

*Initial Study and
Mitigated Negative Declaration*
for
Hillcrest Drive Landslide Repair
(W.O. E1907298)



City of Los Angeles



*Bureau of Engineering
Environmental Management Group*

September, 2011

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
 OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
 ROOM 395, CITY HALL
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
 (Article I, City CEQA Guidelines)

DOCUMENT FILED
 City Clerk's Office
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 Certified by *[Signature]*
 Date: SEP 23 2011

LEAD CITY AGENCY AND ADDRESS:

Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
 1149 South Broadway, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

COUNCIL DISTRICT

5

PROJECT TITLE:

Hillcrest Drive Landslide Repair (W.O.E1907298)

T.G. 592 E-4

PROJECT LOCATION: The hillside which includes twelve City-owned parcels (Assessor Parcel Nos. 4355-013-901 through 4355-013-908, and 4355-013-913 through 4355-013-916) on Hillcrest Drive above North Beverly Drive in the Beverly Crest area of the City of Los Angeles.

DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would stabilize a landslide area on a hillside above Hillcrest Drive near the intersection with North Beverly Drive in the City of Los Angeles. The project site is in the Franklin Canyon area of the south flank of the Santa Monica Mountains and is on portions of several unimproved parcels owned by the City of Los Angeles. Hillcrest Drive below the project site is currently unimproved. The landslide at the project site reactivated in the 1990's and deposited debris onto Hillcrest Drive behind several residences that front North Beverly Drive. The City purchased the property onto which debris had been deposited and constructed a debris wall along and catchment basin on the down slope side of the lower part of Hillcrest Drive. The landslide reactivated again during heavy rains in 2005 and debris was deposited behind the catchment basin. The current project is the result of litigation.

The project would stabilize the landslide area by removing debris, grading the slope and constructing drainage terraces. The project would remove landslide debris from the catchment area. The landslide debris would be trucked from the project site to an off-site location. Once the landslide debris is removed, the resultant slope would be graded to have a gradient no steeper than 2:1 (horizontal to vertical). Eight-foot wide drainage terraces would be constructed at 25-foot vertical intervals. When grading is completed, the site would be planted with drought tolerant native vegetation. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to ensure that any impacts are reduced to a less than significant level.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT IF OTHER THAN CITY AGENCY:

FINDING:

The **City Engineer** of the City of Los Angeles has determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons: **See attached initial study.**

SEE THE ATTACHED PAGES FOR ANY MITIGATION MEASURES IMPOSED

Any written objections received during the public review period are attached, together with the responses of the lead City agency.

THE INITIAL STUDY PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT IS ATTACHED

PERSON PREPARING THIS FORM

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SIGNATURE (Official)

James E. Doty, Acting Manager
 Environmental Management Group

James E. Doty

DATE

9-22-11



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
INITIAL STUDY

Council District: 5 Date: September 22, 2011
Lead City Agency: Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
Project Title: Hillcrest Drive Landslide Repair (W.O. E1907298)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Project Overview

This Initial Study analyzes the proposed Hillcrest Drive Landslide Repair project. The project would stabilize a landslide area by removing landslide debris, grading the hillside and constructing drainage terraces to provide slope stability.

B. Purpose of an Initial Study

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was enacted in 1970 for the purpose of providing decision-makers and the public with information regarding environmental effects of proposed projects; identifying means of avoiding environmental damage; and disclosing to the public the reasons behind a project's approval even if it leads to environmental damage. The Bureau of Engineering Environmental Management Group (EMG) has determined the proposed project is subject to CEQA and no exemptions apply. Therefore, the preparation of an Initial Study is required.

An Initial Study (IS) is a preliminary analysis conducted by the lead agency, in consultation with other agencies (responsible or trustee agencies, as applicable), to determine whether there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment. If the Initial Study concludes that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report should be prepared. If the Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects on the environment but mitigation measures included in the project will reduce the environmental effects of the project to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment will occur, the lead agency may adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

The Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering is the lead agency for this project and has prepared this IS. The IS recommends that a MND be adopted for the project.

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The MND and IS contained herein have been prepared in accordance with CEQA (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, §15000 et seq.), and the City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines (1981, amended July 31, 2002).

In 2010, a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study were prepared for this project. However, subsequent to the publication of those documents, but before their adoption by the City Council, the scope of the project changed and the Bureau of Engineering decided to prepare a new Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study which would meet the requirements of CEQA. Thus, this Initial Study and accompanying Mitigated Negative Declaration supersede the documents published previously.

C. Document Format

This Initial Study is organized into eight sections as follows:

Section I, Introduction: provides an overview of the project and the CEQA environmental documentation process.

Section II, Project Description: describes the project location, project background, and project components.

Section III, Existing Environment: provides a description of the existing environmental setting with focus on features of the environment which could potentially affect the proposed project or be affected by the proposed project.

Section IV, Environmental Effects/Initial Study Checklist: presents the City's Checklist for evaluating impact areas and making mandatory findings of significance. This section discusses and identifies applicable mitigation measures.

Section V, Mitigation Measures: describes the mitigation measures that would be implemented to ensure that potential adverse impacts of the proposed project would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Section VI, List of Preparers and Persons Consulted: provides a list of key personnel involved in the preparation of this report.

Section VII, Determination – Recommended Environmental Documentation: provides the recommended environmental documentation for the proposed project.

Section VIII, References: provides a list of reference materials used during the preparation of this report.

D. CEQA Process

Once the adoption of a negative declaration (or mitigated negative declaration) has been proposed, a public comment period opens for no less than twenty (20) days, or thirty (30) days if there is state agency involvement. The purpose of this comment period is to provide public agencies and the general public an opportunity to review the initial study and comment on the adequacy of the analysis and the findings of the lead agency regarding potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. If a reviewer believes the project may have a significant effect on the environment, the reviewer should (1) identify the specific effect, (2) explain why it is believed the effect would occur, and (3) explain why it is believed the effect would be significant. Facts or expert opinion supported by facts should be provided as the basis of such comments.

After close of the public review period, the Board of Public Works considers the negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration, together with any comments received during the public review process, and makes a recommendation to the City Council on whether or not to approve the project. One or more Council committees may then review the proposal and documents and make its own recommendation to the full City Council. The City Council is the decision-making body and also considers the negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration, together with any comments received during the public review process, in the final decision to approve or disapprove the project. During the project approval process, persons and/or agencies may address either the Board of Public Works or the City Council regarding the project.

Public notification of agenda items for the Board of Public Works, Council committees and the City Council is posted 72 hours prior to the public meeting. The agendas can be obtained by visiting the Council and Public Services Division of the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Suite 395; by calling 213/978-1047, 213/978-1048 or TDD/TTY 213/978-1055; or via the internet at <http://www.lacity.org/CLK/index.htm> .

If the project is approved, the City will file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk within 5 days. The Notice of Determination will be posted by the County Clerk within 24 hours of receipt. This begins a 30-day statute of limitations on legal challenges to the approval under CEQA. The ability to challenge the approval in court may be limited to those persons who objected to the approval of the project, and to issues which were presented to the lead agency by any person, either orally or in writing, during the public comment period.

