City of FRESNO



Southeast Development Area Environmental Impact Report Public Comments

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City of FRESNO



EIR Circulation: July 14 – August 28, 2023

From: [redacted]
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc: Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Luis Chavez; Garry Bredefeld; Nelson Esparza; todd.stermer@freno.gov; district1@fresnocountyca.gov; district2@fresnocountyca.gov; salquinterro@frresnocountyca.gov; district3@fresnocountyca.gov; district5@fresnocountyca.gov; clerkbos@fresnocountyca.gov; aolivas@fresnocountyca.gov; Mayor
Subject: In opposition to SEDA
Date: Monday, August 28, 2023 11:51:44 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

The first objective documented by the SEDA-EIR is to "accommodate between 40,000 and 45,000 dwelling units". The population of the State of California has now declined by close to 1 million people over the last two years. This population decline was not forecasted. According to a June 2023 LA Times survey, 40% of the people in California are seriously considering leaving. The EIR and SEDA plan have failed to recognize the quickly changing current population statistics and need to be reconsidered in light of the potential for this trend to continue.

1. Have you accounted for an un-forecasted decline or flat population for Fresno? What will be the taxpayer and environmental cost of annexation on every key element of the SEDA plan if Fresno's population declines along with current California trend?

2. If Fresno's population does decline or stays flat, how would this annexation still make sense? Would you allow massive housing development without the new people to fill it? Would it result in people abandoning city apartments for new housing? Might this cause Fresno home resale values to plummet and the inner city to crumble? Or would it just result in abandoned housing projects spoiling our prime agricultural land....Like the old Running Horse project?

3. What alternatives have you considered should the California population trend continue? Would it be wiser to focus on investing the state's 250 million dollar gift to improve infrastructure inside the current city limits instead of promoting this urban sprawl; potentially without the population to support it? Would it make better sense to postpone this plan for a few years to understand

if the current population trends will continue?

Given the uncertainty about California's declining population trend, a massive city expansion via annexation is too risky. Ignoring this possibility and continuing with outdated population assumptions is simply irresponsible. It has the potential for a huge wasted investment that only benefits a few real estate developers at the expense of prime agricultural land, county property owners and residents, and the people of the City Fresno.

Virtually every resident and property owner in this area is against the plan. Please let us vote on it. Or are you afraid of what we'll say with our votes?

Alan Cederquist
[redacted]

FRESNO STATE

Central Valley Health Policy Institute

September 6, 2023

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street
Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Sent by email: adrienne.asadoorian@fresno.gov

RE: Southeast Development Area Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Asadoorian,

I am the Assistant Director of the Central Valley Health Policy Institute. CVHPI's mission includes improving equity in health by developing the region's capacity for policy analysis and program development, implementation, and evaluation. I have reviewed the data supporting the Air Quality section of the July 14, 2023, draft Program EIR for the Southeast Development Area, and offer these comments.

The draft PEIR includes calculations for annual tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and reactive organic gases (ROG), but it fails to calculate the ozone pollution that will result from these two precursor pollutants and to factor in the increasing number of extremely hot days each summer as climate change impacts Central Valley weather. In this region, quantifying ozone pollution arising from new development is crucial to establishing the impacts on human health the proposed development will create. The PEIR must thus include projected ozone production, based on the tons/year figures for NOx and ROG, as well as summer averages in tons/day that factor in escalating excess heat events over the pertinent years. There are tools readily available for such calculations, including but not limited to The Community Multiscale Air Quality Modeling System (CMAQ).

Studies document that incremental increases in ozone levels alone—independent of the other pollutants the project will create—will have the following human health impacts: decreased lung function, decreased lung function growth in children,[1] increased asthma-related emergency visits and hospital admissions,[2] and mortality among older adults.[3] In Fresno County, a rigorously sound study conducted by Entwistle et al. (2019) showed

[1] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0012369221036266

[2] https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11869-019-00685-w

[3] https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3581312/

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decade, The Children's Health and Air Pollution Study (CHAPS) has documented the adverse health effects on children that ambient air pollution has in Fresno including lung function, chemical modification of DNA (methylation), metabolic dysfunction, and oxidative stress.[9]

The toll on human health this project's pollution will take on the population of the area, and on children, appears to be quite serious and pervasive. The City must insist on thorough and accurate analysis, and robust mitigation of air quality impacts before approval.

Please include these comments in the record of this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emanuel Alcala (Sep 6, 2023 10:06 PDT)

Emanuel Alcala, PhD
Assistant Director
Central Valley Health Policy Institute
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Fresno, CA 93710
Phone: 559.228.2137
RWHF Health Policy Research Scholar
https://healthpolicyresearch-scholars.org/scholars/emanuel-alcala-2/

cvhpi.org

[8] https://www.nature.com/articles/s41370-021-00323-7

[9] https://www.chapssjv.org/publications

Building Industry Association
of Fresno/Madera Counties, Inc.

August 25, 2023

Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno
2607 Fresno Street
Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Comments on SEDA EIR

Dear Ms Asadoorian:

Although the Building Industry Association (BIA) does not have any specific comment on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Draft Southeast Development Plan, the BIA does have comments on the draft Plan on which the EIR is based.

The BIA generally supports the draft Specific Plan which will provide much needed housing for the city in the coming years to meet its state housing obligations and is nearer Fresno's employment centers than most other areas of the county. There are, however, some constraints within the Plan that are problematic for the building industry. The Plan does not allow density under about 6 units per acre. Although builders usually build at much higher density, the total elimination of the larger lot subdivisions will not serve a portion of the population. In addition, the restriction on cul-de-sacs, which is the preferred location for residents to live, will deprive buyers of their desired location within a subdivision.

With these reservations, the BIA supports the approval of the EIR for SEDA.

If you have any questions, please call me at (559) 226-5900.

Sincerely,

Michael Prandini
President & CEO

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California Department of Transportation

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August 25, 2023

FRE-180-64.104
Southeast Development Area
Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
SCH #2022020486
GTS #: https://ld-igr-gts.dot.ca.gov/district/6/report/28801

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mx. Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner III
City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mx. Asadoorian:

Caltrans has completed our review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) in the City of Fresno.

The proposed development area covers nearly 9,000 acres. It is bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, on the east by McCall and Highland Avenues, on the south by Jensen and North Avenues, and on the west by Locan, Temperance, and Minnewawa Avenues.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) process reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

DEIR-Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) Comments:

The concerns below should have been adequately addressed in the DEIR or TIA. While the DEIR is a comprehensive planning document, it is recommended that the DEIR endorse procedures that address traffic safety on the State Highway System. Caltrans did provide a comment letter dated March 18, 2022, during the Notice of Preparation with a public comment period from February 22, 2022, to March 25, 2022, which is included in Appendix A of the DEIR. Comments one through eight presented herein are included in the attached letter dated March 18, 2022, and are as follows:

1. This development region will likely add vehicles to the State Road (SR) 180 interchanges at Clovis Avenue, Fowler Avenue, and Temperance Avenue. As a result, there may be significant speed differences between the off-ramp queues and the freeway mainline. Each of these interchanges is recommended for a peak-hour ramp queuing analysis to assess potential impacts. This development area is also expected to add vehicles to the SR 180 intersections at De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall Avenue. The result may be significant speed differentials between the turn lane queues and the through-lane traffic caused by insufficient left-turn lanes or intersection control. **It is recommended that a peak-hour queue analysis be completed at each of these intersections to determine potential impacts**.
2. **It is recommended that the lead agency include a traffic safety review** that examines new pedestrian and bicycling desire lines, multimodal conflict locations, and changes in traffic composition (such as an increase in bicyclists or pedestrians, where features such as shoulders or sidewalks may not exist or are inconsistent with facility design). This analysis should include the SR 180 interchanges at Fowler Avenue and Temperance Avenue and the SR 180 intersections at De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall Avenue. For future residential development, Caltrans recommends that project proponents consider working with the City to convert a portion of the planned residential units to affordable housing.
3. The City should develop policies for installing Level 2 EV charging stations in single- and multi-family residential units and DC Fast Charging EV charging stations in retail, commercial, park, and public facilities.
4. Caltrans recommends that the Project use multimodal methods, such as those derived from transit-oriented development (TOD), to minimize the traffic-related impacts of future developments. Active Transportation Plans and Smart Growth efforts support the state's 2050 Climate goals. Caltrans helps reduce VMT and GHG emissions by increasing people's likelihood of using and benefiting from a multimodal transportation network.
5. Early involvement with Caltrans is strongly encouraged for future projects affecting the state right-of-way.

The Caltrans Traffic Safety Bulletin 20-02-R1: Interim Local Development Intergovernmental Review Safety Review Practitioners Guidance provides direction on analyzing the safety impacts on the State Highway System by proposed land use projects. Subsequent projects included in this development area should incorporate this guidance.

VMT Analysis Comments:

The preparer of the VMT Analysis concluded that the VMT per Service Population in the SEDA project region will fall from 45.72 to 5.07 when the project is completed in 2035. The move from a primarily rural location (as the SEDA project area is now) to a developed urbanized mixed-use site results in a significant drop in VMT. Additionally, the VMT Analysis preparer claims that this is attributable to residents and employees

being better connected to jobs and services within the SEDA project area, reducing travel times on both the production (residential) and attraction (commercial) sides.

Conversely, the Year 2035 No Project Conditions VMT for the SEDA Project Area is 371,397 per Table 7. Table 10 presents the Year 2035 With Project Conditions VMT for the SEDA Project Area is 974,369. This translates to a net VMT increase of 162.35%.

In theory, the relationship between production (residential) and attraction (commercial) may minimize VMT at full buildout; nevertheless, a typical land-use plan buildout begins with the production (residential), followed by the attraction (commercial). The concern is that the attraction (commercial) will develop slowly over time, causing a VMT impact in the SEDA region.

Based on our review of the VMT Analysis, **we recommend that the EIR preparer address the safety concerns by undertaking a peak hour ramp queue analysis at the interchanges/intersections on SR 180 from Clovis to McCall Avenues, as stated previously**.

The SEDA Specific Plan should also explore several possible VMT migration strategies, such as:

1. Creation of regional-level VMT bank or VMT exchange program;
2. Improved Public Transportation: Expanding and enhancing public transit options to encourage more people to use buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation instead of driving individual cars;
3. Enhance parallel routes near SR 180, such as Belmont Avenue or Kings Canyon Road. For example, the plan is to extend the Bus Rapid as cited in Policy UF-5.2. In addition, the City may consider signal synchronization along the corridors, if not already.
4. Active Transportation: Creating infrastructure and promoting walking, biking, and other forms of active transportation, especially for short distance trips;
5. Telecommuting and Flexible Work Arrangements: Encouraging remote work options to reduce the need for daily commuting;
6. Carpooling and Ridesharing: Promoting carpooling and ridesharing initiatives to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the local road system and highways;
7. Transportation Demand Management (TDM): Implementing policies and programs that encourage the use of alternative transportation options and reduce the reliance on single-occupancy vehicles; and,
8. Incentives and Subsidies: Providing incentives, subsidies, or tax breaks for using public transportation or purchasing electric or fuel-efficient vehicles.

The SEDA area may aim to establish more sustainable and efficient transportation systems while addressing environmental and social concerns related to increasing vehicle use by implementing these and other VMT mitigation strategies.

If you have any other questions, please call Keyomi Jones, Transportation Planner, at (559) 981-7284 or keyomi.jones@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



David Padilla, Branch Chief,
Transportation Planning – North

Attachment: Caltrans comment letter March 18, 2022

C: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager, City of Fresno
State Clearinghouse

ATTACHMENT
Caltrans comment letter March 18, 2022

California Department of Transportation

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March 18, 2022

FRE-180-R65.1
NOTICE OF PREPARATION, EIR
https://ld-igr-gts.dot.ca.gov/district/6/report/25659

SENT VIA EMAIL
Shawn Monk, Planner
City of Fresno
Long Range Planning Division
Office: 559-621-8031
shawn.monk@fresno.gov

Dear Mx. Monk,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan. The proposed Southeast Development Area covers nearly 9,000 acres and has the potential to accommodate approximately 45,000 homes by the year 2050. The Plan Area is bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, on the east by McCall and Highland Avenues, on the south by Jensen and North Avenues, and on the West by Locan, Temperance, and Minnewawa Avenues.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

1. Caltrans anticipates this development area would add substantial traffic to the State Route 180 interchanges at Clovis Avenue, Fowler Avenue, and Temperance Avenue. The result could be significant speed differentials between the off-ramp queues and the mainline of the freeway. **It is highly recommended that a peak hour ramp queue analysis is completed at each of these interchanges to determine potential impacts.**

2. This development area would also be expected to add traffic to the State Route 180 intersections at De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall Avenue. The result could be significant speed differentials between the turn lane queues and the through lane traffic caused by insufficient left turn lanes or intersection control. **Therefore, it is also recommended that a peak hour queue analysis is completed at each of these intersections to determine potential impacts.**

3. Future development(s) should also consider traffic safety impacts on the State Highway System due to new pedestrian and bicyclist needs based on new origins or destinations that intersect a State Route. Additionally, multimodal conflict points and change in traffic composition (such as an increase in bicyclists or pedestrians, where features such as shoulders or sidewalks may not exist or are inconsistent with facility design) should be included. The State Route 180 interchanges at Fowler Avenue and Temperance Avenue; and the State Route 180 intersections at De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall

Avenue should be included in this analysis.

4. Future development(s) should conduct a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) study for projects that may substantially induce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Pedestrian and bicycle facilities within the project site should be considered in this study. The project proponents should also consider coordinating with nearby planned bike networks for a larger active transportation network. The City should consider creating a VMT Mitigation Impact Fee to help reduce potential impacts on the State Highway System.

5. For future residential development, Caltrans recommends project proponents consider working with the City to convert a portion of the planned residential units to affordable housing units.

6. The City should establish policies for the installation of Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging for single- and multi-family residential units as well as DC Fast Charging EV charging stations for retail, commercial, park and public facilities.

7. Caltrans recommends the Project implement multimodal strategies, such as those that originate from Transit-oriented development (TOD), in an effort to further reduce future projects' traffic related impacts.

8. Active Transportation Plans and Smart Growth efforts support the state's 2050 Climate goals. Caltrans supports reducing VMT and GHG emissions in ways that increase the likelihood people will use and benefit from a multimodal transportation network.

9. Early engagement with Caltrans is highly requested for future projects that would impact state right-of-way. Furthermore, prior to initiating the traffic study, please include Caltrans in the scoping.

If you have any other questions, please call or email Edgar Hernandez at (559) 981-7436 or edgar.hernandez@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



David Padilla, Branch Chief
Transportation Planning – North

Cb 6
August 24, 2023

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

RE: "Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486"

Dear Ms. Asadoorian:

I contest Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality for the following reasons:

> The plan does explain Level I water but offers no explanation for where Level 2 water will come from and how sufficient the amount will be to serve 45,000 additional houses. There is every indication that Level 1 water will not be adequate. Please explain.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Bloesser
Retired Fresno Unified Administrator
SEDA *Area Property Owner*
Member Southeast Property Owner's Association

cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors
District 1: Brian Pacheco district1@fresnoca.gov
District 2: Steve Brandau district2@fresnoca.gov
District 3: Sal Quintero district3@fresnoca.gov

District 4: Buddy Mendes district4@fresnoca.gov
District 5: Nathan Magsig district5@fresnoca.gov

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District 5: Luis Chavez luis.chavez@fresno.gov
District 6: Garry Bredefeld garry.bredefeld@fresno.gov
District 7: Nelson Esparza nelson.esparza@fresno.gov

Mayor Jerry Dyer mayor@fresno.gov

Cb 7
August 24, 2023

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

RE: "Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486"

Dear Ms. Asadoorian:

I contest Section 3.15 Public Services:

1. The plan shows regional, community, and neighborhood town centers plus many forms of increased housing. Nowhere in the plan is there any consideration for fire stations or police stations. With developers ready to purchase any land they can for housing and retail, these will probably be forgotten. What are your plans for essential services?

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Bloesser
Retired Fresno Unified Administrator
SEDA *Area Property Owner*
Member Southeast Property Owner's Association

cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors
District 1: Brian Pacheco district 1@fresnoca.gov
District 2: Steve Brandau district 2@fresnoca.gov

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Douglas P. Carstens
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August 28, 2023

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street
Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Email: adrienne.asadoorian@fresno.gov

Re: Comments on Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan Project City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 dated July 14, 2023

Dear Ms. Asadoorian,

On behalf of the Sierra Club and the Central Valley Partnership, we submit the following comments on the Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan project Draft EIR (DEIR). The SEDA project would be a massive development project with extensive impacts that must be carefully planned and mitigated. It has been accurately described as follows:

> [the project will] transform nearly 9,000 acres southeast of Fresno into a new Clovis on Fancher Creek.
>
> The project up for the city council's vote will be one of the biggest suburban sprawl projects in Fresno's history. The Dyer administration's plan includes 45,000 homes and up to 150,000 people, on a stretch of land that is currently a patchwork stretch of farmland, rural homesteads, two-lane country roads, and stop-signs.
>
> Known as the Southeast Development Area (SEDA), the transformed community would rival the size of Clovis – 16 times the size of the Copper River project in northeast Fresno, and seven times as large

> as Riverstone and Tesoro Viejo, the major new communities across the San Joaquin River in Madera.

(Weaver, Fresnoland, August 25, 2023, "Another Clovis, but in southeast Fresno? City moves forward on mega-development plans" , available at https://fresnoland.org/2023/08/25/city-of-fresno-eyes-seda/.)

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Fresno (City) must address the impacts of this massive project, along with its cumulative impacts with other similar developments in the region. CEQA has been described as a bill of rights for an environmental democracy. It is intended to provide a "road map" and a "price tag" for proposed projects:

> The CEQA process is intended to be a careful examination, fully open to the public, of the environmental consequences of a given project, covering the entire project, from start to finish. This examination is intended to provide the fullest information reasonably available upon which the decision makers and the public they serve can rely in determining whether or not to start the project at all, not merely to decide whether to finish it. The EIR is intended to furnish both the road map and the environmental price tag for a project, so that the decision maker and the public both know, before the journey begins, just where the journey will lead, and how much they-and the environment-will have to give up in order to take that journey.

(NRDC v. City of Los Angeles (2002) 103 Cal.App.4th 268, 271.)

Unfortunately, the SEDA EIR falls woefully short of providing the public and decisionmakers with sufficient information to evaluate and mitigate the project's impacts. These deficiencies must be rectified and a legally adequate EIR recirculated for public review and comment.

A. Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources Impacts are Not Sufficiently Mitigated.

The SEDA DEIR, in its Agricultural Resource and Forestry Resources section, identifies the amount of farmland threatened with conversion to urban uses. The Plan's proposed development will effectively eliminate approximately 6,741 acres in agricultural production, which are specified as 2,475 acres of Prime Farmland, and approximately 1,352 acres of Farmland

of Statewide Importance, 1,189 acres of Farmland of local importance, and approximately 1,725 acres of Unique Farmland. (DEIR p. 3.2-16.)

The prominent problem of the SEDA DEIR pertaining to agricultural resources is that its proposed farmland mitigation measures for these thousands of acres of farmland rely upon inadequate policies that have not been adequately implemented. When Fresno's General Plan was adopted, farmland mitigation was perhaps the most contested and difficult policy of the entire document. Inevitably, after intense debate, the final 2014 Fresno General Plan contained key values and provisions that were structural in nature, including no sphere of influence extension, a prioritization of infill over greenfield development, and defining an easily implementable farmland mitigation policy.

Specific to the structural land use policies promoting farmland conservation, the 2014 Fresno General Plan stated, "Policies in the Plan will help preserve farmland by incentivizing new development within and adjacent to already-urbanized land, only extending public utilities to new development that adheres to the Plan, and not expanding the City's SOI."[1] So, the proposed development of the Southeast Development Area effectively punctures the previously agreed upon sphere of influence boundary and violates the integrity of the city's hoped for revitalization as it re-initiates a historic pattern of sprawl development.

The achievement of a farmland mitigation policy was another important outcome of the 2014 Fresno General Plan. Originally, this General Plan specified under policy RC-9-c that when farmland was converted to urban uses, the City of Fresno would "permanently protect an equal amount of similar farmland elsewhere through easement." This simple, straightforward and implementable policy was consistent with other farmland mitigation programs that typically require mitigation at a 1:1 ratio on soils of similar quality under a conservation easement, however RC-9-c

[1] Fresno General Plan Adopted: December 18, 2014, Resource Conservation and Resilience Chapter, Farmland Section 7.6, pg. 7-42.

was later amended in ways that made it more muddled, less definitive and more difficult to implement.[2]

Today, as cited in the SEDA DEIR, the Fresno General Plan policy RC-9-c (the amended portion in italics) states:

> **"Farmland Preservation Program**. In coordination with regional partners or independently, establish a Farmland Preservation Program. When Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is converted to urban uses outside City limits, this program would require that the developer of such a project mitigate the loss of such farmland consistent with the requirements of CEQA. The Farmland Preservation Program shall *provide several mitigation options that may include but are not limited to the following: Restrictive Covenants or Deeds, In Lieu Fees, Mitigation Banks, Fee Title Acquisitions, Conservation Easements, Land Use Regulations, or any other mitigation method that is in compliance with the requirements of CEQA*. The Farmland Preservation Program may be modeled after some of all of the programs described by the California Council of Land Trusts."[3]

After a decade, the 2014 General Plan's originally clear farmland mitigation policy has been amended, diluted, and as yet remains unimplemented. Even worse, its explicit direction to establish a "Farmland Preservation Program" remains incomplete. This reticence toward implementation erodes confidence that such measures will now be taken up within the Southeast Development Area's Specific Plan.

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[2] The hearing to consider General Plan Amendment Application No. P18-03553 and related Environmental Finding was initiated by the Fresno City Council on March 3, 2017 through Council Resolution No. 2017-61. The final resolution approved the General Plan Text Amendment No. P18-03553 amending Farmland Preservation Program RC-9-c.

[3] Fresno General Plan Adopted: December 18, 2014, Resource Conservation and Resilience Chapter, Farmland Section 7.6, pg. 7-43.

Given the lack of compliance with earlier planning policy plans and directives related to farmland conservation, it is recommended that the City of Fresno institute a SEDA-specific urban growth boundary requiring fifty percent vote of city residents to all future proposed greenfield developments in the Plan Area. This would raise the level of planning diligence, democratic participation, and environment promoting policies as each future development project is considered. In addition, each future development proposal in the area should be authorized under a similarly constituted initiative process in authorizing community benefit agreements on each proposed development project to ensure its equity values can be programmatically achieved, such as in future apprenticeship programs and local hire mandates. Environmentally, community benefit agreements would better ensure that proposed "school and neighborhood gardens, community orchards, agricultural education centers and small farming operations in green belts and on the buffer edge" will be realized. (DEIR p. 3.2-17.) Both urban growth boundaries and community benefit agreements ensure resident-involved planning and democratic, participatory involvement through voter initiatives on each proposed future development projects within the Specific Plan area.

Specific to farmland mitigation, the SEDA DEIR inadequately identifies mitigation that can be expected to be meaningfully implemented. A proposed "Buffer District" is a much lesser threshold to breach in the future than an existing sphere of influence boundary in a general plan. Yet this is just the mitigation policy remedy being suggested in SEDA's DEIR policy framework. (DEIR p. 3.2-17.) The proposed Buffer District is purely aspirational without explicit mechanisms to hold the line on future greenfield development and residential sprawl. Most troubling is that the SEDA EIR's primary farmland mitigation policy proposal yet again relies upon the forever dormant 2014 Fresno General Plan policy RC-9-c guiding farmland mitigation, and MM AG-1.1 that was supposed to establish a Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), now planned to be initiated by 2025. (DEIR p. 3.2-15.)

Given the past lack of planning policy follow through, the SEDA EIR makes contingencies, "because the FPP has not yet been developed, the proposed project would implement project-specific MM AG-2, which requires all future development to mitigate the loss of Prime Farmland, Unique

Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, on a project-by-project basis before the initiation of construction or ground-disturbing activities." (DEIR p. 3.2-17.) A project-by-project policy makes oversight of mitigation policy unworkable though it becomes necessary given the City of Fresno's past reticence and resistance to mitigate for the loss of farmland.

B. Air Quality Impacts Would be Significant And are Insufficiently Mitigated

1. Fresno's Current Air Quality Situation is Dire and Would be Worsened By the Project.

There is no dispute that the air quality in Fresno is abysmal. The prestigious American Lung Association's annual report State of the Air 2023 lists Fresno as the fourth-most polluted city in the country for ozone[4], and the second most polluted for short-term particulate pollution, and the third-most polluted city for year-round particle pollution[5]. The federal EPA classifies the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, of which Fresno is a part, as in "extreme" nonattainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone, and in "serious" nonattainment for fine particulates (PM2.5) (DEIR, PP. @@.). The San Joaquin Valley is one of only two air basins in the entire country classified as in "Extreme" nonattainment for ozone. (EPA Green Book, at https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/jnc.html, last visited 8/24/23. Classification of the San Joaquin Valley as in "Serious" nonattainment of the federal standard for PM2.5 is at https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/rnc.html, last visited 8/24/23.)) Fresno is an unhealthy place to breathe, and especially so for sensitive groups, including children, the elderly, and the sick.

Both state and federal law require air basins to comply with the health-based state and federal Air Quality Standards. [E.g., 42 USCA §7401, et seq.).] The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control Agency (APCD)

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[4] The listing is for Fresno-Madera-Hanford, at https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities; last visited 8/24/23.

[5] The listing is for Fresno-Madera-Hanford, at https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities; last visited 8/24/23.

has devised an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) to reduce the levels of health-damaging pollution in the air and make the air healthier to breathe. According to the DEIR, a new AQMP for ozone was due for submission to the EPA by August of 2022. There is no information in the DEIR as whether it was submitted or when an evaluation of the new AQMP by EPA might be expected; the fact remains that the Valley is in extreme nonattainment. A new plan for PM2.5 was submitted in June of 2020. (DEIR p. 3.3-25.) EPA has postponed the deadline for the Valley to meet the PM2.5 standard until 2024, but has not yet approved or disapproved the APCD's new plan to meet the federal standard. The Valley remains in serious nonattainment for PM2.5. However, these facts appear to matter little, since the DEIR clearly and unequivocally states that carrying out the SEDA plan is **not** consistent with the Air Quality Management Plan now in operation to meet health-based federal and state Air Quality Standards, and would conflict with that Plan and with project significance thresholds established by APCD to prevent increases in ozone. (DEIR, pp. ES-6, ES-14, 3.3-45.) The DEIR states at page 3.3-45:

> [T]he proposed Specific Plan would generate long-term emissions of criteria air pollutants that would exceed the Valley Air District's regional operation-phase significance thresholds, which were established to determine whether a project has the potential to cumulatively contribute to the [San Joaquin Valley Air Basin]'s nonattainment designations. Thus, ***implementation of the proposed Specific Plan would result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations; cause or contribute to new violations; or delay timely attainment of the AAQS***.

(DEIR, p. 3.3-45, emphasis added.)

The DEIR also states, at page 3.3-51, that the Project will cumulatively increase the airborne pollution to which Fresno residents are exposed daily:

> The proposed project would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.

(DEIR, p. 3.3-51.)

2. Project Construction Emissions Would Be Significant For Every Pollutant Category.

The DEIR explains that, by itself, construction of the Project will cause emissions of every pollutant for which the Valley is in nonattainment in amounts that exceed APCD significance thresholds during each and every year of Project construction, 2023-2043, except the very last year. (DEIR, Table 3.3-8, p. 3.3-53.[6]) The DEIR makes no comparison between the emissions that Project construction will cause to the emissions provided for in the AQMP, a critical failure to provide the information that should be in the DEIR.[7] It also asserts that it is "unavoidable" - if the SEDA plan is carried out – that "sensitive receptors" (e.g., children, the elderly, and people who already have respiratory illnesses) will be exposed not only to air that far exceeds the health-based state and federal Air Quality Standards, but they may also be exposed to toxic pollutant emissions, including carcinogens, during construction of the Project. Such carcinogens and other toxic chemicals are contained in diesel particulate emissions (commonly referred to as "DPM," for diesel particulate matter"), an airborne soup of chemicals and small particles, many of which either are carcinogenic, or have carcinogens adhered to them, that are emitted by diesel trucks and diesel-powered construction equipment.[8]

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[6] We note that, while the DEIR states that "[b]uildout of the proposed project would occur over approximately 25 years, or longer," the Table showing pollutant emissions from construction goes out only 19 years. There will, apparently, be even more pollutant emissions than the Table shows.

[7] Nor is Appendix B, the Air Quality Appendix, much help. It contains only the same Table (in a slightly different format) and the outputs of the computer model used to predict Project emissions (these cannot easily be read by laypersons). It does not compare Project construction emissions with the AQMP.

[8] For context, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) estimates that 50% of the risk of cancer from airborne carcinogens in the greater Los Angeles are comes ; last visitd 8/24/23.)from exposure to DPM. (Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study V, SCAQMD, 2021, page ES-7. Available at https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/mates-v/mates-v-final-report-9-24-21.pdf; last visited 8/24/23.

The potential health impacts from diesel particulate emissions are quite significant, as the DEIR shows at page 3.3-17. The DEIR, at page 3.3-59, tersely acknowledges that "Project construction would involve the use of diesel-fueled vehicles and equipment that emit DPM, which is considered a [Toxic Air Contaminant]."[9] The DEIR disclaims the ability to estimate DPM emissions from the Project, but it admits that, as to toxic emissions, especially DPM:

> [I]t is possible that the proposed project would result in cumulatively significant impacts to sensitive receptors, even if individual projects were each less than significant.

(DEIR, pp. 3.3-60 to 61.). The DEIR's inability to estimate the amount of DPM emissions the Project would cause is severely undercut by the DEIR's ability to calculate the particulate emissions of the Project, both gross particulates and fine particulates, which should include many components of diesel particulate emissions. Some reasonable estimate should be possible, and it is a failure of information required by CEQA for the DEIR to make a good-faith attempt to provide this information. It has not done so.

Overall, the DEIR concludes that air pollutant emissions attributable to the Project, even after all feasible mitigation is applied, would have a "significant and unavoidable" impact, including on sensitive receptors. (DEIR, p. 3.3-61.) In short, the DEIR demonstrates that carrying out the SEDA Project is a recipe for Fresno to continue having some of the very dirtiest, unhealthful air in the nation for decades into the future, and a blueprint for allowing the Project to dump *more* ozone-causing emissions and particulate matter into the air Fresno residents breathe every day. It is a plan for forcing another generation of Fresno's children to grow up breathing air that compromises their lungs and may permanently harm their health. (See State of the Air 2023 Report, pp. 24-25 [health effects of particulates] and 26—27 [health effects of ozone].))

[9] Diesel exhaust has been formally designated a Toxic Air Contaminant by the California Air Resources Board. (Cal. Code of Regs., title 17, section 19000.)

3. The DEIR Does Not Show That it has Applied All Feasible Mitigation.

As set out above, the DEIR thus acknowledges that the Project would make Fresno's already abominable air even worse, which creates significant impacts on the environment. It then asserts that:

> No further measures to reduce operation-phase criteria air pollutant emissions are available beyond the applicable Valley Air District rules and regulations in addition to the proposed project's policies and design46.) guidelines [as set out in the DEIR].

(DEIR, p. 3.3-46.) The DEIR asserts that there are no further feasible mitigation measures. In fact, the DEIR implies that the Project is too big for its air quality impacts to be feasibly mitigated (DEIR p. 3.3-46), a concept that is antithetical to CEQA's purposes and requirements. Instead, the City should consider making the Project smaller, so that mitigation is feasible. CEQA requires that once significant impacts from a Project have been identified, the project should not be approved if there are feasible mitigation measures that would lessen or prevent such impacts. (Public Res. Code § 21002.)

The City must re-think mitigation. The SEDA is a major project, one that will greatly expand the City's population and infrastructure, and one whose construction will stretch out for a quarter-century, up to the time when California is committed to being carbon-neutral. (AB 1279; EO B-30-15.) Its operation will last much longer. The City is approving a Project that will define Fresno and its legacy for the rest of this century. If aggressive and effective mitigation for air pollutant emissions is not enacted now, when it will be most effective because it acts on a relatively blank slate, when will it be enacted? To avoid a future of decades of continued air that sickens Fresno's residents, we urge the City to adopt additional mitigation measures now that are specific and effective, and not just aspirational. We believe that there are many mitigation measures set out in the DEIR that could be made more effective, that would reduce the pollutant emissions of the Project, and that are feasible. Below is a summary of the more prominent ones.

4. Mitigation Measures Already in the DEIR Must be Strengthened.

The DEIR lists policies in the Fresno City General Plan and the SEDA plan as potentially lessening the air quality impacts of the Project. Many, if not most, of these policies are so conditional and aspirational as to be unenforceable. Examples include policies that include wording such as "support," "promote," "incentivize," or "pursue." (E.g.: Land Use Policies LU-2(b), LU 3(c;, HC 3.d; MT-2(c), (g) and m; Open Space Policy OS-10.5; Conservation Policies RC1.1, RC 1.3 (a) and (b), RC 1.4.)

Particularly important are those mitigation measures listed as "Municipal," which are under the City's direct control and discretion (e.g., Conservation Policies RC 4 (f) and (j), and 8(j).) Where a mitigation measure is within the City's direct control (such as setting energy efficiency standards for municipal buildings), and where the environmental impacts to be mitigated are as dire as violating the AQMP, the City *must* enact mitigation measures that are fully enforceable. (CEQA Guidelines §15126.4(a)(1) and (2).)

DEIR mitigation measures specific to the Project must also be made mandatory. Specifically, MM AIR 2.1's full list of controls for diesel-powered construction equipment should be made mandatory unless individual measures are proven infeasible under clearly defined standards, and MM AIR-3.1's measures to control emissions of Toxic Air Contaminants should be mandated for *use*, not merely for identification.

In addition, many measures in the DEIR could be made enforceable by defining terms in the measures (such as "feasible" in MM AIR-2.1) or by setting schedules and enforceable deadlines for measures calling for the adoption of controls or plans, or for the setting of standards. (E.g., Resource Conservation Policies RC-4(b), 4(g), and 4(k), RC-8(j), and others.)

We also note that several mitigation measures that should be made mandatory for individual developers for projects within SEDA could also be used to provide offsets for their projects' pollutant emissions, if also carried out outside SEDA. These include creation of off-site renewable energy projects, such as installation of solar panels on rooftops in existing Fresno neighborhoods, tree planting, and replacement of inefficient appliances in

homes in existing neighborhoods, and installation and maintenance of electric vehicle charging stations in Fresno neighborhoods or at facilities like shopping centers and sports facilities.

5. Because The DEIR is Inadequate as an Informational Document, Vital Information Must be Added, and the DEIR Recirculated.

The CEQA Guidelines require an agency to "use its best efforts to find out and disclose all that it reasonably can" in an EIR. (Guidelines § 15144.) The City has failed to do so here. Table 3.3-9, at page 3.3-55, which is the only table showing operational pollutant emissions from the Project, is an example of how uninformative the EIR is. It shows only a single year's emissions total: 2050, the year of full build-out of the Project, and seven years after the last year (2043) for which construction emissions are projected.

