
Final
Initial Study/Negative Declaration
La Puente 2021-2029 Housing Element



LEAD AGENCY:

City of La Puente
15900 Main Street
La Puente, CA 91744
Contact: Mr. Abraham Tellez, Senior Planner

PREPARED BY:

Morse Planning Group

Adopted February 22, 2022
Resolution No. 22-5690

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NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Title of Project:	La Puente 2021-2029 Housing Element
Project Location:	Located approximately Located 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Valley, the City encompasses 1,720 acres within its approximately 3.5 square-mile corporate limits. The La Puente 2021-2029 Housing Element applies to all properties within the municipal boundaries of the City of La Puente (City).
Project Proponent:	City of La Puente
Brief Description of Project:	The project is the adoption and implementation of the La Puente 2021-2029 Housing Element, which represents an update of the City's 2013-2021 Housing Element. The Housing Element is an integral component of the City's General Plan, as it addresses existing and future housing needs of all types for persons of all economic segments in the City and identifies the City's "fair share" of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) assigned La Puente a housing allocation of 1,929 units for very low, low, moderate, and above moderate income levels for the 2021-2029 housing element period. The City of La Puente's long-term housing goal is to provide housing opportunities to meet the diverse needs of the community.
Project Impacts:	The Initial Study/Negative Declaration found that the project would have no or less than significant environmental impacts.
Mitigation Measures:	No mitigation measures are required.
Cortese List:	Not Applicable. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document, and as such is not related to a specific parcel.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The La Puente 2021-2029 Housing Element (herein referenced as the “project,” “proposed project,” “2021-2029 Housing Element,” or “Housing Element”) involves adoption and implementation of the element. Following a preliminary review of the proposed project, the City of La Puente has determined that the proposed project is subject to the guidelines and regulations of the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)*. This Initial Study addresses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the project, as proposed.

1.1 STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND REQUIREMENTS

This environmental document has been prepared in conformance with *CEQA (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.)*; *CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.)*; and the rules, regulations, and procedures for implementation of CEQA, as adopted by the City of La Puente.

In accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15051 and 15367, the City of La Puente (City) is identified as the Lead Agency for the proposed project. Under *CEQA* (Public Resource Code Sections 21000-21177) and pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15063, the City is required to undertake the preparation of an Initial Study to determine if the proposed project would have a significant environmental impact. If, as a result of the Initial Study, the Lead Agency finds that there is evidence that any aspect of the project may cause a significant environmental effect, the Lead Agency shall further find that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is warranted to analyze project-related and cumulative environmental impacts. Alternatively, if the Lead Agency finds no evidence that the project, either as proposed or as modified to include the mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study, may cause a significant effect on the environment, the Lead Agency shall find that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and shall prepare a Negative Declaration. Such determination can be made only if “there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the Lead Agency” that such impacts may occur (*PRC* Section 21080(c)).

The environmental documentation, which is ultimately selected by the City in accordance with CEQA, is intended as an informational document undertaken to provide an environmental basis for subsequent discretionary actions relevant to the project. The resulting documentation is not, however, a policy document and its approval and/or certification neither presupposes nor mandates any actions on the part of those agencies from whom permits and other discretionary approvals would be required.

The environmental documentation and supporting analysis are subject to a public review period. During this review, agency and public comments on the document relative to environmental issues should be addressed to the City. Following review of any comments received, the City will consider these comments as a part of the project’s environmental review and include them with the Initial Study documentation for consideration by the City.



1.2 PURPOSE

The purposes of an Initial Study are to:

1. Identify environmental impacts;
2. Provide the lead agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an EIR or a negative declaration;
3. Enable an applicant or lead agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is required to be prepared;
4. Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of the project;
5. Document the factual basis of the finding in a negative declaration that a project would not have a significant environmental effect;
6. Eliminate needless EIRs;
7. Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used for the project; and
8. Assist in the preparation of an EIR, if required, by focusing the EIR on the effects determined to be significant, identifying the effects determined not to be significant, and explaining the reasons for determining that potentially significant effects would not be significant.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15063 identifies specific disclosure requirements for inclusion in an Initial Study. Pursuant to those requirements, an Initial Study shall include:

- A description of the project, including the location of the project
- Identification of the environmental setting
- Identification of environmental effects by use of a checklist, matrix, or other method, provided that entries on a checklist or other form are briefly explained to indicate that there is some evidence to support the entries
- Discussion of ways to mitigate significant effects identified, if any
- Examination of whether the project is compatible with existing zoning, plans, and other applicable land use controls
- The name(s) of the person(s) who prepared or participated in the preparation of the Initial Study

1.3 RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES

Certain projects or actions undertaken by a Lead Agency require subsequent oversight, approvals, or permits from other public agencies in order to be implemented. Such other agencies are referred to as Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies. Pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15381 and 15386, as amended, Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies are respectively defined as follows:

“Responsible Agency” means a public agency, which proposes to carry out or approve a project, for which [a] Lead Agency is preparing or has prepared an EIR or Negative Declaration. For the purposes of *CEQA*, the term “responsible agency” includes all public agencies other than the Lead Agency, which have discretionary approval power over the project. (Section 15381.)



“Trustee Agency” means a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project, which are held in trust for the people of the State of California. Trustee Agencies include: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, The State Lands Commission, The State Department of Parks and Recreation, and The University of California with regard to sites within the Natural Land and Water Reserves System. (Section 15386.)

As soon as the Lead Agency has determined that an Initial Study would be required for a project, the Lead Agency is directed to consult informally with all Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies that are responsible for resources affected by the project, in order to obtain the recommendations of those agencies as to whether an EIR or a Negative Declaration should be prepared for the project. Following receipt of any written comments from those agencies, the Lead Agency considers any recommendations of those agencies in the formulation of the preliminary findings. Following completion of this Initial Study, the Lead Agency initiates formal consultation with these Responsible and Trustee Agencies and other governmental agencies, as required under *CEQA* and its implementing guidelines.

For this project, the City of La Puente is the Lead Agency and has the sole responsibility of processing and approving the project. There are no Responsible or Trustee Agencies that have oversight, approval, or permit responsibility associated with the project, or require consultation with the City of La Puente. In addition, no other agency is required to approve the 2021-2029 Housing Element, but it will be reviewed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development for the purpose of determining whether it complies with the requirements of State Housing Element law.

1.4 CONSULTATION

The City complied with Tribal Cultural Resources consultation requirements under *CEQA* and AB 52 (Gatto, 2014), and *PRC* Section 21080.3.1. Formal notification was sent to nine tribes. The City received no requests for consultation.

1.5 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Pertinent documents relating to this Initial Study have been cited in accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15150, which encourages incorporation by reference as a means of reducing redundancy and length of environmental reports. The following documents are hereby incorporated by reference into this EIR. Information contained within these documents has been utilized for this Initial Study. These documents are available for review at the City of La Puente Development Services Department, located at 15900 Main Street, La Puente, California 91744, and online, if available, with the links provided below.

The City of La Puente General Plan. *The City of La Puente General Plan (General Plan)* was adopted on May 18, 2004 by Resolution No. 04-4384 and is a long-range planning document that guides decisions related to land use. The *General Plan* includes an Introduction Chapter and the following five elements: Community Development, Circulation and Infrastructure, Housing, Community Resources, and Community Safety.

<https://lapuente.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2004GeneralPlan.pdf>



The City of La Puente General Plan and Zoning Code Update Environmental Impact Report. The Final Environmental Impact Report for The City of La Puente General Plan and Zoning Code Update (State Clearinghouse Number [SCH No.] 2004011001 evaluates the environmental effects associated with the adoption and implementation of the General Plan and Zoning Code Update initiated by the City of La Puente.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) reviewed the following topics: Land Use and Planning, Transportation/Traffic, Air Quality, Noise, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Parks and Recreation, and Utilities and Services. All other topics were determined to have no impact or less than significant impacts in the Initial Study.

The EIR concluded the following significant, unavoidable impacts:

- Air Quality – PM₁₀
- Transportation/Traffic – Azusa Avenue

The EIR concluded the following less than significant impacts:

- Land Use
- Transportation/Traffic
- Noise
- Hazardous Materials
- Parks and Recreation
- Utilities and Services

The City Council certified *The City of La Puente General Plan and Zoning Code Update Environmental Impact Report* on May 18, 2004 by Resolution No. 04-4384, as well as adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for significant, unavoidable impacts, and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

La Puente Municipal Code. The *La Puente Municipal Code (Municipal Code)*, codified through Ordinance 972, March 9, 2021, consists of codes and ordinances adopted by the City. These include standards intended to regulate land use, development, health and sanitation, water quality, public facilities, and public safety. The *Zoning Code* (Title 10 of the *Municipal Code*) was approved with Ordinance 935 and took effect on February 26, 2015. The *Zoning Code* identifies land uses permitted and prohibited according to the zoning category of particular parcels and establishes the development standards and regulations for each zone. The Building Regulations (Title 8 of the *Municipal Code*) specify rules and regulations for construction, alteration, and building for uses of human habitation and occupation.

[La Puente, CA Laws \(amlegal.com\)](http://amlegal.com)



La Puente Downtown Business District Specific Plan. The *La Puente Downtown Business District Specific Plan (DBD Specific Plan)* was adopted on June 28, 1994 by Ordinance No. 94-707, amended on June 13, 2000 by Ordinance No. 00-795, amended on February 12, 2002 by Ordinance No. 02-806, amended on October 11, 2005 by Ordinance 05-842, and amended on July 10, 2007 by Ordinance 07-864.

The *DBD Specific Plan* establishes guidelines for the intensification and redevelopment of the DBD area, and allows for flexibility to accommodate innovative applicant-developer approaches to respond to changing economic and market conditions. The DBD Specific Plan is intended to rejuvenate the vitality of the DBD by:

- Creating a foundation for a revitalized retail base
- Encouraging the creation of a job center
- Establishing diverse civic and community services
- Enhancing the visual appeal of the DBD
- Providing residential opportunities

The *DBD Specific Plan* area encompasses approximately 23.7 net acres, and identifies a combination of retail, mixed-use, office, light industrial, and residential uses, as well as a variety of community service and civic structures in the 14 sub areas. The *DBD Specific Plan* designates five separate and distinct districts in Section 4, Development Regulations: Mixed-Use District, Office District, Business Park District, Community Service District, and the Multi-Family Residential District. Design Guidelines are included in Section 5.

<https://lapuente.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/DowntownSpecificPlan.pdf>

A Program Environmental Impact Report was certified for the *DBD Specific Plan* on June 28, 1994 by Ordinance No. 94-707.



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2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The La Puente 2021-2029 Housing Element applies to all properties within the municipal boundaries of the City of La Puente (City), Los Angeles County, California. The City is located approximately 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Valley, and is bordered by the City of West Covina on the north, the unincorporated Los Angeles County community of Valinda on the north and east, and the City of Industry on the south and west. Regional access to the City is provided via Interstate 10 (I-10) and State Route 60 (SR-60).

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

2.2.1 EXISTING LAND USES

The project is the 2021-2029 Housing Element that will be applied Citywide. La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years, and development is characterized primarily as a residential community with a mix of housing types, commercial and industrial businesses located primarily along major highways and streets, and public institutional and open space uses.

2.2.2 SURROUNDING LAND USES

The approximately 3.5-square mile City is bordered by the City of West Covina on the north, the unincorporated Los Angeles County community of Valinda on the north and east, and the City of Industry on the south and west. The neighboring cities and communities are also fully urbanized with a mix of residential, commercial, industrial, public institutional, and open space uses.

2.3 GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING DESIGNATIONS

Not Applicable (Citywide).

