



CITY OF ARVIN

CITY OF ARVIN 2019 SEWER MASTER PLAN Responses to Comment Letters (Mitigated Negative Declaration)

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The City has received two written comment letters in response to its notice of intent. Although not required by CEQA for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), the City has elected to provide the following courtesy responses to the same:

Comment Letter A: Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), July 7, 2020

RTC-A1: The comment states the MND should acknowledge the potential for historic or future activities to result in the release of hazardous wastes/substances on the project site. As discussed in the IS/MND in Section 2.4.9, Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 Health and Safety Plan would ensure that potential hazards or hazardous materials are mitigated to levels that are less than significant:

HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan. The project proponent(s), in consultation with the City of Arvin, shall develop a health and safety plan to address potential hazardous materials associated with agricultural and petroleum industry activities on and surrounding the project site. The project health and safety plan shall include emergency procedures for responding to hazardous materials releases for materials that would be brought onto or discovered on the site as part of construction activities. If evidence of contaminated soils or groundwater is discovered during construction, work in the vicinity of the contaminated area shall cease until the wastes are characterized or remediated. Remediation of the site shall be coordinated with appropriate regulatory authorities to ensure that applicable remediation standards are met. The emergency procedures for hazardous materials releases shall include the necessary personal protective equipment, spill containment procedures, and training of workers to respond to accidental spills or releases. The project proponents shall be required to have on hand at all times during construction the adequate absorbent materials and containment booms to handle a spill equivalent to the largest container of fuels or oil in use.

RTC-A2: As discussed in the IS/MND in Section 2.4.9, potentially contaminated soils would be addressed by Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, Health and Safety Plan. Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 requires the preparation of a health and safety plan to respond to hazardous materials discovered on-site during construction activities. If evidence of contaminated soils were discovered, work in the vicinity would cease. Implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 would ensure that potential hazards or hazardous materials are mitigated to levels that are less than significant:

HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan. The project proponent(s), in consultation with the City of Arvin, shall develop a health and safety plan to address potential hazardous materials associated with agricultural and petroleum industry activities on and surrounding the project site. The project health and safety plan shall include emergency procedures for responding to hazardous materials releases for materials that would be brought onto or discovered on the site as part of construction activities. If evidence of contaminated soils or groundwater is discovered during construction, work in the vicinity of the contaminated area shall cease until the wastes are characterized or remediated. Remediation of the site shall be coordinated with appropriate regulatory authorities to ensure that applicable remediation standards are met. The emergency procedures for hazardous materials releases shall include the necessary personal protective equipment, spill containment procedures, and training of workers to respond to accidental spills or releases. The project proponents shall be required to have on hand at all times during construction the adequate absorbent materials and containment booms to handle a spill equivalent to the largest container of fuels or oil in use.

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RTC-A3: No evidence of current and/or former mining operations in the project vicinity was discovered. However, the City concurs that if mining activities are discovered during construction of the proposed project, the site shall be evaluated for mine waste according to DTSC's 1998 Abandoned Mine Land Mines Preliminary Assessment Handbook.

RTC-A4: The project does not include the demolition of any buildings. As discussed in the IS/MND Section 2.43, the worst-case scenario includes the replacement of two manholes and the demolition and replacement of the existing pump station. These structures do not contain the hazardous materials discussed in the comment

RTC-A5: See RTC-A2 regarding potential soil contamination on site. In accordance with applicable State and local regulations, the licensed construction contractor would screen soil generated during construction activities to determine if contamination is present.

RTC-A6: Please see RTC-A1 and RTC-A2.

Comment Letter B: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, July 15, 2020

RTC-B1: The City concurs with this comment.

RTC-B2: The comment summarizes the District's rules and regulations but does not raise any environmental issues regarding the IS/MND. No further response is required.

RTC-B3: The comment recommends that development of the projects should be evaluated for potential health impacts to surrounding receptors. Further, the comment recommends the project conduct a screening analysis to identify projects which may have a significant health impact. The City disagrees with this recommendation and finds potential impacts to surrounding receptors to be less than significant. As discussed in the IS/MND Section 2.43, a TAC is defined by California law as an air pollutant that may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or in serious illness or that may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. High-volume TAC generators listed as potential health risk sources include the operation of commercial diesel engines and truck stops, landfills and incinerators, and chemical manufacturers (CARB 2005). Construction activities would result in short-term project-generated emissions of diesel particulate matter from the exhaust of off-road, heavy-duty diesel equipment. CARB identified diesel particulate matter as a TAC in 1998. The dose to which receptors are exposed is the primary factor used to determine health risk. Dose is a function of the concentration of a substance or substances in the environment and the duration of exposure to the substance. Thus, the risks estimated for a maximally exposed individual are higher if a fixed exposure occurs over a longer time period. According to the California Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Health Risk Assessments (CalEPA 2001), which determine the exposure of sensitive receptors to TAC emissions, should be based on a 30-year exposure period; however, such assessments should be limited to the period or duration of activities associated with the project.

Relatively few pieces of off-road, heavy-duty diesel equipment would be used during construction of the CIPs, and each individual CIP construction period would be short term in duration. As shown in Table 5, maximum particulate matter emissions during construction would be below the SJVAPCD threshold. Diesel particulate matter would disperse beyond the construction area, and CIPs would be throughout the City so that individual receptors would only be exposed to limited emissions for a short duration. Combined with additional reductions in exhaust emissions from improved equipment, construction-related emissions would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial emissions of TACs. Impacts from construction emissions would be less than significant. In addition, following construction, no net increase in vehicle trips beyond existing maintenance trips would occur. As such, the proposed project would not have the potential to expose sensitive receptors to TACs from mobile sources to an extent that health risks could result. Impacts related to TACs would be less than significant.

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