Presumably, many individual SEDA projects, from housing developments to transportation facilities, will be completed in the years prior to 2050 but their emissions are undisclosed. This is a critical failure of the DEIR to provide full disclosure of environmental impacts from the Project; the public has no clue about operational emissions from the Project for 46 years prior to 2050. There is not even information as to when the first individual SEDA projects will begin to operate and will have operational emissions.

The SEDA projects' expected operational emissions appear for the first and only time as they are expected to be in 2050. It is beyond credulity to assume to none of the SEDA component projects will emit any conventional pollutants until 2050, and that all of the individual SEDA projects will begin emitting at once, several years after construction emissions end. The DEIR states that "[r]egional construction and operational emissions reported in this analysis were modeled using CalEEMod using version 2020.4.0" (DEIR, p. 3.3-40), so the City presumably has at least some of this information. If it does not have it, the City must have, or must generate, this information to the extent it is feasible to do so, and the DEIR must provide it. The DEIR does state that, if climate change causes temperatures to rise, the number of days when ozone will form in the Valley:

> If temperatures rise to the medium warming range, there could be 75 to 85 percent more days with weather conducive to ozone formation in Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley, relative to today's conditions. This is more than twice the increase expected if rising temperatures remain in the lower warming range. This increase in air quality problems could result in an increase in asthma and other health-related problems.

(DEIR, pp. 3.8-9 to 10.) Further, the DEIR states:

> [Fresno] temperatures are predicted to increase by 4.5°F (degrees Fahrenheit) under the medium emission scenario and 8.5°F under the high emissions scenario.

DEIR, p. 3.8-10.)

The increase in pollutant emissions and the increase in temperatures and number of days when ozone is likely to form add up to a potential public health crisis, necessitating the fullest information that can be provided. Further, since this information is essential to any understanding of the health impacts of the Project, the DEIR must be recirculated with that information prior to certification. (CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5.) It is imperative that the decision makers and the public have this information.

Further, Table 3.3-8, at DEIR page 3.3-53 shows projected unmitigated yearly emissions of conventional pollutants from construction over the life of the Project. In the first year, 2024, the Table shows 1770.60 tons of volatile organic compounds VOC), a precursor of ozone, projected to be emitted. In the second year, 2025, the figure drops by more than half, showing 668.30 tons of VOC projected to be emitted. After those two years, projected VOC emissions plummet, with the 2026 VOC emissions projected to be 30.45 tons. No reason is given for this remarkably high and the subsequent drop-off and extreme drop-off, respectively, of the next two years' VOC emissions. Clearly, there must be a reason for this weird pattern of VOC emissions that must be disclosed by the EIR.

The emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from construction listed in the Table show a steady decline over the years, as do other pollutants. Notably, PM2.5, which almost certainly contains carcinogenic DPM from construction equipment and diesel trucks, remain fairly steady throughout the years, with

2024's emissions and 2043's emissions being within 6 tons per year of each other.

Possible explanations for the high early VOC numbers are that the City knows of specific projects planned for construction in 2024 and 2035 that emit high levels of VOC, or that the emissions modeling failed to accurately predict or report VOC emissions in the first two years of the Project. However, the City is not sharing those- or any - explanations with the public. This is a further failure of the DEIR to provide full information to the public.

Finally, the DEIR does not predict pollutant concentrations in the ambient air that will result from both construction and operation of the Project.

6. The DEIR does not Correlate Pollutant Emissions From the Project with Resulting Health Impacts.

The California Supreme Court, in *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018) 6 Cal.5th 502 ("Friant Ranch"), held that that the EIR on the Friant Ranch Project approved by the County of Fresno "fail[ed] to provide an adequate discussion of health and safety problems that will be caused by the rise in various pollutants resulting from the Project's development." (6 Cal.5th 502, at 527.) The DEIR here also fails to comply with the requirements of the *Friant Ranch* decision.

We first note that the DEIR does describe some health effects of ozone and PM2.5. (DEIR, pp. 3.3-12 to 3.3-12.) However, its description of the health impacts of PM10 and PM2.5 fails to point out the disproportionate impact of airborne particulate matter on disadvantaged communities. The APCD stated in a 2021 letter to the California Air Resources Board:

> "As recent research indicates, there is a disproportionate health impact of PM2.5 exposure to people of color, and the burden of mobile sources to the Valley contribute significantly to these health effects. The State's CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool indicates that a significant number of communities in the Valley are among the most disadvantaged in California for a number of indicators, including overall pollution burden, and diesel PM exposure (Figure 1). In fact, 20 of the top 30 most disadvantaged communities in California are within the San Joaquin Valley. As emissions from mobile sources contribute a

> significant portion to the overall pollution burden in these disadvantaged communities, achieving emissions reductions from mobile sources is paramount to improving the health of the most impacted residents in the State."

(APCD Comment Letter on Revised Draft 2020 Mobile Source Strategy, May 14, 2021, footnotes omitted. (https; ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/8-SJVAPCD_Comment_RevisedDraft2020MobileSourceStrategy.pdf; last accessed 4/6/23.) Here, the DEIR does not discuss the disparate effects air pollutant emissions increases may have on the disadvantaged communities within SEDA and elsewhere within the City.

In fact, the DEIR does not predict the impacts of its pollutant emissions on the ambient air at all, except to say that those emission will not be consistent with the AQMP. (DEIR, p. 3.3-45 ["implementation of the proposed Specific Plan would result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations; cause or contribute to new violations; or delay timely attainment of the AAQS."]) Beyond that, the DEIR says nothing about the magnitude of the increase in frequency and/or severity its new emissions will cause. Instead, it says tersely: "Air dispersion modeling is not applicable at a program level." (DEIR, p. 3.3-42.) No further explanation is provided. However, the California Supreme Court in *Friant Ranch* was presented with a similar claim, and held that "if it is not scientifically possible to do more than has already been done to connect air quality effects with potential human health impacts, the EIR itself must explain why, in a manner reasonably calculated to inform the public of the scope of what is and is not yet known about the Project's impacts." (*Friant Ranch*, *supra,* 6 Cal.5th at p. 520.) Here, the DEIR has not done the analysis of the impact on human health of the Project's new emissions (or even shown what all emissions are projected to be). Nor has the public been given an explanation of why it cannot provide that impact analysis, other than one short sentence saying it can't be done. As the Supreme Court in *Friant Ranch* made clear, more explanation is required.

Further, such an analysis *can* be done. When Cal State San Diego proposed a master plan to develop a new community, it eventually certified an EIR that did perform a *Friant Ranch* analysis, correlating the project's emissions with impacts on human health (although it acknowledged that the

analysis was not perfect). That analysis is available at https://missionvalley.sdsu.edu/pdfs/feir/appendices/4-2-3-sdsu-mv-health-effects-memo.pdf, and is hereby incorporated into this letter by reference. We also formally submit it into the administrative record for this Project by reference, as demonstrating that an analysis correlating emissions from a major project with impacts on human health is feasible.

The City has proposed a huge, multi-year Project that will transform Fresno. It must perform an analysis of the effects on human health of that Project's pollutant emissions, with the degree of precision that is currently possible and has been demonstrated in practice. The DEIR must be recirculated with the analysis when it is completed. CEQA and the public health demand no less.

C. GHG/Climate Change Impacts Are Not Adequately Analyzed or Mitigated.

As with its analysis for conventional air pollutants, the DEIR's analysis for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions fails to provide the most basic information to the decision makers and the public. It also fails to adopt all feasible mitigation measures for the impacts of its emissions of climate-forcing gases, and it appears to be self-contradictory as to what the standard is as to the significance of those emissions.

1. The GHG Analysis Fails as an Informational Document

While the DEIR bestows considerable attention on the existing legal framework of the federal and state laws and regulations applicable to GHG emissions, it is remarkably short on information as to the GHG emissions to be expected from the Project. Like its description of SEDA emissions of conventional and toxic pollutants, described above, the DEIR provides only very limited information on the GHG emissions to be expected from the Project, and downplays the significance of those it does acknowledge.

In Table 3.8-2, at page 3.8-44, the DEIR sets out the Project's expected GHG emissions from construction. These are reported year by year for the years 2024 to 2043 (only 19 years from now, despite the DEIR's statement

that "[b]uildout of the proposed project would occur over approximately 25 years, or longer" at page 3.3-57).

The emissions expected from construction total 2,316,578 tons of carbon-dioxide equivalent GHGs.[10] The DEIR downplays the potential significance of this emission of over two million tons of GHGs by saying that "[s]hort-term construction GHG emissions are a one-time release of GHGs and are not expected to significantly contribute to global climate change." (DEIR, p. 3.8-44.) This is nonsensical, since the fact that construction emissions are "one-time" for each individual project is somewhat meaningless, given that the DEIR has already shown that GHGs can remain in the atmosphere for decades or even centuries; carbon monoxide itself has a residency time of 50 to 200 years. (DEIR, p. 3.8-4.) It is their long period of residence in the atmosphere that enables GHGs emitted anywhere in the world able to affect the entire planet, as the DEIR observes at page 3.3-6 ("GHGs have long atmospheric lifetimes, several years to several thousand years. GHGs persist in the atmosphere for a long enough time to be dispersed around the globe.")

The DEIR itself states that "although it is unlikely that a single project will contribute significantly to climate change, cumulative emissions from many projects affect global GHG concentrations and the climate system." (DEIR p.3.8-7.) The Project's construction emissions cannot be made less than significant by calling them "one-time," since their effects will last for many decades or even for centuries.

As it does with the Project's expected emissions of conventional pollutants, the DEIR provides the Project's expected operational GHG emissions for only one year: 2050. (DEIR, Table 3.8-3, at p. 3.8-45.) The DEIR reports a surprisingly low total: 515,791 tons of GHGs. (*Id.*) We note that 2050 is the time by which the state is expected to carry out its many programs to reduce GHG emissions, including mandating zero-emission cars, setting low carbon fuels, reducing the carbon footprint of transporting water, and mandating electricity that is mostly or exclusively produced by non-

[10] Because of the widely divergent longevity in the atmosphere of various GHGs, they are usually described in terms of the amount of their climate-forcing ability when compared with a single GHG, viz., carbon monoxide. This is called carbon monoxide equivalence. (DEIR, p. 3.8-3.)

carbon, renewable sources. (DEIR, p. 3.8-49.) Therefore, the 2050 GHG figure is almost certainly not representative of the Project's GHG emissions in all, or even most, of the years of its operation, before all the state programs have had full effect.

The DEIR is required to make a good-faith effort to discover and provide all the information it can. (CEQA Guidelines §§ 15003(i), 15144.) Here, the City had enough information to provide the expected total 2050 GHG emissions from operations. It also had enough information to provide the expected the GHG emissions from construction for each year between 2024 and 2043, showing that it has data on the expected year-by-year pace of construction and, by extension, on the pace at which SEDA projects would begin to operate. The DEIR used a widely accepted computer modeling system to predict the GHG emissions from the Project.

> The short-term construction-related *and long-term operational GHG emissions* associated with future buildout of the Plan Area allowed under the proposed Specific Plan were estimated using California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) Version 2020.4.0. CalEEMod is a Statewide model designed to provide a uniform platform for government agencies, land use planners, and environmental professionals to quantify GHG emissions from land use projects. The model quantifies direct GHG emissions from construction and operation (including vehicle use), as well as indirect GHG emissions, such as GHG emissions from electricity use, solid waste disposal, vegetation planting and/or removal, and water use. Emissions are expressed in annual metric tons of CO2 equivalent units of measure (i.e., MT CO2e), based on the GWP of the individual pollutants.

(DEIR, p. 3.8-43, italics added.) CalEEMod would have given the City information on the operational GHG emissions from the Project. With all this information, the DEIR could -and should- have provided approximate figures on the Project's operational GHG emissions year by year, giving the decision makers and the public a much better understanding of the amount of GHGs that would be emitted by SEDA. As it is, the DEIR has not performed a good-faith analysis and has not provided all the information it can. It does not comply with CEQA and cannot support the approval of the Project.

D. The EIR Fails to Address the Consequences of the City's General Plan Deficiencies.

1. The City General Plan is Inadequate and its Deficiencies Preclude Approval of SEDA, Since Such Approval Relates to the General Plan's Deficiencies.

The general plan is the "constitution for future development ... located at the top of the hierarchy of local government law regulating land use .... " (*DeVita v. Napa* (1995) 9 Cal. 4th 763, 773, internal citations omitted.) Government Code section 65300.5 requires that all general plan elements be consistent with one another. County and city zoning ordinances also must be "consistent with the general plan." (Gov. Code § 65860(a); *San Francisco Tomorrow v. City and County of San Francisco* (2014) 229 Cal.App.4th 498, 508-509.) If a city or county's general plan is inadequate, it cannot support project approvals. (*Camp v. Board of Supervisors* (1981) 123 Cal. App. 3d 334, 352 [County could not approve subdivisions because some of its general plan elements were inadequate].) A permit may be challenged due to general plan inadequacy where the inadequacy is factually related to the characteristics or implications of the permit. (*Garat v. City of Riverside* (1991) 2 Cal.App.4th 259, 293.)

2. The General Plan Does Not Comply With AB 170.

AB 170, passed in 2003, enacted as Government Code section 65302.1 subdivision (b), requires that all cities and counties in the San Joaquin Valley amend their General Plans to add specific information on air pollution in their jurisdictions. This information must include "(1) A report describing local air quality conditions including air quality monitoring data, emission inventories, lists of significant source categories, attainment status and designations, and applicable state and federal air quality plans and transportation plans. (2) A summary of local, district, state, and federal policies, programs, and regulations that may improve air quality in the city or county. (3) A comprehensive set of goals, policies, and objectives that may improve air quality consistent with the strategies listed in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a). (4) A set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry out those goals, policies, and objectives." (Govt. Code section 65302.1(c).) Government Code section 65302.1, subd. (e), set a deadline for compliance with GC 65302.1 of "no later than one year from the date

specified in Section 65588 for the next revisions of its housing element that occurs after January 1, 2004."

A publication by the Air District (bearing the revision date of 04/02/09) reads, "AB 170 requires cities and counties to comply no later than one (1) year from the date specified in Government Code Section 6588 for the next revision of the housing element after January 1, 2004 (Section 65302.1.e). *Based upon the schedule outlined in the bill, jurisdictions in Fresno and Kern counties are required to adopt these amendments by June 30, 2009.* Jurisdictions in Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties have until June 30, 2010 to comply."] [Emphasis added.]

3. The City General Plan Has No Environmental Justice Element, an Element Mandated by SB 1000.

Effective January 1, 2017, SB 1000, codified as Government Code section 65302, subdivision (h)(2), required the adoption into cities' and counties' general plans of an Environmental Justice Element, or adoption of the objectives and policies of an Environmental Justice Element in other General Plan Elements, such Element to be adopted on the first occasion after January 1, 2018, when the city or county adopts or revises two or more general plan Elements. Until it actually adopts an Environmental Justice Element that fully complies with SB 1000, the City does not have an adequate General Plan, and may not approve development projects, including SEDA.

4. The Project's GHG Emissions Will Undercut the Effectiveness of Fresno's Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Fresno's Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), adopted in 2014 and updated in 2018 and 2022, was "intended to identify integrated land-use and transportation strategies that lower per capita GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions from cars and light-duty trucks, and foster communities that are more equitable, healthy, and

sustainable."[11] As required by SB 375, the Fresno RTP/SCS is based on assumptions about future development "that are consistent with adopted local general plans."[12] And the RTP/SCS specifically relies on the City of Fresno's 2014 General Plan as a basis for changes in land use and transportation that will help meet state-mandated GHG reduction targets:

> Scenario B [the basis for the land use projections in the 2022 RTP/SCS] was built primarily from existing local general plans, regional growth projections and insights from the REMI economic forecasting model. . . . *The City of Fresno's updated general plan calls for 50 percent of new growth in designated infill development areas and proposes no sphere of influence expansion through 2035, which will help rein in fringe development in a traditionally sprawling region.*[13]

Construction of thousands of acres of low-density development to the southeast of Fresno would vitiate these benefits, dramatically increase vehicle miles traveled, and make it impossible to meet state-mandated GHG reduction goals as contemplated in the RTP/SCS.

E. The EIR's Water Supply Analysis Is Inadequate.

The water supply for SEDA is only shown to be adequate up to 2035, and only if groundwater conditions do not change due to climatic changes or regulatory changes due to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

The DEIR does not show that adequate water will be available to meet the anticipated demand from SEDA in addition to the demand from the rest of the City of Fresno past 2035, and not out to the purported build-out date

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[11] Fresno Council of Governments. 2022. Regional Transportation Plan & Sustainable Communities Strategy. Available at https://www.planfresno.com/sustainable-communities-strategies-fall-outreach/.
[12] Fresno COG, 2022.
[13] Fresno COG, 2022 (Emphasis added).

(and the build-out date used in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas sections of the DEIR, as discussed earlier in these comments.)[14]

The City has long relied heavily on pumped groundwater to satisfy its water needs, as set out at DEIR, page 3-18-3. The DEIR states that prior to 2004, the City obtained 100 percent of its water from groundwater, but had reduced that by half in 2019 and 2020. (DEIR, p. 3.18-5.) However, the City is located over, and has been obtaining pumped groundwater from, the Kings River Subbasin, which has been designated as a critically overdrafted (i.e., over-pumped) basin. (DEIR, p. 3.18-4.) The Kings Subbasin is within the jurisdiction of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), which is required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management (AB 1739 [Dickinson], SB 1168 [Pavley], and SB 1319 [Pavley]) to attain sustainability of groundwater basins by 2040. (DEIR, p. 3.18-3 to 4.)

Accordingly, the City has increased its purchases of surface water, obtaining surface water from the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)'s Central Valley Project and the Fresno Irrigation District (FID). The City is now attempting to recharge the Kings Subbasin, but the amount of water it can devote to recharge is less in dry years. (DEIR, p. 3.18-4 to 5.) The DEIR acknowledges that the water from the Central Valley Project is not always available, stating that "there have been extremely dry years in which no water is [sic] supplied"; this previously occurred in 2014 and 2015. (EIR, p. 3.18-6.) In those years, Fresno received only somewhat more than half of its usual Central Valley Project water.

The addition of 45,000 people in the SEDA Project will, of course, increase demand for water in Fresno. (DEIR, p. 3.18-7 ["Water supply for the Specific Plan Area will be met with existing supplies initially but will require additional supplies to meet buildout demands."]) The DEIR acknowledges that additional pipe infrastructure will need to be planned, sited, and laid (DEIR, p. 3.18-10). Plans for doing so are sketchy, at best, and it is not clear

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[14] The DEIR is riddled with analyses that focuses on 2035 at the expense of analyzing to the 2050 horizon year. For example, see pages 3.14-13 (Land Use), 3.15-8 (Public Services), 3.15-33 (also Public Services), p.3.17-32 (Transportation), and pages 2-5 and 406.

that the air quality and GHG impacts of that construction were included in the emissions totals in Tables 3.3-8 and 3.8-2. If they are not so included, those Tables are incomplete and misleading, and must be revised in a recirculated DEIR. The effects of supplying water in future years is it will impact other water users must also be analyzed.

However, there is another, fundamental, problem with the DEIR's analysis of water supply for the Project. The DEIR appears to analyze only the impacts of the Project on water supply to Fresno up to 2035 and *not* to 2050, when the full expected buildout and population of SEDA is expected. (Appndx. F, Water Technical Study, p.1.) The Fresno General Plan's Horizon" date is 2035, although full buildout is not expected until 2050 or beyond. (*Id.*).

The DEIR analyzes water demand for SEDA only out to 2035. (Water Technical Study, pp. 24-25.) The analysis makes clear that the DEIR is not exact; many "reasonable assumptions" about demand have been made. (Water Technical Study, p. 19.) Still the most favorable (to the City and future developers) conclusion that the Technical Study can reach is that "existing City of Fresno water supplies *could* be sufficient to supply the future development in SEDA in addition to the existing demands." (Water Technical Study, p. 24, italics added.). However, the Technical Study's estimate of water supply to Fresno, including SEDA, bears the disclaimer that the conclusion is valid only "assuming groundwater characteristics are not altered due to climatic events or regulatory influences from SGMA." (Water Technical Study, p. 24.) That same disclaimer appears in many discussions of groundwater in the main text of the DEIR (see DEIR, pp. 3.18-4, 5, 66, 67 and 68).

The DEIR appears to base much of its analysis of groundwater availability on the premise that climate conditions will not change, and the North Kings GSA will not impose conditions that change the current situation. Given both the DEIR's Table 3.8-2 (at p.3.8-11) showing the alarmingly high expected temperature increases in the Fresno area, and given the over-drafted condition of the Kings Subbasin together with the North Kings GSA's legal mandate to restore over-drafted basins by 2040, it seems more than likely that the Kings Subbasin will experience changes that would not be in the DEIR's favor. The DEIR simply has not shown that water

supply will be adequate for the Project to the buildout date of 2050, or even to the date most discussed in the Water Technical Study, 2035. The DEIR is both procedurally and substantively deficient as to water supply, and it should be revised and recirculated.

F. The Final EIR Must Respond in Writing to Comments Made on the NOP.

When the Notice of Preparation (NOP) was circulated for the SEDA project, you received various letter regarding the scope of the EIR. We request that you respond to each of these NOP comment letters as if they were a comment on the Draft EIR, especially the letters of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Conservation.

Additionally, we specifically incorporate by reference the letter of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, CCEJN, Fresno Building Healthy Communities, and Fresno Barrios Unidos dated March 25, 2022. (https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Appendix-A-EIR-Noticing-and-Public-Involvement-COMBINED.pdf, p. 70.) This letter rightfully comments as follows; we request that you respond to each of these points and every other point made in this letter:

> First, given the significance of the SEDA to the future development of Southeast Fresno communities, it is of the utmost importance that the City proactively and meaningfully engage residents within and around the planning area. This means that the City must incorporate residents' input into the SEDA and EIR by revising land use designations to include community-led development like higher density housing, green space, affordable commercial and residential spaces, and so on. It must also have policies and implementation measures for active investment into Southeast Fresno neighborhoods by businesses and the City alike in essential infrastructure, services, amenities, and community greening. To do less is to perpetuate the long-held City practice of denying Southeast Fresno residents their rights to shape the future of their neighborhoods and access to opportunity on the same terms as other Fresno residents.
> Below you will find additional comments in response to the Notice of Preparation:

> I. The Proposed Land Use Map is Inconsistent with Local and State Climate, Housing, and Transportation Goals and Policies to Build Equitable Climate Resilient Communities
>
> As previously noted, it is unclear and of significant concern to what extent authentic public participation took place during this process from over a decade ago. The former process took place at the tail end of the housing bubble when building single-family homes in the outskirts of the city limits was the priority and norm. This type of "leapfrog" development remains reflected in the SEDA land use map as a large portion of the 9,000 acres is zoned for low-density single-family housing. This is inconsistent with the current climate, housing, and transportation goals that aim to build communities with a variety of development and density to make them accessible to various incomes and for communities to get around by alternative modes of transportation.
>
> Further, the second-largest land use is zoned for flexible research and development, which leaves space for more light industrial use, further industrializing south Fresno BIPOC communities. This current process is in stark contrast with other specific plans prepared and adopted by the City in recent years, which have emphasized resident self-determination in shaping their built environment, planning for complete and healthy communities, smart growth-promoting land use compatibility, and investment strategies and implementation measures designed to bring those plans' vision to life. The City must not proceed with its efforts to further cement unjust and exclusive land-use patterns in City planning practices.
> Fourteen years later, we have learned that this growth pattern is economically and environmentally unsustainable as the City now struggles to balance the need to build out the infrastructure and maintain public services in these communities while attending to decades of deferred maintenance in established neighborhoods. This is reflected in the 2015 General Plan praised for limiting unsustainable sprawl growth and focusing on efficient infill development.

(Letter of Groups, pp. 1-2, available at https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Appendix-A-EIR-Noticing-and-Public-Involvement-COMBINED.pdf, pp. 70 et seq of PDF.)

Conclusion.

The DEIR must be revised and circulated properly to the public and to public agencies.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Douglas P. Carstens
Michelle Black

PATIENCE MILROD

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

August 28, 2023

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street
Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Sent by email: adrienne.asadoorian@fresno.gov

RE: Public Comment on Southeast Development Area Plan and draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Asadoorian:

On behalf of the Fresno Madera Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council, the Central Valley IAF, and Regenerate California Innovation (RCI), please incorporate the following comments regarding the City's Southeast Development Area Specific Plan and draft Program Environmental Impact Report into the record of this matter.

The Southeast Development Area Plan and draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) are not ready for public discussion, let alone Council action.

There are great gaps and fatal flaws in the Plan and the draft PEIR—missing information that will be essential to a fiscally, politically, and environmentally responsible decision about this project. These flaws and gaps are all correctible, but they will require additional time, attention, and analysis. It is far more appropriate that the SEDA plan be considered, and evaluated, in the context of the City's next General Plan update.

Vital but unanswered questions at this point include:

- **Who pays for infrastructure, and how?**

  SEDA infrastructure (at 2022 prices) has been estimated to cost somewhere between $1 and $2 billion. But either the SEDA infrastructure assessment has not been completed[1], or has not been made public: it is definitely not in the Plan or in the draft PEIR.

[1] This despite the fact its preparation was among the deliverables in FirstCarbon Solutions' scope of work: see, Consultant Service Agreement between City of Fresno (City) and FirstCarbon Solutions (Consultant), Southeast Development Area Specific Plan, executed November 4, 2020, Exhibit A, Attachment A: Scope of Services, Subtask 1.1.2, and Task 2.

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In fact, the Plan includes neither the infrastructure finance plan[2], nor the fiscal nexus study[3], nor the fiscal impact analysis[4], needed to ensure adequate resources to cover this billion-ish infrastructure price tag.

The City itself has admitted as much: its 2020 application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for a $625,000 SEDA planning grant acknowledged that "an infrastructure assessment, and a fiscal nexus study *must be completed prior to adoption*."[5] [emphasis added.] That was, and remains, true: approval of the Plan and PEIR without these crucial components would be foolhardy and premature.

Especially pertinent to the fiscal wisdom of City investment in SEDA infrastructure: the Consultant Service Agreement required a Qualitative Fiscal Review, but no such review has been made public. Such a review would clarify "whether or not the existing targeted tax sharing parameters will remain feasible with the development of the SEDA Specific Plan."[6]

Given that the existing City/County 32%/68% tax-sharing agreement is extremely disadvantageous to the City, and that efforts to persuade the County to a more equitable division of revenues have reportedly been stalled for many, many months and show no promise of reviving, it is vital that the public and the City Council be fully apprised of the fiscal hole the City digs for itself when it dumps money into annexation-area investments such as SEDA. The Council must have this information before deciding whether to greenlight SEDA planning at this time.

The draft PEIR promises[7] that the Plan will provide "self-financing for the development and ongoing maintenance of the SEDA that does not reduce City of Fresno resources dedicated to other areas of the City or burden Fresno residents outside of the SEDA." This commitment to private financing is consistent with the City's draft 6th Cycle Housing Element, which insists that any growth in low-priority development areas (including SEDA) "would require all infrastructure costs to be borne by the new development."[8]

However, the draft PEIR then contradicts itself, asserting later in the document that infrastructure costs will be "funded through a **combination** of public and private funding."[9] If the idea is to commit *any* public funding to SEDA's infrastructure, the City must calculate

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[2] Also a deliverable per the November 2020 Consultant Service Agreement, *id*. at Subtask 1.1.3 – 1.1.7.

[3] Also a deliverable per the November 2020 Consultant Service Agreement, *id*. at Subtask 1.1.8 – 1.1.9.

[4] The City Council in 2020 approved a budget of $215,000 for a Fiscal Impact Analysis and interactive modeling tool to analyze the various impacts on the City's general fund of infill and greenfield projects in the context of its General Plan. (See, June 18, 2021, Agreement for Consultant Services between City of Fresno and Economic & Planning Systems, Proposed Work Program.) On information and belief, that analysis and tool were designed for large-scale projects such as SEDA, have been completed and are suitable for application to the SEDA project, and have already been usefully applied to at least one similarly large-scale Specific Plan. However, with respect to SEDA, the City has either not requested that analysis, or has not disclosed its conclusions.

[5] Fresno City SB 2 Planning Grants Application, Section E, Project Description, p. 6.

[6] November 2020 Consultant Service Agreement, *id*. at Task 1.2.

[7] SEDA draft PEIR, p. ES-2.

[8] Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element | July 2023, p. 1E-3-81.

[9] SEDA draft PEIR, p. 2-3.

those costs (including, for example, debt service on bonds), develop a plan to pay for them, and make those costs and payment structures public well before plan adoption.

The City admits that it has such documents, but refuses to make them public, claiming (without evidence) that they are "privileged," and that the public interest in keeping them secret outweighs the public interest in disclosing them, because the studies are "ongoing," and disclosure of cost estimates would provide "incomplete information."

We are informed and believe and on that basis assert that the City is in possession of its departments' and consultants' best and final estimates of projected infrastructure costs. Of necessity these costs will be *estimates*, since they involve projections into the future; this does not make them "incomplete" or otherwise disqualify them as a basis for considering the adequacy of the SEDA plan and its EIR.

Moreover, both the California Environmental Quality Act and the Public Records Act require maximum disclosure of information the government holds. In this case, the very fact that the studies are incomplete (if they *are* incomplete) is of public interest. Whether the available numbers are "final" or not, the public, and the City Council, are entitled to know what information is available at this time on this vital question, to what extent and in what way(s) it is claimed to be "incomplete," what further studies or analyses still need to be conducted, and when that work will be completed.

These important questions of "how much?" and "who pays?"—to which the City itself offers conflicting answers right now—must be answered *before* the Plan can be approved. With such inadequate information, the City cannot legitimately make findings of overriding consideration that effectively commit us all to writing a blank check for likely unneeded and massively expensive new infrastructure investments in the SEDA area.

- **Will there be enough new Fresnans to populate SEDA?**

  The draft PEIR relies on old and inaccurate population growth figures, and therefore grossly overstates the actual increase in numbers of new Fresnans over the next three decades. (See Keith Bergthold's August 28, 2023 comment letter.) As a result, the Plan assumes a demand for housing, and associated infrastructure, that current, accurate population growth figures do not support.

  Moreover, a recent study shows that, to the extent new residents *are* moving into Fresno from elsewhere, on average they are families with incomes *below* Fresno's median income:

  > "The data show that the inflow of residents to Fresno County are in households with lower incomes than the City and County averages, suggesting that in-migrants may be seeking a more affordable cost of living that is available in the county; these households thus increase the demand for housing that is at and below the median price in the Fresno market."[10]

  Since new Fresnans will be competing for existing *affordable* housing, they will not be creating demand for SEDA housing. Instead, we can expect the historical pattern in Fresno to be also true for SEDA: new housing developments drive internal migration within the city rather than drawing new residents from other areas. That dynamic, in turn, lowers property values in existing neighborhoods, as homeowners relocate to a newer fringe

[10] See, Fresno Urban Decay Analysis, Economic Decay: Migration (source: Internal Revenue Service).

development; blight and physical decay reliably follow.[11]

- **Will SEDA meet the housing needs of Fresnans who already live here?**

  The Plan itself does not commit to any particular number of homes at any particular price point; nor does it require as a mitigation measure that developers build so as to ensure any proportion of affordable-to-market-rate homes. But based on the SEDA proposed zoning map[12], and on the City's application for the SEDA planning grant[13], the SEDA Plan anticipates at most 9,000 *potentially* affordable multifamily units[14] and 35,200 single-family units.

  As it happens, the City's own One Fresno Housing Strategy acknowledges that the City's pressing needs are *not* for the single-family market rate housing SEDA will supply, but for housing affordable to low-income residents: "Historic poor land use planning, inequitable fair housing practices and the basic imbalance of supply and demand have all led Fresno to its current state of needing approximately 15,000 new and converted affordable housing units between now and 2025 to meet our residents' needs." One Fresno Housing Strategy, April 2022, Mayor's Message, p. 2.

  The One Fresno Housing Strategy makes clear that "Fresno needs 21,001 units for households who can afford no more than $500 on monthly housing costs," and "the City of Fresno has a glut of 28,310 single-family detached units over and above what Fresno households need based on household size." *Id*. at p. 38. These are not housing needs that SEDA's 35,200 additional single-family market rate homes will meet.

  The City's own quantified assessment of Fresno's housing needs[15] over most of the next decade shows more than adequate inventory for that new housing; not a single parcel from SEDA is needed to meet those goals.[16]

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[11] "The city has seen various changes to population density over the past 50 years, indicating a shift in residential patterns. Outmigration in established centers perpetuates economic decay through a decline in support for commercial services." *Id*., Economic Decay: Population Density (source: Community Survey and Decennial US Census).

[12] Southeast Development Area Specific Plan, Map 2.5—SEDA Proposed Land Use, p. 22.

[13] Fresno City SB 2 Planning Grants Application, Section E, *Project Description, p. 6*.

[14] Based on HCD's zoning standard of at least 16 units per acre (see, HCD By-Right Program Minimum Densities Table). However, density standards are only a rough proxy for affordability; at this point—since the PEIR includes no enforceable mitigation measures imposed as conditions of entitlement—it is possible that not a single unit to be built in SEDA will be affordable to low-income families.

[15] See, FRESNO MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HOUSING ELEMENT, July 2023: Figure 1E-2.2 Sites Inventory, Fresno 2023, p. 1E-2-33; and Table 1E-1.1, Summary of Quantified Objectives, 2023-2031, p. 1E-1-35.

[16] The SEDA PEIR admits as much at p. 2-1: "While there is still ample residential capacity within the current city limits and in Growth Area I (which includes the Southwest Fresno and the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan areas), there is a sense of urgency about the current housing crisis and the City's ability to provide housing for the existing population and its natural growth as well as the unanticipated in-migration occurring at this time." The PEIR includes no evidence justifying this supposed "urgency," and California Department of Finance population growth figures flatly contradict it. Moreover, they do not reflect any "unanticipated in-migration occurring at this time," and the EIR offers

The SEDA Specific Plan's claim that "the acceleration of the current housing crisis has created a 'substantial shortage' of homes and therefore prioritized completion of the SEDA Plan"[17] is demonstrably untrue. This claim cannot therefore be the basis for legitimate, evidence-based findings of overriding consideration.

- **The PEIR fails to use reasonably available tools**

  In preparing the PEIR, the consultants have failed to use readily available analytic tools to assess SEDA's air quality, transportation, human health impacts[18], and fiscal impacts[19], among others.

  Certification of this draft PEIR's many conclusory statements, unsupported by scientific or objective data, would constitute an abuse of discretion.

- **Impact numbers are just wrong, or missing**

  Internal trip capture is overstated

  The PEIR must correct the counterfactual assumptions it makes about internal trip capture within SEDA. Professionally adequate analysis would recognize that only *second-generation* SEDA residents will be able to work, go to school, shop, and recreate within SEDA's boundaries to the extent claimed, since commercial and employment centers will lag a decade or two behind housing development and occupancy. This serious analytic error in turn generates drastically underestimated traffic impacts, which in turn results in material undercounting of air quality impacts, which in turn would invalidate any human health impact analysis based on these data, if such an analysis had been done.