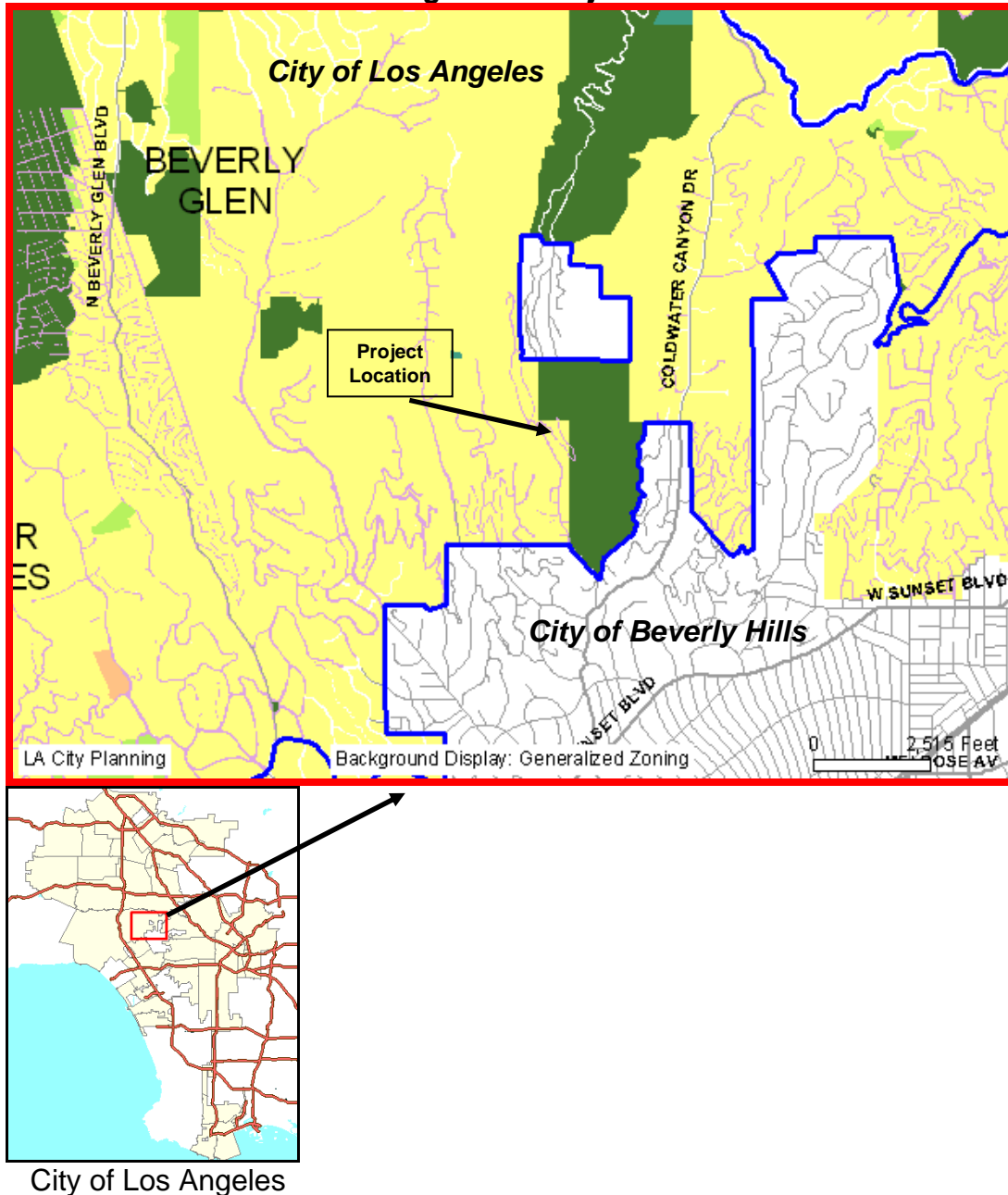
As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project Location

The location of the proposed project is the Franklin Canyon area of the south flank of the Santa Monica Mountains in the City of Los Angeles (see Figure 1: Project Location). The Franklin Canyon area is between Beverly Glen Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Drive in the hills north of the City of Beverly Hills.

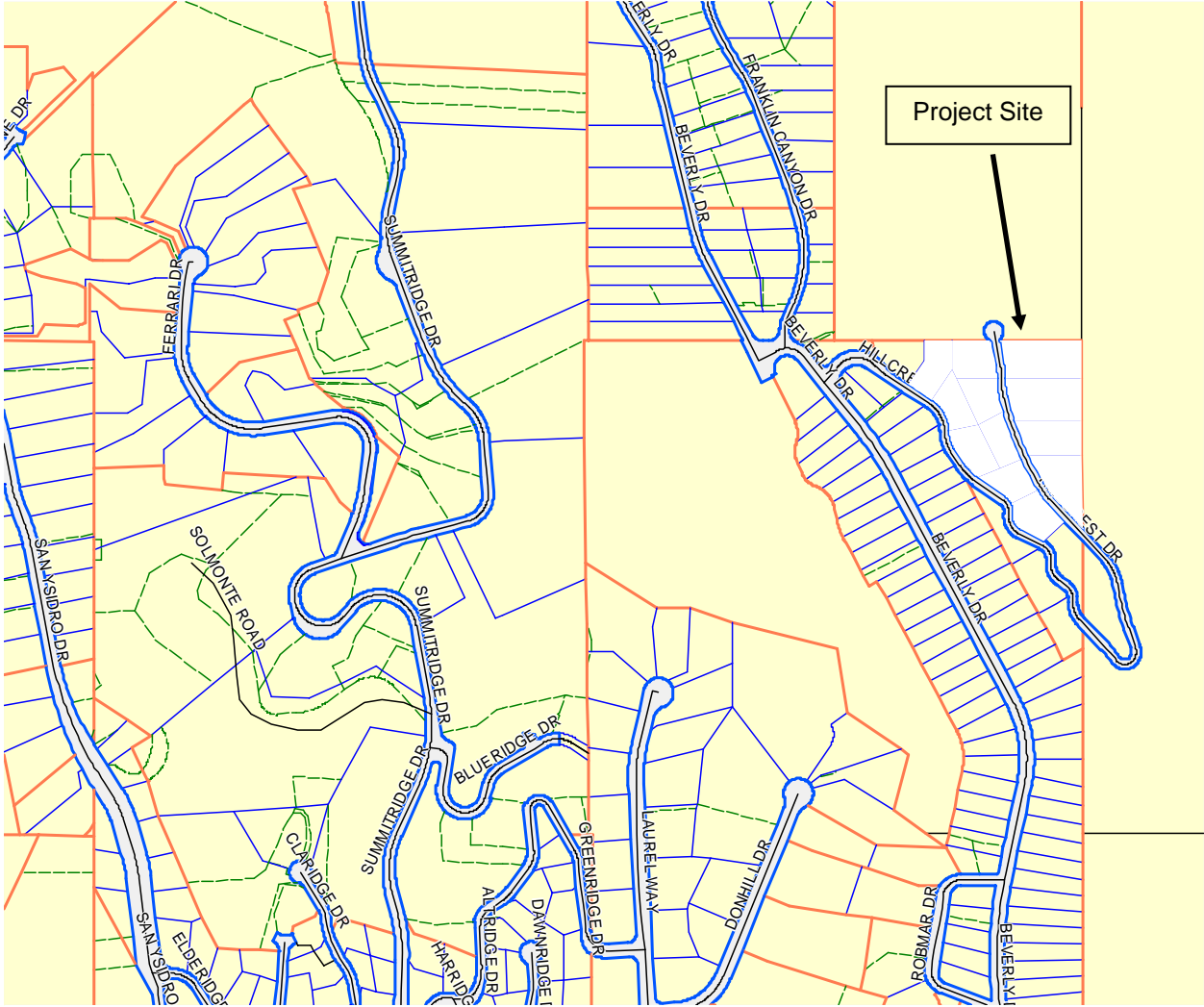
Figure 1: Project Location



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The project vicinity is a hillside above North Beverly Drive near the intersection with Hillcrest Drive (see Figure 2: Project Vicinity). The project site is traversed by Hillcrest Drive as it makes a hairpin turn and climbs the hillside from North Beverly Drive. The project site is located on unimproved hillside parcels owned by the City of Los Angeles. The landslide area to be stabilized is on these parcels.