2.4 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

2.4.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The project is the adoption and implementation of the La Puente 2021-2029 Housing Element, which represents an update of the City's 2013-2021 Housing Element. The Housing Element is an integral component of the City's General Plan, as it addresses existing and future housing needs of all types for persons of all economic segment groups in the City. The Housing Element serves as a tool for decision-makers and the public in understanding and meeting housing needs in La Puente. While the law does not require local governments to actually construct housing to meet identified needs, it does require that the community address housing needs in its discretionary planning actions.



PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSING ELEMENT

The Housing Element is one of the seven mandatory elements of the General Plan. Through policies, procedures, and incentives, it provides an action-plan for maintaining and expanding the housing supply in the City of La Puente.

The Housing Element is organized into the following sections and appendices:

Sections		Appendices	
1.	Introduction	A.	Review of Past Accomplishments
2.	Needs Assessment	B.	Public Participation
3.	Constraints	C.	Inventory of Housing Sites
4.	Housing Resources	D.	Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
5.	Housing Plan		

La Puente’s Housing Element for the 6th cycle planning period of October 15, 2021 to October 15, 2029 describes policies and programs in Sections 2 through 5 that include:

- Identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs, resources, and constraints;
- A statement of goals, policies, quantified objectives, and scheduled programs for preservation, improvement and development of housing;
- Identification of adequate sites for housing; and
- Adequate provision for existing and projected needs of all economic segments of the community.

Appendices

Appendix A contains a review of the programs from the previous element and identifies the City’s accomplishments as well as changes that are appropriate for the new planning period based on changed circumstances. Appendix B contains a list of organizations invited to participate in the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Appendix C contains a parcel-specific listing of potential sites for housing development. Appendix D contains an analysis of areas of segregation, racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, disparities in access to opportunity, and disproportionate housing needs including displacement risk.

HOUSING GOALS AND POLICIES

The 2021-2029 Housing Element goals and policies are listed below. Refer to the 2021-2029 Housing Element (separate document) for a full description of the programs associated with each goal.



Housing Conservation and Improvement

Goal 1 *Preserve and improve the conditions of the City's established housing stock.*

- Policy 1.1 Continue to offer rehabilitation programs that provide financial and technical assistance to low- and moderate-income households for the repair and rehabilitation of housing with substandard conditions.
- Policy 1.2 Continue to provide proactive code enforcement activities to maintain and improve housing and neighborhood qualities.
- Policy 1.3 Prevent the encroachment of incompatible commercial and industrial uses into residential neighborhoods.
- Policy 1.4 Facilitate the removal of housing units that pose serious health and safety hazards to residents and adjacent structures.
- Policy 1.5 Eliminate housing conditions that contribute to overcrowding.

Housing Availability and Production

Goal 2 *Promote and encourage housing development that adequately meets the needs of all socioeconomic segments of the community and region.*

- Policy 2.1 Utilize the Community Development Element, Zoning Ordinance, and other land use controls to provide housing sites that can facilitate and encourage the development of a variety of housing consistent with the City's identified local needs and its regional housing responsibilities.
- Policy 2.2 Establish incentives and regulatory concessions to promote the development of housing for very-low-, low- and moderate-income persons, and especially those with special needs.
- Policy 2.3 Encourage the infilling of vacant residential land and the recycling of underutilized residential land, particularly in Downtown.

Housing Affordability

Goal 3 *Maximize the use of available financial resources and pursue creative and resourceful methods to reduce the overall cost of housing.*

- Policy 3.1 Pursue programs and funding sources designed to maintain and improve the affordability of existing housing units and for the construction of new housing to very-low-, low-, and moderate-income households.
- Policy 3.2 Create collaborative partnerships with non-profit agencies and for-profit developers to maximize resources available for the provision of housing affordable to lower-income households. Support the efforts of non-profit organizations and private developers to obtain State and/or Federal funds for the construction/preservation of affordable housing for low-income households.
- Policy 3.3 Discourage the conversion of existing apartment units to condominiums where such conversion will diminish the supply of very-low-, low-, and moderate-income housing.



Removing Governmental Constraints

Goal 4 *Alleviate any potential governmental constraints to housing production and affordability.*

- Policy 4.1 Review and adjust as appropriate residential development standards, regulations, ordinances, departmental process procedures, and residential fees related to rehabilitation and construction that are determined to be a constraint on development of housing, particularly for lower- and moderate-income households and for persons with special needs.
- Policy 4.2 Streamline the City’s development review process to minimize the indirect cost of time spent in this process, and where appropriate, reduce direct cost in fees of developing new affordable housing opportunities.
- Policy 4.3 Promote the development of Accessory Dwelling Units to provide needed housing and support Fair Housing goals.
- Policy 4.4 Address the housing needs of special populations and extremely-low-income households through emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, and single room occupancy units.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Opportunities

Goal 5 *Promote fair housing equal opportunities for all residents to reside in the housing of their choice.*

- Policy 5.1 Promote fair housing practices throughout the community.
- Policy 5.2 Prohibit practices that restrict housing choice by arbitrarily directing prospective buyers and renters to certain neighborhoods or types of housing.
- Policy 5.3 Publicize fair housing programs and services offered to the community by the City and other agencies.

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

California *Government Code* Article 10.6, Section 65580 – 65589.8, Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 sets forth the legal requirements for a housing element and encourages the provision of affordable and decent housing in suitable living environments for all communities to meet statewide goals. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a statement by the City of La Puente of its current and future housing needs identified in a policy document that sets forth the City’s goals, policies, and programs to address those identified needs.

Specifically, *Government Code* Section 65580 states the housing element shall consist of “...an identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs and a statement of goals, policies, quantified objectives, financial resources and scheduled programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing.” The housing element must also contain a housing plan with quantified objectives for the implementation of the goals and objectives described in the housing element. State law requires the housing element be updated every eight years or as otherwise required by State law.

Government Code Article 10.6, Section 65589 – 65589.8, Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 sets forth the legal requirements for a housing element and encourages the provision of affordable and decent housing in all communities to meet statewide goals. This Initial Study evaluates the environmental effects of the adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 La Puente Housing Element. The planning period is from October 15, 2021 through October 15, 2029.



Government Code Section 65583 requires that housing elements include the following components:

- A review of the previous element’s goals, policies, programs, and objectives to ascertain the effectiveness of each of these components, as well as the overall effectiveness of the Housing Element;
- An assessment of housing needs and an inventory of resources and constraints related to the meeting of these needs;
- An analysis and program for preserving assisted housing developments;
- A Statement of community goals, quantified objectives, and policies relative to the preservation, improvement and development of housing;
- A program which sets forth an eight-year schedule of actions that the City is undertaking or intends to undertake, in implementing the policies set forth in the Housing Element.

Several factors influence the demand for housing in the City of La Puente. Four major “needs” categories considered in the Housing Element include:

- 1) housing needs resulting from overcrowding;
- 2) housing needs that result when households are paying more than they can afford for housing;
- 3) housing needs of "special needs groups" such as the elderly, large families, female heads of households, households with persons with disabilities (including persons with developmental disabilities), and the homeless; and
- 4) housing needs resulting from population growth in the City and surrounding region.

California housing element law requires that each city and county develop local housing programs designed to meet their “fair share” of housing needs for all income groups. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Housing Policy Division develops the Regional Housing Needs Assessments (RHNA) for each region of the State, represented by councils of governments. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) determines the housing allocation for each city and county within its six-county jurisdiction, which includes Los Angeles County. SCAG assigned La Puente a housing allocation of 1,929 units, as shown in Table 2-1, Regional Housing Needs Allocation 2021-2029. The RHNA covers the period of October 15, 2021 to October 15, 2029.

**TABLE 2-1
REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION 2021-2029**

Income Category	Number of Units
Very Low Income	544
Low Income	275
Moderate Income	275
Above Moderate Income	835
Total Units	1,929



Housing Resources

Housing Element Section 4, Housing Resources, provides details regarding 1) Availability of Sites for Housing, 2) Financial Resources, 3) Administrative Resources, and 4) Opportunities for Energy Conservation.

The Residential Sites Inventory summarizes the sites available in La Puente to accommodate the remaining RHNA through residential recycling primarily through infill developments on residentially zoned lots, on vacant land, and within the Downtown Business District. A parcel-specific list of potential sites for housing development is provided in Housing Element Appendix C.

Comparison of Sites Inventory and RHNA

As detailed in Housing Element Appendix C, identified properties have the combined capacity to accommodate at least 2,388 additional housing units on vacant and underutilized residential and mixed-use land (*Table 2-2, Comparison of Site Inventory and 2021-2029 RHNA*).

**TABLE 2-2
COMPARISON OF SITE INVENTORY AND 2021-2029 RHNA**

	Income Category			
	Lower	Moderate	Above Moderate	Total
SITE INVENTORY				
Vacant Land	0	3	16	19
Residential Recycling	96	0	130	226
Downtown Specific Plan	287	57	0	344
Mixed-Use Zoning Program Sites	642	212	673	1,527
Accessory Dwelling Units	185	6	81	272
Site Inventory Total	1,210	278	900	2,388
6TH CYCLE RHNA (2021-2029) ALLOCATION	819	275	835	1,929
Delta (Site Inventory Total Minus 6th Cycle RHNA)	391	3	65	459
Source: 2021-2029 Housing Element (November 2021)				
Notes 1. Lower RHNA = Very Low (544) + Low (275) 2. Assumes 34 ADUs permitted per year 3. Includes 20% buffer above RHNA				

These sites and the associated land use regulations can facilitate the production of 1,210 lower-income units, 278 moderate-income units, and 900 above-moderate-income units during the planning period, which exceeds the City's RHNA allocation for the 2021-2029 planning period. Public services and facilities are available to adequately serve all of the potential housing sites. Lateral water and sewer lines would be extended onto the properties from



the adjoining public rights-of-way as development occurs. Any missing public improvement (e.g., curbs, gutters, sidewalks, etc.) along the property frontages would also be constructed at that time.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element identifies sites evaluated previously for potential environmental impacts in the *General Plan and Zoning Code Update EIR*. The 2021-2029 Housing Element Update identifies a range of tentatively reserved sites that could be developed to meet the City's sixth cycle RHNA throughout La Puente. Some of these sites may differ from those identified in the *City of La Puente General Plan* and could require land use changes in the future that would allow for increased density or other provisions.

Government Code Section 65583 (c)(1)(A) states that cities have up to three years from the time a Housing Element is adopted to rezone sites including adoption of minimum density and development standards, and cities that fail to adopt a Housing Element that HCD finds to be in substantial compliance within 120 days of the statutory deadline for adoption, shall complete rezoning of sites no later than one year from the statutory deadline adoption of the Housing Element. The sites inventory (provided in 2021-2029 Housing Element Appendix C) yields housing units that provide more than 100 percent of the RHNA requirements, as demonstrated in [Table 2-2](#). Furthermore, each future development proposal would be subject to environmental analysis, as applicable, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c) and as required by State law, to evaluate potential impacts specific to that proposal.

Assumptions

This document is based on the following assumptions:

- 1) **General Plan Consistency.** The 2021-2029 Housing Element is consistent with the adopted *City of La Puente General Plan*. As the General Plan is updated in the future, the City will ensure that the updated General Plan is consistent with the policies contained in the Housing Element.
- 2) **Purpose of Housing Element Environmental Review.** This Initial Study is not intended to and does not address the particular impacts of future housing projects on any site identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element. The Initial Study is limited to the review of potential environmental impacts resulting from the adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element and is not intended to analyze impacts of current or future specific development activities.
- 3) **Project-Specific Environmental Review.** In the City of La Puente, all housing development proposals are subject to a CEQA review process.

2.5 PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The City of La Puente (lead agency under *CEQA*) will use this Initial Study/Negative Declaration in making decisions with regard to the adoption and implementation of the La Puente 2021-2029 Housing Element.