  The draft PEIR must include ozone calculations

  The draft PEIR's Air Pollution Description and Health Effects discussion (at pp. 3.3-11 – 3.3-31) lists criterion pollutants, generally describes their adverse effects on human health, and identifies the regulatory programs intended to curb air pollution, including (3.3-23 – 24) the ozone reduction/prevention plans for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin nonattainment area. There is no discussion of the human health impacts of the additional pollution load this project contributes to Fresno's already-dirty air.

  The PEIR does not calculate the anticipated parts per million (ppm) of ozone resulting from SEDA construction and operations; although NOx and ROG are estimated, the reader has no idea how much ozone will be produced (i.e., whether the amount of ozone resulting from the ROG and NOx pollution will bring the ozone ppm within the 0.10 to 0.40 range). Given that the measures for both exceed the thresholds of significance, this omission renders the draft PEIR's air quality analysis inadequate. *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018) 6 Cal.5th 502, 520.

  The ozone discussion must, of course do more than calculate the NO_x + ROG figure but must also factor in the rising temperatures actually being experienced and expected to

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no evidence in support of this apparently fictitious phenomenon.

[17] Draft SEDA Specific Plan, p. 9.

[18] See, e.g., tools referenced at SJVAPCD's 2015 Plan for the 1997 PM2.5 Standard, Chapter 3: Health Impacts and the Health Risk Reduction Strategy, p. 3-20.

[19] See fn. 4, *supra*.

increase over the project implementation period. See SJVAPCD Redesignation Request, Appendix B: Analysis of Meteorology Affecting Ozone Levels, p. B-8:

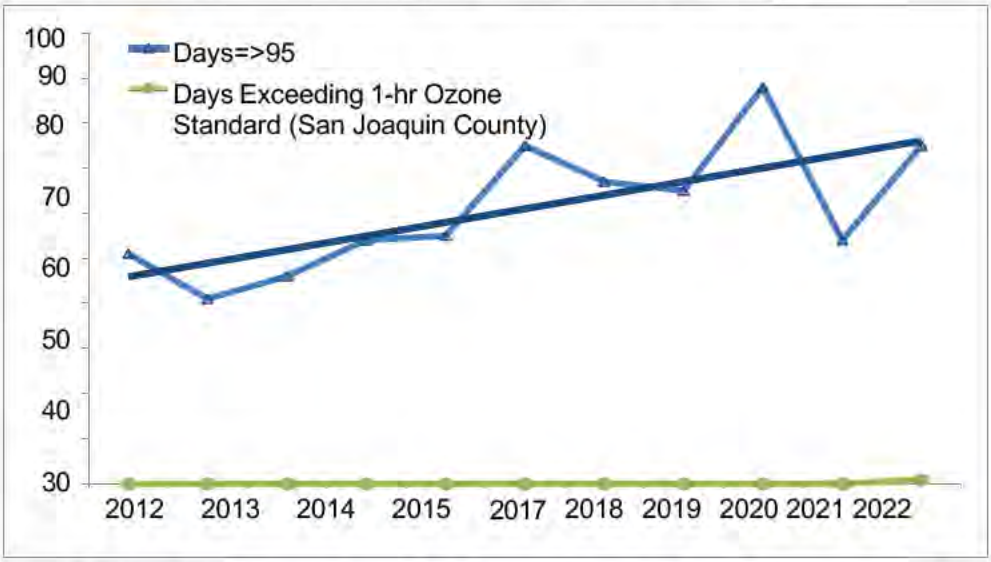


Figure B-7 Number of Days per Year with High Temperatures ≥ 95°F at Stockton Airport (May-October) and Days Exceeding the 1-hour Ozone NAAQS (2012-2022)

As importantly, ozone calculations must be based on an accurate VMT figure derived from realistic, evidence-based VMT projections that correct for the excessively optimistic internal trip capture assumptions of this Draft PEIR.

The draft PEIR must include a human health impact analysis

The PEIR fails to include an analysis that correlates the project's emissions of air pollutants to its impacts on human health, rendering the draft PEIR's air quality analysis inadequate. *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018) 6 Cal.5th 502, at pp. 517-520.

Because ozone is not confined to the site where it is generated, piecemealing human health impact analyses on a development-by-development basis, as the draft PEIR proposes, both grossly understates the health impacts, and makes their mitigation almost impossible.

Moreover, the draft PEIR deliberately misleads the public and decision makers about the seriousness of the air quality impacts SEDA will create, by discussing ROG separately from NOx, and asserting that "direct exposure to ROG would not … result in health effects." See, p. 3.3-58. There is no mention of the toxic cocktail that ROG creates when it combines with NO_x in the heat of a Central Valley summer afternoon. But ozone's effects on humans, especially children, are not trivial:

> SJVAPCD describes ozone impacts in its Community Emission Reduction Program approved for SEDA-adjacent South Central Fresno[20]: "Breathing ozone can trigger a variety of health problems, including chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and congestion. It can reduce lung function and inflame the linings of the lungs. Repeated exposure may permanently scar lung tissue. Children are at a greater risk of experiencing negative health impacts because their lungs are still developing and they are more likely to be active outdoors when ozone levels are high, thus increasing their

[20] *http://community.valleyair.org/selected-communities/south-central-fresno*

exposure. Studies have linked rising hospital admissions and emergency room visits to higher ozone levels." Appendix G: Health Impacts of Air Pollution, p. G-17.

Fresno State University's Central Valley Health Policy Institute studied emergency room and hospital admissions in Fresno, Bakersfield, and Modesto on a daily basis for selected conditions, such as asthma and acute myocardial infarction (MI), that had been previously linked to air pollution in other studies. They determined that ozone was strongly linked to increased risk for asthma ER visits in children during the hottest summer months. Moreover, asthma ER admissions are also strongly linked to increasing PM2.5 across the Valley, with a higher risk in children. Further, risk for asthma hospitalizations increased dramatically with PM2.5 in children and adults across the region. A moderate increase in risk of acute MI (heart attack) was also linked to PM2.5 levels regionally, as were pneumonia ER visits in children and acute bronchitis ER visits in adults.[21]

Water impacts are egregiously underestimated

It appears the City has not factored drought conditions or climate change projections into its water supply sustainability calculations. Figure ES-2, Projected Water Supplies[22], shows an increase of almost 21,000 AFY in available groundwater between 2025 and 2045, plus another 6,500 AFY increase in surface water over the same period.

However, the draft PEIR recognizes that across California, climate change will result in a "reduction in the quality and supply of water from the Sierra snowpack,"[23] a source on which the City of Fresno is heavily reliant for both surface water and groundwater recharge. The Draft PEIR reports that by 2050, such impacts in the Fresno area will reduce the average water supply from snowpack to two-thirds historical levels, and "If emissions reductions do not occur, water from snowpack could fall to less than one-third of historical levels by 2100."[24]

Not only are these concerns not discussed in the Plan or the draft PEIR, but they are explicitly minimized in the discussion of hydrology and water quality. There, the PEIR proposes a cheerful water outlook, repeating in multiple places the phrases "during normal water years" and "assuming groundwater characteristics are not altered due to climatic events or regulatory influences from SGMA."[25] These are objectively unreasonable assumptions, but there is no discussion of a fallback position in the (likely) event the PEIR's sunny projections are inaccurate.

Mitigations for hydrology impacts are ill-considered; City taxpayers will bear the cost

Not only are the projections unreasonably optimistic, but this is yet another place where the City's failure to do the program-level work of infrastructure planning, accurate environmental assessment, and imposition of mandatory, system-wide, coordinated

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[21] Capitman & Tyner, *The Impacts of Short-Term Changes in Air Quality on Emergency Room and Hospital Use in California's San Joaquin Valley*, California State University, Fresno, June 2011.

[22] Draft PEIR, Appx. F, p. ES-7.

[23] Draft PEIR, p. 3.8-9.

[24] *Id.*, p. 3.8-10.

[25] *Id.*, p. 3.10-40.

mitigation measures predictably exacerbates environmental impacts.

Mitigation measures HYD-2b and HYD-2c require the City to refuse to approve proposed SEDA developments that would exceed "existing water supply capacity," and to "secure additional water supplies by securing additional water sources" prior to any such development approvals. This post-facto proposed mitigation—the costs of which are scheduled to be borne by City taxpayers and not by SEDA's developers or ultimate residents—is far inferior to plan-level mitigations prescribed in the Program EIR.

But to achieve plan-level efficiencies and effectiveness, the draft PEIR would have to include the information in the "pending" SEDA Public Facilities Financing Plan (no due date disclosed) and/or "EIR-related water infrastructure planning tasks" (whatever those may be)[26]. Apparently this vital information will be developed after SEDA approvals.

- **The PEIR is inconsistent with other public planning documents**

  Air quality attainment status

  The draft PEIR's air quality impact analysis is inconsistent with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's "Proposed 2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard" (SJVAPCD Redesignation Request) adopted by the Air District Board on June 15, 2023.[27] That document is intended to persuade the federal Environmental Protection Agency to terminate anti-backsliding provisions for the revoked 1-hour ozone standard, including Section 185 nonattainment fees. Toward that end, the document includes both proofs of compliance and a maintenance plan. It clearly does not factor in the ozone contributions SEDA would make to the Valley's pollution load.

  Specifically, SJVAPCD's Redesignation Request, Appendix A: Emissions Inventory (pp. A-1 through A-4), projects annual anticipated pollution levels for NOx through 2036. A layperson—including a member of the public, the Planning Commission, or the City Council—must be confounded comparing the Air District's all-Valley numbers in identified years to the numbers this project alone will generate.

NO_x —summer average in tons/day

Year	Entire San Joaquin Valley, per SJVAPCD[28]	SEDA, per PEIR	SEDA % increase over total SJV
2026	119.50	180.529	151.07%
2031	97.49	170.8218	175.22%
2036	84.13	168.2333	199.97%

[26] SEDA Specific Plan, pp. 100-109, *passim*.

[27] See, SJVAPCD 2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard —see https://ww2.valleyair.org/rules-and-planning/air-quality-plans/ozone-plans/.

[28] SJVAPCD Proposed 2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard, Appendix A: Emissions Inventory, p. A-4. The document provides changes in VOC over time and does not sum up ROG separately; it will therefore be important for an adequate SEDA ozone analysis to determine, and to include as a point of comparison, how SEDA ROG emissions will compare to regionwide ROG production during the identified years, in order to report accurately the extent to which SEDA will impede achievement of regionwide air quality improvement goals.

This chart illustrates the huge impact of SEDA on Valley air quality: by 2036, SEDA alone is projected to produce double the amount of NO_x being produced *across the entire rest of the San Joaquin Valley*.

The PEIR must acknowledge these data, explain them in the context of the SEDA proposal, and provide fact-based analysis of the proposal's air quality impacts that take these data into account. The draft PEIR's passing confession that "Emissions of VOC and NO_X that exceed the Valley Air District regional threshold would cumulatively contribute to the ozone nonattainment designation of the SJVAB" (p. 3.3-56) is inadequate. Exceedances at this scale require some effort beyond falling back on General Plan mitigation measures that never anticipated impacts of this scale.

2035 General Plan

The Draft PEIR is inconsistent with the City's 2035 General Plan. Although the draft PEIR claims that construction of the 45,000 new SEDA dwelling units by 2050 "would be considered planned growth" consistent with the vision of the 2035 General Plan (SEDA draft PEIR, p. 3.14-13), the Draft PEIR fails to acknowledge that the General Plan's proposed growth trajectory puts SEDA development in third place, after Development Areas 1 and 2.[29] To allow SEDA to jump the line into first place is *not* how the City has planned its growth; such reorganizing of development priorities is inconsistent with the General Plan, and creates significant adverse fiscal and environmental consequences for the City and its existing neighborhoods that the General Plan specifically strives to avoid by its new-growth priorities hierarchy.

Moreover, accurate population projections contradict the draft PEIR's claim that "full buildout of the proposed project would…provide housing to meet the demand for new residential units."

Housing element

The draft PEIR is inconsistent with the City's draft Housing Element. The Draft PEIR uses outdated Regional Housing Needs numbers from the 2015-2023 cycle, rather than current 2023-2031 numbers already available and cited in the City's own proposed 6th Cycle Housing Element.

More importantly, it undermines the Housing Element's corrective approach to decades of poor planning. Fresno's 6th cycle draft Housing Element acknowledges that "growth in the City of Fresno over the past few decades has traditionally been low density suburban development, which has resulted in conditions of sprawl in various areas of the city." Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element July 2023, Appendix 1E: City of Fresno, 1E-4-1.

The Housing Element therefore proposes to fill a perennial critical gap in the City's capacity to provide and upgrade housing in legacy neighborhoods: "As part of the implementation of the Housing Element, programs are identified to upgrade the city's infrastructure as needed in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods with the greatest needs. Priority for infrastructure projects will be given to serving established neighborhoods, including generally south of Herndon Avenue as shown in Figure 1E-3.36: Priority Areas for Development Incentives, along BRT and enhanced transit corridors, and in the Downtown Planning Area, consistent with General Plan policies." Housing Element, 1E-3-81 [emphasis

[29] Housing Element, Figure 1E-3.37, which shows Growth Area 2 to include SEDA, labeled "DA-3."

added].

A City decision to invest $1 billion in SEDA infrastructure is inconsistent with the Housing Element's commitment to correct the City's history of neglecting older neighborhoods. In the zero-sum game of municipal finance, and especially in the absence of a SEDA infrastructure financing plan, there is no way to ensure adequate resources to fund "Priority Investments in Established Neighborhoods" as already identified in the General Plan[30]. Committing now to massively expensive infrastructure not needed for new housing directly conflicts with the General Plan by privileging new growth over strengthening established neighborhoods. In addition, it foreseeably, substantially, contributes to physical blight and decay, with resulting economic decline, in all non-SEDA areas of the City[31].

Again, consistently with the General Plan, the 6th Cycle Housing Element inventory does not identify parcels in SEDA as necessary to meet Regional Housing Needs between now and 2031. See, Figure 1E-3.39 at p. 1E-3-82. Instead, the Housing Element identifies SEDA as Development Area 3, as does the General Plan—the last in priority for development on the fringe areas. See, Housing Element, Figure 1E-3.37, which shows Growth Area 2 to include SEDA, labeled "DA-3" for Development Area 3. "Growth Area 2 has significantly less access to completed infrastructure. Any development in these areas would require all infrastructure costs to be borne by the new development." 1E-3-81.

City of Fresno Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

By 2035, SEDA's own carbon dioxide emissions per year (510,000 tons) will almost equal the reduction to which the City committed in its 2021 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (559,000 tons annually).

The draft PEIR fails to itemize or quantify the benefits of the theoretic mitigation measures it mentions. As with transportation impacts, the decision to urbanize 9,000 rural acres 10 miles from the nearest urban center makes it very difficult to achieve efficiencies in energy use and transportation emissions, requiring a higher level of effort and analysis to achieve measurable mitigations.

The fact that the task of mitigation is complicated does not relieve the City of its obligation to seriously consider feasible mitigation measures, and to make them mandatory conditions of entitlement for any development in the SEDA. This it has failed to do.

- **The PEIR piecemeals assessments of environmental impacts, and mitigations**

The City's 2020 application to HCD for the SEDA planning grant committed to project streamlining as one of the SEDA plan's deliverables by incorporating "environmental analyses that eliminate the need for project-specific review."[32] This makes sense, in light of the City's claim that it needs SEDA in order to expedite thousands of urgently needed new homes.

If the City *had* conducted those environmental analyses it promised to do, it would have been able to keep another of the promises it made to HCD: a Program EIR under which "future development will also utilize an expanded exemption under Government Code

[30] See summary in June 2023 draft Housing Element, p. 1E-3-80.

[31] See, Fresno Urban Decay Analysis, ECONorthwest, 2023.

[32] Fresno City SB 2 Planning Grants Application, Section D, *Proposed Activities Checklist, item 3, p. 5.*

Section 65457 that will apply to certain residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects that are consistent with a specific plan adopted pursuant to Government Code, Article 8, Chapter 3 and would be exempt from CEQA."[33]

The Plan pays lip service to streamlining, promising "Fiscal Responsibility" by "holistically coordinat[ing] infrastructure to integrate efficiencies that piecemeal planning cannot," and otherwise coordinating systems and networks for efficiency and economy.[34]

But the Plan and the draft PEIR fail so utterly to provide either plan-scale impact analysis or plan-scale mitigation measures that the draft PEIR itself repeatedly prescribes both environmental assessment and imposition of mitigation measures only during the City's approval process for subsequent discretionary projects within the SEDA footprint—for air quality impacts, transportation impacts, water supply impacts, etc. That is, the City will need to subject every new project to environmental review in order to determine if its impacts are potentially significant, and what mitigation measures should be imposed—exactly the process streamlining is intended to avoid.

Statements by City officials in recent days make this only too clear, most explicitly from City spokesman Brandon Johansen, whose email to a reporter admitted "As individual projects are filed within the Southeast Development Area, they will be evaluated under CEQA to determine project impacts and mitigation measures."[35] Planning Director Jennifer Clark listed "some follow up things that will need to occur, including the impact fees, and the financing plan for the infrastructure."[36]

Obviously, this approach makes streamlining impossible (unless the idea is to use the PEIR to evade environmental review and mitigation for follow-on projects, which has been known to happen in Fresno). Absent streamlining, the City cannot accomplish its claimed goal of expediting housing production.

As importantly, this approach renders impossible "holistic coordination of infrastructure to integrate efficiencies that piecemeal planning cannot," much less creating systems and networks for efficiency and economy.

Finally, a project-by-project evaluation of air quality, water supply, and transportation impacts makes effective mitigation of SEDA's large-scale environmental degradations illusory at best. A 9,000-acre project area, planted at such a remove from the city's center, requires creative and transformative approaches to the environmental consequences of its placement and its population. Piecemealing precludes effective mitigation.

These are all good reasons to put SEDA on hold until adequate environmental analysis, and especially real mitigation measures, can be incorporated into the draft PEIR.

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[33] SB 2 Planning Grants Application, Section E, Project Description.

[34] Draft PEIR at p. ES-2.

[35] Greg Weaver, Another Clovis, but in southeast Fresno? City moves forward on mega-development plans, *Fresnoland*, August 25, 2023; https://fresnoland.org/2023/08/25/city-of-fresno-eyes-seda/; *accessed August 27, 2023.*

[36] *Ibid.*

- **Mitigation measures are inadequate at best**

  The draft PEIR fails to propose mitigation measures that will have any mitigating effect on air quality impacts, although many tools and other resources are available for this purpose. The PEIR takes the position that plan-scale mitigations are infeasible, but this is inaccurate: the City's own 2020 VMT threshold guidelines document provides multiple mitigation options for community and general plans[37]. It is objectively unreasonable, and an invitation to piecemealing that will defeat the whole purpose of a mitigation program, to suggest that it is impossible to impose plan-scale mitigation measures as enforceable conditions of development in SEDA.

  The draft PEIR falsely claims that it has adequately canvassed and incorporated available air quality mitigation measures, but that "due to the magnitude of emissions generated by the residential, office, and commercial land uses proposed as part of the proposed project, no mitigation measures are available that would reduce cumulative impacts below the Valley Air District's thresholds." That the PEIR cannot find measures to reduce (for example) 2026 NO_x emissions from 180 tons per year to 10 does not mean there are *no* possible mitigations that would reduce NOx emissions to (for example) 50: "Mitigation measures need not include precise quantitative performance standards, but they must be at least partially effective, even if they cannot mitigate significant impacts to less than significant levels." *Laurel Heights Improvement Assn. v. Regents of University of California* (1988) 47 Cal.3d 376, 404; §§ 21051, 21100; Guidelines, § 15370. It is not an option in 2023 to effectively abandon the effort, when air pollution from this project would so massively exceed the entire total NO_x output for the rest of the San Joaquin Valley, creating avoidable illness and death, and torpedoing City efforts to reduce climate change impacts.

  Moreover, the draft PEIR does not sufficiently account for its lack of specificity by assurances that a "Health Risk Assessment" (HRA) will be prepared later in the CEQA process, in connection with development-specific EIRs. (See, e.g., MM Air 3.1, 3.2.) *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno*, supra, 6 Cal.5th at p. 521. For one thing, an HRA is required by the California Health & Safety Code, § 44306, only to evaluate and predict the dispersion of hazardous substances. Secondly, a project-specific HRA is inadequate for assessing plan-scale impacts or for devising plan-scale mitigation measures—the very purpose of a Program Environmental Impact Report, but not remotely achieved by the SEDA draft PEIR.

  The draft PEIR also fails to propose mitigation measures that will significantly reduce transportation impacts. Although the project triples vehicle miles traveled to almost 1 million per day, mitigation measures are inadequate. For the first two decades of the project's operation, its transportation and consequent air quality impacts are huge, both as a result of the concept itself—a new city of 145,000 planted in rural Fresno, 10 miles from the city's urban center—and of an apparent determination to impose no mitigation that might inconvenience or cost SEDA developers and builders.

- **There is plenty of time to fill in the missing information and analysis**

  There is no emergency requiring immediate approval of this development plan. The City's own draft Housing Element establishes that there is more than adequate site inventory in the City to accommodate anticipated housing demand for at least eight years. More

[37] CEQA Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled Thresholds, adopted June 25, 2020, City of Fresno; *see*, Appendix C, Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Measures for Community Plans and General Plans. See also, SJVAPCD Emission Reduction Clean Air Measures—among many others.

importantly, adoption of this plan at this time will utterly defeat its claimed principal purpose, to facilitate streamlined housing production by anticipating and mitigating at a program scale the environmental impacts of such development.

Certainly within the next year, the City will be able to correct erroneous population projections and otherwise gather corrected data, use the correct tools to assess impacts, identify effective and enforceable plan-scale mitigations, and fully disclose those facts and analyses. Given the size and scale of the SEDA proposal, it may make most sense to roll its environmental assessment into the next General Plan update, which appears to be due in 2024.

Either way, as the situation now stands, it will be impossible for the City Council to make evidence-based findings that "specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the project outweigh the significant effects on the environment" (Public Resources Code, § 21081 (b)), or that the "unmitigated effects are outweighed by the project's benefits." (*Laurel Heights, supra*, 47 Cal.3d at p. 391.)

Please include my clients (see cc's, below) and me on the notification list for next steps in this process. Thanking you for your attention to these matters, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Patience Milrod

PATIENCE MILROD
Attorney for Central Valley IAF, Fresno Madera Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council, and Regenerate California Innovation

cc: Dillon Savory, Fresno Madera Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council, by email to dsavory@myunionworks.com

Keith Ford, Central Valley IAF, by email to theabsolutmoose@gmail.com

Keith Bergthold, Regenerate California Innovation (RCI), by email to keith@regenerateca.org

Jennifer Clark, Development Director, by email to Jennifer.Clark@fresno.gov

Sophia Pagoulatos, Manager of Long-Range Planning, by email to Sophia.Pagoulatos@fresno.gov

Andrew Janz, City Attorney, by email to Andrew.Janz@fresno.gov

CITY OF SANGER

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COMMUNITY DEVLEOPMENT DEPARTMENT

DAVID BRLETIC, DIRECTOR

August 28, 2023

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner III
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Notice of Availability of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Proposed Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan Project

Dear Ms. Asadoorian:

The City of Sanger has reviewed the PEIR for the proposed SEDA Specific Plan. The project includes approximately 9,000 acres of residential, commercial, agricultural, and mixed-use opportunities for development to meet the growing needs of the area. The City of Sanger appreciates the opportunity to comment on the project.

The proposed project area is located approximately 2 miles west of the City of Sanger's Sphere of Influence (SOI) and City Limits. While outside of City of Sanger's review boundary, a project under CEQA addresses not only those impacts within the project area but cumulative impacts as well. A project of this magnitude being in close proximity to the City of Sanger has great potential to increase demand on City infrastructure, such as safety personnel and transportation infrastructure. The City encourages that the cumulative impacts regarding potential impacts on the City of Sanger be considered in the analysis.

The SOI acts as a tool for implementation of the City's General Plan and growth potential for the next 20 years. With housing demand fueling growth for the City, we are actively exploring ways to implement the General Plan through annexation programs with the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). As available land within the SOI for the City is reduced due to annexation and development, the City will seek expansions to the SOI to accommodate growth demand. We encourage and welcome open communication and coordination between neighboring communities so that proper and orderly development may proceed as the planning areas for the City of Sanger and Fresno become closer in proximity.

Mentioned above, the planning areas of the City of Sanger and Fresno have become closer in proximity. The City of Sanger is a community of many long-time residents who proudly associate their identity as such. When planning areas meet and distinguished boundaries become less recognizable, that feeling of identity may be challenged. The City wants to continue to maintain community identity.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the project from our perspective and welcome any communication between us that would facilitate our comments. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact David Brletic, Community Development Director at 559-876-6300, ext. 1520, or dbrletic@ci.sanger.ca.us.

Sincerely,



David Brletic
Community Development Director

CC: Greg Garner, Acting City Manager
Derek Sylvester, Senior Planner

From:	[redacted]
To:	Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc:	District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District6; District7; District5@fresnocountyca.gov; District4@fresnocountyca.gov; Sophia Pagoulatos; "Dale Reitz"
Subject:	Comments on Draft Program EIR for Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project - Comments by Mark Reitz and Dale Reitz
Date:	Saturday, August 19, 2023 6:48:24 PM
Attachments:	SEDA Comments on Program EIR Reitz 8-19-2023.pdf

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External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

We would like to congratulate and thank the city of Fresno for their work in preparing this significant document and moving towards adoption of a Specific Plan for the Southeast Development Area that has been discussed and anticipated since 2007. As long-time property owners of a family home and farm within this area for over 100 years at 1080 S. Temperance (east of Temperance between the Railroad and Church Avenues), we and our neighbors welcome the opportunity to provide input to this Plan, and hopefully provide local perspective to responsible growth and for the benefit of the city of Fresno for years to come.

The attached letter provides our comments and recommended changes to the Draft Program EIR related to adoption of the Land Use Plan for this Specific Plan.

We request that the ***Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Alternative 2)***, be adopted as the preferred land use plan and the Specific Plan be adopted as such.

If you have any questions, you may contact us at the address and contact information below. Please provide acknowledgement that you received our letter.

Mark Reitz PE

[redacted]

Dale T. Reitz

[redacted]

From:	Tom Lang
To:	Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc:	Aletha Lang; District 5; District4@fresnocountyca.gov; District3@fresnocountyca.gov; District2@fresnocountyca.gov; District1@fresnocountyca.gov; bspaunhurst@fresnocountyca.gov; aolivas@fresnocountyca.gov
Subject:	Comments regarding SEDA Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Report
Date:	Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:49:25 PM
Attachments:	SEDA Letter Tom and Aletha Lang.pdf

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner,
Fresno County Board of Supervisors,
Staff and Commissioners of the Fresno
Local Agency Formation Commission
(LAFCo)

Please see our attached signed PDF
comment letter in opposition for
inclusion in the public comment section
of the Environmental Impact Report for
the City of Fresno's SEDA Specific Plan

Sincerely,

Tom and Aletha Lang
[redacted]

CENTER *for* BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

August 28, 2023

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street
Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

By Email: adrienne.asadoorian@fresno.gov

Re: Draft EIR, Southeast Development Area Specific Plan

Dear Ms. Asadoorian:

I am submitting the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity. The Center is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 87,000 members worldwide, including in the City of Fresno and surrounding areas.

The EIR Must Address the SEDA Specific Plan's Foreseeable GHG Impacts

The DEIR concludes that the Specific Plan will have a significant, unavoidable impact after mitigation due to its anticipated net operational greenhouse gas emissions, which, at buildout, are estimated at 510,791 metric tons of CO2 equivalents. No project-specific mitigation measures are proposed for this significant impact. The DEIR does propose that subsequent discretionary projects under the Specific Plan will be subject to General Plan PEIR Mitigation Measure MM GHG-1.1, which requires confirmation that projects are consistent with the City's 2021 GHG Reduction Plan Update and implementation of all measures deemed applicable through the GHG Reduction Plan Update Project Consistency Checklist.

The DEIR acknowledges that the Specific Plan is itself inconsistent with the GHG Reduction Plan Update. Individual projects under the Specific Plan will also be inconsistent with the GHG Reduction Plan Update. Merely applying the Project Consistency Checklist cannot make a project consistent with the GHG Reduction Plan Update, nor does applying the Checklist mitigate the foreseeable GHG impacts of the Specific Plan.

CEQA does not exempt specific plans from the requirement to adopt all feasible mitigation measures, nor does it relieve program EIRs from the requirement to evaluate feasible mitigation measures for the foreseeable environmental consequences of a specific plan. The DEIR concludes that there are no feasible project-specific mitigation measures, but none are

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considered. Despite this omission, there is a broad range of mitigation measures that can be adopted at the Specific Plan level to guide future development. A representative but non-exclusive list of such measures includes the following:

- Require onsite renewable energy generation (ideally rooftop solar or community solar) to meet all residential and commercial energy demand.
- Require all construction to exceed Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards by 20% in light of the Specific Plan's extended buildout.
- Require installation of all-electric energy efficient appliances.
- Require use of high efficiency public street and area lighting.
- Increase transit accessibility and reach by providing transit incentives to construction personnel and future residents; build transit facilities during initial phase of build out; include reliable connections to existing public transit.
- Require pedestrian friendly measures including interconnecting street/pedestrian networks; narrower roadways and shorter block lengths; sidewalks; tree canopy for shade and transit shelters.
- Require traffic calming measures including marked crosswalks, curb extensions, raised crosswalks, roundabouts, and planter strips with native vegetation.
- Require a neighborhood electric vehicle network.
- Require bicycle-friendly designs including bike lanes, bike sharing programs, bike parking, and dedicated bike trails.

In addition, Appendix D of the California Air Resources Board's 2022 Scoping Plan Update provides a set of measures and criteria to achieve equitable reduction of GHG emissions, including:

- Utilizing existing infill sites that are surrounded by urban uses, and reuse or redevelop previously developed, underutilized land presently served by existing utilities and essential public services (e.g., transit, streets, water, sewer).
- Providing proximity to public transit (within ½ mile).
- Ensuring that development does not result in the loss or conversion of the State's natural and working lands.
- Requiring installation of all electric appliances, without any gas connections for space heating, water heating, or indoor cooking.
- Making at least 20 percent of residential units affordable to lower-income residents.
- Ensuring no net loss of existing affordable units.
- Providing EV charging infrastructure at least in accordance with CalGreen Tier 2 standards.

While application of the GHG Reduction Plan Update Project Consistency Checklist may provide some comparable measures, the Checklist does not ensure that all feasible mitigation measures have been adopted. In addition, if these measures are not sufficient to mitigate the Specific Plan's anticipated GHG emissions to less than significant levels, additional mitigation is available in the form of GHG offsets achieved through the purchase of solar generation and

energy efficiency upgrades for local low-income residents and businesses. Only after these and other measures have been considered and fully evaluated can the City conclude that the Specific Plan will result in significant, unavoidable GHG impacts.

The DEIR improperly discounts the Specific Plan's anticipated GHG impacts from construction, stating (p. 3.8-44) that "Short-term construction GHG emissions are a one-time release of GHGs and are not expected to significantly contribute to global climate change." The DEIR, however, projects that construction emissions will total more than 2.3 million metric tons of CO2 equivalents over 20 years, with average annual emissions of over 115,000 metric tons. There is no support for the DEIR's conclusion that "future development under the proposed project at construction would not result in significant adverse effects related to GHG emissions."

The DEIR should be revised and recirculated to evaluate feasible mitigation measures for the Specific Plan's foreseeable operational and construction GHG impacts.

The DEIR Does Not Adequately Address the Availability of Water for the Specific Plan

The DEIR concludes that the City's existing water supplies will be adequate to serve future development under the Specific Plan, which could include 45,000 new residential units by 2050, while still meeting existing demands (p. 3.18-66). Accordingly, the DEIR does not evaluate the Specific Plan's environmental consequences of obtaining new water sources, or its impacts on existing residents.

The DEIR's analysis considers potential water availability during wet, dry, and multiple dry years, but its conclusion assumes that the City's long-term average water supply obtained from surface water sources will remain relatively stable. According to Appendix F at p. 6-17 (Water Technical Study), the City's allocation of Fresno Irrigation District water diverted from Kings River is projected to remain at a steady percentage of the average Fresno Irrigation District deliveries between 1964 and 2019—453,800 acre-feet per year. This assumption is likely invalid in light of the foreseeable effects of climate change. Indeed, it is directly inconsistent with the acknowledgment elsewhere in the DEIR that "By 2050, the average water supply from snowpack is projected to decline to two-thirds from historical levels. If emissions reductions do not occur, water from snowpack could fall to less than one-third of historical levels by 2100."

If the anticipated decline in surface water supplies due to climate change are considered in the Specific Plan's water supply analysis, the Specific Plan's water demand is likely to result in a significant shortfall in water supplies. The DEIR should be revised and recirculated to address the foreseeable effects of climate change on water supply available for development pursuant to the Specific Plan.

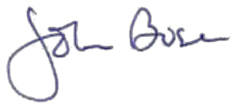
The EIR Does Not Adequately Address the Specific Plan's Impacts to Swainson's Hawks

As the DEIR acknowledges, the Specific Plan would potentially result in approximately 5,000 acres of farmland being converted to urban uses. The EIR wholly fails, however, to address the

importance of these agricultural lands as nesting and foraging habitat for the Swainson's hawk, a highly migratory raptor species known to occur in the Specific Plan area. The Swainson's hawk is listed as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. The DEIR does not disclose the potential impact to Swainson's hawks due to the loss of agricultural lands, nor does it evaluate potential mitigation measures for this impact. While the DEIR discusses measures to mitigate the loss of farmland, it does not address the value of the lost farmland to Swainson's hawks, and measures that may mitigate the agricultural impact will not necessarily address the biological impact. The DEIR should be revised and recirculated to fully disclose and mitigate the Specific Plan's impacts to Swainson's hawks.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments, and please add me to the notice lists for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan and its EIR.

Sincerely,



John Buse
Senior Counsel
Center for Biological Diversity

Via E-Mail only

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

Re: "Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486"

Dear Ms. Asadoorian,

I contest Section 3.2 Agricultural Resources and Forest Resources for the following reasons:

1. The mitigation plan, MM AG1.1, is unacceptable because it relies on the development of a Farmland Preservation Program by 2025. Since the plan is not in place, the environmental impact cannot be determined. Therefore, this plan must not be accepted until a plan is in place and can be adequately evaluated. Having the plan in place with clear requirements provides predictability of the environmental impact.