Figure 2: Project Vicinity



The project proposes to stabilize a landslide on the west facing slope of the north-south trending spur ridge on the east side of Franklin Canyon and between Franklin Canyon and the Lower Franklin Reservoir, operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) (see Figure 3: Project Site). In the vicinity of the project site, the spur ridge is approximately 160 feet high and has a overall gradient of 1.5:1 (horizontal to vertical) (see Figure 4: Existing Contours). North Beverly Drive runs along the bottom of

the west side of the ridge; there are residences along North Beverly Drive below the project site. Hillcrest Drive was graded in the 1920's and extends from North Beverly Drive, trends uphill in a southerly direction along the rear of the residences and the toe of the landslide, makes a U-turn and then continues uphill in a southerly direction towards the ridge top and along the upper portion of the landslide. Hillcrest Drive is currently unimproved.

Figure 3: Project Site



Figure 4: Existing Contours



B. Project Background

The landslide at the project site reactivated in the 1990's and deposited debris onto Hillcrest Drive behind the residences that front North Beverly Drive. After litigation resulting from this reactivation, the City of Los Angeles purchased the property on which debris had been deposited and constructed a 10-foot high debris wall along the down slope side of the lower part of Hillcrest Drive; this wall runs along Hillcrest Drive for approximately 365 feet (see Figure 3 above). This debris wall is behind the residential properties that front North Beverly Drive. The landslide reactivated again during heavy rains in 2005 and landslide debris filled the catchment area behind the debris wall to approximately 50% capacity. The

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City of Los Angeles red-tagged several houses along North Beverly Drive. The current project is the result of litigation.

C. Purpose of Project

The purpose of the proposed project is to stabilize the landslide area by removing debris, grading the slope and constructing drainage terraces.

D. Project Description

Project Details

The proposed project would remove landslide debris from the catchment area behind the existing debris wall. The landslide debris would be trucked from the project site to an off-site location. It is currently estimated based on available data that approximately 120,000 cubic yards of soil would be exported from the site. Once the landslide debris is removed, the resultant slope where possible would be graded to have a gradient no steeper than 2:1 (horizontal to vertical). Local areas may require steeper slopes to match existing gradients. Eight-foot wide drainage terraces would be constructed at 25-foot vertical intervals. These terraces would be designed to control runoff of stormwater and prevent erosion and future earth movement. Stormwater would flow into existing storm drains.

The project will take place on portions of 12 parcels owned by the City of Los Angeles (Assessor Parcel Nos. 4355-013-901 through 4355-013-908, and 4355-013-913 through 4355-013-916). The total area of these parcels is approximately 3.6 acres; the landslide area covers approximately 0.7 acres of the parcels.

Preliminary Construction Schedule

Construction is anticipated to begin in May of 2012 and be completed by the beginning of 2013.

Project Operation and Maintenance

Upon completion of the project, the project site would be revegetated with plants appropriate for the Coastal scrub habitat which is found in the area. The City of Los Angeles will provide maintenance to assure that the revegetated area becomes established and will also maintain the drainage terraces to assure they provide proper drainage.

Activities and Approvals

Consultation with regulatory agencies and acquisition of permits is required before the project components can be constructed. The following text summarizes regulatory permits and approvals relevant to the Hillcrest Drive Landslide Repair project.

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1. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) permits discharges to surface waters in compliance with the Clean Water Act and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. If construction of the proposed project requires dewatering, compliance with Order No. R4-2008-0032 Waste Discharge Requirements from Discharges of Groundwater from Construction and Project Dewatering to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (General NPDES Permit No. CAG994004) would be required. A notice of intent (NOI) would be filed at least 45 days before the commencement of the discharge. The General Permit then requires demonstration that pollutant concentrations in the discharge shall not cause violation of applicable water quality standards for the receiving waters through water sample analysis and reporting.

2. California Fish & Game Code Section 3500: Migratory Bird Protection

Sections 3500 through 3705 of the California Fish and Game Code regulate the taking of migratory birds and their nests – prohibiting the taking of nesting birds, their nests, eggs, or any portion thereof during the nesting season. Similarly, the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects most native bird species from destruction or harm. This protection extends to individuals as well as any part, nest, or eggs of any bird listed as “migratory”. Nearly all native North American bird species are on the MBTA list. In practice, permits issued by resource agencies typically have conditions that require pre-disturbance surveys for nesting birds and, in the event that nesting is observed, a buffer area with a specified radius would be established, within which no disturbance or intrusion would be allowed until the young had fledged and left the nest. As discussed below in the Initial Study portion of this document, a biological study will be conducted to identify potential nesting bird habitat and, if such habitat is found, a nesting bird survey would be conducted prior to the commencement of construction. As a result, the project would not have a significant impact on migratory birds.

3. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

The contractor may be required to obtain a permit for the transportation of heavy construction equipment and materials which require the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways, if relevant.

4. South Coast Air Quality Management District

Construction activities in the South Coast Air Basin are subject to South Coast Air Quality Management District’s (SCAQMD) Rule 403. Rule 403 sets requirements to regulate operations which periodically may cause fugitive dust emissions into the atmosphere by requiring actions to prevent, reduce, or mitigate fugitive dust emissions. All construction in the South Coast Air Basin must incorporate best available control measures (BACT) included in Rule 403. During construction of the proposed project, dust control measures in compliance with Rule 403 would be implemented.

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5. City of Los Angeles

It is anticipated that reviews of the proposed project would be conducted by the following City departments: Public Works, Recreation and Parks, Fire, Planning, and Transportation.

Additionally, permits would be required by Building and Safety and Engineering, as follows.

Grading Permit

A grading permit is required to import or export any earth materials to or from any grading site (LAMC 91.106). Any grading project involving more than 100 cubic yards of excavation and involving an excavation in excess of five (5) feet in vertical depth at its deepest point measured from the original ground surface requires a grading permit. A Grading Permit would be required from the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) for the proposed project.

Storm Drain Permit

A Storm Drain Permit (LAMC 64.12) is required in order to make, construct, alter, or repair any house connection sewer, bonded house connection sewer, special house connection sewer, industrial waste sewer connection, industrial waste storm drain connection, storm drain connection, or special drainage connection, or any portion of any such sewer or storm drain connections, including sampling maintenance holes, or connect any house sewer, soil pipe, or plumbing to any such sewer or storm drain connections or to a sewer or storm drain. A storm drain permit from the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering (BOE) would be required for the proposed project.

Construction (B) Permit

Construction “B” Permits (LAMC 62.106.b) are issued for extensive public works improvements including the widening of streets and alleys, the changing of existing street grade, construction of bridges, retaining walls, and the installation of sewer, storm drains, street lighting, and traffic signals. Construction plans are usually required which must be signed by a California licensed Civil and/or Electrical and/or Traffic Engineer. A Construction B Permit from BOE may be required for the proposed project.

Permitting Process

It is anticipated that the administrative permit (building permits) process would commence once the final project design is approved and signed off by the City Engineer. The City’s consultant would apply for all of the building permits, with the goal of having the permits ready to be obtained by the construction contractor selected by the City. The permitting process would occur at the same time that the City completes the bid and award process.

The analysis in this document assumes that, unless otherwise stated, the project would be designed, constructed and operated following all applicable laws, regulations, ordinances and formally adopted City standards (e.g., *Los Angeles Municipal Code* and Bureau of Engineering *Standard Plans*). Construction would follow the uniform practices established by the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association (e.g., *Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction* and the *Work Area Traffic Control Handbook*) as specifically adopted by the City of Los Angeles (e.g., The City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Additions and Amendments to the Standard Specifications For Public Works Construction [AKA "The Brown Book," formerly Standard Plan S-610]).

III. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

A. General Site Characteristics

The project site is located in the Franklin Canyon area of the south flank of the Santa Monica Mountains in the City of Los Angeles. The project will take place on portions of twelve unimproved City-owned parcels. The project site is on a hillside with a slope of approximately 1.5:1 (horizontal to vertical). The project site is traversed by Hillcrest Drive as it makes a hairpin turn up the hillside. Below the project site and south of Hillcrest Drive there are several residential lots. These lots are below Hillcrest Drive and front onto North Beverly Drive.

The Santa Monica Mountains, including the project site, is designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity zone.. The project site is in an area prone to landslides and the purpose of the proposed project is to remediate landslide activity. The project site is in a hillside area but the project is not subject to the provisions of the City of Los Angeles Hillside Ordinance, which regulates the construction of single family buildings and associated structures on hillside areas. The zoning for the area is RE15 (residential estate with minimum lot area of 15,000 square feet) and the general plan land use is Very Low Residential.

B. Site Topography and Geologic Characteristics

The project site is on a hillside with a slope of approximately 1.5:1 (horizontal to vertical). The project site is not in a liquefaction area. The history of the hillside demonstrates that the area is susceptible to landslides, especially during periods of heavy storm activity. A geotechnical consultant is in the process of drilling the site, sampling, testing, and compiling geotechnical data. The results of this investigation will be incorporated into the final project design.

C. Seismic Considerations

The site is located in a seismically active area, as is the majority of southern California. The subject site is not located within a State of California Earthquake Fault Zone (formerly known as an Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone) nor is it in a fault rupture study area as delineated in the Safety Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan. The project site is not in an area believed to be subject to liquefaction, but is in an area subject to landslides.

D. Existing Utilities

There is a storm drain pipe running underneath Hillcrest Drive west of the project site. There are also two storm drain inlets on Hillcrest Drive on the western edge of the project site.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS/INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

This section documents the screening process used to identify and evaluate environmental impacts that could result from this project. The Initial Study Checklist below follows closely the form prepared by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and was used in conjunction with the City's *CEQA Thresholds Guide* and other sources to screen and focus upon potential environmental impacts resulting from this project. Impacts are separated into the following categories:

- No Impact. This category applies when a project would not create an impact in the specific environmental issue area. A "No Impact" finding does not require an explanation when the finding is adequately supported by the cited information sources (e.g., exposure to a tsunami is clearly not a risk for projects not near the coast). A finding of "No Impact" is explained where the finding is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- Less Than Significant Impact. This category applies when the project would result in impacts below the threshold of significance, and would therefore be less than significant impacts.
- Less Than Significant After Mitigation. This category applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce a "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The mitigation measures are described briefly along with a brief explanation of how they would reduce the effect to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be incorporated by reference.

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- Potentially Significant Impact. This category applies if there is substantial evidence that a significant adverse effect might occur, and no feasible mitigation measures could be identified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. There are no such impacts for the proposed project.

Sources of information that adequately support findings of no impact are referenced following each question. All sources so referenced are available for review at the offices of the Bureau of Engineering, 1149 South Broadway, Suite 600, Los Angeles, California 90015. (Call Norman Mundy at (213) 485-5737 for an appointment.) Answers to other questions (as well as answers of “no impact” that need further explanation) are discussed following each question.

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<h1>Issues</h1>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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1. AESTHETICS – Would the project:

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections A.1 and A.2)

Comment: A scenic vista generally provides focal views of objects, settings, or features of visual interest; or panoramic views of large geographic areas of scenic quality, primarily from a given vantage point. A significant impact may occur if the proposed project introduced incompatible visual elements within a field of view containing a scenic vista or substantially altered a view of a scenic vista.

The project would result in a change in the topography of the project site by decreasing the slope of the hillside. Eight-foot wide drainage terraces would be constructed at 25-foot vertical intervals. These drainage terraces would be built into the hillside and would not substantially alter the appearance of the hillside. Following grading, the project site would be revegetated so that the appearance of the project site will be similar to the surrounding topography. Therefore, the project would therefore not introduce incompatible visual elements within a scenic vista and would not substantially alter a scenic vista.

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

Reference: California Scenic Highway Mapping System, *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections A.1 and A.2).

Comment: A significant impact may occur where scenic resources within a state scenic highway would be damaged or removed as a result of the proposed project.

There are no state scenic highways near the project site. The *Bel Air-Beverly Crest Community Plan* (part of the *General Plan of the City of Los Angeles*) does not designate any scenic roadways in the vicinity of the project site; the project site is not within the area covered by the *Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan* (Ordinance No. 167943).

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections A.1 and A.2)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project introduced incompatible visual elements to the project site or visual elements that would be incompatible with the character of the area surrounding the project site.

See comment for 1(a) above.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section A.4)

Comment: A significant impact would occur if the proposed project caused a substantial increase in ambient illumination levels beyond the property line or caused new lighting to spill-over onto light-sensitive land uses such as residential, some commercial and institutional uses that require minimum illumination for proper function, and natural areas.

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Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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The project would not produce any change in ambient illumination levels.

2. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES – Would the project:

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

Reference: CDC - Div. of Land Resource Protection, City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element, Zone Information & Map Access System (ZIMAS)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were to result in the conversion of state-designated agricultural land from agricultural use to a non-agricultural use.

No prime or unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance, exists within the City of Los Angeles. The project site is not located on or near any property zoned or otherwise intended for agricultural uses.

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

Reference: CDC - Div. of Land Resource Protection, City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element, Zone Information & Map Access System (ZIMAS)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were to result in the conversion of land zoned for agricultural use, or indicated under a Williamson Act contract, from agricultural use to a non-agricultural use.

No land on or near the project site is zoned for or contains agricultural uses. The City of Los Angeles does not participate in the Williamson Act. Therefore, there are no Williamson Act properties in the City of Los Angeles.

- 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))?

Reference: California Public Resources Code; California Government Code.

Comment: There is no forest land, timberland, nor Timberland Protection land in the project vicinity.

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

Reference: California Public Resources Code; California Government Code

Comment: See 2(c) above.

- 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?

<h1>Issues</h1>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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Reference: CDC - Div. of Land Resource Protection, , City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element, Zone Information & Map Access System (ZIMAS)
 Comment: A significant impact may occur if a project results in the conversion of farmland to another non-agricultural use.

See Comments for 2(a) and 2(b) above.

3. AIR QUALITY – Would the project:

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

Reference: *CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections B1 and B2)
 Comment: The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Basin which is under the jurisdiction South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD is the air pollution control district responsible for the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), which is a comprehensive air pollution control program for attaining state and federal ambient air quality standards. As part of its General Plan, the City adopted an Air Quality Element that contains policies and goals for attaining state and federal air quality standards, while simultaneously facilitating local economic growth and includes implementation strategies for local programs contained in the AQMP. A significant impact would occur if the project were not consistent with the AQMP or the City’s General Plan.

The project would produce temporary, short-term emissions from mechanical equipment and vehicles during project construction. The project will not change the use of the project area and would have no permanent or long-term impacts on air quality. The project would also not result in a violation of air quality standards, as discussed in item 3(b) below. The project would therefore be consistent with the AQMP.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections B1 and B2)
 Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project violated any SCAQMD air quality standard. The SCAQMD has set thresholds of significance for reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) emissions resulting from construction and operation in the South Coast Air Basin.

