Linear Park Improvement Project, April 2020.
- Terracon. Geotechnical Engineering Report for Agoura Hills County Yard Treatment Facility and Linear Park, February 2020.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service. National Wetlands Inventory. Wetlands Mapper. <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>