2. In reference to MM AG2, the City's General Plan Policy RC-9-c does not provide the sole legal basis for mitigation for the loss of farmland to urban development. As you are aware, the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Pub. Res. Code 21000 et seq., requires agencies to analyze the significant environmental impacts of projects that they approve or carry out, and *to mitigate those impacts*, where feasible, to a less than significant level. The Legislature has declared that CEQA "plays an important role" in effectuating the important public policy of preserving agricultural lands within the state. Stats. 1993, ch. 812, 1, p.4428. Accordingly, CEQA's environmental analysis and mitigation requirements extend to farmland conversion. *See San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center v. County of Stanislaus* (1994) 27 Cal.App.4th 713, 733 (EIR deficient due to an inaccurate assessment of the amount of prime farmland to be converted as a direct result of the development project); *Citizens for Open Government v City of Lodi* (2012) 205 Cal.App.4th 296, 320-22 (EIR found conversion of 40 acres of farmland a significant impact even after purchase of conservation easements at a 1:1 ratio). Impact AG-2, page 3.2-19 states there are "no feasible mitigation measures available" and that there is "significant and unavoidable impact." The is not acceptable under CEQA mandates and must be corrected.

3. The EIR inadequately summarized the total of farmland as 5,552 acres, page S22. When all 4 categories of farmland are added together it amounts to 6,750 acres. The SEDA plan states that the Level of Significance After Mitigation (MM AG-2) is Significant and unavoidable. The plan does not conserve any farmland. Alternative 3 would conserve 648.61 acres. This is not acceptable. Farmland conservation needs to be at least at a 1:1 ratio. Alternative 1 would have the least impact on conversion of

farmland to housing. The SEDA plan, page S10, plans for 45,000 homes compared to 17,900 in the current plan (Alternate 1). Therefore, a large amount of farmland would not be converted to houses under the existing plan and the SEDA plan should be rejected. With the increase in this number of homes and residents, the number of jobs would only be increased from 29,600 to 37,000 jobs. This is unacceptable and will have an adverse on the environment of the planned area.

4. The City of Fresno's General Plan conceived of the development of SEDA in Growth Area II to occur after other infill initiatives, to give those time to gain momentum. The Project History in Appendix A of the EIR states "there is still ample residential capacity within the current city limits and in Growth Area I (which includes the Southwest Fresno and the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan areas)." Also refer to 2013-2031 Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element Appendix 1-E Fresno. This mitigation measure has been completely ignored in the EIR and has not been addressed as a reasonable option. Therefore the SEDA plan must not be developed until the space within the current city limits and Growth Area I are utilized.

5. The plan has made no consideration at all for the social and economic impact on minority groups. A large number of Hmong and Southeast Asia descendants that farm in this area will lose their income and livelihood as their farms are converted to houses and non-agriculture industries. This is a social injustice and has to been addressed before this EIR can move forward.

6. There are no mitigation measures to conserve over 900 acres of agriculture land that is already within the Williamson Act. This is totally unacceptable under CEQA guidelines. This EIR cannot move forward until these lands are secured as agriculture land or mitigated at a 1:1 ratio.

7. The public comment received during the EIR scoping period asking for an assessment of the impacts that the plan will have on current and future agricultural operations has not been adequately addressed. (Stated on page 3.2-1) Housing, especially high density houses, is incompatible with farming. Mitigation measures in these situations have not been adequately described so a full environmental impact can be made. Planning for only organic farming in the area is not adequate as organic sprays appear to be the same as conventional pesticides approved by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Therefore, to plan only for the use of organic pesticides will not provide home owners with peace of mind of safety.

8. Policy RC-5.2 Hazardous Materials. Prevent contamination of the groundwater table and surface water resources and discourage all pesticide use for agricultural and landscaping uses within the SEDA. This policy is outside the jurisdiction of the City of Fresno. The use of all pesticides for agricultural and landscaping is under the jurisdiction of the Federal EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

This policy is just another way to reduce the feasibility to farm in the SEDA plan area, forcing agriculture out so housing can be built without regard to preserving agriculture land. This policy is not consistent with CEQA's mandate to preserve agriculture land and reasonable measures must be shown how to mitigate hazardous materials in groundwater and surface water and still preserve agriculture land.

9. The measure to mitigate agricultural conversion, page 3.2-17 is stated as "To counter the effects of agricultural conversion, the Specific Plan includes a policy framework to support the integration of agriculture within the urban sphere. Programs that would be integrated into the Specific Plan may include school and neighborhood gardens, community orchards, agricultural education centers." This does not mitigate in any way the loss of agricultural land for production that feeds Fresno, California, and the United States. Community gardens are very limited in their production as well as their use. Limited plantings of nut and fruit trees are susceptible to pests, diseases and bird damage without adequate pest control measures and will be a liability. These plantings will become reservoirs for pests and invasive species that could destroy all commercial agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Therefore, these measures are inadequate to satisfy CEQA mandates for preservation of farmland.

Based on these reasons, the Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 should not be accepted.

Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project.

Very truly yours,

Dr. David Ramming

Dr. David Ramming
Retired Research Horticulturist, USDA/ARS
SEDA area property owner
Member Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

Cc: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

Via E-Mail only

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

RECEIVED

Re: "Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486"

Dear Ms. Asadoorian,

I contest Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality for the following reasons:

1. Impact HYD-2: states "The proposed project could substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin." The mitigation measure MM HYD-2d has not been adequately demonstrated in showing that the existing groundwater recharge facilities have produced adequate infiltration into the underground aquifers. Gallons of water input is shown but the real results would be revealed by the change in groundwater table near the basins. Therefore, inadequate information is available to adequately assess the impact these basins are having. In addition, no studies are provided that show what the infiltration rate of proposed groundwater facilities in the SEDA area would be. The Fresno Irrigation District is building all its groundwater recharge facilities on the west side of its district as they feel the east side is less effective for groundwater recharge facilities. The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Stainable Agricultural Water Systems Research laboratory at Davis, CA should be contacted and methodology they have developed be used to verify that the proposed sites for groundwater recharge facilities are indeed adequate to mitigate the overdraft of the North Kings Groundwater Basin. Even with the infiltration rate determined, these recharge facilities are only functional when adequate water is available in "wet" rainfall years. Therefore, they are only adequate part of the time. Data is lacking and needs to be developed to show how many recharge facilities would be needed on an average during wet and dry rainfall years to have no significant impact on the groundwater levels.

2. MM HYD-2c:States "Prior to exceeding existing water demands, the City shall pursue the provision of adequate water supplies by securing additional water sources and shall not approve development per the Specific Plan for the Plan Area until additional water supply is provided." The city of Fresno is already using nearly all its allocation of surface water from the Fresno Irrigation District (FID). The only way the city of Fresno can obtain additional water is by taking it away from other recipients. Agriculture is the main recipient of water from FID and reducing its water

would have serious environmental impact. Important impacts would be: 1. Removal of agricultural land from production. 2. Reduction in the amount of food that could be produced. 3. Less water available for groundwater rechange basins in agricultural areas to replenish North Kings Groundwater basin that extends beyond Fresno City limits and sphere of influence.

3. Under 3.10.6 Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures, Mitigation measure MM HYD-1 is placed under Impact HYD-2. It only references North Kings GSP adopted by North Kings GSA and only applies to groundwater supplies and groundwater recharge, not surface or groundwater quality HYD-1. This makes no sense and needs to be corrected. If it should have been labeled MM HYD-2, then there is no MM HYD-1 measures stated for Impact HYD-1. The North Kings GSP is a plan for the whole sub-basin and not specific to the SEDA plan. The EIR for the SEDA plan must be specific to the environmental effects it will have and what mitigation measures specifically to this area will be implemented and if they will meet CEQA requirements.

4. Public comments received during the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report Identified that groundwater overdraft is an issue in the City and requires that the Draft PEIR evaluates the SEDA Specific Plan's impact on groundwater resources. The EIR responded with Impact HYD-2: The proposed project could substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. MM HYD-2d states The City shall develop new and expand existing groundwater recharge facilities to balance increased water demands resulting from the Project Area. The City's plan of reducing its reliance on wells and relying more on surface water, using more surface water to recharge the groundwater through recharge basins sounds great. However, the City of Fresno is already using the majority of its surface water allocation from FID. MM HYD-2c says the City of Fresno will seek additional water sources. No potential additional water resources are identified, therefore this EIR cannot be adequately evaluated based on unknown water sources.

5. Objective RC-6 Ensure that Fresno has a reliable, long-range source of drinkable water. Policy RC-6-I Natural Recharge. Support removal of concrete from existing canals and change the practice of lining new and existing canals with concrete to allow for natural recharge. Without concrete lining of canals: 1. Delivery of water to the city of Fresno and agriculture would be less efficient, meaning less water for both consumers at the city level and in agriculture. 2. The maintenance costs of the canals would be higher due to erosion of the banks. 3. There would be an increase in the soil particulates and contaminants in the water from the soil banks of the canel. 4. There will be damage to the canal banks by rodents and other animals, causing the loss of water from leaks and flooding. This policy and mitigation measure should not be implemented until the EIR is amended with a full report of impact on the environment and water quality.

Based on these reasons, the Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 should not be accepted.

Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project.

Very truly yours,

Dr. David Ramming

Dr. David Ramming
Retired Research Horticulturist, USDA/ARS
SEDA area property owner
Member Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

Cc: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

August 27, 2023

Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
Ms. Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721



Re: "Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486.

Dear Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos,
Ms. Adrienne Asadoorian,

Comment in General: This plan is basically a "blank check" plan. No mitigation is allowed in the controversial areas. Also, over and over again, it is stated that once the plan is adopted, the various areas of contention would then be worked out. This reminds me what has happened at the Federal level when Congressmen stated we must pass the legislation and afterwards analyze it to see what it says. THIS IS WRONG and so very unfair to property owners as well as tax payers who will have to cover the expenses of a blank check! I find it very hard to understand how your department can endorse something that is so blatantly wrong.

I also find it difficult to understand why you promote a plan that you do not have concrete answers for. At the Town Hall meetings we were given answers that were vague, indirect, seemingly deceptive, or contradictory. Considering how massive this plan is, how disruptive this is to hundreds of lives, how intrusive this is, and how it will ultimately change the dynamics of Fresno, residents should be entitled to clear answers from those who want to implement this plan. To be so unprepared with a project of this magnitude is inexcusable and offensive.

The first three words of the Constitution are "We the People". The way your organization is handling this portrays an abusive City Government with the "Almighty Dollar" taking priority. It is very disheartening, especially knowing that there are options besides taking the most fertile farmland.

The EIR is inadequate as it is based on ad hoc decisions to be made in the future and not on a set plan. Therefore, it cannot be properly evaluated and should be abandoned.

I contest the following areas of the EIR for the following reasons:

Cost Factors

Comment: The City of Fresno has not addressed the taxpayer's cost to implement this development. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Climate Factors

Comment: The City of Fresno has not addressed the climate goals. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Section 3.2 Agriculture Resources and Forestry Resources

Impact AG -1

Question: With the loss of the Ag land, please site the studies done to accommodate the loss of income for the Hmong Farmers. Hurting a minority is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and must be corrected.

MM AG-1.1

Question: Since the City of Fresno has documented their intent on preserving Prime Farmland, how can this plan be acceptable under the city's goals? Over riding signed documents of preserving Prime Farmland is unacceptable and must be corrected.

Section 3.3 Air Quality

MM AIR 1c

Question: How is the increase in the electrical grid going to affect Fresno? Not knowing the impact is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Question: The document states that air pollution emissions will increase substantially in Southeast Fresno (possibly by 600% in some areas). The public health impacts of this pollution on local residents has not been analyzed in the EIR. Apparently the City wants to deal with this after the Project's approval. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and documented prior to approval.

Section 3.5 Cultural Resources

Question: How will the loss of the Hmong revenue impact the Hmong culture? Please site studies that support no consideration for the Hmong farmers. Hurting a minority is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and must be corrected.

Section 3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Question: It is our understanding that the Greenhouse Gas Footprint will increase by 25% with this mega development. This plan is inconsistent with Fresno's climate change progress. What is the Greenhouse Gas Emissions goal of the City in this area and how will it be implemented in the SEDA development? The current plan is a "blank check" concerning climate change and is unacceptable until this is addressed in detail

Question: Fresno's goal was to reduce CO_2 emissions by 559,000 tons a year by 2035. With SEDA, the emissions will increase by 510,000 tons a year. How do you account for this discrepancy and how do you plan to remedy this problem? Without this information, this plan is unacceptable and this "blank check" needs to be addressed and corrected.

Section 3.11 Land Use and Planning

Impact LAND-2

Question: This plan contradicts Fresno's written policy of preserving prime farm land. Please explain how this plan is not in conflict with the preservation of prime farm land. Over riding signed documents of preserving Prime Farmland is unacceptable and must be corrected.

Section 3.14 Housing

Question: How much of the 45,000 homes will be affordable housing? Jennifer Clark has been reported as saying this detail would be worked out after the City Council approves the project. This is a "blank check" and is unacceptable. This should be corrected and addressed prior to approval.

Section 3.15 Public Services

Question: In the high density areas, how are firefighters, police and first responders going to be able to help people without roads within the areas? Public safety is the number one concern. This plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Question: Who is going to pay for the massive bill to build schools to accommodate the high density population located in the Sanger School District? Since Sanger Unified has replied to this Project with great concern, please document the projected costs involved with the School district and the plan to fund these schools. Why have no estimated costs been given? Are you concerned that that truth would be detrimental to the Project? Going forward with no plan to implement school growth is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. Asking taxpayers to fund a "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Section 3.16 Recreation

Question: We have been told at the Town Hall Meetings that Eminent Domain is not involved with the Project Plan. Please clarify. Does Eminent Domain occur only after the area is rezoned? Please state facts concerning the plans for Eminent Domain and Rezoning. The indirect answers we have been given are unacceptable. If Eminent Domain and rezoning will not occur, please give us a signed document stating such information.

Section 3.17 Transportation and Traffic

Question: What transportation will be available for the residents in the high density areas to obtain high paying jobs in other areas of town? If the 15 minute cities are designed to confine residents to the area without opportunities to pursue jobs on the North side of town, this is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Question: How is the City of Fresno planning to pay for the infrastructure cost? It has been reported that this will be ironed out after the council approves the massive project. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed prior to any approval.

Section 3.18 Utilities and Service Systems

Impact UTIL – 2

Question 1: What are the significant environmental effects of constructing new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities? Please site the studies made and the data concerning the results of the studies. To accept this Plan without detailed information is endorsing a "blank check". This is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. Information and projected costs need to be published.

MMUTIL-1a

Question: What is the plan for additional water capacity? In the Town Hall Meetings we have not received any definite answers.

Comment: A definite plan should be in place prior to adopting the EIR as the water issue will be huge with the mega increase in the amount of people. The water issue will have a major impact on the city as a whole. To adopt the EIR without any plan in place is like giving someone a blank check to do whatever they want even if it was detrimental to the environment. The plan is unacceptable as is and needs to be corrected.

MMUTIL – 1b

Comment: The water supply system needs to be evaluated prior to the adoption of the plan. There is enough information in the plan to be able to be able to evaluate proposed water supply improvements as well as evaluate the environmental impact. To move forward without this information is unacceptable and needs to be addressed. Tax payers should not be endorsing a "blank check".

MMUTIL – 1d

Question: When you expand the wastewater system, are current property owners paying for hooking up to City Sewer? What will be the cost?

Comment: We have not received a clear answer at the Town Hall Meetings. However, we were told that the property owners were to pay for sewer hookup, the cost is around $30,000, a loan would be available, and if the owner were to sell a lien would be placed on the home to cover the costs. Please give us exact information as to what it will mean for connecting to the City Sewer System and site your source of information. Keeping information from the property owners is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

MMUTIL – 1f

Question: What will the long term impact on the environment be when expanding or relocating electric, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities for a project of this magnitude. Please site your studies. No information concerning this is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Impact UTIL – 2

Question: The EIR states there are sufficient water supplies for this project and foreseeable future development. Please state your source and details to support this statement. Considering the water levels, the years of drought and the projected number of people you plan to accommodate, this is one of the most important issues that needs to be addressed. Stating that there are "sufficient water supplies" is totally unacceptable. This needs to be corrected and addressed in detail as the ramifications of a limited water supply are huge! Allowing the Plan to address this after the Plan is adopted is endorsing a "blank check" for major problems ahead.

Questions:

1. Where are you drawing your water source from?
2. Is the Kings River considered a source even though it is already low?

This project is huge and the lack of information is unacceptable.

Questions:

1. Once our wells run dry, we are not allowed to drill lower. How can you tell us that this will not impact our wells?
2. We have been told that if we are annexed into the City we have 5 years to hook up to City Water.

Our questions have been evaded and the answers given have been contradictory. This is unacceptable! This needs to be addressed and corrected!

Questions:

1. Is the property owner responsible for the cost of connecting to City water? If so, is the cost between $30,000 - $50,000? If the property owner doesn't have the money, is a loan required and is a lien put on the house if the owner intends to sell?
We have not been given definite answers. This is unacceptable. A plan of this magnitude should have answers for the property owners.

2. We have also been told that if a property is on a corner, the owner is responsible for hooking up to water in two directions. Please clarify. If this is the case, this is unacceptable! Since when should the property owners be penalized for the developers' benefit?

MM UTIL-2a

Question: The summary refers to the refined measures and standards that the city plans to use to reduce the per capita water use and implement water saving and conservation standards. What are they? Please give details. Without details this plan is unacceptable. Again, this is endorsing a "blank check". Please address and correct.

Section 3.19 Wildfire

Impact WILD-1

Question 1: With the proposed high density housing plan, what is the emergency response plan? If there is no plan, there needs to be one prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life. Without an emergency response plan in place, this plan is unacceptable. This needs to be corrected.

Question 2: What is the emergency evacuation plan in the high density housing area?
Comment: If there is no plan, there needs to be one prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life. Without an emergency evacuation plan in the high density housing area, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Impact WILD 2

Question: Due to the close proximity of the high density housing, and therefore, the high wildfire risks of rapid spreading, what is the plan to protect the occupants from pollutant concentrations? Without a plan in place, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Question: Due to the close proximity of the high density housing, and therefore, the high wildfire risks of rapid spreading, what is the plan to prevent rapid spreading? Without a plan in place preventing rapid spreading of fire, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Impact – WILD 3

Question 1: Without the infrastructure of roads, fuel breaks, etc., what plans will be implemented to protect the safety of occupants in the high density areas during an emergency?
Comment: If there is no plan, this is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. There needs to be a plan in place prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life.

Question 2: Without the infrastructure of roads, fuel breaks, etc. how will firefighters and rescue personnel be able to access various locations in the high density areas during an emergency? This needs to be addressed and corrected in the EIR or the plan is unacceptable.

Impact – WILD 4

Question 1: Should an unexpected potential threat develop from flooding, landslides, etc., what is the plan of evacuating people?
Comment: If there is no plan, this is unacceptable and needs to be corrected There needs to be one prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life.

Based on the above reasons, the EIR for the Fresno Southeast Development Area, Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 should not be accepted.

Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as updates concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Helen Ramming

Helen Ramming
SEDA area property owner
Member of Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

Via E-Mail only

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

Re: "Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486"

Dear Ms. Asadoorian,

I contest Section 3.2 Agricultural Resources and Forest Resources for the following reasons:

1. The mitigation plan, MM AG1.1, is unacceptable because it relies on the development of a Farmland Preservation Program by 2025. Since the plan is not in place, the environmental impact cannot be determined. Therefore, this plan must not be accepted until a plan is in place and can be adequately evaluated. Having the plan in place with clear requirements provides predictability of the environmental impact.

2. In reference to MM AG2, the City's General Plan Policy RC-9-c does not provide the sole legal basis for mitigation for the loss of farmland to urban development. As you are aware, the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Pub. Res. Code 21000 et seq., requires agencies to analyze the significant environmental impacts of projects that they approve or carry out, and *to mitigate those impacts,* where feasible, to a less than significant level. The Legislature has declared that CEQA "plays an important role" in effectuating the important public policy of preserving agricultural lands within the state. Stats. 1993, ch. 812, 1, p.4428. Accordingly, CEQA's environmental analysis and mitigation requirements extend to farmland conversion. *See San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center v. County of Stanislaus* (1994) 27 Cal.App.4th 713, 733 (EIR deficient due to an inaccurate assessment of the amount of prime farmland to be converted as a direct result of the development project); *Citizens for Open Government v City of Lodi* (2012) 205 Cal.App.4th 296, 320-22 (EIR found conversion of 40 acres of farmland a significant impact even after purchase of conservation easements at a 1:1 ratio). Impact AG-2, page 3.2-19 states there are "no feasible mitigation measures available" and that there is "significant and unavoidable impact." The is not acceptable under CEQA mandates and must be corrected.

3. The EIR inadequately summarized the total of farmland as 5,552 acres, page S22. When all 4 categories of farmland are added together it amounts to 6,750 acres. The SEDA plan states that the Level of Significance After Mitigation (MM AG-2) is Significant and unavoidable. The plan does not conserve any farmland. Alternative 3 would conserve 648.61 acres. This is not acceptable. Farmland conservation needs to be at least at a 1:1 ratio. Alternative 1 would have the least impact on conversion of

farmland to housing. The SEDA plan, page S10, plans for 45,000 homes compared to 17,900 in the current plan (Alternate 1). Therefore, a large amount of farmland would not be converted to houses under the existing plan and the SEDA plan should be rejected. With the increase in this number of homes and residents, the number of jobs would only be increased from 29,600 to 37,000 jobs. This is unacceptable and will have an adverse on the environment of the planned area.

4. The City of Fresno's General Plan conceived of the development of SEDA in Growth Area II to occur after other infill initiatives, to give those time to gain momentum. The Project History in Appendix A of the EIR states "there is still ample residential capacity within the current city limits and in Growth Area I (which includes the Southwest Fresno and the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan areas)." Also refer to 2013-2031 Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element Appendix 1-E Fresno. This mitigation measure has been completely ignored in the EIR and has not been addressed as a reasonable option. Therefore the SEDA plan must not be developed until the space within the current city limits and Growth Area I are utilized.

5. The plan has made no consideration at all for the social and economic impact on minority groups. A large number of Hmong and Southeast Asia descendants that farm in this area will lose their income and livelihood as their farms are converted to houses and non-agriculture industries. This is a social injustice and has to been addressed before this EIR can move forward.

6. There are no mitigation measures to conserve over 900 acres of agriculture land that is already within the Williamson Act. This is totally unacceptable under CEQA guidelines. This EIR cannot move forward until these lands are secured as agriculture land or mitigated at a 1:1 ratio.

7. The public comment received during the EIR scoping period asking for an assessment of the impacts that the plan will have on current and future agricultural operations has not been adequately addressed. (Stated on page 3.2-1) Housing, especially high density houses, is incompatible with farming. Mitigation measures in these situations have not been adequately described so a full environmental impact can be made. Planning for only organic farming in the area is not adequate as organic sprays appear to be the same as conventional pesticides approved by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Therefore, to plan only for the use of organic pesticides will not provide home owners with peace of mind of safety.

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This policy is just another way to reduce the feasibility to farm in the SEDA plan area, forcing agriculture out so housing can be built without regard to preserving agriculture land. This policy is not consistent with CEQA's mandate to preserve agriculture land and reasonable measures must be shown how to mitigate hazardous materials in groundwater and surface water and still preserve agriculture land.

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Dr. David Ramming

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Retired Research Horticulturist, USDA/ARS
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Cc: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

Via E-Mail only

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

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3. Under 3.10.6 Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures, Mitigation measure MM HYD-1 is placed under Impact HYD-2. It only references North Kings GSP adopted by North Kings GSA and only applies to groundwater supplies and groundwater recharge, not surface or groundwater quality HYD-1. This makes no sense and needs to be corrected. If it should have been labeled MM HYD-2, then there is no MM HYD-1 measures stated for Impact HYD-1. The North Kings GSP is a plan for the whole sub-basin and not specific to the SEDA plan. The EIR for the SEDA plan must be specific to the environmental effects it will have and what mitigation measures specifically to this area will be implemented and if they will meet CEQA requirements.

4. Public comments received during the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report Identified that groundwater overdraft is an issue in the City and requires that the Draft PEIR evaluates the SEDA Specific Plan's impact on groundwater resources. The EIR responded with Impact HYD-2: The proposed project could substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. MM HYD-2d states The City shall develop new and expand existing groundwater recharge facilities to balance increased water demands resulting from the Project Area. The City's plan of reducing its reliance on wells and relying more on surface water, using more surface water to recharge the groundwater through recharge basins sounds great. However, the City of Fresno is already using the majority of its surface water allocation from FID. MM HYD-2c says the City of Fresno will seek additional water sources. No potential additional water resources are identified, therefore this EIR cannot be adequately evaluated based on unknown water sources.

5. Objective RC-6 Ensure that Fresno has a reliable, long-range source of drinkable water. Policy RC-6-I Natural Recharge. Support removal of concrete from existing canals and change the practice of lining new and existing canals with concrete to allow for natural recharge. Without concrete lining of canals: 1. Delivery of water to the city of Fresno and agriculture would be less efficient, meaning less water for both consumers at the city level and in agriculture. 2. The maintenance costs of the canals would be higher due to erosion of the banks. 3. There would be an increase in the soil particulates and contaminants in the water from the soil banks of the canel. 4. There will be damage to the canal banks by rodents and other animals, causing the loss of water from leaks and flooding. This policy and mitigation measure should not be implemented until the EIR is amended with a full report of impact on the environment and water quality.

Based on these reasons, the Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 should not be accepted.

Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project.

Very truly yours,

Dr. David Ramming

Dr. David Ramming
Retired Research Horticulturist, USDA/ARS
SEDA area property owner
Member Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

Cc: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

Via E-Mail only

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

Re: "Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486"

Dear Ms. Asadoorian,

I contest Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality for the following reasons:

1. Impact HYD-2: states "The proposed project could substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin." The mitigation measure MM HYD-2d has not been adequately demonstrated in showing that the existing groundwater recharge facilities have produced adequate infiltration into the underground aquifers. Gallons of water input is shown but the real results would be revealed by the change in groundwater table near the basins. Therefore, inadequate information is available to adequately assess the impact these basins are having. In addition, no studies are provided that show what the infiltration rate of proposed groundwater facilities in the SEDA area would be. The Fresno Irrigation District is building all its groundwater recharge facilities on the west side of its district as they feel the east side is less effective for groundwater recharge facilities. The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Stainable Agricultural Water Systems Research laboratory at Davis, CA should be contacted and methodology they have developed be used to verify that the proposed sites for groundwater recharge facilities are indeed adequate to mitigate the overdraft of the North Kings Groundwater Basin. Even with the infiltration rate determined, these recharge facilities are only functional when adequate water is available in "wet" rainfall years. Therefore, they are only adequate part of the time. Data is lacking and needs to be developed to show how many recharge facilities would be needed on an average during wet and dry rainfall years to have no significant impact on the groundwater levels.

2. MM HYD-2c:States "Prior to exceeding existing water demands, the City shall pursue the provision of adequate water supplies by securing additional water sources and shall not approve development per the Specific Plan for the Plan Area until additional water supply is provided." The city of Fresno is already using nearly all its allocation of surface water from the Fresno Irrigation District (FID). The only way the city of Fresno can obtain additional water is by taking it away from other recipients. Agriculture is the main recipient of water from FID and reducing its water

would have serious environmental impact. Important impacts would be: 1. Removal of agricultural land from production. 2. Reduction in the amount of food that could be produced. 3. Less water available for groundwater rechange basins in agricultural areas to replenish North Kings Groundwater basin that extends beyond Fresno City limits and sphere of influence.

3. Under 3.10.6 Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures, Mitigation measure MM HYD-1 is placed under Impact HYD-2. It only references North Kings GSP adopted by North Kings GSA and only applies to groundwater supplies and groundwater recharge, not surface or groundwater quality HYD-1. This makes no sense and needs to be corrected. If it should have been labeled MM HYD-2, then there is no MM HYD-1 measures stated for Impact HYD-1. The North Kings GSP is a plan for the whole sub-basin and not specific to the SEDA plan. The EIR for the SEDA plan must be specific to the environmental effects it will have and what mitigation measures specifically to this area will be implemented and if they will meet CEQA requirements.

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Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project.

Very truly yours,

Dr. David Ramming

Dr. David Ramming
Retired Research Horticulturist, USDA/ARS
SEDA area property owner
Member Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

Cc: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

AUGUST 25, 2023

VIA EMAIL: ADRIENNE.ASADOORIAN@FRESNO.GOV
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ADRIENNE ASADOORIAN, PLANNER III
2600 FRESNO STREET, ROOM 3065
FRESNO, CA 93721

Dear Adrienne Asadoorian:

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE FRESNO SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA SPECIFIC PLAN PROJECT, SCH# 2022020486

The Department of Conservation's (Department) Division of Land Resource Protection (Division) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (Project).

The Division monitors and maps farmland conversion on a statewide basis, provides technical assistance regarding the Williamson Act, and administers various agricultural land conservation programs. Public Resources Code, section 614, subdivision (b) authorizes the Department to provide soil conservation advisory services to local governments, including review of CEQA documents.

Protection of the state's agricultural land resources is part of the Department's mission and central to many of its programs. The CEQA process gives the Department an opportunity to acknowledge the value of the resource, identify areas of Department interest, and offer information on how to assess potential impacts or mitigation opportunities.

The Department respects local decision-making by informing the CEQA process, and is not taking a position or providing legal or policy interpretation.

We offer the following comments for consideration with respect to the project's potential impacts on agricultural land and resources within the Department's purview.

PROJECT ATTRIBUTES

The proposed project is a Specific Plan that would provide for increased density and accelerate housing production throughout the Plan Area. The proposed project would offer flexibility in meeting the evolving needs of households in the region through a multimodal transportation network and diverse housing types and affordability levels. It has the potential to accommodate approximately 45,000 homes and 37,000 jobs within the nearly 9,000-acre planning area by the year 2050. The proposed project is framed

with three interrelated goals: fiscal responsibility, social equity, and environmental sustainability. The proposed project would link a series of complete communities and mixed-use centers with a multimodal transportation network. Additionally, the proposed project would include major transit lines, mixed-use centers, diverse residential districts, employment districts, open space, agriculture, and green infrastructure. The project site contains Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland as designated by DOC's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The project site may also contain lands subject to Williamson Act contracts.

PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

The conversion of agricultural land represents a permanent reduction and impact to California's agricultural land resources. The Department generally advises discussion of the following in any environmental review for the loss or conversion of agricultural land:

- Type, amount, and location of farmland conversion resulting directly and indirectly from implementation of the proposed project.
- Impacts on any current and future agricultural operations in the vicinity; e.g., land-use conflicts, increases in land values and taxes, loss of agricultural support infrastructure such as processing facilities, etc.
- Incremental impacts leading to cumulative impacts on agricultural land. This would include impacts from the proposed project, as well as impacts from past, current, and likely future projects.
- Proposed mitigation measures for impacted agricultural lands within the proposed project area.
- The project's compatibility with lands within an agricultural preserve and/or enrolled in a Williamson Act contract.

WILLIAMSON ACT

Where the project site is located on land subject to a Williamson Act contract, the Department advises that the environmental review discuss the compatibility of the project with the contract and local Williamson Act program requirements.

MITIGATING AGRICULTURAL LAND LOSS OR CONVERSION

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines, the Department advises that the environmental review address mitigation for the loss or conversion of agricultural land. An agricultural conservation easement is one potential method for mitigating loss or conversion of agricultural land. (*See* Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15370 [mitigation includes "compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments, including through permanent protection of such resources in the form of conservation easements."]; *see also King and Gardiner Farms, LLC v. County of Kern* (2020) 45 Cal.App.5th 814.)

Mitigation through agricultural conservation easements can take at least two forms: the outright purchase of easements or the donation of mitigation fees to a local, regional, or statewide organization or agency whose purpose includes the acquisition and stewardship of agricultural easements. The conversion of agricultural land may be viewed as an impact of at least regional significance. Hence, the search for replacement lands may not need to be limited strictly to lands within the project's surrounding area.

A helpful source for regional and statewide agricultural mitigation banks is the California Council of Land Trusts. They provide helpful insight into farmland mitigation policies and implementation strategies, including a guidebook with model policies and a model local ordinance. The guidebook can be found at:

California Council of Land Trusts

Of course, the use of conservation easements is only one form of mitigation, and the Department urges consideration of any other feasible measures necessary to mitigate project impacts.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project. Please provide the Department with notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Farl Grundy, Associate Environmental Planner via email at Farl.Grundy@conservation.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kealii Bright

Keali'i Bright

Division Director

From:	[redacted]
To:	Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Luis Chavez; Garry Bredefeld; Nelson Esparza; todd.stermer@freno.gov; district1@fresnocountyca.gov; district2@fresnocountyca.gov; salquinterro@frresnocountyca.gov; district3@fresnocountyca.gov; district5@fresnocountyca.gov; clerkbos@fresnocountyca.gov; aolivas@fresnocountyca.gov; Mayor
Subject:	Comment on the EIR Report of the SEDA (South East Development Area) Plan Comments
Date:	Monday, August 28, 2023 3:18:55 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

As a resident in the proposed **SEDA** area outlined for City annexation and development, I have many uncertainties and reservations regarding the initial plans as laid out in the recently released EIR report that precedes this planned residential/agricultural seizure.

1. **Groundwater Supplies**

The majority of residents of the defined 9,000+ acres have their own sufficient water access via personal pumps: both residential and agricultural
--The EIR suggests that it will not approve any development plans until additional water capacity is provided through "…improvements…" in accordance with the City. I need to know who is going to pay for these improvements, what they may entail, if present residents can maintain their current water access and if not, who will subsidize the ENTIRE costs of upgrading or changing to city requirements.

2. **Light, Glare, Noise, Fire**

Presently, the proposed areas enjoy a less blatant exposure to the negative city atmosphere of street lights that permeate homes, glare that obliterates the evening skies, and incredible noise from hundreds and hundreds of homes, vehicles and properties that inevitably create excessive incursion into others private properties that will create disputes, hostilities and eventually complaints to law enforcement. Increased police and fire requirements will be vital for any area expecting this huge increase of population. Regulations and laws will have to be strictly enforced or it may be "handled" by established residents who find their lifestyles invaded and violated.

3. **Agriculture requirements of crop fertilizers/pesticides/soil enhancements**

Will there be new restrictions on presently used *and accepted* crop airborne soil and crop solutions? Will there be controls/limitations tomorrow what is perfectly fine today?

4. **Large and small animal ownership**

Will there be new restrictions on the animals that many residents typically own but are not customary or approved to city residences, such as cows, sheep, goats, horses, chickens, pigs, etc.

5. Increase on present residential costs, such as sewer and water hook up? Agricultural pumps for water access? Any fencing changes for utility access? The present access to **FID** (Fresno Irrigation District) water canals? Fireplace usage for properties without access to natural gas hookup?

   a. Who will cover the costs for these immense changes in utilities?

b. Will there be property tax increases for the changes forced on the residents?
c. Will there be increased costs for the access for police, fire, and emergency services?
d. What about the insurance cost increases created by companies who see fire dangers with so many homes so close together that can cause immediate need of emergency services?
e. Will the city still provide ditch tenderers, canal management and repair, weed abatement?

It seems like the City of Fresno already has a lot on it's plate without this land grab. Who is this for… developers and political donors?

Property owners and residents in this area don't want to be annexed into the City of Fresno.

We don't want Fresno to become another LA with this urban sprawl. If you care about the people who live here now, **put it to a vote** and let their voices be heard!