- General Plan Amendment
- Negative Declaration



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3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

3.1 BACKGROUND

1.	Project Title: La Puente 2021-2029 Housing Element
2.	Lead Agency Name and Address: City of La Puente 15900 Main Street La Puente, CA 91744
3.	Contact Person and Phone Number: Mr. Abraham Tellez, Senior Planner P: 626.855.1513 E: atellez@lapuente.org
4.	Project Location: Located approximately 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Valley, the City encompasses 1,720 acres within its approximately 3.5 square-mile corporate limits. The La Puente 2021-2029 Housing Element applies to all properties within the municipal boundaries of the City of La Puente (City).
5.	Project Sponsor’s Name and Address: City of La Puente 15900 Main Street La Puente, CA 91744
6.	General Plan Designation: Not Applicable (Citywide)
7.	Zoning: Not Applicable (Citywide)
8.	Description of the Project: Refer to <u>Section 2.4, Project Characteristics.</u>
9.	Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: Refer to <u>Section 2.2.2, Surrounding Land Uses.</u>
10.	Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval or participation agreement). Refer to <u>Section 2.5, Permits and Approvals.</u>
11.	Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality The City has complied with Tribal Cultural Resources consultation requirements under CEQA and AB 52 (Gatto, 2014). Formal notification was sent to nine tribes. The City received no requests for consultation.



3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is “Potentially Significant Impact,” as indicated by the Initial Study Checklist questions in [Section 4.1](#) through [Section 4.20](#).

	Aesthetics		Land Use and Planning
	Agriculture and Forestry Resources		Mineral Resources
	Air Quality		Noise
	Biological Resources		Population and Housing
	Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources		Public Services
	Energy		Recreation
	Geology and Soils		Transportation
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Utilities and Service Systems
	Hazards and Hazardous Materials		Wildfire
	Hydrology and Water Quality		Mandatory Findings of Significance



4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This section analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. The issue areas evaluated in this Initial Study include those cited in [Section 3.2](#).

The environmental analysis in this section is patterned after the Initial Study Checklist recommended by the *CEQA Guidelines* and used by the City of La Puente (City) in its environmental review process. For the preliminary environmental assessment undertaken as part of this Initial Study's preparation, a determination that there is a potential for significant effects indicates the need to more fully analyze the development's impacts and to identify mitigation.

For the evaluation of potential impacts, the questions in the Initial Study Checklist are stated and an answer is provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the Initial Study. The analysis considers the long-term, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the development. To each question, there are four possible responses:

- **No Impact.** The development will not have any measurable environmental impact on the environment.
- **Less Than Significant Impact.** The development will have the potential for impacting the environment, although this impact will be below established thresholds that are considered to be significant.
- **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** The development will have the potential to generate impacts which may be considered as a significant effect on the environment, although mitigation measures or changes to the development's physical or operational characteristics can reduce these impacts to levels that are less than significant.
- **Potentially Significant Impact.** The development will have impacts, which are considered significant, and additional analysis is required to identify mitigation measures that could reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

Where potential impacts are anticipated to be significant, mitigation measures would be required, so that impacts may be avoided or reduced to a less than significant level.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The following sections include a discussion of potential project impacts as identified in the Initial Study Checklist.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that would not change land use designations or in and of itself authorize any development within the City. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element.

Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes.



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4.1 AESTHETICS

Would the project, except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			✓	
B. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓
C. In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). In an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			✓	
D. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			✓	
Note: Certain projects within a transit priority area need not evaluate aesthetics (Public Resources Code Section 21099).				

A. WOULD THE PROJECT HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON A SCENIC VISTA?

Less Than Significant Impact. The topography of La Puente is generally flat, except for the San Jose Hills area located on the east side of the City. All areas of La Puente, including the hillside areas, are already developed, primarily with housing.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element includes policies and programs that are applicable City-wide and are designed to facilitate the construction of housing units to meet the City’s share of the regional housing need. The proposed project does not involve construction on any particular site in the City. Future development proposals would be subject to project-specific environmental impact and design review, and any potential impacts to scenic vistas would be identified and mitigated, as applicable, on a project-by-project basis. Adoption and implementation of the proposed project would not substantially alter the visual character of the City, nor would it have adverse impacts relative to the scenic vistas of the San Jose Hills. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY DAMAGE SCENIC RESOURCES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TREES, ROCK OUTCROPPINGS, AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS WITHIN A STATE SCENIC HIGHWAY?

No Impact. No scenic vistas, trees, rock outcroppings, or state scenic highways occur within La Puente. The 2021-2029 Housing Element applies to the entire City, and only identifies sites where new housing may be developed consistent with adopted land use policy. The proposed project does not involve construction at any particular site in the City. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.



Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. IN NONURBANIZED AREAS, WOULD THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY DEGRADE THE EXISTING VISUAL CHARACTER OR QUALITY OF PUBLIC VIEWS OF THE SITE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS? (PUBLIC VIEWS ARE THOSE THAT ARE EXPERIENCED FROM PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE VANTAGE POINT). IN AN URBANIZED AREA, WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE ZONING AND OTHER REGULATIONS GOVERNING SCENIC QUALITY?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente is considered an urbanized area. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Therefore, it is not possible at this time to conduct an assessment of potential site-specific visual impacts relative to future development proposals. Instead, a case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to ensure that existing views and aesthetic conditions are preserved, and that the future development proposals are consistent with all applicable General Plan goals and policies and zoning regulations relative to visual character and scenic quality. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT CREATE A NEW SOURCE OF SUBSTANTIAL LIGHT OR GLARE WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT DAY OR NIGHTTIME VIEWS IN THE AREA?

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document that does not address a new lighting sources, nor does it include any site-specific development proposals. As such, it is not possible at this time to conduct and an assessment of potential site-specific light and glare impacts relative to future development proposals. Generally, potential glare and lighting glare impacts can be mitigated through use of non-reflective building materials and lighting that is shielded downward.

A case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to ensure that light and glare impacts are addressed through minimization and/or mitigation, and that the future development proposals are consistent with all applicable General Plan goals and policies and zoning regulations relative to light and glare. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project, and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				✓
B. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				✓
C. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?				✓
D. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓
E. Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓

A. WOULD THE PROJECT CONVERT PRIME FARMLAND, UNIQUE FARMLAND, OR FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE (FARMLAND), AS SHOWN ON THE MAPS PREPARED PURSUANT TO THE FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM OF THE CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY, TO NON-AGRICULTURAL USE?

No Impact. The City contains no land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the California Important Farmland Finder (CIFF) and Los Angeles County Important Farmland Maps published by the State of California, Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The CIFF designates the project site as Urban and Built-Up Land. This farmland category defines Urban and Built-Up Land as land developed at a density of at least 1 dwelling unit (du) per 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. Land uses include but are not limited to residential, industrial, office/commercial, institutional, and public administration.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that does not involve any site-specific designs or proposals. Because no properties in La Puente are designated as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance, no impact would result from adoption or implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element in this regard.



Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH EXISTING ZONING FOR AGRICULTURAL USE, OR A WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACT?

No Impact. The City and surrounding area are developed and urbanized. No agricultural land exists or is zoned for agricultural use within the City, and no property within the City is under a Williamson contract. Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not affect any land zoned for agricultural uses and would not conflict with a Williamson Act Contract. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH EXISTING ZONING FOR, OR CAUSE REZONING OF, FOREST LAND (AS DEFINED IN PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 12220(G)), TIMBERLAND (AS DEFINED BY PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 4526), OR TIMBERLAND ZONED TIMBERLAND PRODUCTION (AS DEFINED BY GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 51104(G))?

No Impact. There is no zoning designation for forest land in the City of La Puente, and no areas within the City are classified as forest or timberland as defined by *Public Resources Code* Section 4526. Forestry operations do not occur within the City. Also, no property within the City supports trees capable of 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, or that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits. Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in the rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN THE LOSS OF FOREST LAND OR CONVERSION OF FOREST LAND TO NON-FOREST USE?

No Impact. Refer to Response 4.2.C.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

E. WOULD THE PROJECT INVOLVE OTHER CHANGES IN THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT, WHICH, DUE TO THEIR LOCATION OR NATURE, COULD RESULT IN CONVERSION OF FARMLAND, TO NON-AGRICULTURAL USE OR CONVERSION OF FOREST LAND TO NON-FOREST USE?

No Impact. The City contains no forest land, nor is any property within the City zoned for agriculture. The adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in changes to the environment that would result in the conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use or forest land to a non-forest use. Thus, there would be no potential for the conversion of these resources. No impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.3 AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			✓	
B. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			✓	
C. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			✓	
D. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			✓	

- A. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH OR OBSTRUCT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPLICABLE AIR QUALITY PLAN?**
- B. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN A CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE NET INCREASE OF ANY CRITERIA POLLUTANT FOR WHICH THE PROJECT REGION IS NON-ATTAINMENT UNDER AN APPLICABLE FEDERAL OR STATE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARD?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which is a non-attainment area for Federal and State criteria air pollutants, including ozone, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document that establishes City direction for facilitating housing development pursuant to adopted land use plans. Future development proposals would be required to comply with the density and intensity standards set forth in the City’s General Plan Land Use Element and current Zoning Ordinance.

Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not directly result in the construction of new housing or pollutant emissions, but would facilitate housing construction consistent with adopted land use policy. Nevertheless, future development proposals facilitated by the 2021-2029 Housing Element programs have the potential to result in pollutant emissions. A case-by-case review of future development proposals would be necessary to ensure that potential pollutant emissions do not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan nor result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant.

In addition, the City would ensure each future development proposal is reviewed, if applicable, to ensure consistency with Federal, State, and local air quality standards; the applicable Air Quality Management Plan; and the General Plan goals, policies, and standards relative to air quality. Therefore, a case-by-case review of future development proposals would be necessary to ensure that air quality is protected and that potential impacts are consistent with all applicable General Plan goals and policies; standard Building Code requirements; State and



Federal regulations; and South Coast Air Quality Management District rules and programs. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT EXPOSE SENSITIVE RECEPTORS TO SUBSTANTIAL POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS?

Less Than Significant Impact. Land uses that are considered more sensitive to changes in air quality than others are referred to as sensitive receptors. Land uses such as primary and secondary schools, hospitals, and convalescent homes are considered to be sensitive to poor air quality because the very young, the old, and the infirm are more susceptible to respiratory infections and other air quality-related health problems than the general public. Residential uses are considered sensitive because people in residential areas are often at home for extended periods of time, so they could be exposed to pollutants for extended periods.

Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not directly result in the exposure of persons to substantial pollutant concentrations. Future development proposals would be required to comply with the density and intensity standards set forth in the City's General Plan Land Use Element and current Zoning Ordinance. A case-by-case review of future development proposals would be necessary to ensure that potential emissions do not adversely affect sensitive receptors and to ensure consistency with all applicable General Plan goals and policies, standard Building Code requirements, and SCAQMD rules. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN OTHER EMISSIONS (SUCH AS THOSE LEADING TO ODORS) ADVERSELY AFFECTING A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE?

Less Than Significant Impact. Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not directly result in the exposure of persons to other emissions or odors. Future development proposals would be required to comply with the density and intensity standards set forth in the City's General Plan Land Use Element and current Zoning Ordinance. A case-by-case review of future development proposals would be necessary to ensure that potential other emissions or odors do not adversely affect a substantial number of people and are consistent with all applicable General Plan goals and policies, standard Building Code requirements, and SCAQMD rules. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				✓
B. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				✓
C. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				✓
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?				✓
E. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				✓
F. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				✓

A. WOULD THE PROJECT 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?

No Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years. As such, the City does not contain habitat supportive of special status plant or wildlife species. Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any sensitive species. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT 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 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE?

No Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years, and as such, is void of riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.



Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON FEDERALLY PROTECTED WETLANDS AS DEFINED BY SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MARSH, VERNAL POOL, COASTAL, ETC.) THROUGH DIRECT REMOVAL, FILLING, HYDROLOGICAL INTERRUPTION, OR OTHER MEANS?

No Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years, and as such, is void of Federally protected wetlands. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT 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?

No Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years. Due to the lack of quality biological habitat and wildlife corridors within the City, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not interfere with the movement of fish or wildlife or impact wildlife corridors. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

E. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH ANY LOCAL POLICIES OR ORDINANCES PROTECTING BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES, SUCH AS A TREE PRESERVATION POLICY OR ORDINANCE?

No Impact. The City of La Puente has no local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Nor has the City adopted a tree preservation ordinance. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

F. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF AN ADOPTED HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN, NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN, OR OTHER APPROVED LOCAL, REGIONAL, OR STATE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN?

No Impact. The City of La Puente is not located within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved habitat conservation plan. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.5 CULTURAL AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?			✓	
B. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?			✓	
C. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				✓
D. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
1) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?			✓	
2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.			✓	

A. WOULD THE PROJECT CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE CHANGE IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A HISTORICAL RESOURCE AS DEFINED IN CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact. Appendix A of the *City of La Puente General Plan and Zoning Code Update Final EIR* includes the Initial Study, which identified historical resources in the City. There is one building listed on the National Register of Historic Places – La Puente Valley Woman’s Club at 200 N. First Street. There are also a number of older buildings in the Downtown that reflect the character of an earlier time, but have not been designated as historic.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Thus, it is not possible at this time to conduct an assessment of potential site-specific historical resource impacts relative to future development proposals. Instead, a case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to ensure that historically significant buildings and resources are preserved, as applicable, and that the future development proposals are consistent with all applicable General Plan goals and policies and zoning regulations relative to historic resources. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



B. WOULD THE PROJECT CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE CHANGE IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact. Appendix A of the *City of La Puente General Plan and Zoning Code Update Final EIR* includes the Initial Study, which identified that the City is largely built out and does not contain any known archeological resources. The Initial Study also identified that the potential for uncovering archaeological resources within the City is considered remote, given that no such resources had been discovered during prior development activity. Nor was it anticipated that new development on previously developed sites would uncover or impact archaeological resources.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. A case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to confirm the absence or presence of archaeological resources, as applicable, and that the future development proposals are consistent with all applicable General Plan goals and policies and zoning regulations relative to archaeological resources. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT DISTURB ANY HUMAN REMAINS, INCLUDING THOSE INTERRED OUTSIDE OF FORMAL CEMETERIES?

No Impact. No formal cemeteries exist within the City of La Puente. And to the level of past disturbance associated with development throughout the City, it is not anticipated that human remains exist within the City.

Human remains are defined as any physical remains of a human being. The term "human remains" encompasses more than human bones. In ancient as well as historic times, Tribal Traditions included, but were not limited to, the burial of associated cultural resources (funerary objects) with the deceased, and the ceremonial burning of human remains. These remains are to be treated in the same manner as bone fragments that remain intact. Associated funerary objects are objects that, as part of the death rite or ceremony of a culture, are reasonably believed to have been placed with individual human remains either at the time of death or later; other items made exclusively for burial purposes or to contain human remains can also be considered as associated funerary objects.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) provides guidance that agencies shall consult with organizations on whose aboriginal lands the remains and cultural items might be discovered, who are reasonably known to have a cultural relationship to the human remains and other cultural items.

In the event human remains are encountered during earth removal or disturbance activities associated with future development proposals, all activities would cease immediately and a qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor would be immediately contacted. California *Health and Safety Code* Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to *Public Resources Code* Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner would notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials. Compliance with the above protocols per *Health and Safety Code* and *Public Resources Code* ensures no impacts would occur.



Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- D. WOULD THE PROJECT CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE CHANGE IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE, DEFINED IN PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21074 AS EITHER A SITE, FEATURE, PLACE, CULTURAL LANDSCAPE THAT IS GEOGRAPHICALLY DEFINED IN TERMS OF THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF THE LANDSCAPE, SACRED PLACE, OR OBJECT WITH CULTURAL VALUE TO A CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE, AND THAT IS:**
- 1. LISTED OR ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING IN THE CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES, OR IN THE LOCAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES AS DEFINED IN PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5020.1(K)?**
 - 2. A RESOURCE DETERMINED BY THE LEAD AGENCY, IN ITS DISCRETION AND SUPPORTED BY SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, TO BE SIGNIFICANT PURSUANT TO CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION (C) OF PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5024.1? IN APPLYING THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION (C) OF PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5024.1, THE LEAD AGENCY SHALL CONSIDER THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESOURCE TO A CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE.**

Less Than Significant Impact.

Tribal Consultation

Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014 (AB 52), requires that Lead Agencies evaluate a project’s potential to impact “tribal cultural resources.” Such resources include “[s]ites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical resources or included in a local register of historical resources.” AB 52 also gives Lead Agencies the discretion to determine, supported by substantial evidence, whether a resource qualifies as a “tribal cultural resource.”

Also per AB 52 (specifically *Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21080.3.1*), Native American consultation is required upon request by a California Native American tribe that has previously requested that the City provide it with notice of such projects.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted by the City in late May 2021 requesting a list of potential Native American contacts for consultation. The NAHC provided a Tribal Consultation List to the City on June 11, 2021. In addition, the City reviewed its list of tribes that had requested AB 52 notification.

The City sent letters via email for the purposes of SB 18¹ and AB 52 consultation to nine tribes listed below on June 16, 2021 and June 17, 2021:

1. Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation - Andrew Salas, Chairperson
2. San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians – Anthony Morales, Chairperson

¹ SB 18 (Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (Public Resources Code Section 65352.3) requires cities and counties to contact and consult with California Native American tribes prior to amending or adopting any general plan or specific plan, or designating land as open space.



3. Gabrielino/Tongva Nation – Sandonne Goad, Chairperson
4. Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council – Robert Dorame, Chairperson
5. Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council – Christina Conley
6. Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe – Charles Alvarez
7. Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians – Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair
8. Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians – Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson
9. Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – Michael Mirelez, Cultural Resource Coordinator

The City’s letter specifically noted that the Housing Element is required to be updated every eight years, and within Los Angeles County, jurisdictions are required to prepare, adopt, and receive certification from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) of their 6th cycle Housing Element by October 15, 2021. As such, the City respectfully requested that each tribe respond within 30 days for the both the SB 18 and AB 32 consultation.

At the conclusion of the 30-day period, the City received no requests for SB 18 or AB 52 consultation.

Impact Analysis

Whatever the linguistic affiliation, Native Americans in and around the project area exhibited similar organization and resource procurement strategies. Villages were based on clan or lineage groups. Their home/base sites are marked by midden deposits, often with bedrock mortars. During their seasonal rounds to exploit plant resources, small groups would migrate within their traditional territory in search of specific plants and animals. Their gathering strategies often left behind signs of special use sites, usually grinding slicks on bedrock boulders, at the locations of the resources.

Given the long-standing history of the multiple tribes in and around the City of La Puente, there is the potential that the construction of future development proposals would impact tribal cultural resources. Past construction and development practices in the City were not as sensitive to tribal cultural resources as current practices. Thus, ground-disturbing activities, such as grading or excavation, could disturb previously unidentified subsurface resources.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. A case-by-case review of future development proposals would be carried out to confirm the absence or presence of tribal cultural resources, as applicable, and that the future development proposals are consistent with all applicable General Plan goals and policies and zoning regulations relative to tribal cultural resources. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.6 ENERGY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?				✓
B. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				✓

A. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DUE TO WASTEFUL, INEFFICIENT, OR UNNECESSARY CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY RESOURCES, DURING PROJECT CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION?

B. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH OR OBSTRUCT A STATE OR LOCAL PLAN FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY OR ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

No Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, including but not limited to the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code* and *California Green Building Standards Code*, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts to energy resources, or conflict with or obstruct any plans addressing renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

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

A. WOULD THE PROJECT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CAUSE POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS, INCLUDING THE RISK OF LOSS, INJURY, OR DEATH INVOLVING:

1. RUPTURE OF A KNOWN EARTHQUAKE FAULT, AS DELINEATED ON THE MOST RECENT ALQUIST-PRIOLO EARTHQUAKE FAULT ZONING MAP ISSUED BY THE STATE GEOLOGIST FOR THE AREA OR BASED ON OTHER SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF A KNOWN FAULT? REFER TO DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY SPECIAL PUBLICATION 42.

No Impact. Southern California, including the City of La Puente, is subject to the effects of seismic activity due to the active faults that traverse the area. Active faults are defined as those that have experienced surface displacement within Holocene time (approximately the last 11,000 years) and/or are in a State-designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. No Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault zones exist within the City of La Puente. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



2. STRONG SEISMIC GROUND SHAKING?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente, similar to the rest of California, is located within a seismically active region as a result of being located near the active margin between the North American and Pacific tectonic plates. Several major faults within a 50-mile radius of La Puente are capable of producing substantial effects from ground shaking. These faults include the San Andreas, Whittier-Elsinore, Chino, Sierra Madre-Cucamonga, and San Fernando faults. A major earthquake produced along any of these faults has the potential to produce strong ground shaking in La Puente. Also, the Puente Hills fault system, discovered in 2003, is comprised of three sections that run under downtown Los Angeles, through La Puente, and into the Coyote Hills of northern Orange County. The Puente Hills Fault has been credited with causing the 1987 Whittier Narrows Earthquake. No active faults have been identified at the ground surface within the City; however, the City overlies the Puente Hills segment of the Elysian Park blind thrust fault.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element. The *California Building Code* includes specific design measures, which are based on the determination of Site Classification and Seismic Design Categories specific to the project site. These design measures are intended to maximize structural stability in the event of an earthquake. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, including but not limited to the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code*, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

3. SEISMIC-RELATED GROUND FAILURE, INCLUDING LIQUEFACTION?

4. LANDSLIDES?

Less Than Significant Impact. Seismic agitation of relatively loose saturated sands, silty sands, and some silts can result in a buildup of pore pressure. If the pore pressure exceeds the overburden stresses, a temporary quick condition known as liquefaction can occur. Liquefaction effects can manifest in several ways including: 1) loss of bearing; 2) lateral spread; 3) dynamic settlement; and 4) flow failure. Lateral spreading has typically been the most damaging mode of failure. In general, the more recent that a sediment has been deposited, the more likely it will be susceptible to liquefaction. Other factors that must be considered are groundwater, confining stresses, relative density, and the intensity and duration of seismically-induced ground shaking.

The geologic and topographic characteristics of an area often determine its potential for landslides. Steep slopes, the extent of erosion, and the rock composition of a hillside all contribute to the potential slope failure and landslide events.

The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, including but not limited to the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code*, preparation of site-specific



geologic studies, project-specific conditions, and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts relative to liquefaction and landslide ground failures.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL SOIL EROSION OR THE LOSS OF TOPSOIL?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Future development proposals involving demolition and/or construction activities would be subject to compliance with the *California Building Code*, as well as the requirements set forth in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water General Construction Permit for construction activities. The NPDES Storm Water General Construction Permit requires preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, which would identify specific erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices that would be implemented to protect storm and non-storm water runoff during construction and post-development activities, inclusive of low impact development (LID) design considerations and operational and maintenance requirements. Compliance with the *California Building Code* and NPDES would minimize effects from erosion and ensure consistency with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Water Quality Control Plan. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT 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 AN ON-SITE OR OFF-SITE LANDSLIDE, LATERAL SPREADING, SUBSIDENCE, LIQUEFACTION OR COLLAPSE?