Construction emissions have been estimated using the URBEMIS 2007 (Version 9.2.4) computer model recommended by the SCAQMD. Daily construction emissions are well below SCAQMD significance thresholds.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact		
	ROG	NOX	CO	SO2	PM10	PM2.5
Estimated Construction Emissions (lbs/day)	4	39	19	0	2	2
SCAQMD significance threshold (lbs/day)	75	100	550	150	150	55

Estimated using URBEMIS 2007 9.2.4

Since all constituents would be below emission standards established by the SCQMD, air quality impacts would be less than significant. Nonetheless, contractors would be required to follow all applicable SCAQMD rules and regulations, including AQMD Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust) and 431 (Diesel Equipment), to minimize air quality impacts. Contractors, for example, would water dusty areas and minimize the tracking of soil from unpaved dirt areas to paved roads.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections B1 and B2), 2006 State Area Designation Maps from <http://www.arb.ca.gov/degis/adm/adm.htm#state>

Comment: A significant impact would occur if the proposed project resulted in a cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant for which the South Coast Air Basin exceeds federal and state ambient air quality standards and has been designated as an area of non-attainment by the USEPA and/or California Air Resources Board. The South Coast Air Basin is a non-attainment area for ozone, fine particulate matter (PM10), and carbon monoxide (federal only).

As indicated in item 3(b) above, construction emissions of the project would not exceed the SCAQMD's thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants. For those emissions generated during construction, the minor generation of criteria pollutants would be temporary and short-term in nature. Operation of the project will not cause the emission of significant amounts of any criteria pollutant.

- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections B1, B2, and B3)

Comment: A significant impact would occur if construction or operation of the proposed project generated pollutant concentrations to a degree that would significantly affect sensitive receptors.

There are no sensitive receptors such as schools, hospitals or parks in the project vicinity. As discussed above, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in substantial pollutant concentrations.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections B1 and B2)

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Comment: A significant impact would occur if the project created objectionable odors during construction or operation that would affect a substantial number of people.

Construction sources of odor are diesel emissions from construction equipment and volatile organic compounds from sealant applications or paving activities. However, these odors would be temporary and localized. Nonetheless, applicable best management practices such as those in SCAQMD Rule 431 (Diesel Equipment) would, in addition to minimizing air quality impacts, also help minimize potential construction odors.

The project will conclude after construction is complete; there will be no ongoing “operation” after construction.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

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

Reference: CNDDDB, City of Los Angeles General Plan, City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element, *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section C), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Database (<http://crithab.fws.gov/>)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project would remove or modify habitat for any species identified or designated as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulation, or by the state or federal regulatory agencies cited.

The project site is in an area of the Santa Monica Mountains where coastal scrub habitat is typically present. Coastal scrub habitat is present at the project site, along with areas of chaparral and walnut woodland habitat. This habitat mix is suitable for a wide variety of flora and fauna. The potential for impact on the habitat of a species of concern exists within the project site itself and also along access routes used by construction equipment

to reach the site. The project area contains the type of habitat that is used by the California gnatcatcher, a Federally listed bird species. To mitigate such impacts, a biological study (and nesting bird survey, if needed) will be conducted during the design phase of the project. Results of the study and survey will be used to plan construction activities to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1:

A biological resources study of the project site should be conducted to mitigate potential impacts to any species of concern. The biological resources study should include not only the project site where grading will occur, but also any areas in the vicinity of the site which will be used to provide access to the site, such as areas used to move construction equipment or to deliver materials to the site. The biological resources study would identify and evaluate impacts to wildlife and their habitat, including birds, reptiles and fish, within in the project study area. Of particular concern is the potential presence of a federally listed

<h1>Issues</h1>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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threatened bird the California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*). The survey must be conducted by a permitted surveyor and in accordance with the most recent survey protocols per guidelines established by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, or California Department of Fish and Game.

Based on the results of the biological study, a nesting bird survey may also be needed. This survey would be conducted no later than two weeks prior to the start of construction. The nesting bird survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist (to be hired by the construction contractor subject to the approval of the Bureau of Engineering's Environmental Management Group) no sooner than 14 days prior to any project actions that will cause a potentially substantial increase in noise or vibration levels during the raptor nesting season, which generally occurs from mid-January to mid-September. The survey for raptor nests must be conducted within 500 feet of the construction zone. A survey of all trees, shrubs and vegetation for other nesting migratory bird species must be conducted within 300 feet of the construction zone. If construction activity within 500 feet of an active raptor nest cannot be relocated, the construction must be terminated for the duration of the nesting season or until such time as it is determined that the nesting bird has fledged or a nest has failed due to non-project-related reasons. If construction activity within 300 feet of an active non-raptor migratory bird nest cannot be relocated, the construction must be terminated for the duration of the nesting season or until such time as it is determined that the nesting bird has fledged or the nest has failed due to non-project-related reasons. If construction (including tree removal) is scheduled outside of the raptor nesting season, then no nesting bird survey will be required. The biologist conducting a nesting bird survey shall submit a written report documenting the results of the survey to the Bureau of Engineering's Environmental Management Group.

After project construction is complete, the project site would be revegetated with a mix of flora of the same type as is found in the area immediately adjacent to the project site. A floristic/vegetation survey is currently being prepared and the results of this study will be used to design an appropriate revegetation mix for reseeding the project site.

- 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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

Reference: CNDDDB, *City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section C), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Database (<http://crithab.fws.gov>)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if riparian habitat or any other sensitive natural community were to be adversely modified.

See comment for 4 (a) above.

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

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Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section C)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, would be modified or removed.

The project would not modify or remove any federally protected wetlands.

- 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?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section C).

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project interfered or removed access to a migratory wildlife corridor or impeded the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

See comment for 4(a) above.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section C)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project would cause an impact that was inconsistent with local regulations pertaining to biological resources.

See comment 4(a) above.

- 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?

Reference: CNDDDB, City of Los Angeles General Plan, City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element, *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section C), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Program

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project would be inconsistent policies of any conservation plans of the cited type.

There are no such plans which include the project site. See comments for 4(a) through (e).

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section D.3).

Comment: A significant impact may result if the proposed project caused a substantial adverse

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change to the significance of a historical resource (as identified above).

No historic, archeological or cultural resources have been identified within the project area or vicinity.

- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section D.3).

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource which falls under the CEQA Guidelines section cited above.

See response to 5(a) above.

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

Reference: *Standard Specification for Public Works Construction, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section D.1)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if grading or excavation activities associated with the proposed project would disturb unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features. See response to 5(a) above.

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

Reference: *Standard Specification for Public Works Construction, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section D.2)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if grading or excavation activities associated with the proposed project would disturb interred human remains.

No known burial sites are located within the project site. Should human remains be encountered during construction, per standard public works construction practice, work would be temporarily diverted from the vicinity of the find until the coroner is notified in accordance with the Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If the remains were determined to be of

Native American descent, the coroner would have 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC would identify the person(s) thought to be the Most Likely Descendent, who would then help determine the appropriate course of action.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:

- a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
- i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence

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of a known fault?

Reference: CDC Publication 42, *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section E.1), *General Plan Safety Element*

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were located within a state-designated Alquist-Priolo Zone or other designated fault zone and appropriate building practices were not followed.

The subject site is not located within a State of California Earthquake Fault Zone (formerly known as an Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone) and will not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects from rupture of a known fault, ground shaking, seismic failure, or landslides.

The purpose of the project is to reduce the existing potential for adverse effects from seismic activity and reduce the potential for landslides in the project area. The project will not increase the number of people in the area.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Reference: Planning Department "Parcel Profile Report", *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section E.1)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project design did not comply with building code requirements intended to protect people from hazards associated with strong seismic ground shaking.