Elizabeth J Grossmayer
[redacted]

2907 S. Maple Avenue
Fresno, California 93725-2208
Telephone: (559) 233-7161
Fax: (559) 233-8227

CONVEYANCE. COMMITMENT. CUSTOMER SERVICE.

August 25, 2023

Adrienne Asadoorian
Planner III
Planning and Development Department
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Notice of Availability of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Southeast Development Area Specific Plan (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 2022020486) for the City of Fresno
FID Facilities: Various

Dear Ms. Asadoorian:

The Fresno Irrigation District (FID) has reviewed the Notice of Availability of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan for the City of Fresno (Project). We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the subject document for the proposed project. FID's comments are as follows:

Impacted Facilities

1. FID previously commented on the subject project on March 25, 2022, in response to the Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the subject project. Those comments and conditions still apply and a copy has been attached for your review.

Thank you for providing us the Notice of Availability of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report of the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the subject Notice for this project. While it is difficult to envision all of the potential impacts without all of the improvement details, we look forward to working with you to address our concerns as the developments occur. We reserve the right to provide additional comments when more detailed information becomes available. Should you have any questions,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS President RYAN JACOBSEN Vice-President JERRY PRIETO, JR. CHRISTOPHER WOOLF
GEORGE PORTER GREGORY BEBERIAN General Manager BILL STRETCH

please feel free to contact me at (559) 233-7161 extension 7103 or LKimura@fresnoirrigation.com.

Sincerely,

Laurence Kimura, P.E.
Chief Engineer

Attachments

2907 S. Maple Avenue
Fresno, California 93725-2208
Telephone: (559) 233-7161
Fax: (559) 233-8227

CONVEYANCE. COMMITMENT. CUSTOMER SERVICE.

March 25, 2022

Jennifer Clark
Development and Resource Management Department
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report of the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan for the City of Fresno
FID Facilities: Various

Dear Ms. Clark:

The Fresno Irrigation District (FID) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report of the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan for the City of Fresno (Project). We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the subject documents for the proposed project. FID's comments are as follows:

Impacted Facilities

1. FID has many canals within the Project Area as shown on the attached FID exhibit map. The facilities include: Fresno No. 3, Fancher No. 6, Mill No. 36, Briggs No. 7, Gould No. 97, Gray Colony No. 111, Eisen No. 11, Temperance No. 37, Hanson No. 129, East Branch No. 5, and Kutner Colony S. Br. No. 329. FID's canals range from smaller diameter pipelines to large open canals. In most cases, the existing facilities will need to be upgraded to meet then-current urban standards or relocated by the developer to accommodate new urban developments which will require new pipelines and new exclusive easements. FID will impose the same conditions on future projects as it would with any other project located within the common boundary of the City of Fresno and FID. FID will require that it review and approve all maps and plans which impact FID canals and easements.

    a. Small/Medium Canal Crossings – The majority of the proposed planned will impact existing pipelines and small open channel canals. FID will require all open channels and existing pipelines impacted by the project area development be upgraded to meet FID's then-current standards for

BOARD OF DIRECTORS President RYAN JACOBSEN Vice President JERRY PRIETO, JR. CHRISTOPHER WOOLF
GEORGE PORTER GREGORY BEBERIAN General Manager BILL STRETCH

urban, rural, industrial areas. The majority of FID's facilities that lie within the proposed Planning Area do not meet FID's urban specifications, including road or highway crossings. The majority of the existing pipelines are monolithic cast-in-place concrete pipe (CIPCP), low head/thin wall PVC, and non-reinforced mortar jointed concrete pipeline. These pipelines were designed for a rural environment and will fail if they are not replaced as development occurs.

b. Large Canal Crossing – There are large canals called Gould No. 97, Fresno No. 3, Mill No. 36, and Fancher No. 6 that will more than likely be too large to be contained within a pipeline. Development impacts to these facilities shall require designs that protect the canal's integrity for an urban setting including the need for access and full right-of-way widths for FID's operations and maintenance needs.

2. FID's facilities that are within the Planning Area carry irrigation water for FID users, recharge water for the City of Fresno, and flood waters during the winter months. In addition to FID's facilities, private facilities also traverse the Planned Area.

3. Canal Access – FID will continue to access the Canal from public roads. In order to access the maintenance bank with our larger equipment, FID requires a drive approach wide enough to accommodate the equipment. FID requires a 50-foot wide drive approach narrowing to a 20 feet wide drive banks. The 50-foot width is defined as starting from the end portion of a bridge/railing outward (away from the bridge). Every road and canal intersection is different and therefore each access will be different. The major factors affecting the proposed width will be the angle of the road intersecting the Canal, grade of canal bank vs. City road, median vs. no median, etc.

    a. If guard railings extend beyond attachment points at each wing-wall, they will obstruct FID's access to the canal and additional right-of-way will need to be acquired. FID will require the developer demonstrate FID's longest vehicle will be able to make the turns onto the drive banks. FID's right-of-way is a minimum 20-feet from the canal hinge on both sides of the canal, and FID will require the developer acquire and dedicate to FID exclusive easements for this purpose.

4. Canal Banks – If there will be any work on canal banks, the following will apply:

    a. All in-channel disturbed soil shall be concrete lined (both side slopes and bottom). FID will require reinforced concrete to limit the on-going maintenance that typically occurs with gunite or shotcrete slope protection.

b. Drive banks must be sloped a minimum of 2% away with a maximum of 4% from the canal with provisions made for rainfall. Drainage will not be accepted into the Canal and must be routed away from FID property/drive banks. Runoff must be conveyed to nearby public streets or drainage system by drainage swales or other FID acceptable alternatives outside FID's easements/property.

c. All existing trees, bushes, debris, old canal structures, pumps, canal gates, and other non- or in-active FID and private structures must be removed within FID's property/easement and the City's project limits.

5. Trail - It is FID's understanding that many trails are master-planned within the Southeast Development Area. As with other developments with trails along the canals, FID will not allow the trail to encroach/overlap FID's canal easement unless an agreement is in place for this purpose. The following requirements are intended for trail projects adjacent to FID-owned properties and right-of-ways for open canals:

   a. FID will not allow the trail easement to be in common use with FID-owned property or easements.

   b. FID requires all trail improvements be placed outside of FID-owned properties and easements.

   c. FID will not allow any portion of a tree canopy to encroach within its properties or easements.

   d. FID's canals will not accept any drainage from the trail or the canal bank.

   e. FID may require some improvements be made to the canal depending on the existing canal condition, the proposed trail, and the adjacent development.

   f. City parks that are adjacent to open canals are treated the same as trails, therefore the same requirements shall apply.

Water Supply Impact

1. The project encompasses the City of Fresno Growth Area 1 and 2 and portions of the project are not entitled to water under the current City of Fresno Conveyance Agreement. Under the executed agreement between the City of Fresno and FID development within Growth Area 2 will not result in an increase in the City's surface water allocation from FID. The document must consider how

to best handle future developments, if any, within the areas designated Growth Area 2 and areas outside of the agreement to evaluate all potential impacts.

2. The document must evaluate whether the City's Water Master Plan needs to be updated and how the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Fresno and FID may impact the developments within the Planning Area. The report must evaluate the City's growth with the recent water issues , including climate change, and whether the City's Water Master Plan can still provide the necessary guidance for the City.

3. The City of Fresno has implemented many of the projects previously proposed in the City's Water Master Plan. The Proposed document should consider and evaluated whether the constructed projects have resulted in benefits that were anticipated.

4. The proposed land use (or changes in land use) should be such that the need for water is minimized and/or reduced so that groundwater impacts to the proposed project area and any surrounding areas are eliminated.

5. If treated surface water will be used and the City has a deficit water supply or groundwater levels continue to drop, the City must acquire additional water from a water purveyor, such as FID for that purpose, so as to not impact water supplies to or create greater water supply deficits in other areas of the City or in the groundwater basin. Water supply issues must be resolved before any further "hardening" of the water supply demand is allowed to take place.

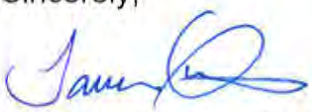
6. The potential for increase in water consumption by the project will result in additional groundwater overdraft. There is a significant cone of depression beneath the City of Fresno. FID is concerned that the increased water demand due to a change in land use may have a significant impact to the groundwater quantity and/or quality underneath the City of Fresno, FID and the Kings Groundwater Sub-basin. The "demand" side of water consumed needs to be evaluated or scrutinized as much as the "supply" side of the water supply. Many of the areas are historically native, and/or rural residential with minimal to no water use. Under current circumstances the project area is experiencing a modest but continuing groundwater overdraft. Should the proposed project result in a significant increase in dependence on groundwater, this deficit will increase. FID recommends the City of Fresno require proposed projects balance anticipated groundwater use with sufficient recharge of imported surface water in order to preclude increasing the area's existing groundwater overdraft problem.

7. California enacted landmark legislation in 2014 known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The act requires the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that must assess conditions in their

local water basins and adopt locally-based management plans. FID and the City of Fresno are members of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency which will manage the groundwater basin within the FID service area. This area is in an over drafted groundwater basin and SGMA will impact all users of groundwater and those who rely on it. The City of Fresno should consider the impacts of the project on the City's ability to comply with the requirements of SGMA.

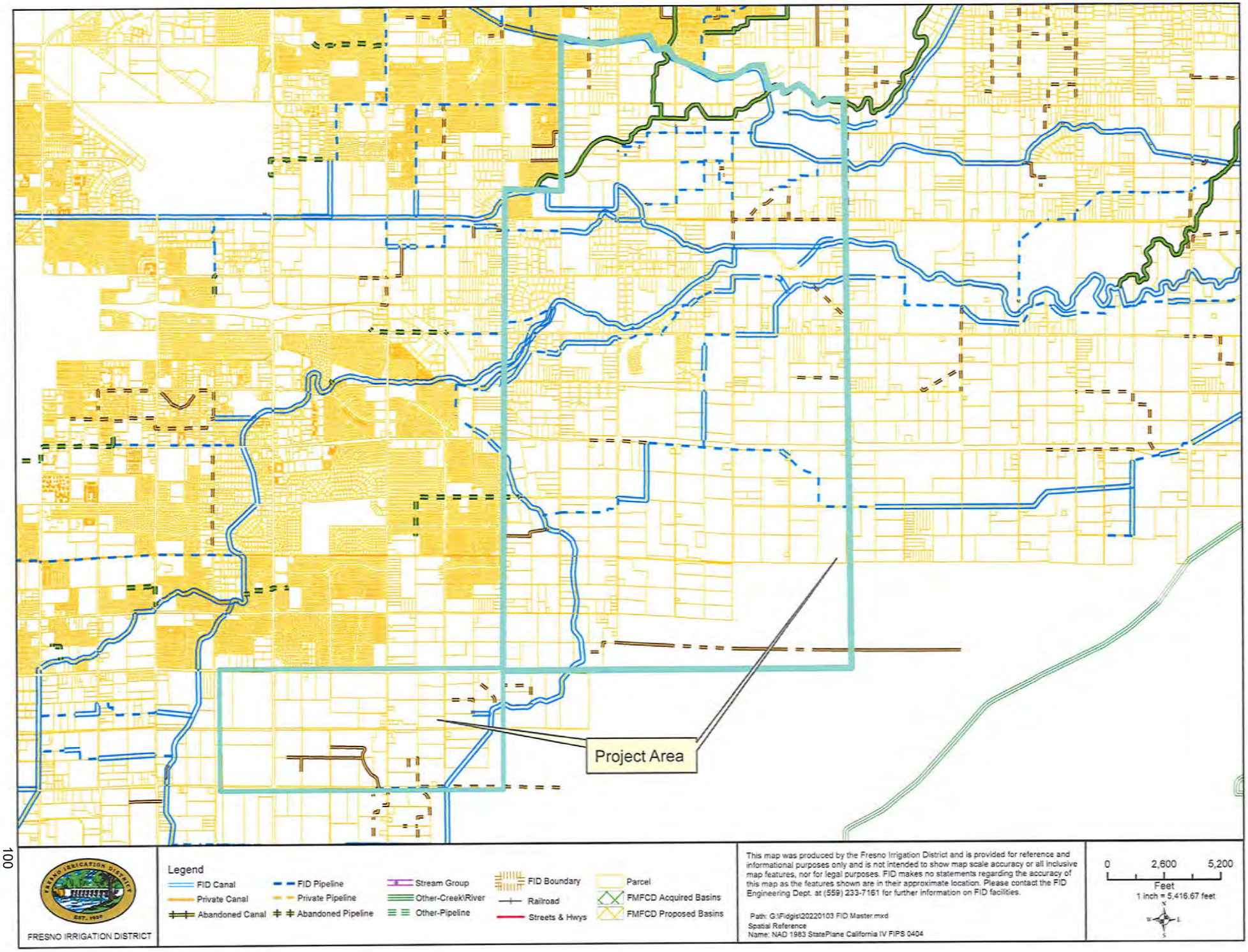
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Sincerely,



Laurence Kimura, P.E.
Chief Engineer

Attachments


Project Area
FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Legend
FID Canal
Private Canal
Abandoned Canal
FID Pipeline
Private Pipeline
Abandoned Pipeline
Stream Group
Other-Creek\River
Other-Pipeline
FID Boundary
Railroad
Streets & Hwys
Parcel
FMFCD Acquired Basins
FMFCD Proposed Basins
This map was produced by the Fresno Irrigation District and is provided for reference and informational purposes only and is not intended to show map scale accuracy or all inclusive map features, nor for legal purposes. FID makes no statements regarding the accuracy of this map as the features shown are in their approximate location. Please contact the FID Engineering Dept. at (559) 233-7161 for further information on FID facilities.
Path: G:\Fidgis\20220103 FID Master.mxd
Spatial Reference
Name: NAD 1983 StatePlane California IV FIPS 0404
0
2,600
5,200
Feet
1 inch = 5,416.67 feet

McCORMICK
BARSTOW LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Partner
(Admitted in California, Virginia
and District of Columbia)
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September 4, 2023

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With a copy to
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SUBJECT: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2022020486)

This comment letter is being submitted on behalf of our client, the County of Fresno (the "County") Department of Public Works and Planning regarding the City of Fresno's (the "City") Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (the "Specific Plan"), which is intended to govern future development of the area commonly referred to as SEDA (the "Project"). Please ensure this letter and its referenced enclosures are included in the Record of Proceedings regarding the consideration of the Project by the City of Fresno (the "City").[1]

A. <u>The Specific Plan Fails to Address the Requirements of LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, and Thereby Omits Discussion of Important Policies Intended to Mitigate the Environmental Consequences of the Project</u>.

Preparation of the Specific Plan for SEDA development is a requirement of the Fresno County LAFCO approval that incorporated SEDA into the City Sphere of Influence, as set forth in LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, a copy of which is attached for convenience of reference. Therefore, the City needs to assure that the Specific Plan incorporates the details intended by Resolution USOI-144. Those elements require a master service delivery plan, and an implementation program for annexing open space areas and rural residential neighborhoods. These items were highlighted in Resolution USOI-144 because they involve significant environmental impacts of the intended development of SEDA. However, those requirements have not been adequately

[1] This letter is being submitted after the 45 day comment period based upon arrangements previously confirmed between the City and the County.

addressed in the Specific Plan. As a result, its companion DEIR fails to adequately evaluate how the Specific Plan's implementation will mitigate the environmental impacts that would be addressed by the intended requirements of Resolution USOI-144.

Resolution USOI-144 does not simply require that those intended programs apply to properties within the boundaries of SEDA. Resolution USOI-144 requires development of a program that addresses annexing rural residential neighborhoods within the City's existing sphere of influence in the vicinity of SEDA, as well as within SEDA. That program, as specified in the Resolution, must address "logical and reasonable development, discourage urban sprawl, preserve open-space and prime agricultural lands, and efficiently provide for government services and encourage orderly development."

Additionally, the intended rural residential neighborhood annexation program is required to "emphasize the retention of characteristics that make the neighborhoods desirable places to live, while making provision for appropriate improvement needed to incorporate characteristics into the urban landscape." These are not programs or policies that were to be deferred to some subsequent time, or to some subsequent SEDA Development Code amendments. Resolution USOI-144 specifically requires that they be reflected in the Specific Plan prepared by the City.

Resolution USOI-144 further requires adoption of policies that address the matters concerning lands subject to Williamson Act contracts. Such policies should address the City's intended approaches to any option the City may hold to terminate such contracts under Government Code section 51243.5, and the policy the City intends apply with respect to nonrenewal of such contracts under Government Code section 51246.

The Specific Plan, unfortunately, does not incorporate any such policies. In fact, it makes no reference to Williamson Act Contracts. The DEIR does make reference to Williamson Act contracts, but simply for the purpose of noting that the Specific Plan is not consistent with existing Williamson Act Contracts, and that it will result in significant impacts on those existing contracts. It further adopts no mitigation measures concerning this impact, and simply confirms this is a significant and unavoidable impact with no available mitigations. It therefore intends to adopt a statement of overriding considerations on such matters.

Regarding the requirements of Resolution USOI-144 that the SEDA Specific Plan incorporate a master service delivery plan, the proposed Plan simply asserts that a "pending SEDA Public Facilities Financing Plan", will address important elements of the Plan. It defers that financing plan, and thereby fails to satisfy the requirement of Resolution USOI-44 that these arrangements be incorporated into the Specific Plan. (See Specific Plan-Planning Context, Complete A Public Facilities Financing Plan, p.3; Policy RC-3.3, Water Recycling-Residential Landscaping and Small Farms and Community Farming, p.104; Policy RC-4.1, Minimizing Groundwater Extraction, p. 105; Policy RC-4.2, Replacement of Extracted Groundwater, p.105; Policy RC-4.3, Maximizing

Groundwater Recharge, p.105; Policy RC-6, Water Supply and Delivery, p. 107; Policy RC-6.1, Site Development-Level Water Supply and Delivery Systems, p. 107; Policy RC-6.3, Flood Control and Stormwater Management-Sub-Area or Development Proposal delivery, p. 108; Policy RC-6.4, Flood Control and Stormwater Management-Shared Resources and Infrastructure, p. 109). The plan to finance these public facilities, which are so important to addressing environmental impacts, were intended to be addressed in the Specific Plan. This has not been done. The DEIR simply notes that the Financing Plan will be a subsequent element of the Project, and assumes its components will adequately address the Specific Plan's requirements, including intended elements of intended environmental mitigations (See DEIR Policy RC-3.3, Small Farms and Community Farming, at p. 3.18-48).

Because the Specific Plan does not conform to the express requirements of Resolution USOI-144, which identified important environmental impacts of developing the SEDA lands, the DEIR violates the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") that the environmental consequences of a government decision on whether to approve a project will be considered before, not after, that decision is made. (*Stanislaus Natural Heritage Project v. County of Stanislaus* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 182, 190). It also violates the requirement that an EIR "should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences." (CEQA Guidelines section 15151)

B. <u>The Project Lacks Sufficient Planning Details to Permit in an Adequate DEIR Analysis of Its Potential Environmental Impacts</u>.

A fundamental purpose of CEQA is to "inform the public and responsible officials of the environmental consequences of their decisions before they are made. (*Stanislaus Natural Heritage Project v. County of Stanislaus, supra*, 48 Cal.App.4th at 190). In addition, an EIR "should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences." (CEQA Guidelines section 15151). It is true that the degree of specificity required in an EIR will correspond to the degree of specificity involved in the underlying activity which is described in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines section 15146). In this instance, the project is a specific plan, and the City's Specific Plan fails to provide the information generally required for specific plans under Government Code section 65451.2 The DEIR therefore fails to satisfy CEA's

[2] Because the City is a Charter City, the requirements of Government Code Section 65451 do not apply to it unless it has otherwise confirmed, by ordinance or resolution, an intention to comply with such provisions. (Government Code sections 65700 and 65803). However, in this instance the requirement of preparing the Specific Plan is an element of LAFCO Resolution USOI-144. By accepting the benefits of that Resolution, the City has committed to be bound by its requirements. Whether Resolution USOI-144 intended that the Specific Plan satisfy the minimum thresholds established in Government Code Section 65151 is a matter of interpretation for LAFCO to address. However, in addition to not satisfying the

requirements because the Project which it evaluates is too vague to permit sufficient environmental impact evaluation. (*County of Inyo v. City of Los Angeles* (1977) 71 Cal.App.3d 185, 192-193, *Save Our Capitol! v. Department of General Services* (2023) 87 Cal.App.5th 655, 674).

Standard provisions of a specific plan should include details for the proposed distribution, location, and extent and intensity of major components of public and private transportation, sewage, water, drainage, solid waste disposal, energy, and other essential facilities needed to support the land uses described in the plan. (Government Code section 65451(a)(2)). In addition, a specific plan generally includes a program of implementation measures including regulations, programs, public works projects, and financing measures necessary to carry out the development of the land uses intended by the plan. (Government Code section 65451(a)(4)). However, the Specific Plan lacks sufficient detail concerning such matters. As noted above and below, the Specific Plan defers preparation of both its intended infrastructure financing plan, and its zoning standards, which will subsequently establish the intended development densities and other regulations for its land use designations.

Where, as here, a specific plan does not incorporate the information, in sufficient detail, generally required for such a plan, and instead defers such matters to future preparation, the CEQA document cannot meaningfully evaluate the environmental impacts of the intended project. An insufficiently detailed project cannot be adequately subjected to appropriate environmental review (*Santiago County Water District v. County of Orange* (1981) 118 Cal.App.3d 818, 829). The DEIR thereby fails to satisfy its fundamental purpose of CEQA, to "inform the public and responsible officials of the environmental consequences of their decisions before they are made". (*Stanislaus Natural Heritage Project v. County of Stanislaus Court of Appeal, supra*, 48 Cal.App.4th at 190).

For example, the Specific Plan attempts to address the qualities of the size, density, composition and building character of its extensive complement of new Mixed-Use Districts, by requiring that they be consistent with new zone district standards to be adopted in the future, as part of a SEDA Development Code update. (Specific Plan, at Policy UF-2.2 Development Code Update, p. 27). Some density standards are described for some of the new land use categories. However, the Plan confirms that those density standards, and other aspects of the development standards and regulations, are to be set forth in the presently undefined Development Code update. That updated code will replace all previous zoning designations and will supersede the General Plan and all applicable Specific Plans, including the SEDA Specific Plan. (Specific Plan, page 39). The failure to incorporate meaningful details of those standards in the Specific Plan fails

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minimum statutory requirements of a specific plan, as noted in Section A, the Specific Plan also does not satisfy the express requirements of Resolution USOI-144, resulting in its failure to address important environmental consequences of the Specific Plan.

to address these important aspects of the Specific Plan's intended scope of development, and results in an inadequate CEQA evaluation of its environmental impacts.

Public Resources Code section 21155.4 provides that any future project consistent with an adopted specific plan, and which implements certain transit oriented development projects, may obtain exemptions from compliances with CEQA. Here, the Specific Plan lacks appropriate details. As a result, the CEQA evaluations are incomplete. Nevertheless, further CEQA compliances for future projects might not later occur. This adds additional importance to the need to assure that the Specific Plan is sufficiently detailed so its CEQA evaluations are conducted appropriately as part of its adoption.

C. The Project Is Inconsistent With Relevant Provisions of the City's General Plan - The Impacts of This Inconsistency Was Not Analyzed in the DEIR.

Government Code section 65454 mandates that a specific plan must be consistent with the relevant general plan. This provision of the State Planning and Zoning Law is applicable to Charter cities. (Government Code section 65700). In addition, CEQA requires that any inconsistency of a Project with relevant land use policies should be evaluated as a potentially significant impact. (Guidelines, appen. G, section XI, subd. (b).

The Specific Plan intends to assure its consistency with the General Plan by the City later adopting amendments to the General Plan to incorporate its new land use designations. While that is not unusual, what is unusual is that the zoning standards applicable to the implementation of the new land use designations are also being deferred until sometime into the future. As a result, the environmental impacts of the new Specific Plan's land use designations cannot be meaningfully evaluated unless and until those zoning standards are available for public review and comment.

In addition, the City of Fresno General Plan, at Section 1.3 (Development Under the Plan – Dwellings, Population, and Jobs) confirms that the Specific Plan for SEDA is required to include a "comprehensive provision of public infrastructure". However, the Specific Plan does not contain the required comprehensive policies, programs or plans necessary for any comprehensive provision.

Instead, the Specific Plan states that its goal is simply "to set a clear vision for how Southeast Development Area will develop over time". (Specific Plan, page 16, at "Next Steps: Setting the Stage for Implementation"). The Specific Plan's required program for comprehensive provision of public infrastructure is instead deferred by proposing that the City Council will, at some subsequent time, "direct which financing options to pursue", and will then complete a Public Facilities Financing Plan. (Specific Plan, page 17, at "Complete a Public Facilities Financing Plan").

The Specific Plan, while it intends to identify major infrastructure requirements, fails to include the comprehensive provision of public infrastructure required by the

terms of the General Plan. Because the Specific plan does not satisfy these requirements of the General Plan, it is inconsistent with the General Plan. The DEIR, at Table 3.11-1 lists what it perceives to be a Consistency Determination of the various policies of the Specific Plan with the General Plan. However, that listing fails to reference Section 1.3 of the General Plan. The DEIR therefore fails to identify the impacts of this inconsistency with the General Plan. As a result, it violates the requirements of CEQA that an EIR evaluate the impacts of any inconsistency in the Project and land use policies of the lead agency.

In addition, the General Plan, in its commentary under Implementing Policy UF-13.a, confirms that a Specific Plan is intended to further define the requirements and regulations of the General Plan "to coordinate more discreet land use and transportation design integration and intensity with necessary public facilities, maintenance, and services financing" for the relevant development area. Though the Specific Plan does identify some major infrastructure requirements, it does not indicate how such infrastructure is designed to integrate with the intensity of the intended development, because important facets of that density is deferred to a future SEDA Development Code update.

For example, table 2.1 of the Specific Plan identifies types of streets that will be included in various land use districts. However, there is no discussion about how the delineation of those transportation facilities is intended to accommodate the development and uses reflected in the Specific Plan.

The DEIR takes the limited information included in the Specific Plan and makes the conclusion that the Project will be consistent with the General Plan policy that calls for planning and design of roadway systems to meet LOS D on major roadways. The sole assurance of this is the statement that "Roadway improvements to increase capacity and maintain LOS standards would be planned and programmed based on the total overall needs of the roadway system, recognizing the priority of maintenance, rehabilitation, and operation of the existing road system." (DEIR at p. 3.17-30). However, the actual impact on existing roadways is nowhere detailed in either the Specific Plan or its DEIR. This is presumably because, without any understanding of the density of developments in the land use designations, the projected traffic demands on specific roadways cannot be fairly estimated. As a result, the queuing analysis for impacts on the State High system interchanges, requested by Caltrans in its Comment Letter dated August 25, 2023, was not prepared.

The intended density of development that the public facilities will be required to support is not included in the Specific Plan. Those important elements of a legally compliant specific plan are simply deferred to a future adoption of a SEDA Development code update. As a result, the DEIR fails to evaluate the environmental impacts of the Project.

D. The Specific Plan Intends for an Undefined SEDA Specific Plan Development Code to Supersede Its Development Standards (Including Relevant Density Standards) - the DEIR's Analysis of the Environmental Impacts of These Unknown Development Standards Is Therefore Inadequate.

The Specific Plan intends to defer the designation and adoption of density and land use standards until adoption of the SEDA Specific Plan Development Code. (Specific Plan, page 39). This is not simply the deferral of refinements to the Specific Plan's intended policies. These undefined Development Code updates are instead intended to have such importance to the intended development area that they will replace all previous zoning designations and will supersede the General Plan and all applicable Specific Plans, including the SEDA Specific Plan. (Specific Plan, page 39). Where, as here, the most consequential elements the Specific Plan's standards of development are not disclosed to the public or other agencies, no meaningful environmental evaluation of its environmental impacts can be sufficiently conducted.

These deferred Specific Plan elements are not simply limited to the intended density standards of the proposed land use designations. As an example, Section 2.3.2 of the DEIR discusses locations of open space and institutional features intended by the Specific Plan. However, it states that those locations, as well as roadway configurations and transit alignments, are more closely specified in an Infrastructure Plan. That Infrastructure Plan referenced in the DEIR is nowhere identified or disclosed in the Specific Plan (or otherwise in the DEIR).

Deferral of fully binding density standards for the Specific Plan's land uses, and intended location of key public facilities, significantly diminishes the ability of the DEIR to evaluate the project's environmental impacts. This causes the DEIR to fail its obligation to provide information to the public and the elected officials as to the Specific Plan's potential environmental impacts.

E. The Specific Plan Abolishes the "Permanent Buffer" Along Its Eastern Border Intended to Separate and Preserve Long-Term Agricultural Uses Outside Its Borders – the Consequences of Which Are Nowhere Disclosed in the DEIR.

An important public policy goal for the Specific Plan is to minimize its impacts on various classes of agricultural lands. (See LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3). In furtherance of this goal, the Specific Plan states that the Plan will create an agricultural buffer between developed areas of SEDA and the agricultural lands to its east. (Specific Plan, p. 60).

However, the existing land uses allocated to SEDA in the General Plan already establishes a buffer. The General Plan states that this is to be a permanent buffer area, designed to separate and preserve long-term agriculture outside of the eastern SOI boundary from urban uses inside the SOI Boundary. (General Plan, p.3-25). Table 15-802 of the City Development Code sets forth the limited uses that can be conducted

within that Buffer zone, with manufactured housing, and secondary units, being the sole housing type permitted.

The Specific Plan proposes to abolish this existing adopted Buffer zone in the SEDA area. It instead intends to allow Rural Cluster Residential uses in the area of lands previously designated with the Buffer Zone. The DEIR states that this Rural Cluster Residential uses will serve as a transitional buffer, and states that this area will provide average gross density of 0.1 to 0.5 units per acre.[3] This change in the uses permitted in the Buffer can be seen by comparing Map 2.4, SEDA General Plan Land Use (Existing), with Map 2.5, SEDA Proposed Land Use Map, at pages 21 and 22 of the Specific Plan.

The Specific Plan therefore relaxes the existing restrictions that the General Plan established for development within the existing Buffer Zone, and diminishes from permanent to transitional status. The Specific Plan instead intends to allow a greater extent of housing, and potentially other uses. However, this change in the existing Buffer zone is nowhere discussed in the DEIR, and the impacts of allowing greater development within those areas is therefore nowhere analyzed in the DEIR. This is a significant change to an existing land use designation that was previously adopted to help diminish in conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses.

The DEIR asserts that no feasible mitigation measures to address this impact are available. However, the proposed Specific Plan's change in the General Plan's Buffer zone exacerbates the impact. One feasible mitigation measure would therefore be the retention of the General Plan's established Buffer zone. Where, as here, the DEIR is intending to amend a prior mitigation measure of the existing General Plan, the DEIR must discuss the reasons that justify any change to the Buffer zone, and the potential consequences of allowing new Rural Cluster Residential uses within its environs. That discussion is particularly important where the DEIR otherwise determines this impact is significant, and unavoidable. The DEIR should be updated to include this discussion, and should then be recirculated.

F. Rather Than Rely Upon the Undefined Standards of Mitigation Measure MM Ag-2, the City Should Defer Adoption of the Specific Plan Until It Adopts the Farmland Preservation Program Intended by General Plan Policy Rc-9-C.

The DEIR, at p. 3.2-17, details the intention of the General Plan Policy RC-9-b to implement a Farmland Preservation Program. It seeks to assure that such a program, when adopted, will ensure mitigation of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Until the program is adopted, the DEIR intends to implement, through MM AG-2, an ad hoc mitigation program whose standards are entirely undefined.

[3] As noted above, the Specific Plan provides that the densities stated in the Plan can be overridden by whatever standards are set forth in the yet to be developed SEDA Development Code.

The City adopted General Plan Policy RC-9-b nearly a decade ago, on December 18, 2014. It has had much time to prepare an appropriate program that addresses the intentions of that mitigation standard. Continuing in place an arrangement for ad hoc mitigations, based upon undefined standards, is not an acceptable alternative to a defined and adopted uniform program and policy that General Plan Policy RC-9-b intended. (See *Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation v. County of El Dorada* (2012) 202 Cal.App.4th 1156). This is particularly true given the amount of time that has been available to adopt such a program.

Rather than adopting MM AG-2 as a new mitigation measure, the City should defer finalizing this Specific Plan until after the program intended by General Plan Policy RC-9-b is fully adopted. Only then can both the agricultural community and the development community understand the requirements for development within the Plan where relevant farmland is being impacted. MM AG-2, standing alone, has insufficient performance standards to satisfy appropriate standards for deferred mitigation. It includes no mitigation ratio, does not address potentially appropriate exemptions and exclusions, or the locations of lands covered by conservation easements. It thereby leaves too many aspects of the arrangement too ill defined to fully assess its efficacy.

The fact that the impacts on relevant farmlands are identified as an unavoidable and mitigatable significant impact does not allow the DEIR to fail to adopt feasible mitigation measures. The adoption of General Plan Policy RC-9-b intended to allow appropriate deliberation of a comprehensive program to address such impacts. That program should be adopted before annexations within SEDA begin and before the Specific Plan is adopted.

G. <u>The Specific Plan and Its DEIR Should Address Phasing Policies and Assure That Lands in the City's Sphere Adjacent to, but Outside SEDA, Are Prioritized For Development Before SEDA Lands</u>.

The Specific Plan's implementation objectives provides that development of SEDA is to occur in an organized and phased manner. (Specific Plan, p.12, DEIR p. 2-12). The DEIR also states that annexations will be "strategic and proactive to facilitate infrastructure development by the City." (DEIR at p. 2-3). An important value of a phasing plan is that it can help diminish the pressure on early conversion of farmlands and impacts on existing rural residential uses within the Specific Plan boundaries. It may also help extend the period before the development within the Specific Plan pressures conversion of farmlands outside the Specific Plan, or rural residential uses in proximity to the Specific Plan boundaries.

A phasing program is therefore a tool that can help achieve many of the objectives of the Specific Plan's requirements set forth in LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3, regarding the Project's impacts on existing rural residential neighborhoods. It is also an important tool to mitigate the impact on farmland conversions, which is

particularly important where, as here, the DEIR finds that such impacts cannot be mitigated and are otherwise a significant an unavoidable circumstance. Even where that circumstance exists, CEQA nevertheless requires that all feasible mitigation measures are adopted. Yet, in this instance the Phase plan, while promised, is not adopted and is therefore not available as a mitigation tool.

One easy phasing strategy we recommended is a policy of the City to help insure that the unincorporated lands west of Temperance Avenue within the City Sphere of Influence are timely annexed before annexation begins with SEDA. However, an even broader phasing strategy would provide a greater extent of mitigation on the premature conversion of farmlands and impacts of development on existing rural residential uses.

Unfortunately, the Specific Plan does not include any phasing strategies. The accompanying DEIR therefore does not assess all potential mitigations that can be provided by a thoughtful phasing program. Such a program might include advancing construction of relevant public facilities necessary to support development. It might also include milestones before lands in various phases can have development commence.

The Specific Plan should be updated to incorporate the phasing plan that would allow the DEIR to assess the extent to which a proposed phasing will help mitigate the impacts of the project on rural residential neighborhoods and the conversion of farmlands. Such an assessment should be included in a recirculated DEIR.