Less Than Significant Impact. Refer to Responses A.1.3 and A.1.4.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT BE LOCATED ON EXPANSIVE SOIL, AS DEFINED IN TABLE 18-1-B OF THE UNIFORM BUILDING CODE (1994), CREATING SUBSTANTIAL RISKS TO LIFE OR PROPERTY?

Less Than Significant Impact. Expansive soils can be a problem, as variation in moisture content will cause a volume change in the soil. Expansive soils heave when moisture is introduced and contract as they dry. During inclement weather and/or excessive landscape watering, moisture infiltrates the soil and causes the soil to heave (expansion). When drying occurs the soils will shrink (contraction). Repeated cycles of expansion and contraction of soils can cause pavement, concrete slabs on grade and foundations to crack. This movement can also result in misalignment of doors and windows.

The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, including but



not limited to the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code*, preparation of site-specific geologic studies, project-specific conditions, and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

E. WOULD THE PROJECT HAVE SOILS INCAPABLE OF ADEQUATELY SUPPORTING THE USE OF SEPTIC TANKS OR ALTERNATIVE WASTE WATER DISPOSAL SYSTEMS WHERE SEWERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE WATER?

No Impact. All existing development within the City is connected to a sewer system for the disposal of wastewater. Future development proposals would be required to connect to a sewer system, as well as comply with all applicable regulations, development standards, project-specific conditions, and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

F. WOULD THE PROJECT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY DESTROY A UNIQUE PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCE OR SITE OR UNIQUE GEOLOGIC FEATURE?

No Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years and does not contain any known paleontological resources or unique geologic features. The potential for uncovering paleontological resources or unique geologic features within the City is considered remote, given that no such resources have been discovered during prior development activity. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.8 GREENHOUSE GASES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✓	
B. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			✓	

- A. WOULD THE PROJECT GENERATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THAT MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT?**
- B. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH AN APPLICABLE PLAN, POLICY, OR REGULATION ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element establishes policy to facilitate the development of 1,929 housing units for the eight-year period, pursuant to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The RHNA process allocates numerical housing goals to cities and counties in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region to accommodate anticipated regional population growth that is consistent under SB 375 with the *2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy of the Southern California Association of Governments* (also referred to as *Connect SoCal*), which was adopted on May 7, 2020.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, including but not limited to the most current adopted version of the *California Building Code* and *California Green Building Standards Code*, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes.

In addition, the *City of La Puente General Plan* includes eight resource conservation (solid waste, air quality, and energy conservation) and water quality policies that support actions to reduce the use of resources and energy, and thus, the creation of greenhouse gas emissions. Future development proposals would be subject to these policies, as applicable.

Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts to greenhouse gas emissions or conflict with adopted plans, policies, and regulations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			✓	
B. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			✓	
C. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			✓	
D. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			✓	
E. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
F. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓

- A. WOULD THE PROJECT CREATE A SIGNIFICANT HAZARD TO THE PUBLIC OR THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE ROUTINE TRANSPORT, USE, OR DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS?**
- B. WOULD THE PROJECT CREATE A SIGNIFICANT HAZARD TO THE PUBLIC OR THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH REASONABLY FORESEEABLE UPSET AND ACCIDENT CONDITIONS INVOLVING THE RELEASE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT?**
- C. WOULD THE PROJECT EMIT HAZARDOUS EMISSIONS OR HANDLE HAZARDOUS OR ACUTELY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, SUBSTANCES, OR WASTE WITHIN ONE-QUARTER MILE OF AN EXISTING OR PROPOSED SCHOOL?**
- D. WOULD THE PROJECT BE LOCATED ON A SITE WHICH IS INCLUDED ON A LIST OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITES COMPILED PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65962.5 AND, AS A RESULT, WOULD IT CREATE A SIGNIFICANT HAZARD TO THE PUBLIC OR THE ENVIRONMENT?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years. Businesses that use, transport, or dispose of hazardous materials are required to comply with Federal, State, and local hazardous materials regulations. Specifically, truck traffic, including trucks that transport chemicals, is restricted to designated routes per City of La Puente Ordinance 10.24.030.



No properties within the City are included on the Department of Toxic Substances Control Hazardous Waste and Substances List (Cortese List). However, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) identified Puente Valley as one of eight operable units (OUs) for the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site, which is also known as the San Gabriel Superfund Site Area 4. The Puente Valley OU includes most of the City of Industry, portions of the City of La Puente, and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County. Groundwater and soil are contaminated with various volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE)), 1,4-dioxane, perchlorate, and hexavalent chromium. The USEPA identified remedies including extraction, containment, and treatment of contaminated groundwater in the shallow and intermediate zones at the mouth of Puente Valley. Additional remedies includes wells for monitoring groundwater in the shallow, intermediate, and deep zones at mid-valley and the mouth of the valley to ensure that the remedy meets performance criteria set in the Interim Record of Decision (IROD), issued in September 1996. the cleanup status is active.² Separately, there are a number of leaking underground storage tanks within the City that have the potential to negatively affect groundwater quality.

The *City of La Puente General Plan Safety Element* addresses the protection of residents and business employees from potential hazards with the following policies:

- Policy 2.1 Cooperate with Federal, State, and County agencies to reduce risks to residents associated with the use or transport of hazardous materials.
- Policy 2.2 Develop and maintain a coordinated emergency operations plan, and educate the community on emergency procedures to respond to natural and human activity hazards.
- Policy 2.3 Continue to educate the community regarding the safe use and disposal of household hazardous wastes.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes.

Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not pose a significant hazard to the public or the environment, or involve the transportation, use, or storage of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials. As such, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

E. FOR A PROJECT LOCATED WITHIN AN AIRPORT LAND USE PLAN OR, WHERE SUCH A PLAN HAS NOT BEEN ADOPTED, WITHIN TWO MILES OF A PUBLIC AIRPORT OR PUBLIC USE AIRPORT, WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN A SAFETY HAZARD FOR PEOPLE RESIDING OR WORKING IN THE PROJECT AREA?

No Impact. The City of La Puente is not located within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, and thus would not experience safety hazards for people residing or working in the City. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

² Source: California Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor, Puente Valley (San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site) (60001338), https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60001338, accessed August 20, 2021.



Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

F. WOULD THE PROJECT IMPAIR IMPLEMENTATION OF OR PHYSICALLY INTERFERE WITH AN ADOPTED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN OR EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN?

No Impact. The City adopted the *City of La Puente Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)* on August 8, 2017. The *EOP* describes a comprehensive emergency management system that provides for a planned response to disaster situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and human-caused events. The *EOP* delineates operational concepts relating to various emergency situations, identifies components of the Emergency Management Organization, and describes the overall responsibilities for protecting life and property and assuring the overall well-being of the population. The *EOP* also details the coordination of response services and support within the City and the City's relationships, obligations and dependencies with other response organizations and governmental entities, to include mutual aid and specific statutory authorities, as well as State and Federal agencies and the private sector. All jurisdictions within California operate under the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The City of La Puente, like all local government agencies, has the primary responsibility for emergency management activities within its jurisdiction.

Adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not impair the implementation of the *EOP* or interfere with emergency responses or evacuation plans. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?			✓	
B. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			✓	
C. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
1) Result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			✓	
2) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			✓	
3) 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?			✓	
4) Impede or redirect flood flows?			✓	
D. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				✓
E. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			✓	

A. WOULD THE PROJECT VIOLATE ANY WATER QUALITY STANDARDS OR WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS OR OTHERWISE SUBSTANTIALLY DEGRADE SURFACE OR GROUND WATER QUALITY?

Less Than Significant Impact. Surface water and groundwater quality in the City of La Puente is similar to that which is characterized for other urbanized areas surrounding the City and within the County of Los Angeles. The City encourages development projects to be designed with pervious materials and landscaped areas to enhance on-site capture and absorption of stormflows. Also, through the implementation of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program requirements, the City guards against high pollutant loads and erosive materials in surface runoff.

Future development proposals would be required to provide for the elimination/reduction of pollutant discharges, including capture and treatment of dry weather and first flush runoff in a manner consistent with Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) requirements. All storm water discharges must comply with applicable provisions of Los Angeles County’s NPDES permit. As a co-permittee, the City is responsible for implementation of the requirements of the NPDES permit issued to the County. Consistent with LARWQCB/NPDES and City requirements, appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be required throughout



construction processes of future development proposals, thereby controlling potential discharge of pollutants, preventing sewage spills, and avoiding discharge of sediments into streets, stormwater channels, or waterways. In addition, long-term water quality impacts associated with future development proposals would also be avoided through the implementation of structural, non-structural and treatment control BMPs and low impact development (LID) design considerations and operational and maintenance requirements that are identified in the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) prepared for each future development proposal to ensure that long-term water quality impacts are minimized. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASE GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES OR INTERFERE SUBSTANTIALLY WITH GROUNDWATER RECHARGE SUCH THAT THE PROJECT MAY IMPEDED SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OF THE BASIN?

Less Than Significant Impact. Domestic water service in the City is provided by three water agencies, including the San Gabriel Valley Water Company, and the La Puente Valley County Water District.

San Gabriel Valley Water Company

The San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC) is an investor-owned public utility water company subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). SGVWC's current service area covers approximately 45 square miles including all or portions of the Cities of Arcadia, Baldwin Park, El Monte, Industry, Irwindale, La Puente, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera, Rosemead, San Gabriel, Santa Fe Springs, South El Monte, West Covina, Whittier, and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County including Hacienda Heights and South San Gabriel.

SGVWC serves a population of approximately 256,800 through a diverse mix of water supplies that provide a reliable and high quality source of drinking water for its customers. SGVWC utilizes locally-produced groundwater from 31 wells located in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin and from four wells located in the Central Groundwater Basin. The company also has the ability to deliver imported water through a connection with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, as well as emergency interconnections with several surrounding water agencies to ensure the reliability of its water supply.

Suburban Water Systems

Suburban Water Systems, a part of SouthWest Water Company, is a retail water supplier providing high-quality water and reliable service in an approximately 42-square-mile service area that covers all or portions of Glendora, Covina, West Covina, La Puente, Hacienda Heights, City of Industry, Whittier, La Mirada, La Habra, La Puente and unincorporated portions of California's Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Suburban Water serves a population of approximately 300,000 through a water distribution system that includes 18 wells, 32 reservoirs, and more than 800 miles of pipeline. The network of facilities pumps and distributes approximately 56,000 acre-feet of water annually (an acre-foot of water is about 326,000 gallons, which meets the annual average indoor/outdoor water needs of 1-2 households).



Groundwater comes from Suburban-owned wells in the Main San Gabriel Basin and Central Basin. The well water is disinfected and treated prior to entering the distribution system. This water is supplemented with water purchased mainly from member agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), Covina Irrigating Company, and California Domestic Water Company (Cal Domestic). Suburban Water is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission.

La Puente Valley County Water District

The La Puente Valley County Water District (LPVCWD) has three active wells that produce water from the Main San Gabriel Basin to meet the needs of the District’s customers. The LPVCWD water system serves a population of approximately 95,000. The annual water demand of the system is approximately 1,600 acre-feet or 521 million gallons. The annual per capita consumption is approximately 55,000 gallons, which equates to approximately 150 gallons a day per capita.