See comment 6(a)(i).

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Reference: CDC Seismic Hazard Zones, Planning Department "Parcel Profile Report", *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section E.1)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project would be located in an area identified as having a high risk of liquefaction and appropriate design measures required within such designated areas were not incorporated into the project.

The project site is not in an area identified as being susceptible to liquefaction. See also comment 6(a)(i).

iv) Landslides?

Reference: General Plan (Landslide Inventory and Hillside Areas in the City of Los Angeles Map), Planning Department "Parcel Profile Report", *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section E.1)

Comment: The purpose of the project is to reduce the potential for adverse effects due to landslides. See also comment 6(a)(i).

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section E.2), Planning Department "Parcel Profile Report" available at City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning. *Zone Information and*

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Map Access System (ZIMAS).

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were to expose large areas to the erosion effects of wind or water for a prolonged period of time.

The construction of drainage terraces and the revegetation of the project site upon completion of construction will reduce the potential for soil erosion.

- 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?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section C1), General Plan (Landslide Inventory and Hillside Areas in the City of Los Angeles Map), Planning Department “Parcel Profile Report”

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were built in an unstable area without proper site preparation or design features to provide adequate foundations for project buildings, thus posing a hazard to life and property.

Prior to construction and per standard practice, a geotechnical evaluation would be prepared which would prescribe methods, techniques, and specifications for: site preparation, treatment of undocumented fill and/or alluvial soils, fill placement on sloping ground, fill characteristics, fill placement and compactions, temporary excavations and shoring, permanent slopes, treatment of expansive soils, and treatment of corrosive soils. Design construction of the proposed project would conform to recommendations in the geotechnical evaluation. Additionally, see comment for 6(a) (iii).

- d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

Reference: Uniform Building Code

Comment: Ongoing geotechnical investigations will determine the characteristics of the soil at the project site. If expansive soils are present, the project design will address this issue to ensure no significant adverse effect.

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

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were built on soils that were incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal system, and such a system were proposed.

No septic tanks or alternative wastewater treatment systems are proposed or needed.

7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:

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

Reference: BOE Master Specifications, available online at <http://boe.lacity.org/bms/menu.cfm?mid=8>.

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Comment: Construction activities would result in emissions of greenhouse including carbon dioxide. Construction activities will be conducted in a manner that complies with Bureau of Engineering standards relating to control of emissions to the air (see, for example, *BOE Master Specification 01562 (Environmental Mitigation)*). Since construction activities would be temporary, these emissions would also be temporary.

Thresholds for assessing the significance of greenhouse emissions are currently in the process of being developed but have not yet been adopted by the City of Los Angeles. SCAQMD has recommended a greenhouse gas (GHG) significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons per year of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂) for assessing the significance of potential GHG emissions. SCAQMD allows GHG emissions from construction to be amortized over 30 years. The calculated CO₂ for this project is far below the SCAQMD recommended threshold, and therefore not expected to have a significant impact.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
(CO₂ EQUIVALENT)**

Construction Emissions (tons CO ₂ /year)	461
Construction Emissions (metric tons CO ₂ /year)	418
SCAQMD threshold (metric tons CO ₂ /year)	10,000

Estimated using URBEMIS 2007 9.2.4

The project would not interfere with the State's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because greenhouse gas emissions after construction is complete will be de minimis and therefore not significant.

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

Reference: *Climate LA 2008* (EnvironmentLA) available online at http://www.environmentla.org/pdf/ClimateLA_v5.pdf and <http://www.environmentla.org/pdf/ClimateLA%20Program%20document%202012-08.pdf>.

Comment: The current City program addressing emissions of greenhouse gases is the *Climate LA 2008* (EnvironmentLA.org). The project would not conflict with the provisions of this program.

8. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the

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routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Reference: DTSC’s EnviroStor Data Management System (<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>), L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide (Sections F.1 & F.2), SWRCB LUST and UST listings on Geotracker (<http://geotracker.swrcb.ca.gov>)

Comment: Operation of the proposed facility would not require transport, use of, or disposal of significant quantities of hazardous materials, including, but not limited to oils, pesticides, or chemicals.

Construction activities would be short-term and limited in nature and may involve limited transport, storage, use or disposal of hazardous materials. Some examples of hazardous materials handling include fueling and servicing construction equipment on-site, and the transport of fuels, lubricating fluids, and solvents. These types of materials are not acutely hazardous, and all storage, handling, and disposal of these materials are regulated.

No sites with known hazardous materials releases were identified within the project area or vicinity. However, if unknown contamination were identified during project construction or a spill were to occur during construction, agencies with jurisdiction would be notified and immediate measures would be taken to ensure the health and safety of the public and workers and to protect the environment. Any excavation, treatment, and/or disposal of contaminated soils would be conducted to the satisfaction of the applicable regulatory agencies, which could include LAFD, LACoFD, LARWQCB and/or DTSC. Adherence to regulations set forth by local, state, and federal regulatory agencies would reduce the potential for hazardous materials impacts to less than significant levels.

- 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?

Reference: DTSC’s EnviroStor Data Management System (<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>), L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide (Sections F1 and F.2), SWRCB LUST and UST listings on Geotracker (<http://geotracker.swrcb.ca.gov>)
 Comment: Refer to 7(a) above.

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

Reference: L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide (Section F.2)
 Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school site and were projected to release toxic emissions which pose a hazard beyond regulatory thresholds.

No schools or proposed school sites are located within one-quarter mile of the proposed project site.

- 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

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environment?

Reference: DTSC's EnviroStor Data Management System (<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>), L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide (Section F.2), SWRCB's GeoTracker, and USEPA's EnviroMapper

Comment: The project site is not listed in the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker system which includes leaking underground fuel tank sites and Spills, Leaks, Investigations, and Cleanups sites; or the Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor Data Management System which includes CORTESE sites, or the Environmental Protection Agency's database of regulated facilities.

- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

Reference: L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide (Section F.1), The Thomas Guide, Los Angeles County Street Guide (2007)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project site were located within a public airport land use plan area, or within two miles of a public airport, and would create a safety hazard.

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan, or within two miles of a public airport of public use airport.

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

Reference: L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide (Section F.1), The Thomas Guide, Los Angeles County Street Guide (2007)

Comment: The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

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

Reference: L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide (Section F.1)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were to substantially interfere with roadway operations used in conjunction with an emergency response plan or evacuation plan or would generate sufficient traffic to create traffic congestion that would interfere with the execution of such plan.

The proposed project would not alter the adjacent street system. As applicable, traffic detour plans would address emergency response or emergency evacuation for implementation during construction.

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

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were located in a wildland area and

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poses a significant fire hazard, which could affect persons or structures in the area in the event of a fire.

The project will not pose a significant fire hazard. Construction activities will utilize appropriate fire safety equipment and techniques.

9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section G.2)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project discharged water which did not meet the quality standards of agencies which regulate surface water quality and water discharge into stormwater drainage systems. For example, if a project were not in compliance with all applicable regulations with regard to surface water quality as governed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). These regulations include compliance with the Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) requirements to reduce potential water quality impacts.

The proposed project will not result in any change in the quality of the water discharged into the stormwater system or in the quality of surface water.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections G.2 and G.3)

Comment: Groundwater is a major component of the water supply for many public water suppliers in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, and is also used by private industries, as well as a limited number of private agricultural and domestic users. A project would normally have a significant impact on groundwater supplies if it were to result in a demonstrable and sustained reduction of groundwater recharge capacity or change the potable water levels sufficiently that it would reduce the ability of a water utility to use the groundwater basin for public water supplies or storage of imported water, reduce the yields of adjacent wells or well fields, or adversely change the rate or direction of groundwater flow.