H. <u>The DEIR Does Not Assess the Adequacy of Existing City Ordinances to Support the Existing Rural Residential Neighborhoods Within the Plan</u>.

LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3, confirms that the Specific Plan is to, among other aspects, emphasize the retention of characteristics in rural residential neighborhoods within the Plan's environs after their annexation into the City. This policy concerns an important environmental impact of the Specific Plan.

The Plan and the DEIR simply state that the existing uses on those parcels will remain protected under the Annexation Overlay Ordinance approved in City of Fresno Bill 2008-10. (Specific Plan, p. 29, DEIR, p. 2-8). Unfortunately, the text of bill 2008-10 is not set forth in the Specific Plan or the DEIR, and it is not a document that is readily available for public review. However, the City's Development Code includes Section 15-1606, that establishes an Annexed Rural Residential Transitional (ANX) Overlay District, which was codified as part of the adoption of the City's most recent comprehensive update to its Development Code in Ordinance 2015-39, effective January 9, 2016. It is unclear whether the provisions in Municipal Code Section 15-1606 is what was intended to be referenced in the DEIR and Specific Plan, or whether other provisions were intended.

The Annexation Overlay Zone in Municipal Code Section 15-1606 does protect a range of existing uses. However, it allocates such uses and their structures to legal

nonconforming status. That status may create difficulties with lenders and buyers of property, and the imposition of those constraints are not consistent with protecting the maintenance of such rural residential uses. That legal nonconforming status will also hinder appropriate expansion of existing legal nonconforming structures that may be reasonable and desirable to maintain thriving rural residential neighborhoods.

In fact, LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3, intends that the Specific Plan's program for retention of rural residential neighborhoods in annexed lands would allow for appropriate improvements needed to incorporate their characteristics into the urban landscape. While the City's legal nonconforming regulations at Municipal Code sections 15-404 and 15-405 allow some expansion in single family residential structures, similar expansion of other ancillary structures is not permitted except with the attainment of subsequent entitlements. In addition, expansions of single-family residential structures requires that the improvements conform to the standards of the newly allocated Base District. (Municipal Code Section 15-405-E-1).

LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3 has emphasized the importance of a program for annexation that is intended to emphasize the retention of characteristics of rural residential neighborhoods that make them desirable places to live. The Specific Plan does not include such a program. Further, the DEIR does not evaluate the characteristics of the existing rural residential neighborhoods. Nor does it evaluate the adequacy of the provisions of Municipal Code Section 15-1606, and the associated noncomforming legal use standards of the City, to assess whether those annexed rural neighborhoods will be able to effectively maintain their qualities intended by LAFCO Resolution USOI-144.

The DEIR should be updated to include an assessment of the existing City ordinances that will govern existing residential neighborhoods within the Plan after annexation, and whether those standards adequately protect their retention. It should also recommend any refinements to the existing City Ordinances where necessary. That information should be included in an updated and recirculated DEIR.

I. <u>Elements of the DEIR's Mitigations of Water Supply Impacts Need Clarification</u>.

The Specific Plan, at p. 105, under Policy RC-4.2, states that the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Plan was approved in 2019. The Plan approval was subject to subsequent review and approval by the Department of Water Resources, and that plan was conditionally approved by the Department of Water Resources in 2023.

More importantly, Policy RC-4.2 states that all groundwater drawn to serve development in the SEDA will be replaced "with at least an equal volume via infiltration, pumping or other means". However, both the Specific Plan and the DEIR fail to explain how groundwater is to be replaced by pumping, or what the other means are that it intends to reference.

Policy RC-4.2 also states that the necessary recharge may not necessarily occur the same year as withdrawals, but asserts that over time total recharge will match total withdrawals. While all of those goals and intentions are desirable, some maximum period of mismatch between withdrawal and recharge should be identified. Consideration of impacts to sustainable management criteria should also be considered.

The City is situated on top of a single unconfined aquifer. To offset groundwater pumping, recharge must occur within a reasonable distance that demonstrates effectiveness. We are not opposed to regional recharge provided the groundwater pumping does not cause widespread regional impacts. Recharge outside of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency would not be considered reasonable.

The DEIR includes, as an appendix, a Water Technical Study prepared by Blair, Church, and Flynn Consulting Engineers (the "Water Study"). The Water Study identifies surface water supplied from both the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) through existing agreements for groundwater recharge and potable use after treatment. According to the Water Study, the most recent FID agreement signed in 2016 provided for a maximum of 29% of FID's Kings River water supply to be available to the City. It is unclear per the FID agreement whether the water supply was intended for use within the Specific Plan boundary. The FID agreement, specifically Section 13.(c), states that "City and District mutually agree that the increase in percentages reflected in this Section 13 include allowances for moderate growth in Growth Area 1 of City's Sphere of Influence as shown in Exhibit C (as depicted as Figure IM-2 of the Fresno General Plan)." The DEIR should be revised to clarify this issue.

Mitigation Measure HYD-2b requires that the City must, prior to exceeding existing water supply capacities, evaluate the water supply system and not approve development in the Specific Plan until additional capacity is provided through water system improvements in accordance with the City Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan. We recommend that some threshold be adopted to confirm that there is a trigger, prior to the actual point of exceeding existing water supply capacity, when the evaluations will be performed, and when the improvements will be required.

The DEIR, at page 3.10-9, advises that the City is in the process of updating its Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan (the "Metro Plan"). Mitigation Measure HYD-2d provides that new and expanded groundwater recharge facilities will be in accordance with that plan, and that those measures will be completed prior to new applications for future development in the Specific Plan. However, because the Metro Plan has not yet been updated, it is unclear how HYD-2d can be an effective mitigation measure when the standards that may be included in that Metro Plan update have not yet been determined. It is also unclear whether full construction of all intended recharge facilities within the Specific Plan, as identified by the Metro Plan, will be completed as part of the requirement that new and expanded recharge facilities will be completed prior to new applications for future development. This element of the Mitigation Measure

should be clarified. These requirements could also be better assured if the Specific Plan incorporated a phasing program that focused development of necessary public facilities on the areas intended for priority development.

J. County as a Responsible Agency.

Section 2.5.2 of the DEIR should be updated to identify Fresno County as a Responsible Agency. That is because the County will be required to issue encroachment permits for construction within the County's road right-of-way, coordinate Williamson Act Contract cancellations, and approve required property exchange agreement(s) associated with future annexations in SEDA.

K. Conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully request that the City not consider the Project DEIR until after there have been appropriate updates to the Specific Plan and the DEIR, to address the matters detailed above.

Sincerely,
McCORMICK, BARSTOW, SHEPPARD,
WAYTE & CARRUTH LLP

Jeffrey M. Reid

cc: Bernard Jimenez, Planning & Resource Management Officer
Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning

Enc. LAFCO Resolution USOI-144

RESOLUTION NO. USOI-144

FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

REQUEST FOR REVISION TO THE CITY OF FRESNO SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	)))	ADOPTED FINDINGS AND APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, in order to carry out its purposes and responsibilities for planning and shaping the logical and orderly development and coordination of local governmental agencies so as to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of the County and its communities, this Commission has the authority under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (the "Act") to develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local governmental agency within the County and enact policies designed to promote the logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere (California Government Code Section 56425(a); and

WHEREAS, this Commission has the authority to establish spheres of influence, or to revise or amend adopted spheres of influence of local governmental agencies after a noticed public hearing called and held for that purpose (California Government Code Section 56427); and

WHEREAS, a proposal for a revision to a local government's adopted sphere of influence may be made by the adoption of a resolution of application by the legislative body of an affected local agency (California Government Code Section 56654(a); and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fresno, California, adopted a resolution of application (Resolution No. 2005-507) on the 6th day of December 2005, applying to the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) for consideration of an amendment (hereafter referred to as the "Proposal" or "proposed SOI revision") to the City's Sphere of Influence to include the "Southeast Growth Area", consisting of approximately 8,863 acres, as identified in the Fresno 2025 General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno filed a certified copy of said resolution of application with the Executive Officer pursuant to California Government Code Section 56756; and

WHEREAS, the affected territory is generally described as an area bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, to the east by McCall, Highland and Temperance Avenues, on the south by Jensen, and North Avenues, and on the west by the existing Fresno Sphere of Influence boundary along Minnewawa, Temperance, and Locan Avenues, as depicted in "Exhibit A" attached to this resolution and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, said resolution of application (Resolution No. 2005-507) stated that Article VI of the City / County Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as the "MOU" or "tax sharing agreement") requires the City to meet various conditions before proceeding with development within the Southeast Growth Area; and

WHEREAS, said resolution of application states that the City has met all the conditions identified in Article VI of the MOU with the exception of the preparation and approval of the Southeast Industrial Growth Area Business Park Specific Plan and attainment of the 60% residential development build-out in selected Community Plan Areas, and that provided the SOI amendment is approved, the City will move forward with the preparation and adoption of various Community and Specific Plans; and

WHEREAS, at its March 16, 2005 hearing the Local Agency Formation Commission requested more detailed environmental analysis, especially with respect to issues related to the preservation of agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, in response to the request for more detailed environmental information, the City caused to be prepared a more detailed initial study to support a new Environmental Assessment (No. SOI-05-01, Finding of Conformity to the 2025 Fresno General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR 10130) dated September 29, 2005); and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed the more detailed environmental information and found that the information supports and reaffirms the original finding and made a new finding based on the new information that there is no substantial evidence in the record that the "Southeast Growth Area SOI Amendment" may have an adverse impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, as commended by Section 56425 (b) of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, the City of Fresno presented the proposal to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and requested them to support and concur with the City's request; and

WHEREAS, at its January 31, 2006 hearing, by a vote of three to two, the Board of Supervisors approved its support of a resolution of reapplication to LAFCo for an amendment to the City's SOI to include the Southeast Growth Area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 56425 (b), when there is an agreement between the County and a city seeking an SOI amendment the Commission shall give great weight to the agreement in its final determination of the city's SOI; and

WHEREAS, said application for an SOI revision was deemed complete and accepted for filing by the Interim Executive Officer and a Certificate of Filing was issued pursuant to California Government Code Sections 56651 and 56658(g), and accordingly Commission proceedings were deemed initiated; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer set this matter for hearing on April, 12, 2006, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., and caused notice of said hearing to be published in accordance with California Government Code Section 56153 in a newspaper of general circulation which is circulated within the territory affected by the sphere of influence proposed to be amended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 56665 the Executive Officer reviewed said application and all supporting materials and prepared a report to this Commission, including a recommendation for approval with specified conditions, said report having been mailed to the Commission, the officers or persons designated in the application, each local agency whose boundaries or sphere of influence would be changed by the Proposal, and each affected local

agency that has filed a request for a report with the executive officer, at least five days before said hearing; and

WHEREAS, this Commission reviewed the Executive Officer's report and recommendation and all supporting materials, including Initial Study No. SOI-05-01, Finding of Conformity to the 2025 Fresno General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR 10130) dated September 29, 2005, the Master Environmental Impact Report, and all other documents that were incorporated by reference into said report, pursuant to Government Code Section 56665(d), which report was duly considered by this Commission pursuant to State law; and

WHEREAS, said Proposal was considered by this Commission at said hearing on the 12th day of April, 2006, at which the Executive Officer presented staff's report and recommended approval of the Proposal with specified conditions, and testimony was presented in favor and against the Proposal; and

WHEREAS, this Commission considered all relevant factors and evidence and heard all affected agencies and interested parties wishing to speak on said application; and

WHEREAS, as Responsible Agency, this Commission independently reviewed and considered the information in the Draft and Final MEIR for the Fresno 2025 General Plan and the City's subsequent "Environmental Assessment / Initial Study" and the City's "Finding of Conformity" issued pursuant to Section 21157.1 of the California Public Resources Code (California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA") prior to taking its action, and determined that the City's finding is appropriate, pursuant to State law, and that the Proposal is consistent with these documents and that these documents are sufficient on which to make a determination on the proposed sphere of influence revision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission does HEREBY STATE, FIND, RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER as follows:

SECTION #1 – This Commission hereby adopts the findings required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) listed below:

1. Acting as a Responsible Agency under CEQA Guidelines, the Final Master Environmental Impact Report prepared for the 2025 Fresno General Plan by the Lead Agency, the City of Fresno, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of CEQA Guidelines (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 *et seq.*) and the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines – California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq.*).

2. This Commission considered the information in the Final Master Environmental Impact Report and the Initial Study upon which the Lead Agency determined said project to be within the scope of the "Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) No. 10130" prepared and certified for the 2025 Fresno General Plan, prior to making a determination about the Proposal, together with any and all comments received during the public review process pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and finds on the basis of the whole public record before the Commission, including the Final Master Environmental Impact Report and the Initial Study and any comments received, that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, and that the Lead Agency's determination pursuant to Section 21151.1 of the California Public Resources

Code (California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA") reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis pursuant to CEQA Section 15074, *et seq.* (Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087).

3. Acting as Responsible Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the Commission hereby finds that the Lead Agency's determination is appropriate, pursuant to Section 21151.1 of the California Public Resources Code (California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA"), and finds that that Final Master Environmental Impact Report and the subsequent Initial Study are sufficient on which to make a determination on the proposed change of organization.

SECTION #2 – This Commission hereby finds that the proposed change of organization is consistent with LAFCo Policies, Standards and Procedures Section 330, "Sphere of Influence Updates and Revisions," and the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000.

SECTION #3 – This Commission hereby finds that the April 12, 2006 public hearing and consideration of the proposed SOI revision were legally noticed pursuant to California Government Code sections 56427 and 56153, and that all notices related to this matter were duly given in accordance with State law, including, but not limited to, the Act and CEQA Guidelines and governing laws.

SECTION #4 – This Commission finds that, pursuant to California Government Code section 56426.5(b)(1)(2) the proposed SOI revision will facilitate planned, orderly, and efficient patterns of land use and provision of services. The public interest in the change of organization substantially outweighs the public interest in the continuation of existing Williamson Act Contracts in the affected territory beyond the current expiration date of said Contracts. Additionally, the change of organization is not likely to adversely affect the continuation of said Contracts beyond their current expiration date. In making this determination, the Commission considered all relevant factors pursuant to California Government Code section 56426.5(b)(2)(A-C).

SECTION #5 - This Commission Determines that the MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SERVICES PLAN dated December 2005 prepared by the City of Fresno conforms to the requirements of Section 56430 of the California Government Code, and hereby adopts the proposed Written Determinations contained therein with the following addition:

Government Structure Options (Page 61) – Add: *4. As the provider of a full range of urban services the City is the logical agency to provide these services in the subject area.*

SECTION #6 – This Commission hereby makes the following determinations pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(e):

1. The proposed Sphere of Influence expansion will accommodate anticipated growth needs of the City of Fresno in the affected area, and, with certain recommended conditions for future annexations therein, will provide for all existing and planned uses.

2. The present and probable needs for public facilities and services in the area will be provided for as identified in the MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SERVICES PLAN

prepared by the City of Fresno. The need for additional facilities will be identified and addressed during the preparation and adoption of the Community or Specific plan for the Southeast Growth Area as required in conditions 1 and 2 of Section 8, below.

3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the City provides or is authorized to provide have been adequately identified in the MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SERVICES PLAN prepared by the City of Fresno, and additional facilities needs will be identified and addressed during the preparation and adoption of the Community or Specific Plan for the Southeast Growth Area as required in conditions 1 and 2 of Section 8, below.

4. No social or economic communities of interest have been identified in the subject area that are deemed relevant to the Commission.

SECTION #7 – This Commission hereby approves the proposed revision to the City of Fresno Sphere of Influence to include the "Southeast Growth Area" (approximately 8,863 acres) within the City's adopted sphere of influence (LAFCo File No. USOI -144), as depicted in Exhibit "A".

SECTION #8 – If and when the City submits an application for annexation for any affected parcels within the amended SOI, the City shall complete the following plans and programs prior to the Commission's approval of such an application:

1. Prepare and adopt a Community or Specific Plan for the Southeast Growth Area, including the preparation, public review, and certification of environmental documents and findings pursuant to CEQA. This plan shall include, but not be limited to, policies to address the requirements of Section 56426.5 of the California Government Code for lands subject to Williamson Act contracts.

2. Prepare and adopt a Master Service Delivery Plan for the Southeast Growth Area.

3. Prepare, adopt and begin to implement a program for annexing the designated open space areas in the approach corridor of the Fresno Air Terminal (areas designated with an "R" on the 2025 General Plan map), and for rural residential neighborhoods within the City's existing Sphere of Influence in the vicinity of the Southeast Growth Area. This program shall provide for logical and reasonable development, discourage urban sprawl, preserve open-space and prime agricultural lands, efficiently provide for government services, and encourage orderly development.

   The rural residential neighborhood annexation program should emphasize the retention of characteristics that make the neighborhoods desirable places to live, while making provisions for appropriate improvements needed to incorporate such characteristics into the urban landscape. The program should include an outreach effort demonstrating to residents that annexation into the City would provide for an enhanced living environment preferable to staying in an unincorporated enclave, surrounded or substantially surrounded by the City. This program shall also be applicable within the Southeast Growth Area, and shall be reflected in the Specific Plan prepared by the City as required by condition 1, above.

The annexation program for the designated Open Space areas in the Fresno Air Terminal approach corridor should be undertaken as a means to preserving open space lands that would otherwise not be proposed for annexation; thereby providing for the efficient extension of government services to areas beyond the approach corridor, and providing for orderly boundaries that will facilitate annexation of other properties proposed for urban development.

SECTION #9 - The Executive Officer is hereby authorized and directed to mail certified copies of this resolution as provided in Government Code Section 56882 and to file, as appropriate, in the office of the Fresno County Clerk all environmental documents, if any, pertaining to the approval of this Proposal, as required by state law.

* *

ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF APRIL, 2006, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Lopez, Rodriguez, Fortune, Alternate County Commissioner Larson, and Waterston.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Anderson

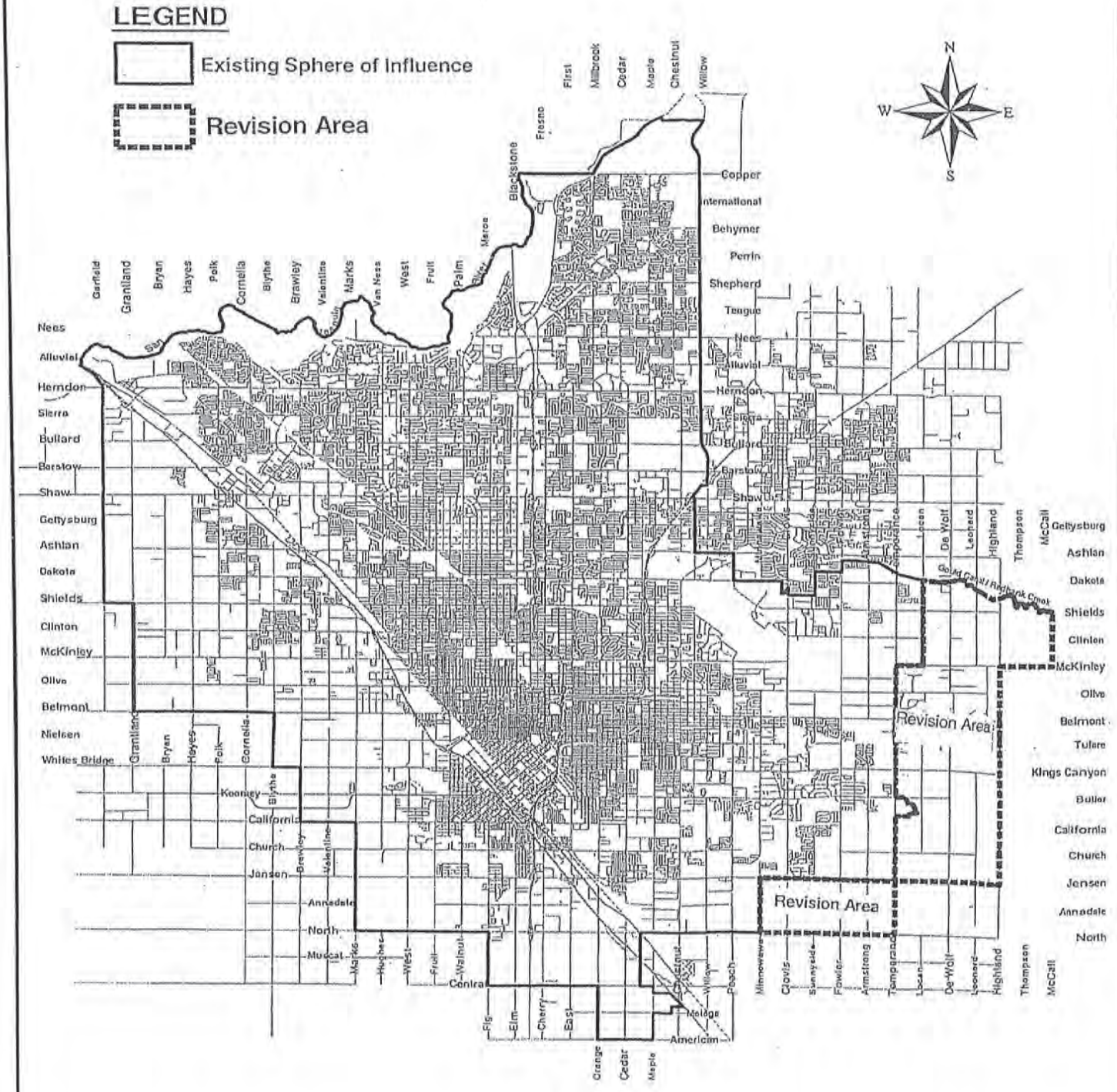
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO)

CERTIFICATION OF CHAIRMAN

I, Bob Waterston, Chairman of the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission, Fresno County, State of California, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Commission at a regular meeting held on the 12th day of April, 2006.

Bob Waterston, Chairman
Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission

EXHIBIT "A"
RESOLUTION NO. USOI-144



Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Capturing Stormwater since 1956

File 310. "BG", "BL", "BM",
"BS", "CS", "DS", "DV"
410.214

August 28, 2023

Ms. Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street, Rm. 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Ms. Asadoorian,

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) Comments on the Notice of Availability of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, Fresno, California

**Adopted Drainage Areas "BG", "BL", "BM", "BS", "CS", "DS", "DV"
and Proposed Drainage Areas "DT", "DU", "DW", "DX", "DY", "DZ"**

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) has reviewed the adopted and proposed Master Plan storm drainage systems for the areas located within the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan (SEDA Plan). The adopted Master Plan drainage systems were designed using the previously adopted General Plan land uses and the proposed Master Plan drainage systems are based on the SEDA Plan land uses as shown on Exhibits 1-1 and 2-2 of the DPEIR.

As noted in FMFCD's prior letter dated March 25, 2022, in Master Plan areas where no drainage facilities have been constructed, the Master Plan can be planned to accommodate the new land uses and pipe alignments within the SEDA Plan. FMFCD has located the proposed basin locations, as shown on Exhibit No. 1, needed to serve the SEDA Plan and recommends that the City incorporate the proposed basin locations into the SEDA Plan Proposed Land Use Map. Additional language to provide for an alternate land use designation for the proposed basins should be included in the SEDA Plan. FMFCD previously requested that the proposed basins, not yet acquired by FMFCD, be shown in its tentative location, but may be relocated within a mile of the proposed site. This will allow FMFCD to purchase land in the general vicinity of the proposed site without a Specific Plan update should the proposed basins not be located exactly on the parcel as shown on the SEDA Plan. The proposed basin locations are an essential element to the proposed Master Plan drainage systems as they take into consideration topography, land use, existing/proposed street alignments, pipeline collection system layout, and other planimetric features. This is an important element that must be addressed in the SEDA Plan.

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www.fresnofloodcontrol.org

Upon review of the SEDA Plan land uses for the areas within the adopted Master Plan drainage systems it is determined that the Master Plan can accommodate the new land uses with revisions to the existing drainage system. Approximately 55 acres located northwest of McKinley and McCall Avenues is located within the SEDA Plan but not within an adopted drainage area. This area currently drains to the FMFCD Fancher Creek Basin. FMFCD has identified 94 acres outside of the SEDA Plan, located southeast of Temperance and Jensen Avenues that is planned to be served by a proposed Master Plan drainage system. This area is bounded by the Briggs Canal and does not have an alternate solution to be served due to the topographic constraints.

FMFCD shall be notified of any revisions to the SEDA Plan Proposed Land Use as changes may effect the existing and proposed Master Plan drainage systems.

Upon adoption of the SEDA Plan and EIR by the City of Fresno, FMFCD will prepare an update to its Municipal Services Review (MSR), for Fresno LAFCO consideration. The MSR is a LAFCO requirement and will demonstrate that FMFCD has the ability to extend flood control and drainage services into the SEDA Plan, as development occurs. Once the District's MSR update (covering all of the SEDA Plan) has been approved by LAFCO, FMFCD can proceed with a Sphere of Influence (SOI) Amendment designed to fold SEDA into the FMFCD SOI.

LAFCO is the CEQA Lead Agency for the Sphere of Influence Amendment, and FMFCD is the CEQA Lead Agency for subsequent annexation into SEDA, which is why it is critical that the SEDA EIR evaluate actions and impacts specific to the extension of flood control and drainage services into the SEDA Plan. Should the EIR fail to address extending FMFCD services into the SEDA Plan and fail to extend tax sharing services to FMFCD, the City/County will be required to fund the design and implementation of the Master Plan storm drainage system. LAFCO and FMFCD will rely on the City's analysis and treatment of environmental impacts in formulating their own CEQA responses to the demands of SEDA.

FMFCD may request that it's progressive annexation into SEDA take the form of LAFCO reorganizations, where our annexations mirror the sequence and configuration of City annexation. In this case, in the course of City pursuit of each annexation into SEDA, the City would present LAFCO with a reorganization proposal, where one LAFCO action simultaneously authorizes the City annexation, the FMFCD annexation, annexation by other urban service providers, and detachment from the County and special districts providing services to the unincorporated area (e.g. rural fire protection districts).

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Comments specific to the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan
FMFCD offers the following comments specific to the review of the SEDA Plan (The individual pages are included, and the section or sentence has been highlighted for your reference):

1. In all references to proposed basins located within the SEDA Plan, FMFCD suggests the proposed basin locations be identified on Exhibits 1-1 and 2-2 of the Specific Plan Map as previously outlined on Exhibit No. 1 of FMFCD prior letter dated March 25, 2022. Identifying the proposed basins within the SEDA Plan is essential to the available land use acreages prior to approval of the Specific Plan.

2. Page 2-6, 2.3.2 – Proposed Specific Plan Buildout Table 2-1: Flood Control Basin are included in the proposed specific plan acreages. FMFCD suggests the proposed basin locations be identified on Exhibits 1-1 and 2-2.

3. Page 2-14: Replace the word Municipal with Metropolitan.

4. Page 3.2-19, Impact AG-2 and Exhibit 3.2-2: Informational purposes only, FMFCD has identified one (1) proposed basin site, Basin "DY" is located on properties within the Williamson Act Contract.

5. Page 3.10-11, Hydrology and Water Quality Paragraph 2: Correct 164 to 165. Replace "…of 2-year storms and for at least" with "…not less than". Replace "…rainfall" with "…annual runoff". Delete "…or relocated".

6. Page 3.10-12, Hydrology and Water Quality Paragraph 3: Replace "…a 2-year storm and for at least" with "…not less than". Replace "…rainfall" with "…annual runoff".

7. Page 3.10-12 and 13, Table 3.10-1: FMFCD was not given the opportunity to review the SEDA Specific Plan Storm Drain Technical Study dated June 10, 2022. We are therefore providing the most current information available and suggest revisions be made to Table 3.10-1 to most accurately address the Drainage Area summaries.

8. Page 3.10-34, Hydrology and Water Quality, Paragraph 1 and 2: Replace the word Municipal with Metropolitan.

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9. Page 3.10-37, Hydrology and Water Quality, Paragraph 6: Replace "…a 2-year storm and for at least" with "…not less than". Replace "…rainfall" with "…annual runoff".

10. Exhibit 3-17.1 Proposed Major Street Circulation: FMFCD's Basin "DS", located at the northwest corner of Clinton and Leonard Avenues, was acquired in anticipation of Clinton Avenue not going through between Leonard and DeWolf Avenues. FMFCD requests the SEDA plan remove this circulation plan for Clinton Avenue based on the proposed vacation documents to be submitted by CUSD to the County.

11. Page 3.18-19, Utilities and Service Systems, Paragraph 3: Replace "…of two year storms and for at least" with "…not less than". Replace "…rainfall" with "…annual runoff".

12. Page 3.18-19, Utilities and Service Systems, Paragraph 5: Delete "…Community Block" and add "…from the Federal and State governments".

13. Page 3.18-20, Utilities and Service Systems, Paragraph 5: Replace "…a 2-year storm and for at least" with "…not less than". Replace "…rainfall" with "…annual runoff".

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our comments, please feel free to contact the District at (559) 456-3292.

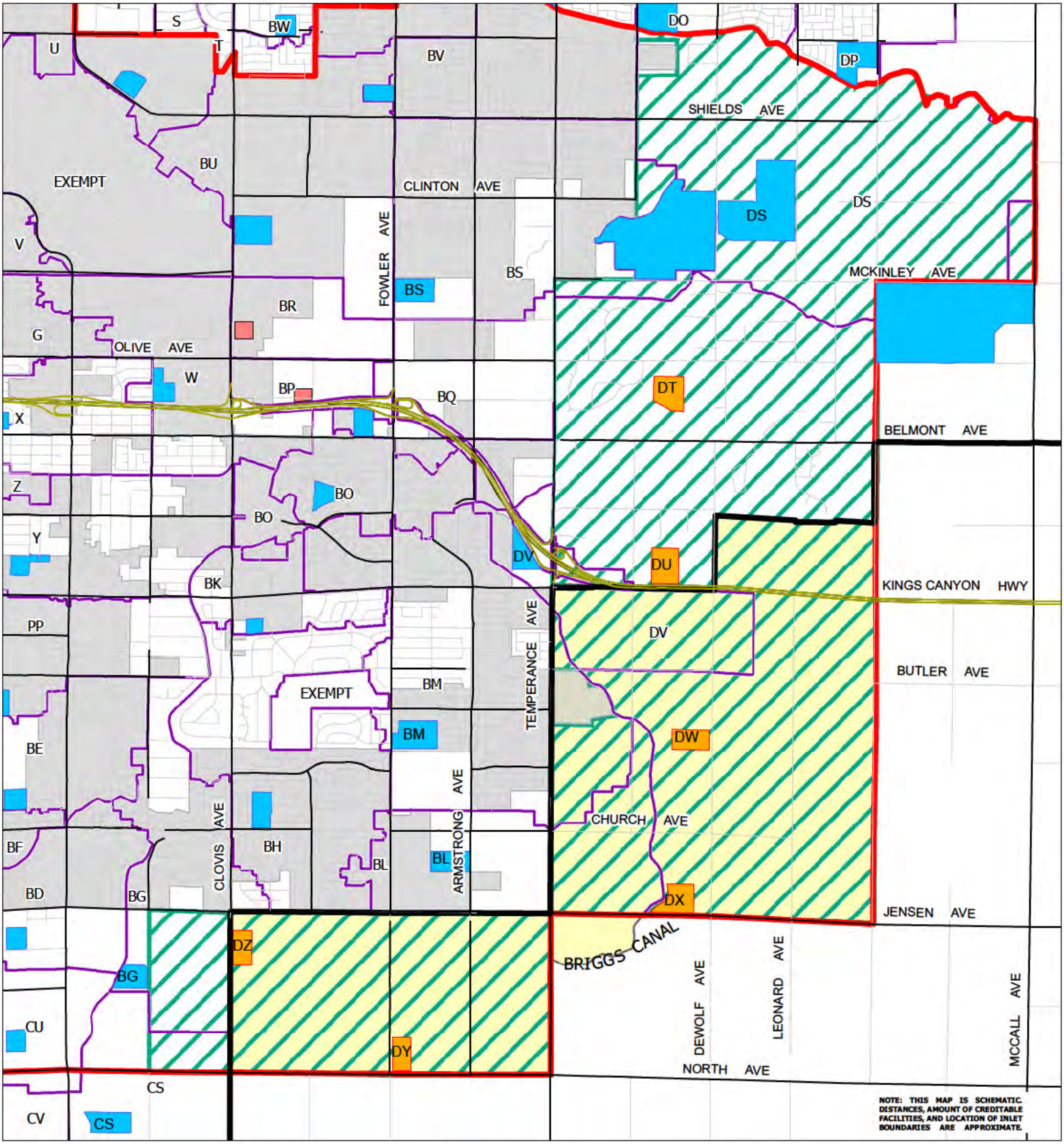
Respectfully,

Denise Wade
Master Plan Special Projects Manager

DW/lrl

Attachment(s)

k:\letters\environmental impact report letters\dpeir seda specific plan.docx



FMFCD BOUNDARY
CITY OF FRESNO SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
DRAINAGE AREA
CITY LIMITS
SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA
FMFCD ANNEXATION AREA

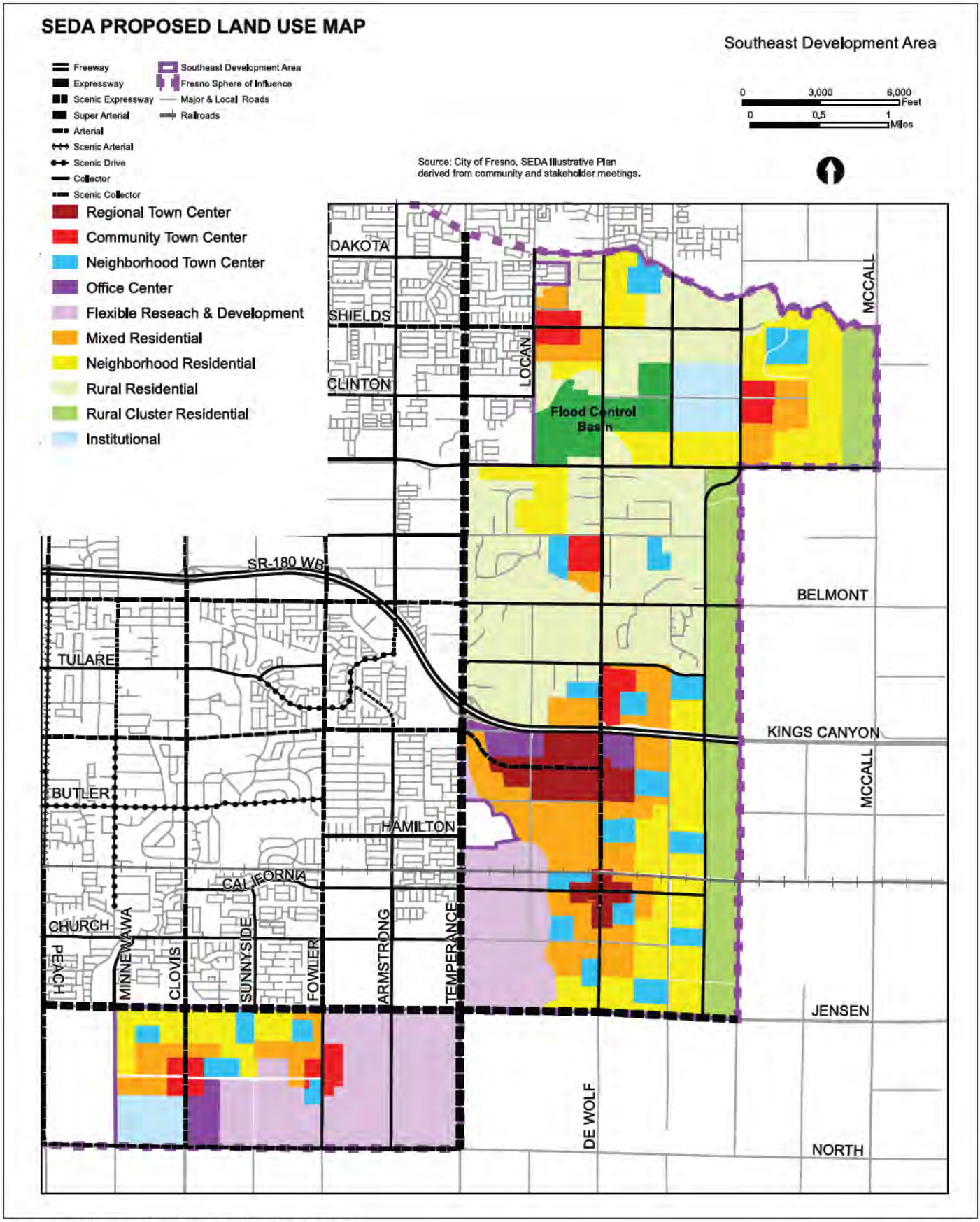
BASINS
EXISTING
PROPOSED
PROPOSED SEDA

Prepared by: rebeccal
Date: 8/22/2023
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FRESNO METROPOLITAN
FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