Impact Analysis

The City has been fully urbanized for many years with established hydrology and water quality systems. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document and thus, would not decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. Future development proposals would be reviewed by the City to determine if there is any change to existing runoff conditions or potential increases in the amount of impervious surfaces. In addition, future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- C. WOULD THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY ALTER THE EXISTING DRAINAGE PATTERN OF THE SITE OR AREA, INCLUDING THROUGH THE ALTERATION OF THE COURSE OF STREAM OR RIVER, IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD:**
- 1. RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL EROSION OR SILTATION ON- OR OFF-SITE?**
 - 2. SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE RATE OR AMOUNT OF SURFACE RUNOFF IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD RESULT IN FLOODING ON- OR OFF-SITE?**
 - 3. 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?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document, and as such, does not propose to alter the existing drainage pattern of any site in the City, nor does it propose to alter any streams or rivers resulting in substantial erosion, surface runoff resulting in flooding, or runoff existing the system’s capacity. Any future development proposals would occur on urban land consistent with adopted land use policy, which provides for protection of existing drainage courses. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4. IMPEDE OR REDIRECT FLOOD FLOWS?

Less Than Significant Impact. Infrastructure exists with the City, and thus, storm water runoff associated with future development proposals would continue to be conveyed and discharged into the local stormwater system. Additionally, construction of future development proposals would be restricted within the individual site boundary. As such, implementation of the proposed project would not lead to on-site or off-site siltation or erosion impeding or redirecting flood flow. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT IN FLOOD HAZARD, TSUNAMI, OR SEICHE ZONES, RISK RELEASE OF POLLUTANTS DUE TO PROJECT INUNDATION?

No Impact. No portion of the City of La Puente is located within a 100-year floodplain as delineated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and implementation of the proposed project would not result in the placement of housing within a flood hazard area. Also, the City of La Puente is not located near any body of water or water storage facility that would be considered susceptible to seiche. Nor is the City of La Puente Park located proximate to the Pacific Ocean and as such, is not subject to tsunami hazards. The City is relatively flat and fully urbanized, and thus, is not susceptible to mudflows. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

E. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH OR OBSTRUCT IMPLEMENTATION OF A WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN OR SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Less Than Significant Impact. The *Water Quality Control Plan Los Angeles Region, Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (Basin Plan)* is the water quality control plan for the greater Los Angeles Basin, including the City of La Puente. The *Basin Plan* designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the Basin Plan.

In 2014, the Governor signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) into law, which requires governments and water agencies of high and medium priority basins to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. SGMA empowers local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage basins sustainably and requires those GSAs to adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for crucial groundwater basins in California.

Since 1924, the La Puente Valley County Water District, which supplies water to the City of La Puente, has relied on its well field located on Puente Avenue in the City of Baldwin Park as its primary source of water. The wells located at this site pump water out of the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. Pursuant to the SGMA, the Main Basin was named as an adjudicated groundwater basin and thus, the La Puente Valley County Water District is exempt from the requirements of developing a GSP.



The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or a sustainable groundwater management plan. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Physically divide an established community?				✓
B. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			✓	

A. WOULD THE PROJECT PHYSICALLY DIVIDE AN ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY?

No Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element sets forth policies to encourage housing development consistent with adopted land use policy. As such, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not provide for new land use uses that would divide or disrupt neighborhoods in La Puente. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT CAUSE A SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DUE TO A CONFLICT WITH ANY APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN, POLICY, OR REGULATION ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVOIDING OR MITIGATING AN ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years with established development throughout the City.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development commensurate with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no change in the location or nature of allowable development would be authorized by the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in the regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				✓
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?				✓

A. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN THE LOSS OF AVAILABILITY OF A KNOWN MINERAL RESOURCE THAT WOULD BE OF VALUE TO THE REGION AND THE RESIDENTS OF THE STATE?

No Impact. Appendix A of the *City of La Puente General Plan and Zoning Code Update Final EIR* includes the Initial Study, which concluded there are no mineral resources in the City. As such, there are no known State or locally designated mineral resources or locally important mineral resource recovery sites in the City. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element project would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN THE LOSS OF AVAILABILITY OF A LOCALLY-IMPORTANT MINERAL RESOURCE RECOVERY SITE DELINEATED ON A LOCAL GENERAL PLAN, SPECIFIC PLAN, OR OTHER LAND USE PLAN?

No Impact. Appendix A of the *City of La Puente General Plan and Zoning Code Update Final EIR* includes the Initial Study, which concluded there are no mineral resources in the City. As such, there would be no loss of known State or locally designated mineral resources or locally important mineral resource recovery sites in the City. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.13 NOISE

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			✓	
B. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			✓	
C. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓

A. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN GENERATION OF A SUBSTANTIAL TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT INCREASE IN AMBIENT NOISE LEVELS IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT IN EXCESS OF STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN THE LOCAL GENERAL PLAN OR NOISE ORDINANCE, OR APPLICABLE STANDARDS OF OTHER AGENCIES?

B. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN GENERATION OF EXCESSIVE GROUNDBORNE VIBRATION OR GROUNDBORNE NOISE LEVELS?

Less Than Significant Impact. While adoption of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not directly result in the construction of housing, implementation of Housing Element policy would facilitate the construction of future development proposals consistent with adopted land use policy. Typically, residential uses do not generate high noise levels. However, individual residential development projects may result in the exposure of persons to noise levels in excess of standards established in the General Plan or Noise Ordinance. Without identifying the location of future development proposals, it is not possible to determine if they would be placed near land uses that would generate noise levels or groundborne vibrations that would exceed acceptable standards.

Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



- C. FOR A PROJECT LOCATED WITHIN THE VICINITY OF A PRIVATE AIRSTRIP OR AN AIRPORT LAND USE PLAN OR, WHERE SUCH A PLAN HAS NOT BEEN ADOPTED, WITHIN TWO MILES OF A PUBLIC AIRPORT OR PUBLIC USE AIRPORT, WOULD THE PROJECT EXPOSE PEOPLE RESIDING OR WORKING IN THE PROJECT AREA TO EXCESSIVE NOISE LEVELS?

No Impact. The City of La Puente is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

A. WOULD THE PROJECT INDUCE SUBSTANTIAL UNPLANNED POPULATION GROWTH IN AN AREA, EITHER DIRECTLY (FOR EXAMPLE, BY PROPOSING NEW HOMES AND BUSINESSES) OR INDIRECTLY (FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH EXTENSION OF ROADS OR OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years with established development throughout the City.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the responsible agency for developing and adopting regional housing and population forecasts for local Los Angeles County governments, among other counties, and provides population projection estimates in five-year increments up to 2040. On September 3, 2020, SCAG’s Regional Council unanimously voted to approve and fully adopt *Connect SoCal (2020–2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy)*, and the *Addendum to the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report*. SCAG’s Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for the 2021-2029 housing element period is 1,929 housing units.

As of 2019, the City of La Puente included a population of 40,000 and 9,451 households. *Connect SoCal* projects a 2040 population of 50,200 and 12,400 households for the City of La Puente. Refer to [Table 4.14-1, 2019 and 2040 Population and Household Projections](#).

**TABLE 4.14-1
2019 AND 2040 POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS**

	2019	2040	Change 2019 - 2040
Population	40,000	50,200	10,200
Households	9,451	12,400	2,949
Sources: Draft 2021-2029 Housing Element (November 2021) Southern California Association of Governments, <i>Connect SoCal (2020–2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy)</i> Regional Growth Forecast (2016, 2020)			



The level of development projected in the 2021-2029 Housing Element is 1,929 housing units during the eight-year period, which represents 65.4 percent of the household growth for 2040. Thus, proposed project would not cause SCAG's 2040 population or households forecast for the City to be exceeded, and as such, is consistent with the Regional Growth Forecast and Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

In conclusion, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not induce substantial unplanned population growth within the City either directly or indirectly. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. WOULD THE PROJECT DISPLACE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF EXISTING PEOPLE OR HOUSING, NECESSITATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT HOUSING ELSEWHERE?

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element sets forth policies and programs that encourage and facilitate housing production, as well as aim to preserve and enhance the existing housing stock. While no new development would be authorized by the adoption of the 2021-2029 Housing Element, the future development of vacant properties or underutilized properties with existing homes could result in the displacement of existing housing or people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Displacement would be evaluated, if needed, as part of a future proposal's development review and environmental impact processes, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce impacts relative to the displacement of people or residential structures. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				
1) Fire protection?			✓	
2) Police protection?			✓	
3) Schools?			✓	
4) Parks?			✓	
5) Other public facilities?			✓	

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:

1. FIRE PROTECTION?

2. POLICE PROTECTION?

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. As such new housing units associated with future development proposals could require additional fire and sheriff services.

Fire protection in the City of La Puente is provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). The LACoFD operates one fire station within the City of La Puente. Fire Station 26, located at 15336 Elliot Avenue, is staffed with a 4-person engine company that includes one captain, one fire fighter specialist, one fire fighter/paramedic, and one fire fighter and a 2-person paramedic squad staffed with two fire fighter/paramedics. In addition to the firefighting assets assigned to provide fire protection service to the City of La Puente, the LACoFD also provides service on a regional basis without regard to jurisdictional boundaries wherein the closest available resources are dispatched to an incident, regardless of the incident location. Back-up responses to incidents within the City of La Puente would be provided by the closest LACoFD resources to the incident location.



Since 1956, the City of La Puente has contracted for policing services with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which include patrol deployments, station detectives, narcotic detectives, special assignment team, traffic enforcement, motor deputies, gang enforcement, neighborhood and business watch programs, and special event deployment. The Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) Industry Station provides law enforcement services, and serves the City of Industry, City of La Puente, City of La Habra Heights, Valinda, East and West Valinda, Bassett/North Whittier, and Hacienda Heights. The area encompasses approximately 65 square miles and a population of more than 243,000.

Future development proposals would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact processes. In addition, as part of its annual budget process and periodic review of its contracts with the LACoFD and LASD, the City evaluates fire and police protection service levels, and adjusts budgets accordingly to meet identified demand and service goals. This process would continue through the course of the 2021-2029 Housing Element period. With continued application of these programs, the City would be able to address anticipated increased service demands. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

3. SCHOOLS?

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development.

The Hacienda La Puente School District (District) offers kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment for more than 22,000 students that reside within the District's boundaries, which includes the City of Industry, City of La Puente, and the unincorporated Los Angeles County areas of Hacienda Heights and Valinda. The District has 17 K-5 elementary schools, six K-8 schools, four middle schools, four comprehensive high schools, one alternative high school, an orthopedic unit for the physically handicapped, and an extensive child development and adult education program.

New residents in the future housing developments could place an increased demand on school facilities within the District. As allowed by State law, the District collects fees for new residential construction to help offset the costs of providing additional education facilities and services. Such fees would be paid by developers at the time individual building permits are issued. Pursuant to SB 50, payment of fees to the School Districts is considered full mitigation for project impacts, including impacts related to 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, or other performance objectives for schools. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4. PARKS?

Less Than Significant Impact. La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, including parks facilities, throughout the City.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. New residents in the future housing developments could place an increased demand on City park facilities. Future development would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact process. Potential impacts to recreation facilities associated with future development proposals would be mitigated on a project-by-project basis, as applicable, per Municipal Code requirements. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element project would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5. OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES?

Less Than Significant Impact. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. As such, the future development could necessitate public agency oversight, including but not limited to actions by the City of Puente Development Services Department – Planning, Building and Safety, and Public Works-Engineering Divisions; Los Angeles County Public Works Department; Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department; and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. These actions typically fall within routine tasks of these agencies. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.16 RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			✓	
B. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				✓

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, including recreation facilities, throughout the City.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. New residents in the future housing developments could place an increased demand on City park facilities. Future development would be required to comply with all applicable regulations and development standards, along with project-specific conditions and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts required as part of the development review and environmental impact process. Potential impacts to recreation facilities associated with future development proposals would be mitigated on a project-by-project basis, as applicable, per Municipal Code requirements. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

B. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OR REQUIRE THE CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WHICH MIGHT HAVE AN ADVERSE PHYSICAL EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT?