The proposed project would not use groundwater resources and significant changes to the groundwater supply are not anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections G.1 and G2)

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Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project resulted in a substantial alteration of drainage patterns that resulted in a substantial increase in erosion or siltation during construction or operation of the project.

The proposed project is designed to construct drainage terraces which will alter drainage patterns, but these alterations would result in a decrease of erosion and siltation.

- d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section G.1)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project resulted in increased runoff volumes during construction or operation of the proposed project that would result in flooding conditions affecting the project site or nearby properties.

The project would not increase runoff during construction or operation. Also, see comment for 8(c) above.

- e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section G.2)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the volume of runoff were to increase to a level which exceeded the capacity of the storm drain system serving a project site. A significant impact may also occur if the proposed project would substantially increase the probability that polluted runoff would reach the storm drain system.

See comments for 8(a-d) above.

- f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section G.3)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if a project included potential sources of water pollutants and potential to substantially degrade water quality.

The project's objective is to reduce runoff and pollutant load of water that leaves the project site and eventually drains to the Los Angeles River.

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

Reference: *DFIRM Flood Zone Report*, Panel No. 06037C1585F (9/26/2008), *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections G.1 to G.3)

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<h1>Issues</h1>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
<p>Comment: The project is not within a flood hazard area. No housing is proposed as part of the proposed project.</p>				
<p>h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?</p> <p>Reference: <i>DFIRM Flood Zone Report</i>, Panel No. 06037C1585F (9/26/2008), <i>L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide</i> (Sections G.1 & G.3) Comment: The project is not within a 100-year flood hazard area.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?</p> <p>Reference: <i>City of Los Angeles General Plan Safety Element, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide</i> (Sections E.1 & G.3) Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were located in an area where a dam or levee could fail, exposing people or structures to significant risk of loss, injury or death.</p> <p>The Inundation and Tsunami Hazard Areas map (Exhibit G) of the Safety Element of the <i>Los Angeles City General Plan</i> (adopted by City Council November 26, 1996) indicates the project site is not located within a potential inundation area. No impacts relating to flooding are anticipated.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?</p> <p>Reference: <i>City of Los Angeles General Plan Safety Element, LA CEQA Thresholds Guide</i> (Section E.1) Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project would cause or accelerate geologic hazards, which would result in substantial damage to structures or infrastructure, or expose people to substantial risk of injury.</p> <p>The Inundation and Tsunami Hazard Areas map (Exhibit G) of the Safety Element of the <i>Los Angeles City General Plan</i> (adopted by City Council November 26, 1996) indicates the project site is not located within a potential tsunami hazard area. No impacts relating to a tsunami are anticipated.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>10. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:</p>				
<p>a) Physically divide an established community?</p> <p>Reference: <i>City of Los Angeles General Plan, LA CEQA Thresholds Guide</i> (Section H.2) Comment: Determination of impact is made based on several factors,</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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including whether the proposed project is sufficiently large or otherwise configured in such a way as to create a physical barrier within an established community.

The proposed project would not adversely impact land uses within the area or act as a physical barrier within the surrounding community.

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

Reference: *City of Los Angeles General Plan, LA CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections H.1 & H.2)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were inconsistent with the General Plan, or other applicable plan, or with the site's zoning if designated to avoid or mitigate a significant potential environmental impact.

The proposed project would not require changes in land use.

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

Reference: *City of Los Angeles General Plan, LA CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections H.1 & H.2)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were located within an area governed by a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan and would conflict with such plan.

No habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan is known to exist for the project site. Refer to 4(f) above.

11. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

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

Reference: *City of Los Angeles General Plan, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section E4)

Comment: No mineral resources are identified within the project area.

- 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?

Reference: *City of Los Angeles General Plan, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections H.1 & H.2)

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<h1>Issues</h1>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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Comment: Refer to 10 (a) above.

12. NOISE – Would the project result in:

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

Reference: *City of Los Angeles General Plan, City of Los Angeles Municipal Code, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section I)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the project resulted in or exposed people to noise levels that exceeded the standards established by the general plan and and/or noise ordinance of the Municipal Code.

Construction would use mechanized and non-mechanized construction techniques. Noise levels generated by construction equipment would vary based on several factors, including equipment type and models, operation being performed, and the condition of the equipment (refer to Appendix A for a list of anticipated equipment). Construction noise is anticipated to be temporary, transient, and comply with applicable standards of the City’s Noise Ordinance (LAMC Chapter XI).

Operation noise is anticipated to be limited to noise from the periodic presence of maintenance equipment. However, maintenance activities are expected to be minimal and would be implemented in accordance with applicable standards of the City’s Noise ordinance.

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

Reference: *City of Los Angeles General Plan, City of Los Angeles Municipal Code, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section I).

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the project were to expose persons to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

Construction activities associated with the project could generate some groundborne vibration from use of heavy equipment. However, there will be no project activity usually associated with significant vibration, such as pile driving and drilling. Excessive groundborne vibration is not anticipated.

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

Reference: *City of Los Angeles General Plan, City of Los Angeles Municipal Code, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section I)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the project were to substantially and permanently increase the ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the proposed project.

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<h1>Issues</h1>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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The project would not permanently increase the ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section I)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the project were to create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in the ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the proposed project.

See comments under 11(a) above.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section I), *The Thomas Guide, Los Angeles County Street Guide* (2007)

Comment: No public airport is located within the vicinity of the project area.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section I), *The Thomas Guide, Los Angeles County Street Guide* (2007)

Comment: No private airstrips are located within the vicinity of the project area.

13. POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would the project:

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section J.1)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project induced substantial population and housing growth through new development in undeveloped areas or by introducing unplanned infrastructure that was not previously evaluated in the adopted community plan or general plan.

The proposed project would not promote population growth either directly or indirectly, since it consists of infrastructure upgrades to meet regulatory requirements in conformance with the needs projected in the adopted community and general plans.

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

<h1>Issues</h1>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections J.1 and J.2)
 Comment: No housing would be displaced or changed.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections J.1 and J.2)
 Comment: See comment for 12(b) above.

14. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- i) Fire protection?

Reference: *City of Los Angeles General Plan Safety Element, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section K.2)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the project required the addition of a new fire station or the expansion, consolidation or relocation of an existing facility to maintain service.

The proposed project would not require additional fire protection or emergency response services beyond what is currently provided. As per Bureau of Engineering Standard Project Specifications, construction activities would comply with applicable Fire Code requirements. The nearest local fire responders would be notified, as appropriate, of any street lane closures during construction so as to coordinate emergency response routing during construction work.

- ii) Police protection?

Reference: *City of Los Angeles General Plan Safety Element, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section K.1)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were to result in an increase in demand for police services that would exceed the capacity of the police department responsible for serving the site.

The proposed project would not require additional police protection beyond what is currently provided. As per Bureau of Engineering Standard Project Specifications, construction activities would comply with applicable Municipal Code requirements. The nearest local police station would be notified, as appropriate, of any street lane closures during construction so as to coordinate emergency response routing during construction work.

- iii) Schools?

<h1>Issues</h1>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section K.3)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project included substantial employment or population growth that could generate demand for school facilities that exceeded the capacity of the school district responsible for serving the project site.

The proposed project is not a growth inducing project, either directly or indirectly, and would therefore not increase the demand for schools in the area.

iv) Parks?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section K.4)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the recreation and park services available could not accommodate the population increase resulting from the implementation of the proposed project.

Operation of the proposed project is not a growth inducing project, either directly or indirectly, and would therefore not increase the demand for parks in the area.

v) Other public facilities?