EXHIBIT NO. 1

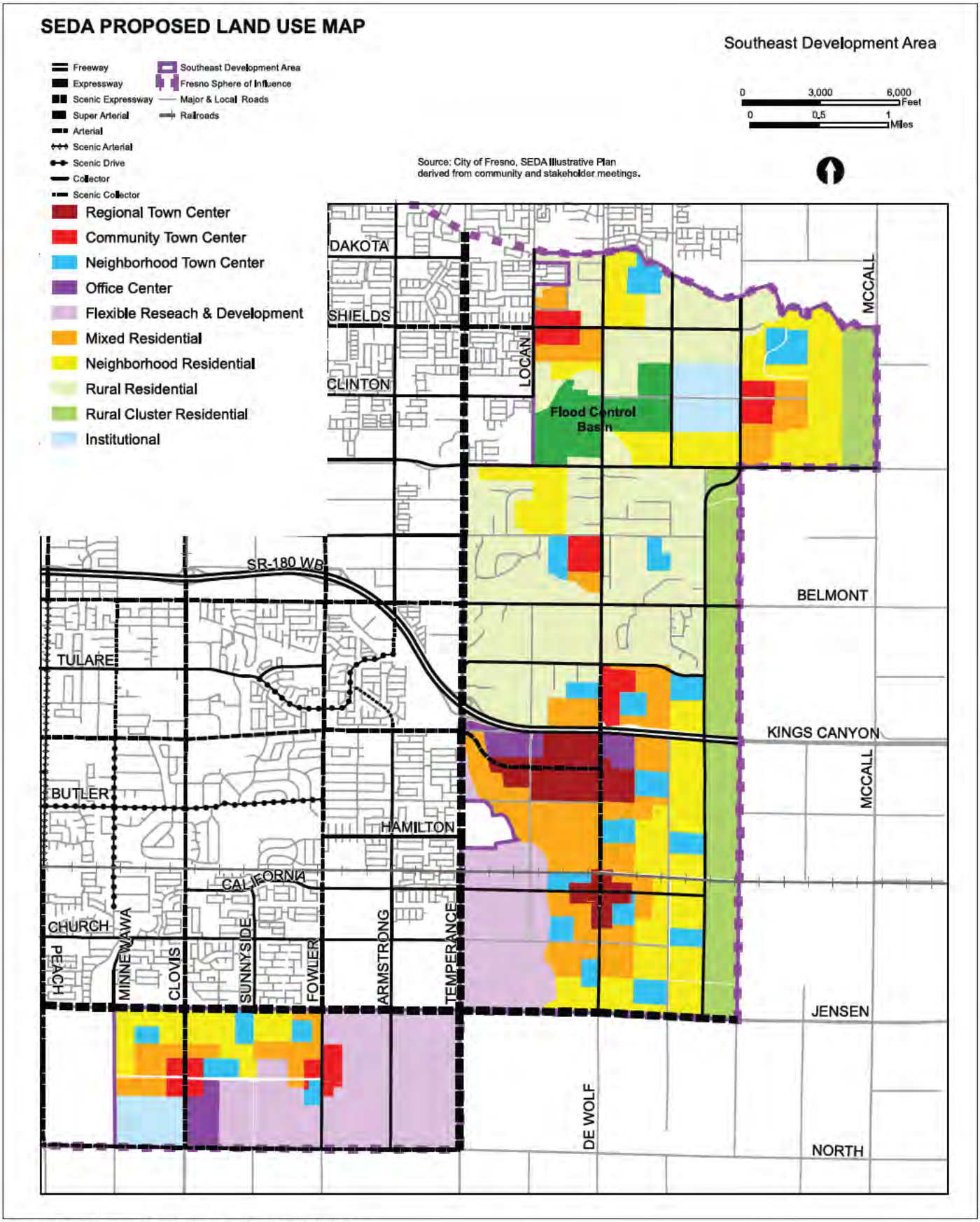
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Source: City of Fresno, SEDA Regulating Districts, 07/2023.

FIRSTCARBON SOLUTIONS™

Exhibit 1-1
Specific Plan Map



Source: City of Fresno, SEDA Regulating Districts, 07/2023.

FIRSTCARBON SOLUTIONS℠

Exhibit 2-2
Specific Plan Map

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would include major transit lines, mixed-use centers, diverse residential districts, employment districts, open space, agriculture, and green infrastructure.

2.3.2 - Proposed Specific Plan Buildout

The Land Use Map defines the physical extent of Land Use Districts, as well as major roadway alignments which constitute the buildout of the proposed project as shown in Exhibit 2-2. It also identifies potential locations for certain open space and institutional features. These locations, as well as certain roadway configurations and specific transit alignments, are more closely specified in the Infrastructure Plan. The implementation of the Land Use Map is administered through the application of Land Use District Standards and Street and Circulation Standards. The proposed project land use categories by district are shown in Table 2-1 along with the total proposed acreage. Descriptions of each of the associated land use categories are further discussed below.

Table 2-1: Proposed Specific Plan Acreages

Land Use	Proposed Plan Acres	Percentages
Mixed-Use Land Uses		
Regional Town Center	310	3.5%
Community Town Center	290	3.3%
Neighborhood Town Center	520	5.9%
Mixed-Use Land Uses Total	***1,120***	***12.7%***
Residential Land Uses		
Mixed Residential	1,090	12.4%
Neighborhood Residential	1,520	17.3%
Rural Residential	2,160	24.5%
Rural Cluster Residential	810	9.2%
Residential Land Uses Total	***5,580***	***63.4%***
Employment Land Uses		
Office Center	160	1.8%
Flexible Research and Development	1,380	15.7%
Institutional	280	3.2%
Employment Land Uses Total	***1,820***	***20.7%***
Other Land Uses		
Flood Control Basin	280	3.2%
Total	***8,800***	***100%***
Source: City of Fresno 2022.		

the proposed project. This Draft PEIR will provide environmental information to these agencies and other public agencies, which may be coordinated with other agencies, as part of project implementation. These agencies may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- California Department of Transportation
- California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley RWQCB)
- Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Valley Air District)
- Fresno Municipal Flood Control District
- Fresno Irrigation District

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Significant and unavoidable impact.

Conflict with Existing Zoning or Williamson Act Contract

Impact AG-2: The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract.

According to the General Plan, the City and its SOI includes lands under Williamson Act Contract, and the majority of these lands are located within the Plan Area. Exhibit 3.2-2 shows the locations of the Williamson Act Contract parcels within the Plan Area. Comparing these parcels to Exhibit 2-2, the majority of land within the Plan Area that is under Williamson Act Contract would be designated for non-agricultural land uses (such as various types of residential, regional and community center land uses) with implementation of the Specific Plan. The General Plan PEIR identifies that implementation of the approved General Plan would conflict with land under Williamson Act Contracts, which would result in a significant and unavoidable impact.

Therefore, the continued implementation of the approved General Plan as well as implementation of the proposed Specific Plan could conflict with existing Williamson Act Contracts because non-agricultural uses would be allowed on lands under a Williamson Act Contract. As a result, the continued implementation proposed Specific Plan could result in a significant impact on existing Williamson Act Contract land.

Therefore, project impacts would remain significant and unavoidable. No feasible mitigation measures are available.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Potentially significant impact.

Fresno General Plan PEIR Mitigation Measures

None.

Project Specific Mitigation Measures

No feasible mitigation measures are available.

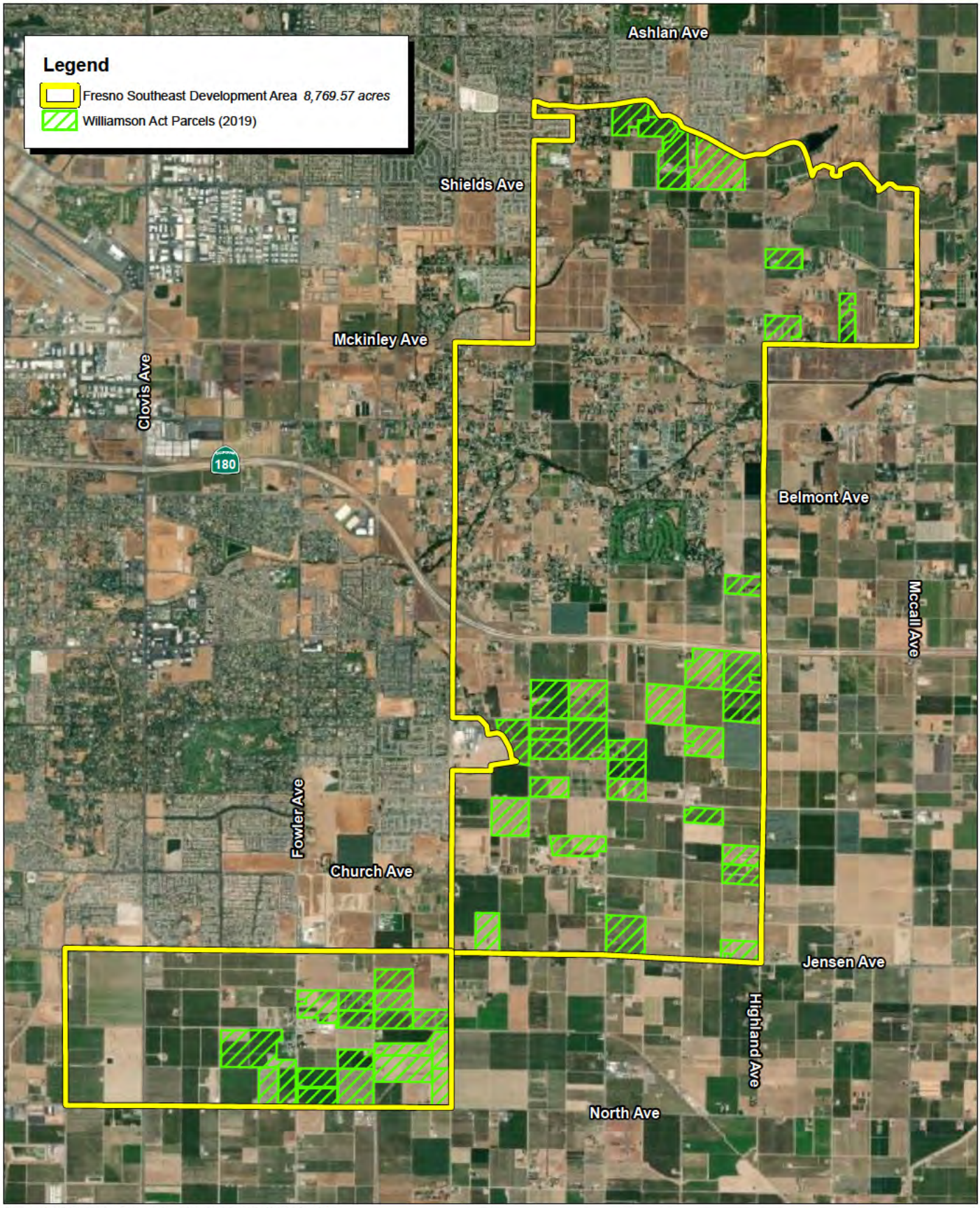
Level of Significance After Mitigation

Significant and unavoidable impact.

Forest Land and Timberland

Impact AG-3: The proposed project would not 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)).

As identified in the General Plan, no land within the City or SOI is used for forestry purposes and no land within the City or SOI is designated or zoned for forestry resources. Therefore, the Plan Area



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery. City of Fresno (2019). LSA

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4,600 2,300 0 4,600 Feet

Exhibit 3.2-2
Williamson Act Contract Parcels

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the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan (Storm Drain Master Plan), which is developed and updated by FMFCD. FMFCD's Storm Drain Master Plan divides the service area into many local drainage areas of 1–2 square miles throughout Fresno. Drainage area boundaries are determined by geographic and topographic features and the economics of providing storm drainage service to the watershed. Storm drainage facilities within a drainage area typically consist of storm drain inlets, pipelines, retention basins, urban detention (water quality) basins, and stormwater pump stations. Surface grading improvements such as streets, curbs, gutters, and valley gutters are part of the City of Fresno infrastructure, but the general grading of these features is governed by the Storm Drain Master Plan to provide a coherent implementation of drainage within Fresno.

All inlets, pipes, and pump stations within each drainage area are maintained by the FMFCD. The gutters, along with public streets and sidewalks, are maintained by the City's Street Maintenance Division. It is assumed that this maintenance agreement will remain in place for the foreseeable future. The FMFCD's Storm Drain Master Plan includes 164 adopted or proposed drainage areas, most served by a retention or detention facility.[30] FMFCD basins have been sized for capacities of 2-year storms and for at least 60 percent of average rainfall;[31] FMFCD allows a 20 percent change in volume before basins need to be resized or relocated.

Stormwater collection in the City begins with street gutters that collect and convey stormwater runoff to storm drain inlets. The runoff is collected in these inlets and delivered to FMFCD's pipe networks, pump stations, and infiltration basins for groundwater recharge. Most runoff is discharged into recharge basins, but during heavy rainfall events, excess runoff overflows into a system of relief channels and canals that discharge to the San Joaquin River, its tributary streams, local agricultural canals, and FID facilities.

Storm drain inlets are located at low points in the topography as determined by the Storm Drain Master Plan. Pipeline alignments and sizes are also shown on the Storm Drain Master Plan. Pipeline alignments are subject to change as development proposals are put forward by development projects. Retention basin and urban detention basin locations and sizes are part of the Storm Drain Master Plan as well. Basins are sited in the topographic low point of the drainage area. All of the storm drainage pipelines within the drainage area are directed to the basin for that area. Retention basins store and percolate stormwater from the drainage area if time between storms permits; otherwise, the water is pumped to designated irrigation canals. Urban detention basins provide quiescent (still) conditions for the removal or settling out of suspended solids prior to discharge of the stormwater to the San Joaquin River.

The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan area consists of drainage areas that are completed (e.g., all Master Planned facilities are constructed and functional) or in the process of being completed (e.g., portions of the retention basin, pipelines, and inlets are constructed and other portions are not). For the drainage areas that are in the planning stage, the planning area may be planned and documented and the retention basin land may be purchased, but no construction has occurred; other areas may not have the land purchased for the basins yet. Implementation of the Storm Drain Master Plan

[30] Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD). 2016. 2016 District Services Plan.
[31] Ibid.

occurs in response to development activity in newly developing areas and through Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) in previously developed areas.

Plan Area

In accordance with the Storm Drain Master Plan and other planning documents, the FMFCD is developing improvements for the Plan Area for storm drain facilities. The Plan Area encompasses all or part of the following existing drainage areas: BG, BL, BM, BS, CS, DS and, DV. Proposed drainage areas for SEDA include DT, DU, DW, DX, DY, and DZ. Most of the existing drainage areas include existing storm drain collection facilities, but the proposed drainage areas generally have no existing storm drain facilities. Areas DS and DV are the exceptions in that they are existing drainage areas with basins but have not been built out to Master Plan conditions. FMFCD improvements include storm drain inlets and piping, which are being analyzed and developed in conjunction with the proposed land uses for the Plan Area. Those portions of the Plan Area encompassed in existing drainage areas include Master Planned utilities designed by FMFCD.

There are seven existing basins contributing to stormwater collection for the Plan Area and six proposed basins within the Plan Area. There are also two existing basins outside of the Plan Area that are not part of existing drainage areas, including the Redbank Basin and the Fancher Creek Basin, which may contribute to additional drainage capacity; however, these two basins were not considered in the analyses completed as part of the Storm Drain Technical Study prepared for this Draft PEIR (Appendix I). FMFCD basins are designed for a capacity of a 2-year storm and for at least 60 percent of average rainfall. Per the FMFCD, the proposed drainage areas for SEDA have not been adopted yet, and the basin locations have not been finalized. Table 3.10-1 shows the capacities of both existing basins that serve the Plan Area and proposed basins that will serve the Plan Area.

Table 3.10-1 Drainage Areas and Basin Capacities

Drainage Area Designation	Drainage Area Size [A] (acres)	Basin Volume [B] (AF)	Basin Design Use	Basin Type	Relief Line to FID Facility
Existing Drainage Areas/Basins					
BG	755 753.61	232.1	Nonresidential	Recharge	Yes; Washington Colony Canal
BL	782 783.63	301.1	Residential	Recharge	No; relief line to Basin BH
BM	1,519	390.4	Residential	Dual Use	No; relief line to Basin BH
BS	1,341 1190.39	396.7 401.3	Nonresidential	Recharge	Yes; Mill Ditch
CS	854 860.99	346.5	Nonresidential	Recharge	Yes; Washington Canal
DS [C]	1,960 1958.14	1,383.3	Residential	Undetermined [D]	Yes; Mill Ditch and Redbank Basin
DV [C]	505	230.0	Nonresidential	Undetermined [D]	Yes; Briggs Canal and Fancher Creek

Drainage Area Designation	Drainage Area Size [A] (acres)	Basin Volume [B] (AF)	Basin Design Use	Basin Type	Relief Line to FID Facility
Proposed Drainage Area/Basins					
DT	983975.46	232.4	Residential	Undetermined [D]	Yes; Fancher Creek
DU	1,307 1268.94	323.8	Residential	Undetermined [D]	No; relief line to Basin DV
DW	756 749.99	233.9	Residential	Undetermined [D]	Undetermined
DX	879 877.9	304.5	Residential	Undetermined [D]	Yes; Briggs Canal
DY	749 771	295.2	Nonresidential	Undetermined [D]	No; relief line to Basin DZ
DZ	698 694.5	263.6	Nonresidential	Undetermined [D]	No; relief line to Basin BG

Notes:
AF = acre-feet
FID = Fresno Irrigation District
FMFCD = Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
GIS = Geographic Information System
[A] Drainage area sizes obtained from GIS Shape Files provided by FMFCD.
[B] Basin volumes obtained from H&H calculation sheets provided by FMFCD.
[C] Existing drainage area and basin but not yet built out.
[D] Approved use of proposed basins will be determined via coordination between FMFCD and City.
Source: Blair, Church & Flynn Consulting Engineers. SEDA Specific Plan Storm Drain Technical Study. June 10, 2022.

Flooding and Inundation

The City of Fresno is located in the alluvial fans of numerous foothill stream sand creeks that drain the western slope of the Sierra Nevada foothills. These streams include Big Dry Creek, Alluvial Drain, Pup Creek, Dog Creek, Redbank Creek, Mud Creek, and Fancher Creek. Numerous smaller, unnamed drainage courses also drain into the City from the rural areas east of Fresno.

Based on a review of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the City of Fresno,[32] there are areas that are subject to the 100-year flood frequency flood zone as shown in Exhibit 3.10-1. The primary area that is subject to the 100-year flood zone is along the San Joaquin River below the bluffs. There are additional areas in the vicinity of the Fresno International Airport, the SEDA Specific Plan Area in the vicinity of the Redbank Creek Dam, adjacent to SR-180 east of Clovis Avenue, and within an industrial area east of SR-99, south of California Avenue and north of Jensen Avenue. In addition, various detention basins are subject to the 100-year flood zone.

Project Site

According to the FIRMs that include SEDA, a majority of the SEDA Specific Plan Area is outside the 100-year flood zones; most areas are located within Zone X (unshaded) (outside the 500-year floodplain with minimal risk of flooding) as shown in Exhibit 3.10-1.

[32] Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 2021. National Flood Hazard Layer. Website: https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer. Accessed June 13, 2022.

Fresno Municipal Flood Control District Post-Development Standards Technical Manual

The FMFCD published a Post-Development Standards Technical Manual[37] in 2014 to provide development and redevelopment standards to address stormwater quality requirements for projects in areas that do not drain to the Regional Stormwater Management Basin System. Per the manual, five drainage areas in the FMFCD service area do not drain into a stormwater management basin and two areas outside the service area do not drain into a regional stormwater management basin. These post-development requirements were developed to comply with the MS4 Permit maintained for stormwater and non-stormwater discharges from MS4 to waters of the United States. The manual provides guidance and recommendations for implementing stormwater quality BMPs with the intention of improving water quality and mitigating potential water quality impacts from stormwater and non-stormwater discharges.

Fresno Municipal Flood Control District Standard Plans and Specifications

The FMFCD maintains a set of standard specifications and plans intended to serve as requirements for FMFCD improvements and projects. The specifications and plans are maintained and published by FMFCD for use by designers and contractors.

3.10.4 - Methodology

The potential project-related impacts related to hydrology and water quality were evaluated on a qualitative basis due to the programmatic nature of this Draft PEIR. Qualitative impacts were assessed by evaluating the project's potential for impacting hydrology and water quality within the Plan Area based on information regarding the current service commitments and capacities of public service providers within the Plan Area.

Technical studies were developed to analyze the impacts of development under the proposed Specific Plan versus the approved General Plan; the Storm Drain and Water Technical Studies are applicable to this section. General Plan land use classifications and Specific Plan land use classifications were provided by the City of Fresno Planning and Development Department in the form of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Shape files. GIS and Shape files were also obtained from the City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities for the existing facilities in Fresno, including the Plan Area.

The Water Technical Study (Appendix F) focused on the analysis of water demand in the Plan Area and how it may change based on Specific Plan development. For the General Plan land use case, the technical memorandum prepared by West Yost Associates for the City of Fresno General Plan Update Master EIR[38] was used in obtaining projected water demand data for SEDA. For the Specific Plan analysis, the water demand factors used were prepared by Akel Engineering as part of the Metro Plan Update.[39] The GIS files for the General and Specific Plan land uses were used to determine the total areas of each land use classification. The water demand factors were then used with the area of the corresponding land use classification to determine a total water demand for the Plan Area based

[37] Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD). Post-Development Standards Technical Manual. June 2014.
[38] West Yost Associates. Hydraulic Evaluation of the Proposed 2035 General Plan Land Use Update for the Master Environmental Impact Report. Table 2. Water Demand Comparison for General Land Use Plan Land Changes. January 21, 2013.
[39] Akel Engineering Group Inc. Water and Wastewater Unit Factor Update for Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan Update. October 2020.

waters or groundwater. Additionally, construction materials such as fuels, solvents, and paints may result in contamination of stormwater and present a risk to surface water quality.

New projects that are 1 acre or larger in size will be required to comply with the General Construction Permit, Order No. 2012-0006-DWQ, issued by the State Water Board, and will need to develop and implement a SWPPP to estimate sediment risk from construction activities to receiving waters, and specify BMPs that would be used by the project to minimize pollution of stormwater.

Future development would be required to prepare, implement, and be consistent with the Construction General Permit, including the SWPPP and BMPs, which would reduce project construction impacts on water quality to less than significant. Therefore, construction impacts associated with water quality standards and WDRs would be less than significant.

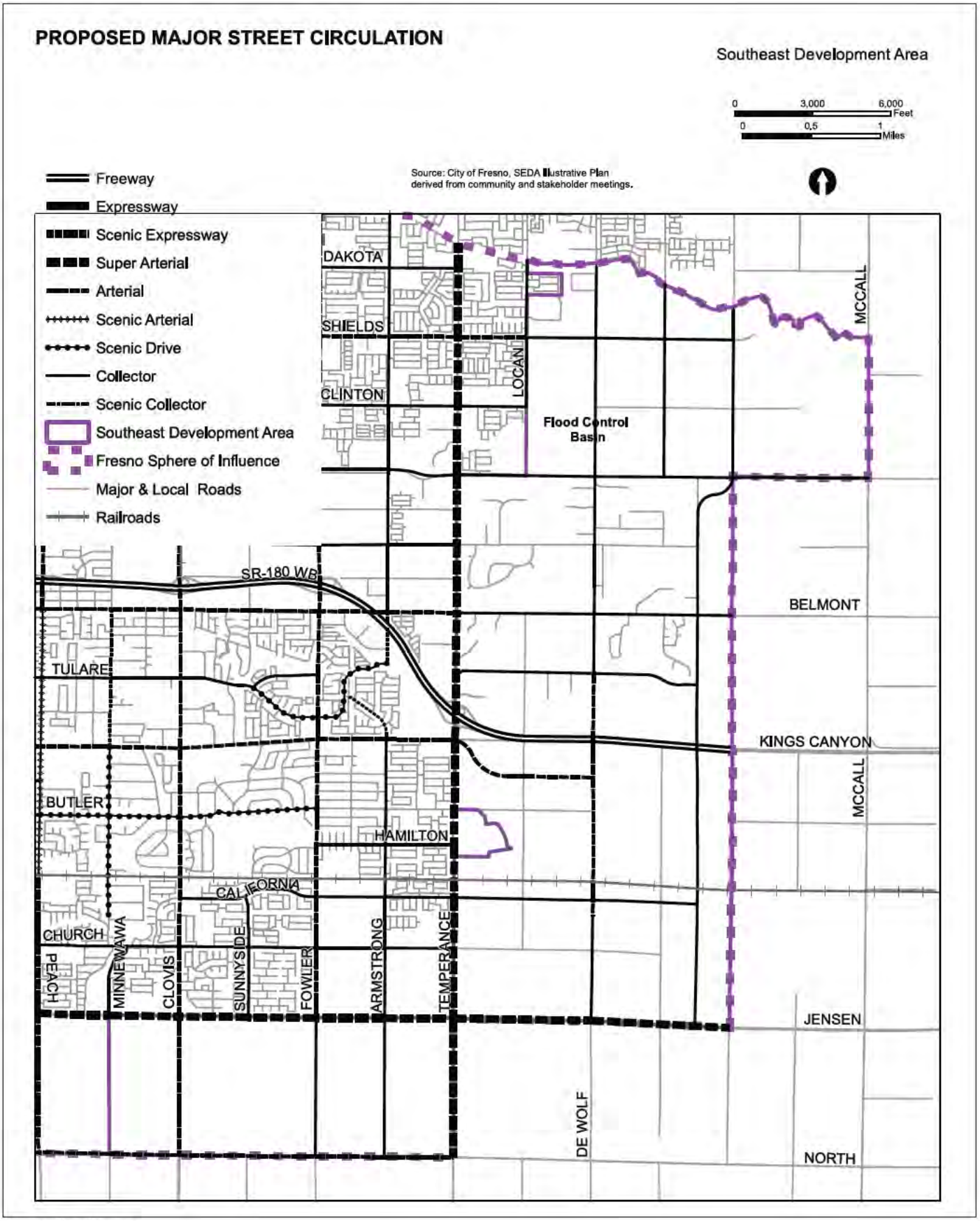
Operation

The Plan Area will eventually be under the jurisdiction of the FMFCD for stormwater and flood control management. (Portions of the Plan Area are currently within FMFCD boundaries, with the rest actively being developed and annexed.) Stormwater runoff is collected by FMFCD facilities and will typically end up in retention basins. These basins will sometimes be forced to discharge water to surface waters during periods of heavy or consistent rain. These discharges may increase the concentration of sediment and pollution found in stormwater.

Typically, stormwater runoff from urban development contains an array of constituents, such as automotive fluids (e.g., fuels, oils, antifreeze), combustion and exhaust byproducts (e.g., lead, cadmium, nickel), sediments, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and nutrients and bacteria pollutants from domestic and agricultural animal waste. These constituents are expelled into the environment throughout the year, where they settle onto the ground surface. During the wet season, stormwater runoff conveys these pollutants downstream, resulting in polluted stormwater runoff, especially during the first storm events of the season.

Water quality treatment for post-construction discharges to stormwater in the FMFCD urban flood control system area is provided by retention basins. Development in the FMFCD Master Plan area is exempt from further water quality requirements as long as the FMFCD's Storm Water Quality Management Plan is implemented. Storm drainage improvements are funded by local drainage fees paid by developments and constructed by either FMFCD, developers, or both. Basins are effective at reducing average concentrations of a broad range of contaminants via filtration through soil and are built to design criteria exceeding Statewide Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan standards. There are seven existing basins contributing to stormwater collection for the Plan Area and six proposed basins within the Plan Area. FMFCD basins are designed for a capacity of a 2-year storm and for at least 60 percent of average rainfall.

The City is a co-permittee with the FMFCD, the County of Fresno, the City of Clovis, and California State University Fresno in the Phase 1 NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharges from MS4s. This Phase 1 MS4 Permit requires that the City and its co-permittees implement water quality and watershed protection measures for all development projects. The WDRs contained in the NPDES Permit have been designed to be consistent with the water quality standards and goals established



Source: City of Fresno

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Exhibit 3-17.1
Proposed Major Street Circulation Network

rural streams management, local stormwater drainage, stormwater quality management, water conservation, recreation, and related wildlife management. The FMFCD coordinates with cities and the County of Fresno via a framework provided in the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan (Storm Drain Master Plan), which is prepared by the FMFCD as a specific element within the general plan of each agency. The Storm Drain Master Plan identifies urban and rural drainage area boundaries, computes runoff flows based on planned land use, identifies facility size and location, establishes street grades necessary to accomplish drainage of the runoff from the point of origin to the nearest collector facility, and identifies natural channels requiring preservation.

Stormwater collection in the City is typically completed via FMFCD facilities. It begins with street gutters that collect and convey stormwater runoff to storm drain inlets. The runoff is collected in these inlets and delivered to FMFCD's pipe networks, pump stations, and infiltration basins for groundwater recharge. Most runoff is discharged into recharge basins, but during heavy rainfall events, excess runoff overflows into a system of relief channels and canals that discharge to the San Joaquin River, its tributary streams, local agricultural canals, and FID facilities.

The Storm Drain Master Plan divides FMFCD's service area into many local drainage areas of one to two square miles throughout the City. All inlets, pipes, and pump stations within each drainage area are maintained by the FMFCD. The gutters, along with public streets and sidewalks, are maintained by the City's Street Maintenance Division. It is assumed that this maintenance agreement will remain in place for the foreseeable future. The FMFCD's Storm Drain Master Plan includes 164 adopted or proposed drainage areas, with all but five areas served by a retention or detention facility. FMFCD basins have been sized for capacities of two-year storms and for at least 60 percent of average rainfall;[45] FMFCD allows a 20 percent change in volume before basins need to be resized or relocated.[46] Retention basins are designed to provide storage for up to 6 inches of rainfall on the drainage area watershed given typical runoff to rainfall ratios used for urban drainage design.

FMFCD pipes range in size from 15 to 108 inches, and basins range in size from 5 to 25 acres. The drainage areas are delineated along topographic boundaries and are limited in size from 200 to 600 acres. This size limitation helps reduce the size requirements of the collection and disposal facilities.

FMFCD utilizes three means to implement drainage systems for the Metropolitan Area. One method is the use of Community Block Grants and low interest infrastructure loans from the State of California to construct drainage facilities in the older, previously developed areas of the City. A second method is to form assessment districts under the provisions of the 1915 Bond Act; assessment districts were formed based on drainage area boundaries, the parcels within the assessment districts were assessed a proportional share of the cost of the collection and disposal system, and the drainage system for the drainage area was constructed. The third and currently employed method is to collect drainage fees from parcels as they develop based on their prorated share of the cost of the drainage area collection and disposal systems. The implementing ordinance for the drainage fee structure is adopted by the City, and the drainage fees are collected by the City when entitlements are granted or building permits are issued.

[45] Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. 2016. District Services Plan.
[46] Placeworks. 2017. Southwest Fresno Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report. August.

FMFCD is also a primary participant in groundwater recharge for the City. Unlined retention basins provide recharge of both stormwater runoff and imported water from the San Joaquin River and Kings River. Through a cooperative agreement, the City uses FID canals to deliver allocated water from the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers to these basins for groundwater recharge.

Flood Control

FMFCD provides flood control measures on major creeks and waterways that drain to the City; these waterways include Big Dry Creek, Alluvial Drain, Pup Creek, Dog Creek, Redbank Creek, Mud Creek, and Fancher Creek. The flood control measures maintained are designed for the 0.5 percent exceedance interval (i.e., 200-year-return frequency) flood flow event, which include a series of dams and detention basins. These include the Big Dry Creek Dam, Fancher Creek Dam, Redbank Dam, Friant Dam, Alluvial Drainage Detention Basin, Pup Creek Detention Basin, Redbank Creek Detention Basin, Fancher Creek Detention Basin, and Big Dry Creek Detention Basin.

Project Site

In accordance with the Storm Drain Master Plan and other planning documents, the FMFCD is developing improvements for the Specific Plan Area for storm drain facilities. The Specific Plan Area encompasses all or part of the following existing drainage areas: BG, BL, BM, BS, CS, DS and, DV. Proposed drainage areas for SEDA include DT, DU, DW, DX, DY, and DZ. Most of the existing drainage areas include existing storm drain collection facilities, while the proposed drainage areas generally have no existing storm drain facilities. Areas DS and DV are the exceptions in that they are existing drainage areas with basins but have not yet been built out to Master Plan conditions.

FMFCD improvements include storm drain inlets and piping, which are being analyzed and developed in conjunction with the proposed land uses within the Plan Area. Those portions of the Plan Area encompassed in existing drainage areas include master planned utilities designed by FMFCD.

There are seven existing basins contributing to stormwater collection for the Plan Area, and six proposed basins within the Plan Area. There are also two existing basins outside of the Plan Area that are not part of existing drainage areas, including the Redbank Basin and the Fancher Creek Basin, that may contribute to additional drainage capacity; however, these two basins were not considered in the analyses completed as part of the Storm Drain Technical Study (Appendix I). FMFCD basins are designed for a capacity of a 2-year storm and for at least 60 percent of average rainfall. Per the FMFCD, the proposed drainage areas for SEDA have not been adopted yet and the basin locations have not been finalized; those presented here have been placed by FMFCD staff.[47] The Specific Plan must be analyzed and evaluated for impacts on the aggregate area and each planned basin area.