No Impact. The proposed project is the adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element, and as such does not include plans for or construction of any recreational facilities. Thus, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.17 TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?			✓	
B. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?			✓	
C. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			✓	
D. Result in inadequate emergency access?			✓	

A. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT WITH AN APPLICABLE PLAN, ORDINANCE OR POLICY ADDRESSING THE CIRCULATION, INCLUDING TRANSIT, ROADWAY, BICYCLE, AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, roads, and transportation systems.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. While the City is required by State law to facilitate development consistent with its allocated share of regional housing needs, no new development would be approved and no substantial changes to development patterns or transportation systems would result from adoption of the 2021-2029 Housing Element. All future development would be evaluated, if applicable, for potential conflicts with relevant circulation plans, ordinances, or policies relative to transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and roadway facilities. Thus, it is not anticipated that adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would significantly impact the effectiveness or performance of existing pedestrian, bicycle, or multi-purpose trail facilities, nor would it limit the accessibility for pedestrians or future cyclists, or their ability to utilize existing facilities.

In addition, there is the potential for future development proposals at specific locations throughout La Puente to contribute to congestion on roadways and at intersections. The City may also require specific roadway or signal improvements to address impacts directly attributable to a specific development proposal. These practices would continue as a means of addressing potential traffic concerns associated with individual projects. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



B. WOULD THE PROJECT CONFLICT OR BE INCONSISTENT WITH CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15064.3 SUBDIVISION (B)?

Less Than Significant Impact. *Public Resources Code* Section 21099 defines Transit Priority Areas (TPAs) as an area within one-half mile of a major transit stop that is existing or planned, if the planned stop is scheduled to be completed within the planning horizon included in a Transportation Improvement Program. *Public Resources Code* Section 21155(b) defines High Quality Transit Areas (HQTAs) as areas within one-half mile of a fixed guideway transit stop or a bus transit corridor where buses pick up passengers at a frequency of every 15 minutes or less during peak commuting hours.

The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, roads, and transportation systems. Temple Avenue is currently identified as a TPA/HQTA within the City of La Puente that extends west to Interstate 605 and east to State Route 57. SCAG does not identify any future TPAs or HQTAs in La Puente in 2045.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. There is the potential that future development proposals would be sited within ½-mile of Temple Avenue with access to existing bus transit, and thus, would have the potential to reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT).

Future development proposals would calculate the quantity of vehicle miles travelled associated with the development. The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SCVCOG) developed a vehicle miles travelled evaluation tool with assistance from Fehr & Peers to provide screening and evaluation guidance related to implementation of SB 743. The work effort including analyzing existing traffic conditions in the region to develop a baseline standard that determines significance CEQA thresholds for future land use and transportation projects. Member agencies have adopted these criteria in compliance with SB 743. In addition, a web-based tool was developed to allow city staff and developers to determine if a proposed project would require a full VMT analysis based on each city's adopted CEQA criteria.

All future development proposals would be evaluated, if applicable, for VMT impacts and any development-related mitigation measures. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE HAZARDS DUE TO A DESIGN FEATURE (E.G., SHARP CURVES OR DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS) OR INCOMPATIBLE USES (E.G., FARM EQUIPMENT)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, roads, and transportation systems.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Future development proposals would be evaluated to determine the appropriate land use permit for authorizing its use and the conditions for their



establishment and operation. At a minimum, compliance with relevant Municipal Code standards would be required.

In addition, future development proposals would be subject to review and approval by the City of La Puente Community Development and Public Works Departments. Access to a future development proposal site would be required to comply with all City design standards, which preclude the potential for dangerous conditions.

Also, future development proposals would be evaluated to ensure that adequate access and circulation to and within the future development site is provided. Access to the site must comply with all City design standards and would be reviewed by the City of La Puente and the Los Angeles County Fire Department to ensure that inadequate design features or incompatible uses do not occur and that they are designed to meet adopted standards. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN INADEQUATE EMERGENCY ACCESS?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years with established development, roads, and transportation systems.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. The City of La Puente and the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) would review the future development proposals in order to ensure that they are designed to meet adopted standards and provide adequate emergency access. In addition, roadways and driveways associated with future development proposals would be required to meet LACoFD emergency access standards, as well as comply with requirements from LACoFD and Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) on a project-by-project basis. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



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4.18 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

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

A. WOULD THE PROJECT REQUIRE OR RESULT IN THE RELOCATION OR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW OR EXPANDED WATER, WASTEWATER TREATMENT OR STORM WATER DRAINAGE, ELECTRIC POWER, NATURAL GAS, OR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, THE CONSTRUCTION OR RELOCATION OF WHICH COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS?

Less Than Significant Impact. Existing water, sanitary sewer (wastewater, sewer), storm drain, electrical, natural gas, and telecommunication facilities exist in the City of La Puente.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Future development proposals would be required to install or relocate, as applicable, on-site and off-site water, wastewater, storm drain, street, electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications infrastructure to serve the development. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



B. WOULD THE PROJECT HAVE SUFFICIENT WATER SUPPLIES AVAILABLE TO SERVE THE PROJECT AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT DURING NORMAL, DRY, AND MULTIPLE DRY YEARS?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster

The Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) is the agency charged with administering adjudicated water rights and managing groundwater resources within the watershed and groundwater basin known as the Main San Gabriel Basin in Los Angeles County, California.

Watermaster Responsibilities

Watermaster's primary responsibilities include the following:

- Manage and control the withdrawal and replenishment of water supplies in the Basin.
- Determine annually the Operating Safe Yield (the amount of groundwater that can safely be extracted) for the succeeding fiscal year, and notify the pumpers of their shares thereof.
- Acquire and spread replacement water as needed.
- Coordinate local involvement in efforts to preserve and restore the quality of groundwater in the Basin.
- Assist and encourage regulatory agencies to enforce water quality regulations affecting the Basin.
- Collect production, water quality, and other relevant data from producers.
- Prepare an annual report of Watermaster activities, including financial activities, and summary reports of pumping and diversion.

Watermaster Rules and Regulations

Watermaster operates under a formal set of Rules and Regulations, which spell out the procedures by which Watermaster-controlled actions are to be carried out. Under the Rules and Regulations, water producers in the Basin must obtain Watermaster approval for activities such as:

- Constructing or modifying a well.
- Constructing a groundwater treatment plant.
- Increasing groundwater extraction.
- Spreading water in the Basin.
- Spreading and storing supplemental water under a cyclic storage agreement.

In order to fund its operation, Watermaster is authorized to levy and collect assessments from the producers based upon their amounts of production during the preceding fiscal year. These assessments are applied primarily to the purchase of replacement water and to administrative costs.



Domestic Water Service

Domestic water service in the City is provided by three water agencies, including the San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Suburban Water Systems, and the La Puente Valley County Water District.

San Gabriel Valley Water Company

The San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC) is an investor-owned public utility water company subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). SGVWC's current service area covers approximately 45 square miles including all or portions of the Cities of Arcadia, Baldwin Park, El Monte, Industry, Irwindale, La Puente, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera, Rosemead, San Gabriel, Santa Fe Springs, South El Monte, West Covina, Whittier, and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County including Hacienda Heights and South San Gabriel.

SGVWC serves a population of approximately 256,800 through a diverse mix of water supplies that provide a reliable and high quality source of drinking water for its customers. SGVWC utilizes locally-produced groundwater from 31 wells located in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin and from four wells located in the Central Groundwater Basin. The company also has the ability to deliver imported water through a connection with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, as well as emergency interconnections with several surrounding water agencies to ensure the reliability of its water supply.

Suburban Water Systems

Suburban Water Systems, a part of SouthWest Water Company, is a retail water supplier providing high-quality water and reliable service in an approximately 42-square-mile service area that covers all or portions of Glendora, Covina, West Covina, La Puente, Hacienda Heights, City of Industry, Whittier, La Mirada, La Habra, La Puente and unincorporated portions of California's Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Suburban Water serves a population of approximately 300,000 through a water distribution system that includes 18 wells, 32 reservoirs, and more than 800 miles of pipeline. The network of facilities pumps and distributes approximately 56,000 acre-feet of water annually (an acre-foot of water is about 326,000 gallons, which meets the annual average indoor/outdoor water needs of 1-2 households).

Groundwater comes from Suburban-owned wells in the Main San Gabriel Basin and Central Basin. The well water is disinfected and treated prior to entering the distribution system. This water is supplemented with water purchased mainly from member agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), Covina Irrigating Company, and California Domestic Water Company (Cal Domestic). Suburban Water is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission.

La Puente Valley County Water District

The La Puente Valley County Water District (LPVCWD) has three active wells that produce water from the Main San Gabriel Basin to meet the needs of the District's customers. The LPVCWD water system serves a population of approximately 95,000. The annual water demand of the system is approximately 1,600 acre-feet or 521 million gallons. The annual per capita consumption is approximately 55,000 gallons, which equates to approximately 150 gallons a day per capita.



Urban Water Management Plans

State law requires an urban water supplier (supplier), providing water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 urban connections/customers or providing more than 3,000 acre-feet annually, to adopt an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) every five years demonstrating water supply reliability in normal, single dry, and multiple dry water years.

These plans support the suppliers' long-term resource planning to ensure that adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water needs. Within the UWMP, urban water suppliers must: 1) assess the reliability of water sources over a 20-year planning time frame; 2) describe demand management measures and water shortage contingency plans, 3) report progress toward meeting a targeted 20 percent reduction in per-capita (per-person), 4) urban water consumption by a specified year (e.g., 2020, 2025, 2030), and 5) discuss the use and planned use of recycled water. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reviews the submitted plans to ensure they have addressed the requirements identified in the Water Code and submits a report to the Legislature summarizing the status of the plans for each five-year cycle.

The following agencies have approved 2020 UWMPs: San Gabriel Valley Water Company and Suburban Water Systems. LPVCPD is not required to prepare an UWMP, given that it provides less than 3,000 acre-feet to its customers.

Impact Analysis

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Future development proposals would be required to comply with the applicable water supplier's rules and regulations regarding water connection, service, and conservation, as well as the Los Angeles County Fire Department's requirements relative to the size of water lines and systems necessary to provide adequate fire flow service to the development.

Implementation of the proposed project would not adversely affect the ability of any of the three domestic water providers - San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Suburban Water Systems, and La Puente Valley County Water District – to have sufficient water supplies available during normal, dry, and multiple dry year conditions for future development proposals within the City. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

C. WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN A DETERMINATION BY THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROVIDER, WHICH SERVES OR MAY SERVE THE PROJECT THAT IT HAS ADEQUATE CAPACITY TO SERVE THE PROJECT'S PROJECTED DEMAND IN ADDITION TO THE PROVIDER'S EXISTING COMMITMENTS?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of La Puente is located in County Sanitation District 15 of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD). Sewer waste generated in the City would be treated at one or more of the following LACSD Water Reclamation Plants (WRP): San Jose Creek WRP, Whittier Narrows WRP, and/or Los Coyotes WRP.



The San Jose WRP is located adjacent to the City of Industry, has a capacity of 100 mgd, and currently processes an average flow of 61.2 mgd. The Whitter Narrows WRP is located near the City of South Element, has a capacity of 15 mgd, and currently processes an average flow of 9.9 mgd. The Los Coyotes WRP is located in the City of Cerritos, has a capacity of 37.5 mgd, and currently processes an average flow of 23.1 mgd. Approximately 45 million gallons per day of the reclaimed water is reused at over 180 different reuse sites, including groundwater recharge and irrigation of parks, schools, and greenbelts. The remainder is discharged to the San Gabriel River.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Future development proposals would be required to comply with applicable LACSD's rules and regulations regarding wastewater connection and service, including the wastewater lines and systems necessary to provide adequate services to the development. In addition, a future development proposal's wastewater (sewer) plans would be reviewed by the City Engineer and would be required to provide sufficient capacity and comply with City standards.