Comment: Operation of the proposed project would not induce growth, either directly or indirectly, and would therefore not increase the demand or use for other public facilities in the area.

15. RECREATION

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section K.4)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project included substantial employment or population growth that generated demand for public park facilities that exceed the capacity of existing parks.

The proposed project is not a growth inducing project, either directly or indirectly, and would therefore not increase the demand for parks or other recreational facilities in the area.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Comment: No recreational facilities would be included in the proposed project nor would any new recreation facilities be required.

16. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC – Would the project:

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system,

<h1>Issues</h1>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including, but not limited to, intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section L.1 to L.4 and L.8)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project caused an increase in traffic that would be substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system.

The operation of the project would not cause an increase in traffic in the project vicinity. During project construction, trucks will be hauling exported soil from the project site. This would require several truck trips per hour. A traffic control plan would be developed that would contain measures for minimizing potential adverse effects of truck traffic. Truck traffic during construction would be temporary, occurring only during project construction.

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

Reference: See 15(a).

Comment: See 15(a).

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

Comment: The project does not involve any changes in air traffic patterns.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section L.5)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project substantially increased road hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.

The proposed project would not change the surrounding street system and would not introduce incompatible vehicles to surrounding roadways.

- e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section L.5 and L.8)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project resulted in inadequate emergency access.

The project does not include any changes or alterations to emergency access. As applicable, during construction, temporary lane closures would be subject to a traffic control plan, which

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Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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would be subject to Los Angeles Department of Transportation review and approval, to ensure appropriate emergency access is maintained.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections L.7 & L.8)

Comment: The project will not impact public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities.

7. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section M.2)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project exceeded wastewater treatment requirements of the local regulatory governing agency.

The project would not impact any wastewater treatment requirements.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Sections M.1 and M.2)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project resulted in the need for new construction or expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities that could result in an adverse environmental effect that could not be mitigated.

Refer to 16(a) above.

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

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section M.2)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the volume of stormwater runoff from the proposed project increases to a level exceeding the capacity of the storm drain system serving the project site.

The proposed project consists of improvements to the existing stormwater system. The proposed project would not increase the volume of stormwater runoff.

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

<h1>Issues</h1>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section M.1)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project's water demands would exceed the existing water supplies that serve the site.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power provides potable water to the project area and vicinity. Other than temporary construction water use, the proposed project would not include water uses.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Comment: The project will not generate wastewater. Refer to 16 (a) above.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section M.3)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project were to increase solid waste generation to a degree that existing and projected landfill capacities would be insufficient to accommodate the additional waste.

The operation of the project will not increase solid waste generation. Solid waste disposal during construction and operation would comply with federal, state, local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Reference: *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* (Section M.3)

Comment: A significant impact may occur if the proposed project would generate solid waste that was in excess of or was not disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations.

Solid waste disposal during construction and operation would comply with federal, state, local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

18. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- | | | | | |
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| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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prehistory?

Reference: See 4 (Biological Resources) above.

Comment:: The project has the potential to impact biological resources. However, with implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

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)?

Reference: Preceding analyses.

Comment:: BOE has not discovered any evidence that any impact of the proposed project could be significant when viewed in connection with the effects of other past, current, or future projects.

c) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?

Reference: Preceding analyses.

Comment: The purpose of the proposed project is to improve both the short-term and long-term safety of the project site.

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

Reference: Preceding analyses.

Comment: The proposed project is not anticipated to have significant air quality, hazard, land use, noise, or traffic impacts that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

V. MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measure forms the basis of a mitigation monitoring program (MMP) for the proposed project. CEQA requires public agencies to adopt a reporting or monitoring program for the changes to the project that have been adopted to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6). The program must be adopted by the public agency at the time findings are made regarding the project. The State CEQA Guidelines allow public agencies to choose whether its program will monitor mitigation, report on mitigation, or both (14 CCR Section 15097(c)).

The mitigation measure described herein is supplemental to those required as standard procedure for the City and its contractors. The City and its contractors are the parties responsible for: (1) the necessary implementing actions; (2) verifying that the necessary

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implementing actions are taken; and (3) the primary record documenting the necessary implementing actions.

The mechanisms for verifying that mitigation measures have been implemented include design drawings, project plans and specifications, construction documents intended for use by construction contractors and construction managers, field inspections, field reports, and other periodic or special reports. All records pertaining to this mitigation program will be maintained and made available for inspection by the public in accordance with the City's records management systems.

Biological Resources

Mitigation Measure BIO: A biological resources study of the project site shall be conducted to mitigate potential impacts to any species of concern. The biological resources study should include not only the project site where grading will occur, but also any areas in the vicinity of the site which will be used to provide access to the site, such as areas used to move construction equipment or to deliver materials to the site. The biological resources study would identify and evaluate impacts to wildlife and their habitat, including birds, reptiles and fish, within in the project study area. Of particular concern is the potential presence of a federally listed threatened bird the California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*). The survey must be conducted by a permitted surveyor and in accordance with the most recent survey protocols per guidelines established by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, or California Department of Fish and Game.

Based on the results of the biological study, a nesting bird survey may also be needed. This survey would be conducted no later than two weeks prior to the start of construction. The nesting bird survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist (to be hired by the construction contractor subject to the approval of the Bureau of Engineering's Environmental Management Group) no sooner than 14 days prior to any project actions that will cause a potentially substantial increase in noise or vibration levels during the raptor nesting season, which generally occurs from mid-January to mid-September. The survey for raptor nests must conducted within 500 feet of the construction zone. A survey of all trees, shrubs and vegetation for other nesting migratory bird species must be conducted within 300 feet of the construction zone. If construction activity within 500 feet of an active raptor nest cannot be relocated, the construction must be terminated for the duration of the nesting season or until such time as it is determined that the nesting bird has fledged or a nest has failed due to non-project-related reasons. If construction activity within 300 feet of an active non-raptor migratory bird nest cannot be relocated, the construction must be terminated for the duration of the nesting season

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or until such time as it is determined that the nesting bird has fledged or the nest has failed due to non-project-related reasons. If construction (including tree removal) is scheduled outside of the raptor nesting season, then no nesting bird survey will be required. The biologist conducting a nesting bird survey shall submit a written report documenting the results of the survey to the Bureau of Engineering's Environmental Management Group.

After project construction is complete, the project site would be revegetated with a mix of flora of the same type as is found in the area immediately adjacent to the project site. A floristic/vegetation survey is currently being prepared and the results of this study will be used to design an appropriate revegetation mix for reseeding the project site.

VI. LIST OF PREPARERS AND PERSONS CONSULTED

A. Preparers

Prepared by:
Norman Mundy
Environmental Specialist II
Environmental Management Group
Bureau of Engineering
Department of Public Works

Under Supervision of:
Jim Doty
Acting Manager
Environmental Management Group
Bureau of Engineering
Department of Public Works

B. Persons Consulted

City of Los Angeles

Department of Public Works
Bureau of Engineering
Geotechnical Investigation Group
Gene Edwards, Project Manager
Robert Hancock, Project Engineer

VII. DETERMINATION - RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

A. Summary

The project is designed to stabilize a landslide area on Hillcrest Drive by removing landslide debris, grading the hillside and constructing drainage terraces to provide slope

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stability. Mitigation measures have been included to ensure that any impacts are reduced to a less than significant level.

B. Recommended Environmental Documentation

On the basis of this initial evaluation, I find that the project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a **Mitigated Negative Declaration** should be adopted.

Prepared by: _____
(Signature on original)
Norman Mundy
Environmental Specialist II

Approved by: _____
(Signature on original)
Jim Doty., Acting Manager
Environmental Management Group

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