Future development proposals would result in the generation of raw sewage that would be collected in the existing or new sewer collection facilities to support the development, and then transported to the San Jose Creek WRP where it would be treated and ultimately discharged. The wastewater treatment requirements issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB for the LACSD treatment plant that would receive wastewater from the project site were developed to ensure that adequate levels of treatment would be provided for the wastewater flows emanating from all land uses in its service area.

Therefore, implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not adversely affect the ability of the City or LACSD to provide adequate capacity and service to existing and future developments. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

D. WOULD THE PROJECT GENERATE SOLID WASTE IN EXCESS OF STATE OR LOCAL STANDARDS, OR IN EXCESS OF THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE, OR OTHERWISE IMPAIR THE ATTAINMENT OF SOLID WASTE REDUCTION GOALS?

Less than Significant Impact. Solid waste disposal within the City is subject to the requirements established in *La Puente Municipal Code* Chapter 4.12, Solid Waste Handling and Recycling Services. Solid waste management facilities operated by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) include the Downey Area Recycling and Transfer Facility (DART), the South Gate Transfer Station, and the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (PHMRF).

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Presently, capacity is available at the several solid waste management facilities serving the City of La Puente, and these facilities would be available to service future development proposals.

In addition, future development proposals would be required to comply with the *La Puente Municipal Code*, which requires providing adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials in concert with Countywide efforts and programs to reduce the volume of solid waste entering landfills. In addition, the location of



recycling/separation areas is required to comply with all applicable Federal, State, public health, or local laws relating to fire, building, access, transportation, circulation, or safety. Compliance with all applicable State and Los Angeles County regulations for the use, collection, and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes is also mandated. It can be assumed that future development proposals would include adequate, accessible and convenient areas for collecting recyclable materials. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

E. WOULD THE PROJECT COMPLY WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION STATUTES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SOLID WASTE?

Less Than Significant Impact. State, County, and local agencies with regulatory authority related to solid waste include the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD), and the City of La Puente. Regulations specifically applicable to the development proposals include the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), *CalGreen Code* Section 4.408, which the *La Puente Municipal Code* has adopted by reference, and SB 341, which requires multi-family residential development and commercial uses to implement recycling programs.

The Integrated Waste Management Act, which requires every City and County in the State to prepare a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) to its Solid Waste Management Plan, identifies how each jurisdiction will meet the State's mandatory waste diversion goal of 50 percent by and after the year 2000. The diversion goal has been increased to 75 percent by 2020 by SB 341.

La Puente Municipal Code Chapter 4.12, Solid Waste Handling and Recycling Services, stipulates standards and regulations for the collection and management of solid waste in the City, in accordance with the Integrated Waste Management Act. *CalGreen Code* Section 4.408 requires preparation of a Construction Waste Management Plan that outlines ways in which the contractor would recycle and/or salvage for reuse a minimum of 50 percent of the nonhazardous construction and demolition debris.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. During the construction phase, future development proposals would comply with the *CalGreen Code* through the recycling and reuse of at least 50 percent of the non-hazardous construction and demolition debris from the development site.

Future development proposals would not have unusual waste production characteristics, and thus, would not include any components that would conflict with State laws governing construction or operational solid waste production or diversion. Also, future development proposals would subject to all applicable Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including the California Integrated Waste Management Act, Los Angeles County, and City of La Puente recycling programs, ensuring compliance with Federal, State, and local statutes and implementation requirements related to the management of solid waste. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in less than significant impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.19 WILDFIRE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?				✓
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
B. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓
C. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				✓
D. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				✓
E. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				✓

A. WOULD THE PROJECT EXPOSE PEOPLE OR STRUCTURES, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF LOSS, INJURY, OR DEATH INVOLVING WILDLAND FIRES?

No Impact. The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years with established development throughout the City. The City of La Puente is not located within wildland urban interface (WUI) area, as shown on the State Wildland Urban Interface map (CAL FIRE, 2019). Current development and future development proposals within the City would not 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. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



- B. IF LOCATED IN OR NEAR STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS OR LANDS CLASSIFIED AS HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES, SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIR AN ADOPTED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN OR EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN?
- C. IF LOCATED IN OR NEAR STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS OR LANDS CLASSIFIED AS HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES, WOULD THE PROJECT, DUE TO SLOPE, PREVAILING WINDS, AND OTHER FACTORS, EXACERBATE WILDFIRE RISKS, AND THEREBY EXPOSE PROJECT OCCUPANTS TO POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS FROM A WILDFIRE OR THE UNCONTROLLED SPREAD OF A WILDFIRE?
- D. IF LOCATED IN OR NEAR STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS OR LANDS CLASSIFIED AS HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES, WOULD THE PROJECT REQUIRE THE INSTALLATION OR MAINTENANCE OF ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (SUCH AS ROADS, FUEL BREAKS, EMERGENCY WATER SOURCES, POWER LINES, OR OTHER UTILITIES) THAT MAY EXACERBATE FIRE RISK OR THAT MAY RESULT IN TEMPORARY OR ONGOING IMPACTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT?
- E. IF LOCATED IN OR NEAR STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS OR LANDS CLASSIFIED AS HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES, WOULD THE PROJECT EXPOSE PEOPLE OR STRUCTURES TO SIGNIFICANT RISKS, INCLUDING DOWNSLOPE OR DOWNSTREAM FLOODING OR LANDSLIDES, AS A RESULT OF RUNOFF, POST-FIRE SLOPE INSTABILITY, OR DRAINAGE CHANGES?

No Impact. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is focused on fire protection and stewardship of over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. Preventing wildfires in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) is a key component of CAL FIRE's mission, and in more recent decades, CAL FIRE has adapted to the evolving destructive wildfires and succeeded in significantly increasing its efforts in fire prevention. CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Program consists of multiple activities including wildland pre-fire engineering, vegetation management, fire planning, education and law enforcement. Typical fire prevention projects include brush clearance, prescribed fire, defensible space inspections, emergency evacuation planning, fire prevention education, fire hazard severity mapping, and fire-related law enforcement activities. The Office of the State Fire Marshall has the responsibility for Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), inclusive of the and preparing the Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) mapping.

The City of La Puente has been fully urbanized for many years with established development throughout the City. No portion of the City is located within either a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) FHSZ or State responsibility Area (SRA) FHSZ, as shown on the Los Angeles County Very High Severity Zones in LRA map (CAL FIRE, September 2011).

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy-level document, and as such, does not include any site-specific development designs or proposals. However, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does include policies and programs that would facilitate the production of future housing development. Current development and future development proposals within the City would not be subject to high fire hazard severity impacts. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in no impacts in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



4.20 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			✓	
B. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?			✓	
C. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			✓	

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, SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OR RESTRICT THE RANGE OF A RARE OR ENDANGERED PLANT OR ANIMAL, OR ELIMINATE IMPORTANT EXAMPLES OF THE MAJOR PERIODS OF CALIFORNIA HISTORY OR PREHISTORY?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. The City of La Puente site does not contain threatened or endangered species, sensitive habitats, or cultural resources. However, there is potential to impact the one historical resource or tribal cultural resources in the City.

While there is the potential to degrade the environment with respect to historical and tribal cultural resources, adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not authorize any new housing development, but does include policies that would facilitate the development of future development proposals. Future development proposals pursued in accordance with the 2021-2029 Housing Element policies and programs must be consistent with adopted land use policy and the current Zoning Ordinance, as well as conduct on a case-by-case basis, historical or tribal cultural resources. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.



B. DOES THE PROJECT HAVE IMPACTS THAT ARE INDIVIDUALLY LIMITED, BUT CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE? (“CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE” MEANS THAT THE INCREMENTAL EFFECTS OF A PROJECT ARE CONSIDERABLE WHEN VIEWED IN CONNECTION WITH THE EFFECTS OF PAST PROJECTS, THE EFFECTS OF OTHER CURRENT PROJECTS, AND THE EFFECTS OF PROBABLE FUTURE PROJECTS)?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. As discussed previously in Section 4.1 through Section 4.19, the 2021-2029 Housing Element does not directly involve any construction activity. Future development proposals pursued in accordance with the 2021-2029 Housing Element policies and programs must be consistent with adopted land use policy and the current Zoning Ordinance, and as such, would reduce the potential for considerable incremental effects of the 2021-2029 Housing Element when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects, or probable future projects. No new cumulative impacts would result from adoption and implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.

C. DOES THE PROJECT HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH WILL CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ON HUMAN BEINGS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY?

Less Than Significant Impact. As supported throughout this Initial Study, the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in substantial adverse effects on human beings. Under each environmental consideration addressed in this Initial Study checklist, the proposed project is considered to have no impacts or less than significant impacts.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element is a policy document and does not identify any specific housing development projects. All future development proposals would be reviewed to ensure compliance with applicable standards and regulations that would avoid or reduce environmental impacts. Where necessary, mitigation measures would be imposed on future development proposals to address potentially significant impacts. As such, the 2021-2029 Housing Element would not result in environmental impacts that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.



4.21 REFERENCES

Following is a list of reference documents and maps utilized in the preparation of this Initial Study.

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, *State Wildland Urban Interface Map*, 2019
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), *Los Angeles County Very High Severity Zones in LRA (Los Responsibility Area) Map*, September 2011
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), *Los Angeles County Fire Hazard Severity in SRA (State Responsibility Area) Map*, November 7, 2007
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor, Puente Valley (San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site) (60001338), accessed August 20, 2021
- City of La Puente, *City of La Puente General Plan*, May 18, 2004
- City of La Puente, *The City of La Puente General Plan and Zoning Code Update Environmental Impact Report*, May 18, 2004
- City of La Puente, *La Puente Municipal Code*, codified through Ordinance 972, March 9, 2021
- City of La Puente, *La Puente Downtown Business District Specific Plan*, June 28, 1994, amended June 13, 2000 and February 12, 2002
- City of La Puente, *City of La Puente Emergency Operations Plan*, August 8, 2017
- City of La Puente, *2021-2029 La Puente Housing Element*, Draft November 2021
- City of La Puente, *Del Valle Residential Project Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*, December 2016
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, *Draft 2010 Congestion Management Plan*, 2010
- Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, *2019-2020 Annual Report*, 2020
- San Gabriel Valley Water Company, *Service Area Map*, February 2010
- San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Los Angeles County Division, *2015 Urban Water Management Plan*, July 2016, Amended December 2017
- Southern California Association of Governments, *Connect SoCal (2020–2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy)*, May 7, 2020
- Southern California Association of Governments, *Addendum to the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report*, May 7, 2020
- Suburban Water Systems, *San Jose Hills Service Area Map*, no date cited on map



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4.22 REPORT PREPARATION PERSONNEL

CITY OF LA PUENTE (LEAD AGENCY)

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Collette L. Morse, AICP, Principal, Project Manager



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5.0 CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATION

Based on the information and environmental analysis contained in the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist, I recommend that the City of La Puente prepare a Negative Declaration for the 2021-2029 Housing Element Project. I find that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on any environmental issues, and no mitigation measures are required. I recommend that the first category be selected for the City of La Puente's determination (see [Section 6.0, Lead Agency Determination](#)).

November 5, 2021

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Collette L. Morse".

Collette L. Morse, AICP
Project Manager
Morse Planning Group



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6.0 LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:


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



I find that although the proposal could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in Section 4.0 have been added. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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

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

Signature:  _____

Title: Senior Planner _____

Printed Name: Abraham Tellez _____

Agency: City of La Puente _____

Date: November 5, 2021 _____



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