An area's runoff rate and volume are heavily affected by the amount of impervious surfaces within the area. Imperviousness is directly related to the type of land use and can either positively or negatively affect an area's drainage capabilities with a change in impervious surfaces. A common characteristic that can define an area's imperviousness, i.e., its ability to handle drainage during

[47] Wade, Denise. FMFCD Master Plan Special Projects Manager, FMFCD. Personal communication: email. February 22, 2022.

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Jennifer Clark (Jennifer.Clark@fresno.gov)
Director, City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
21 August 2023
Re: Southeast Development Area Plan Impact Analysis

Dear Ms. Clark,

I am writing as a planning consultant who specializes in transportation impact evaluation concerning the Southeast Development Area Plan transportation impact analysis as described in the 14 July 2023 SEDA's *Draft Program Environmental Impact Report* and related documents.

This plan's predictions of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are significantly flawed because it assumes an unrealistic internal trip capture rate that would reduce per capita VMT from 46 to 5 daily VMT, which is much lower than typical new developments.

The analysis assumes that the SEDA would be developed based on Smart Growth principles to create complete, multimodal neighborhoods where residents walk, bike and use public transit for most trips. These assumptions are unrealistic and not supported by the current proposal. For example, although the plan includes some mitigation strategies (p. 3.17-31-32), these are modest and unlikely to reduce vehicle travel 90% – significant VMT reductions require financial incentives such as cost-recovery pricing applied to all parking, plus grade-separated transit services – and complete communities typically take decades to fully develop and achieve their potential vehicle travel reductions.

New analysis tools and guidance documents are available that could provide more accurate predictions and guidance for achieving VMT reduction targets:

Caltrans (2020), *Vehicle Miles Traveled-Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide*, California Department of Transportation (https://dot.ca.gov); at https://bit.ly/3DDSm5H. Also see *SB 743 Implementation Resources* (https://dot.ca.gov/programs/sustainability/sb-743/sb743-resources).

CAPCOA (2021), *Handbook for Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions*, California Air Pollution Control Association (www.caleemod.com); at www.caleemod.com/handbook/index.html.

F&P (2022), *Providing VMT: Getting Beyond LOS*, Fehr & Peers (www.fehrandpeers.com); at www.fehrandpeers.com/vmt-impacts.

ITE SB 743 Task Force (2021), *ITE Guide to SB 743: Transition from Level of Service to Vehicle Miles Traveled*, Northern California ITE (www.norcalite.org); at https://bit.ly/3CU1DIe.

Todd Litman (2018), *Land Use Impacts on Transportation*, Victoria Transport Policy Institute (www.vtpi.org); at www.vtpi.org/landtravel.pdf.

Deborah Salon (2014), *Quantifying the Effect of Local Government Actions on VMT*, Institute of Transportation Studies (https://its.ucdavis.edu); at ww3.arb.ca.gov/research/apr/past/09-343.pdf.

Robert J. Schneider, Susan L. Handy and Kevan Shafizadeh (2014), "Trip Generation for Smart Growth Projects," *ACCESS 45*, pp. 10-15; at http://tinyurl.com/oye8aqj. Also see the *Smart Growth Trip-Generation Adjustment Tool* (https://tinyurl.com/mtuhz4j8).

Most experts recommend that North American communities start growing upward instead of outward. Fresno is currently not very dense and most existing housing stock is moderate-density single-family. To implement Smart Growth and maximize sustainability and transportation efficiency, Fresno should support infill development within the existing urban boundaries rather than expand to new areas.

In my opinion, the Plan's current analysis significantly underestimates vehicle traffic congestion, crash, emission and resulting air quality impacts. Until more accurate travel modeling can be completed, and air quality impacts adjusted, this PEIR fails to predict the project's significant social and environmental impacts, and so fails to provide the information that policy makers, practitioners and the general public need to make informed decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes,



Todd Litman

GRANVILLE

August 22, 2023

Ms. Georgeanne White
City Manager
City of Fresno
Georgeanne.White@fresno.gov

Subject: Concerns Regarding City of Fresno's Southeast Development Area Specific Plan

Dear Ms. White,

I am writing on behalf of Granville Homes to express our concerns about the City of Fresno's Specific Plan for the Southeast Development Area. While we support the City's commitment to responsible development, we believe that certain aspects of the plan require careful consideration to ensure a balanced and successful outcome. Below are several Specific Plan items that raise significant concerns for us.

Policy UF-8.1

Cul-de-Sacs

Policy UF-8.1 appears to largely disallow cul-de-sacs. Cul-de-sacs very often improve traffic flow, safety and community interaction. Adding restrictions with respect to the amount of lots located in cul-de-sacs will drive away many potential homebuyers and will also lower the integrity of neighborhoods.

Alleys

While alleyways may offer limited benefits, they also introduce challenges related to aesthetics, accessibility, and overall functionality within neighborhoods. Most importantly, alleyways will greatly reduce backyard space at a time when many homebuyers are demanding to have more backyard. Inclusion of alleyways will also diminish the variety of product available to homebuyers due to constraints on buildable area. We hope the resulting policy will encourage, but certainly not require, alley-loaded products in developments.

Gated Neighborhoods

We are opposed to the suggested elimination of fully-gated neighborhoods. Gated communities provide security and exclusivity, attracting homeowners seeking a certain level of privacy. The City will lose out on a significant number of potential homeowners by eliminating gated neighborhoods in such a large section of the City. With unrestricted pedestrian access, gated vehicular access would become little more than an annoyance, especially for seniors.

Block Length

We are also concerned about the proposed reduction in neighborhood block lengths to 500 feet. I disagree with the assumption that shorter block lengths necessarily increase walkability and pedestrian accessibility. Shorter block lengths will disrupt the organic flow of neighborhoods and can lead to frequent street crossings. While short block lengths may be ideal for a downtown district, that does not mean it would add the same value for residential development.

Policy OS-14.2 - *Infrastructure Requirements*

Policy OS-14.2's requirement for complete infrastructure installation before residential development will result in significant delays and challenges. While we understand the need for comprehensive infrastructure, a more flexible approach would allow for smoother construction progression. We believe procedures and safeguards are already in place to ensure timely completion of infrastructure improvements.

We believe that a collaborative effort involving developers, City officials, and community members will lead to a comprehensive plan that addresses these concerns while aligning with the City's vision. We are eager to engage in further discussions to find balanced solutions that benefit the development and the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to contribute positively to the Southeast Development Area's success.

Sincerely,

Darius Assemi
President
Granville Homes, Inc.

From:	Arakel Arisian
To:	Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc:	k[redacted]@gmail.com; Mel Kazarian; d[redacted]@att.net; Menas Arisian
Subject:	SEDA Comments on EIR and Specific Plan
Date:	Friday, August 25, 2023 6:17:00 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello Adrienne –

I wanted to share comments on the SEDA EIR and Specific Plan on behalf of my clients, Harrison Farms. These comments were submitted through the Survey Monkey link, but I also wanted to provide them to you via email in case there was a technical issue with the online submittal. Below are their comments. Have a nice weekend!

"To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Southeast Growth Development Area Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Harrison Farms owns approximately 159 acres within the SEDA Specific Plan area (APN: 310-063-05 & 310-143-27), located just south of McKinley Avenue to the Fancher Creek, between Temperance and DeWolf Avenues. Given the opportunity afforded to us collectively with size of these properties, our intention is to master plan the parcels for future development. We are eager to begin that process in conjunction with the City's planning efforts. With that in mind, we want to provide the following comments:

1. Potential Phasing Plan – the current SEDA Policy Draft does not explicitly provide a development phasing plan, although previous versions of the plan and correspondence referred to four distinct phases. We are in support of having no phasing for the SEDA area. If the City decides to phase the project, we request that the Harrison Farms properties be included in phase 1 and that the EIR sufficiently analyzes an alternative that allows for that option. Related to phasing, we would like to provide the following comments:

    a. **Infrastructure** – major facilities for SEDA (e.g. sewer and water) will be installed in Temperance Avenue and the properties are between one-half mile and one-quarter mile from where that infrastructure will be available. In the past, several public meeting attendees have suggested a west-to-east phasing in order to leverage the significant infrastructure investment that is being made to allow development in SEDA.
    b. **Proximity to the Bradley Center** – our property is less than a mile from the future Clovis Unified Bradley Center, which expected to be a major hub for SEDA. Allowing our property to develop with other properties in the first phase, to which we are immediately adjacent, will bring needed housing and other land uses within close proximity to the Bradley Center. Related to 1a, it is recommended that the infrastructure needed for the school is coordinated and installed with the needed infrastructure for development.

c. **Circulation within SEDA –** one of the major challenges to developing SEDA is traffic and circulation. Currently De Wolf Avenue, which is planned to be an important north-south roadway does not connect between Olive and Belmont Avenues, along the east side of our property. Developing this area as part of phase 1 would allow the planning and potentially earlier construction of that needed connection. Completing DeWolf Avenue would alleviate traffic congestion on Temperance Avenue and other roadways in SEDA, particularly when infrastructure is being constructed in Temperance. It is recommended that the EIR traffic study examine the timing of the DeWolf Avenue connection as a part of the traffic mitigation timing.

2. Land Use Density – the proposed residential land use densities do not include an important range from .5 dwelling units per acre to 6 dwelling units per acre. We are requesting the City either to include that missing density range and/or allow for it through plan policies, as doing so would provide for a wider range and variety of housing types. It would also allow for a transitional increase in density for any project adjacent to existing rural residential. It is recommended that the EIR analyze and contemplate a scenario where future projects are developed at less than 6 units per acre. There are also other land use requirements that should be discussed further prior to the adoption of the plan.

We look forward to continuing to participate in the public engagement process and thank you for this opportunity to comment."

Thanks,
Arakel

Arakel A. Arisian
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August 27, 2023

Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
Ms. Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: "Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486.

Dear Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos,
Ms. Adrienne Asadoorian,

Comment in General: This plan is basically a "blank check" plan. No mitigation is allowed in the controversial areas. Also, over and over again, it is stated that once the plan is adopted, the various areas of contention would then be worked out. This reminds me what has happened at the Federal level when Congressmen stated we must pass the legislation and afterwards analyze it to see what it says. THIS IS WRONG and so very unfair to property owners as well as tax payers who will have to cover the expenses of a blank check! I find it very hard to understand how your department can endorse something that is so blatantly wrong.

I also find it difficult to understand why you promote a plan that you do not have concrete answers for. At the Town Hall meetings we were given answers that were vague, indirect, seemingly deceptive, or contradictory. Considering how massive this plan is, how disruptive this is to hundreds of lives, how intrusive this is, and how it will ultimately change the dynamics of Fresno, residents should be entitled to clear answers from those who want to implement this plan. To be so unprepared with a project of this magnitude is inexcusable and offensive.

The first three words of the Constitution are "We the People". The way your organization is handling this portrays an abusive City Government with the "Almighty Dollar" taking priority. It is very disheartening, especially knowing that there are options besides taking the most fertile farmland.

The EIR is inadequate as it is based on ad hoc decisions to be made in the future and not on a set plan. Therefore, it cannot be properly evaluated and should be abandoned.

I contest the following areas of the EIR for the following reasons:

Cost Factors

Comment: The City of Fresno has not addressed the taxpayer's cost to implement this development. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Climate Factors

Comment: The City of Fresno has not addressed the climate goals. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Section 3.2 Agriculture Resources and Forestry Resources

Impact AG -1

Question: With the loss of the Ag land, please site the studies done to accommodate the loss of income for the Hmong Farmers. Hurting a minority is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and must be corrected.

MM AG-1.1

Question: Since the City of Fresno has documented their intent on preserving Prime Farmland, how can this plan be acceptable under the city's goals? Over riding signed documents of preserving Prime Farmland is unacceptable and must be corrected.

Section 3.3 Air Quality

MM AIR 1c

Question: How is the increase in the electrical grid going to affect Fresno? Not knowing the impact is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

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Section 3.11 Land Use and Planning

Impact LAND-2

Question: This plan contradicts Fresno's written policy of preserving prime farm land. Please explain how this plan is not in conflict with the preservation of prime farm land. Over riding signed documents of preserving Prime Farmland is unacceptable and must be corrected.

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Question: How much of the 45,000 homes will be affordable housing? Jennifer Clark has been reported as saying this detail would be worked out after the City Council approves the project. This is a "blank check" and is unacceptable. This should be corrected and addressed prior to approval.

Section 3.15 Public Services

Question: In the high density areas, how are firefighters, police and first responders going to be able to help people without roads within the areas? Public safety is the number one concern. This plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Question: Who is going to pay for the massive bill to build schools to accommodate the high density population located in the Sanger School District? Since Sanger Unified has replied to this Project with great concern, please document the projected costs involved with the School district and the plan to fund these schools. Why have no estimated costs been given? Are you concerned that that truth would be detrimental to the Project? Going forward with no plan to implement school growth is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. Asking taxpayers to fund a "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Section 3.16 Recreation

Question: We have been told at the Town Hall Meetings that Eminent Domain is not involved with the Project Plan. Please clarify. Does Eminent Domain occur only after the area is rezoned? Please state facts concerning the plans for Eminent Domain and Rezoning. The indirect answers we have been given are unacceptable. If Eminent Domain and rezoning will not occur, please give us a signed document stating such information.

Section 3.17 Transportation and Traffic

Question: What transportation will be available for the residents in the high density areas to obtain high paying jobs in other areas of town? If the 15 minute cities are designed to confine residents to the area without opportunities to pursue jobs on the North side of town, this is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Question: How is the City of Fresno planning to pay for the infrastructure cost? It has been reported that this will be ironed out after the council approves the massive project. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed prior to any approval.

Section 3.18 Utilities and Service Systems

Impact UTIL – 2

Question 1: What are the significant environmental effects of constructing new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities? Please site the studies made and the data concerning the results of the studies. To accept this Plan without detailed information is endorsing a "blank check". This is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. Information and projected costs need to be published.

MMUTIL-1a

Question: What is the plan for additional water capacity? In the Town Hall Meetings we have not received any definite answers.

Comment: A definite plan should be in place prior to adopting the EIR as the water issue will be huge with the mega increase in the amount of people. The water issue will have a major impact on the city as a whole. To adopt the EIR without any plan in place is like giving someone a blank check to do whatever they want even if it was detrimental to the environment. The plan is unacceptable as is and needs to be corrected.

MMUTIL – 1b

Comment: The water supply system needs to be evaluated prior to the adoption of the plan. There is enough information in the plan to be able to be able to evaluate proposed water supply improvements as well as evaluate the environmental impact. To move forward without this information is unacceptable and needs to be addressed. Tax payers should not be endorsing a "blank check".

MMUTIL – 1d

Question: When you expand the wastewater system, are current property owners paying for hooking up to City Sewer? What will be the cost?

Comment: We have not received a clear answer at the Town Hall Meetings. However, we were told that the property owners were to pay for sewer hookup, the cost is around $30,000, a loan would be available, and if the owner were to sell a lien would be placed on the home to cover the costs. Please give us exact information as to what it will mean for connecting to the City Sewer System and site your source of information. Keeping information from the property owners is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

MMUTIL – 1f

Question: What will the long term impact on the environment be when expanding or relocating electric, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities for a project of this magnitude. Please site your studies. No information concerning this is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Impact UTIL – 2

Question: The EIR states there are sufficient water supplies for this project and foreseeable future development. Please state your source and details to support this statement. Considering the water levels, the years of drought and the projected number of people you plan to accommodate, this is one of the most important issues that needs to be addressed. Stating that there are "sufficient water supplies" is totally unacceptable. This needs to be corrected and addressed in detail as the ramifications of a limited water supply are huge! Allowing the Plan to address this after the Plan is adopted is endorsing a "blank check" for major problems ahead.

Questions:

1. Where are you drawing your water source from?
2. Is the Kings River considered a source even though it is already low?

This project is huge and the lack of information is unacceptable.

Questions:

1. Once our wells run dry, we are not allowed to drill lower. How can you tell us that this will not impact our wells?
2. We have been told that if we are annexed into the City we have 5 years to hook up to City Water.

Our questions have been evaded and the answers given have been contradictory. This is unacceptable! This needs to be addressed and corrected!

Questions:

1. Is the property owner responsible for the cost of connecting to City water? If so, is the cost between $30,000 - $50,000? If the property owner doesn't have the money, is a loan required and is a lien put on the house if the owner intends to sell?
We have not been given definite answers. This is unacceptable. A plan of this magnitude should have answers for the property owners.

2. We have also been told that if a property is on a corner, the owner is responsible for hooking up to water in two directions. Please clarify. If this is the case, this is unacceptable! Since when should the property owners be penalized for the developers' benefit?

MM UTIL-2a

Question: The summary refers to the refined measures and standards that the city plans to use to reduce the per capita water use and implement water saving and conservation standards. What are they? Please give details. Without details this plan is unacceptable. Again, this is endorsing a "blank check". Please address and correct.

Section 3.19 Wildfire

Impact WILD-1

Question 1: With the proposed high density housing plan, what is the emergency response plan? If there is no plan, there needs to be one prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life. Without an emergency response plan in place, this plan is unacceptable. This needs to be corrected.

Question 2: What is the emergency evacuation plan in the high density housing area?
Comment: If there is no plan, there needs to be one prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life. Without an emergency evacuation plan in the high density housing area, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Impact WILD 2

Question: Due to the close proximity of the high density housing, and therefore, the high wildfire risks of rapid spreading, what is the plan to protect the occupants from pollutant concentrations? Without a plan in place, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Question: Due to the close proximity of the high density housing, and therefore, the high wildfire risks of rapid spreading, what is the plan to prevent rapid spreading? Without a plan in place preventing rapid spreading of fire, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Impact – WILD 3

Question 1: Without the infrastructure of roads, fuel breaks, etc., what plans will be implemented to protect the safety of occupants in the high density areas during an emergency?
Comment: If there is no plan, this is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. There needs to be a plan in place prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life.

Question 2: Without the infrastructure of roads, fuel breaks, etc. how will firefighters and rescue personnel be able to access various locations in the high density areas during an emergency? This needs to be addressed and corrected in the EIR or the plan is unacceptable.

Impact – WILD 4

Question 1: Should an unexpected potential threat develop from flooding, landslides, etc., what is the plan of evacuating people?
Comment: If there is no plan, this is unacceptable and needs to be corrected There needs to be one prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life.

Based on the above reasons, the EIR for the Fresno Southeast Development Area, Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 should not be accepted.

Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as updates concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Helen Ramming

Helen Ramming
SEDA area property owner
Member of Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

August 27, 2023



Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
Ms. Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: "Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486.

Dear Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos,
Ms. Adrienne Asadoorian,

Comment in General: This plan is basically a "blank check" plan. No mitigation is allowed in the controversial areas. Also, over and over again, it is stated that once the plan is adopted, the various areas of contention would then be worked out. This reminds me what has happened at the Federal level when Congressmen stated we must pass the legislation and afterwards analyze it to see what it says. THIS IS WRONG and so very unfair to property owners as well as tax payers who will have to cover the expenses of a blank check! I find it very hard to understand how your department can endorse something that is so blatantly wrong.

I also find it difficult to understand why you promote a plan that you do not have concrete answers for. At the Town Hall meetings we were given answers that were vague, indirect, seemingly deceptive, or contradictory. Considering how massive this plan is, how disruptive this is to hundreds of lives, how intrusive this is, and how it will ultimately change the dynamics of Fresno, residents should be entitled to clear answers from those who want to implement this plan. To be so unprepared with a project of this magnitude is inexcusable and offensive.

The first three words of the Constitution are "We the People". The way your organization is handling this portrays an abusive City Government with the "Almighty Dollar" taking priority. It is very disheartening, especially knowing that there are options besides taking the most fertile farmland.

The EIR is inadequate as it is based on ad hoc decisions to be made in the future and not on a set plan. Therefore, it cannot be properly evaluated and should be abandoned.

I contest the following areas of the EIR for the following reasons:

Cost Factors

Comment: The City of Fresno has not addressed the taxpayer's cost to implement this development. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Climate Factors

Comment: The City of Fresno has not addressed the climate goals. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Section 3.2 Agriculture Resources and Forestry Resources

Impact AG -1

Question: With the loss of the Ag land, please site the studies done to accommodate the loss of income for the Hmong Farmers. Hurting a minority is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and must be corrected.

MM AG-1.1

Question: Since the City of Fresno has documented their intent on preserving Prime Farmland, how can this plan be acceptable under the city's goals? Over riding signed documents of preserving Prime Farmland is unacceptable and must be corrected.

Section 3.3 Air Quality

MM AIR 1c

Question: How is the increase in the electrical grid going to affect Fresno? Not knowing the impact is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Question: The document states that air pollution emissions will increase substantially in Southeast Fresno (possibly by 600% in some areas). The public health impacts of this pollution on local residents has not been analyzed in the EIR. Apparently the City wants to deal with this after the Project's approval. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and documented prior to approval.

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Question: How much of the 45,000 homes will be affordable housing? Jennifer Clark has been reported as saying this detail would be worked out after the City Council approves the project. This is a "blank check" and is unacceptable. This should be corrected and addressed prior to approval.

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Question: We have been told at the Town Hall Meetings that Eminent Domain is not involved with the Project Plan. Please clarify. Does Eminent Domain occur only after the area is rezoned? Please state facts concerning the plans for Eminent Domain and Rezoning. The indirect answers we have been given are unacceptable. If Eminent Domain and rezoning will not occur, please give us a signed document stating such information.

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Based on the above reasons, the EIR for the Fresno Southeast Development Area, Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 should not be accepted.

Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as updates concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Helen Ramming

Helen Ramming
SEDA area property owner
Member of Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

Karen Musson

[redacted]

August 26, 2023

Ms. Jennifer Clark, Director
Ms. Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno Planning & Development
2600 Fresno Street, Ste. 3065
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Ms. Clark and Ms. Asadoorian,

RE: FRESNO SOUTH EAST DEVELOPMENT AREA SPECIFIC PLAN AND EIR - COMMENT

This letter of comment on the City of Fresno's EIR and proposed South East annexation plan (SEDA) of 8,700 acres is to voice my opposition to the unnecessary taking of more Prime Farmland to promote urban sprawl.

SEDA's proposed plan for consideration will consume 7,700 acres of currently productive agricultural land in Fresno County. Prime Farmland is limited and cannot be mitigated/ replaced by preservation trusts, conservation easements or fees/policies. Ag farmland is in serious jeopardy - not from drought or climate change - but from indifference, urban sprawl, burdensome regulations, and a lack of understanding on the critical role of food production to our freedom, jobs, and health. Agriculture is essential and its destruction should be avoided at all risk.

Urban sprawl fuels flight and blight – and redirects city financial investments to focus on additional costly infrastructure and provide public services for fire and police protection. **Extending the sphere and encompassing more land is not the solution.** The Greenfield Coalition report on Urban Decay points to inefficient utilization of land, decay, deferred maintenance, outdated infrastructure, revenue loss and negative neighborhood effects. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/eb1233cfb60048df8a02ba8b83998da7

In 2019, the City of Fresno used GIS to calculate more than 8,200 acres (or 14%) of vacant land within its existing city boundaries and identified the current zoning of these parcels to determine that this undeveloped land has the capacity to hold over 134,000 housing units. More than enough land and housing for the next 40 years!

Further, the State predicts continued slow to no growth in the Valley over the next 40 years. The City has not grown and population figures show continuing decline, lower birth rates and relocations north and out-of-state locales. It's time for a new vision and investments to revitalize older parts of Fresno and in-fill parcels. https://thesungazette.com/article/news/2023/08/08/state-predicts-population-plateau-for-valley-future/#:~:text=California%20now%20stands%20at%20about,to%208.3%20million%20by%202060.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City's Draft EIR. It is my hope that LAFCo will vote to deny the SEDA Specific Plan, rescind the 2006 Sphere of Influence and allow Fresno County to preserve Prime Farmland and avoid the sizeable impacts and costs outlined in the project's EIR.

Respectfully,

Karen Musson

cc: Mayor Jerry Dyer
Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Councilmembers Bredefeld, Karbassi and Chavez
LAFCo

8-27-2023

To whom it may concern:

The Southeast Development Area consists of 9,000 acres located roughly West to East, between Temperance Ave. and McCall Ave. and, South to North, between Jensen Ave. and the Gould Cannel. Also South of Jensen Ave. to North Ave. and from Temperance Ave. to Miniwawa.

This 9,000 acres is made up of dense housing to the North and more rural housing and farmland to the South. About 7,000 acres of the 9,000 acres is prime farmland and has been for over 100 years.

Many of the rural homes properties are of 1 acres or more up to about 40 acres. The farmland is from 2.5 acres going up to 500 acres and more.

My concern is that many of the property owners who have held their property for 50 years and longer and have done their long range planning with the intent of passing their homestead, ranch, orchard or farm onto a family member to continue their planned estates for years to come, have not been treated fairly.

Many of these older property owners do not understand why the City of Fresno thinks that it can disregard everything the property owners have planned for years and threaten them with plans that show the City taking away their property just to build more and more housing.

I have talked to a great many of these 80-year olds and what the City, SEDA, has done and is still doing is nothing short of ‘elder abuse’. Many of these people were not notified by the SEDA group and when they were notified by the SEPO group were greatly disturbed and in some cases upset, threatened and confused to the point of being life threatening.

So the SEDA group continued on with its planned takeover by following plans laid out by the 'Long Range Planning Department' and checking off their checklist.

1. Notification of Property Owners, 'CHECK'. (Poorly Done).
2. Meetings to inform property owners and residents in the affect area, 'CHECK'. ('Very Poorly Done).
3. Postponing the EIR to be released in the hottest time of the year and when families are in their vacation cycle or harvest season and not thinking of what lies ahead for them.
4. Planning 'Drop in' meetings (3) which proved not to be 'Informational' meetings but merely required items to be 'Checked' off and be able to say "Yes we did all the required items to inform the public'.

But the public has NOT all been informed.
At the last 'Drop in' meeting at Long Elementary School in Clovis, I met and had the privilege of informing and bringing up to speed two separate property owners from the affected area who had never been notified of the SEDA plan. These both were hard working family men who just the day before were informed by their neighbors that they needed to contact someone in the SEPO group and find out what was going on. They contacted the SEPO group and were advised to come to the Long Elementary School in Clovis and to talk to the people in the RED shirts.

Again, I go back to the elders that live in the area. The 80+ bunch. I am one of this group. I am 84 and my wife of 63 years and I have lived on our property for approximately 50 years. When we pass on, the property it will automatically belong to our son. Being in the County we have our own well and septic system. I am an engineer and have been building, living with and taking care of wells and septic systems all my life.
The only real danger to our well and septic system is the City of Fresno and the SEDA plan. They are the only and greatest danger to everyone living in the SEPO area.

I/we are very aware of the comments by the SEDA group and the City that no one is going to be forced or removed from their property and that 'you can live there as long as you like'. BUT all the literature and maps that the SEDA group displayed prove that to be a lie. Each and every one of the maps presented show and display in great detail all of the planned usage for the area and they all are missing one thing. They are missing the people that live there now. Today.

You must remember that 'elder abuse' is a real threat to many of the elder population's lives today. ARE YOU GUILTY?

Lyle R Nelson, President,
SEPO Group, Southeast Property Owners
[redacted]

November 28, 2008

TO: City of Fresno
Planning & Development Department
2600 Fresno Street Room 3065
Fresno CA 93721-3604

FROM: Michael & Marilyn Mathew
[redacted]

RE: Comments/Concerns To The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Pursuant To The Requirement Of The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) For South East Growth Area (SEGA) Specific Plan

Dear Sirs:

Our first concern is with the SEGA plan in general. It has been stated during this planning process that a primary goal is "to preserve the rural/ag way of life" within the SEGA. It is impossible for us to envision anything other than a major impact, not only to the current population's "way of life" but also to the environment and landscape of the area, particularly with the addition of 45,000 dwelling units and 120,000 people.

If the concepts used to formulate the SEGA plan are valid, why are they not being implemented on the undeveloped land that lies between the city and western borders of the SEGA? Similarly, we have inquired (without response) as to the plans for the land use to the north, south, and west of Fresno. It appears that no similar plans are available or being considered for these areas.

It has been impossible for us to formulate opposition to the "Open Space/Green Belt" concept of the plan. Our inquiries as to specifics have been met with replies of, "this is conceptual in nature," or "the plans are only tentative". Nevertheless, areas have been designated on the "approved" general plan along Fresno Irrigation District (FID) canals that appear to be parkways which include multiuse trails.

The previously mentioned canals, many of which are not "natural waterways," exist for the sole purpose of conveying water to various agricultural parcels via the FID system. Some of them are strictly man made with banks that exceed natural grade by 4+ feet: they hardly qualify as a natural waterway by any stretch of the imagination.

The use of these areas as greenbelt/parkways with multiuse trails should be avoided for a wide variety of reasons. During the 15 years we have lived at our current

27
2600 mm

location, we have acquired an intimate knowledge of the flora and fauna that inhabit our land. Multiple species of mammals and fowl are present; thriving and reproducing in the area. Some are permanent residents and others are migratory. We are also painfully aware of the ill effects to the environment when people encroach into this area. Some of these effects are immediate such as shooting or stoning the wildlife, trashing the landscape, and contaminating the water with liquid products. One of the worst effects, the displacement of the wildlife, is much longer lasting (days, weeks, months). This occurs simply from the presence of humans. It is unfortunate, but people do stupid things, and the vast majority of these infractions are committed by "outsiders" who we assume are ignorant or just do not care. We refer to these individuals as having an "urban mindset". One thing we know for sure, the wildlife must be afforded room to live and reproduce. Even the most benign encroachment into their "space" results in these species immediately leaving the area.

The canal systems we are describing are on privately owned land, with the FID enjoying a non-exclusive right-of-way for their operations. Both the land owners and the FID prohibit or at the very least strongly discourage people from entering the vicinity of these canals. The reasons for restricting access are varied and we have only mentioned a few, but the no trespassing signs and gates erected along these canals are not in place because the present owners lack anything else to do with their time.

If the purpose of the greenbelt/parkway areas is in fact to "preserve" an open space and the flora and fauna contained therein, we have limited objections. However, if these areas are used to mitigate the stark changes that will occur in the high density areas, designate them as an "open space" on the specific plan, and the present land owners will in fact preserve them. The city need not acquire any land, but rather leave all of the current zoning and restrictions in place. The way the plan has evolved, it appears the city really is not interested in having an open space at all, but rather a recreational area with multiuse trails. This plan of action changes these areas from open spaces with restricted human encroachment, to areas that encourage the 120,000 new residents to transiently occupy and thereby permanently change the environment. Make no mistake, the 120,000 people that this plan invites into these canal areas are a population with the afore mentioned "urban mind set". What places this type of individual in the area, is the "high density" life style that the current general SEGA plan promotes and provides for, not the "rural" life style it claims to preserve.

The adoption of the proposed plan, without modification, will present a non-inclusive array of problems to the environment and public such as:

- Increased air pollution
- Increased noise pollution
- Degradation of water quality (surface water in particular)
- Displacement of wildlife (including migratory birds)
- Permanent alteration of the natural landscape
- Devaluation of land to adjoining parcels
- Public safety (from cold and swift water flow during the season, to steep and dangerous rip rap and concrete lined embankment during the off season)
- Vandalism and destruction of existing privately owned infrastructure within the greenbelt areas

27 MM

- Vandalism and destruction of private property on adjoining land
- Increased criminal activity due to the remoteness of the trails
- Light pollution if trails are illuminated for night use

Occasionally, there are times when less is more. The specific SEGA plan may be the opportunity for one of these moments. As mentioned before, the city could leave these areas alone and retain current zoning for the greenbelt areas. No land would be acquired by the city and the city's resources could be applied to other infrastructure within the SEGA. Current land owners would not be faced with a major change in their properties or its valuation. The open areas would truly mitigate some of the undesirable effects caused by the "high density" development. The multiuse trails could be moved to the vehicular traffic corridors that are going to require improvements anyway. The public would use these bike/pedestrian trails not only for recreation, but also as a means to safely travel within the SEGA between high density areas by other than vehicular use. The proposed greenbelt trails do not afford this possibility as they start from nowhere and end the same.

Respectfully,

Michael Mathew

Marilyn Mathew

27mm

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Michael Mathew

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

OS-4, OS4.1 → 4.6
On 8/25/22, at a "pop-up" meeting on the Mill 36 canal, Andrew Benelli stated that a smooth topped 4' high wrought iron fence would be constructed to provide a safety barrier for the public. It's intent would be to prohibit the public from gaining access to the canal. Does the City still believe such a barrier is adequate protection for the public?

COMMENT CARD

Name:

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Email:

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Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

29 MM

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

What data &/or evidence does the City have that this type of structure is adequate? If so what maintaince (& by whom) will insure the barrier continues to function as designed?

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Michael Mathew

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

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Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

OS-4, OS 4.1 → 4.6

WHAT MEASURES WILL THE CITY EMPLOY TO PROHIBIT TRAIL TRAFFIC FROM WANDERING ONTO ADJACENT PRIVITE PROPERTY LITTERING/VANDILIZING THE ADJACENT LANDSCAPE?

WHAT MEASURES WILL BE UTILIZED TO PROTECT PROPERTY OWNERS PRIVACITY? WILL THESE MEASURES CONFORM TO THE EXISTING COVENATES, CONDITIONS & RESTRICTIONS

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

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Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

THAT APPLY TO PARCEL?

WHAT MEASURES WILL KEEP HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS FROM BEING CONSTRUCTED?

30 mm

COMMENT CARD

Name: Michael Mathew

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

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Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

OS-4, OS4.1 → 4.6

THE PLACEMENT OF ANY TYPE OF CANALSIDE TRAIL WITHIN A GREENWAY SECT IS IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH POSTED & PUBLISHED US EPA STANDARDS & SUGGESTIONS REGARDING INTERACTIONS WITH WILDLIFE IN SANTUARY SETTINGS. QUOTE FROM MORRO BAY NATURAL ESTUARY PUBLICATIONS: "AS YOU ENJOY MORRO BAY AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS, PLEASE KEEP A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE FROM BIRDS, MARINE MAMMALS, & OTHER WILDLIFE. REPEATED DISTURBANCES BY PEOPLE & PETS ADD UP. USE BINOCULARS TO GET A CLOSER LOOK." WHAT PROVISIONS DOES THE PLAN PROVIDE THAT ENSURES WILDLIFE REMAINS UNMOLESTED? WHAT PROVISIONS GUARANTEE THAT NO VIOLATIONS OF MIGRATORY BIRD ACTS WILL OCCUR? ESP. WITH EXISTING NESTING SITES FOR WATER FOWL, SWALLOWS ET. al.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

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(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

24mm

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Michael Mathew

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

OS-4, OS-4.1 → OS-4.6

I've been told repeatedly by planning staff that they know where people want trails located. Provide documentation that these locations include canal side trails. It's also stated repeatedly that the waterways are the primary location to provide a view of the water. Please explain how that can be accomplished considering the typical topography.

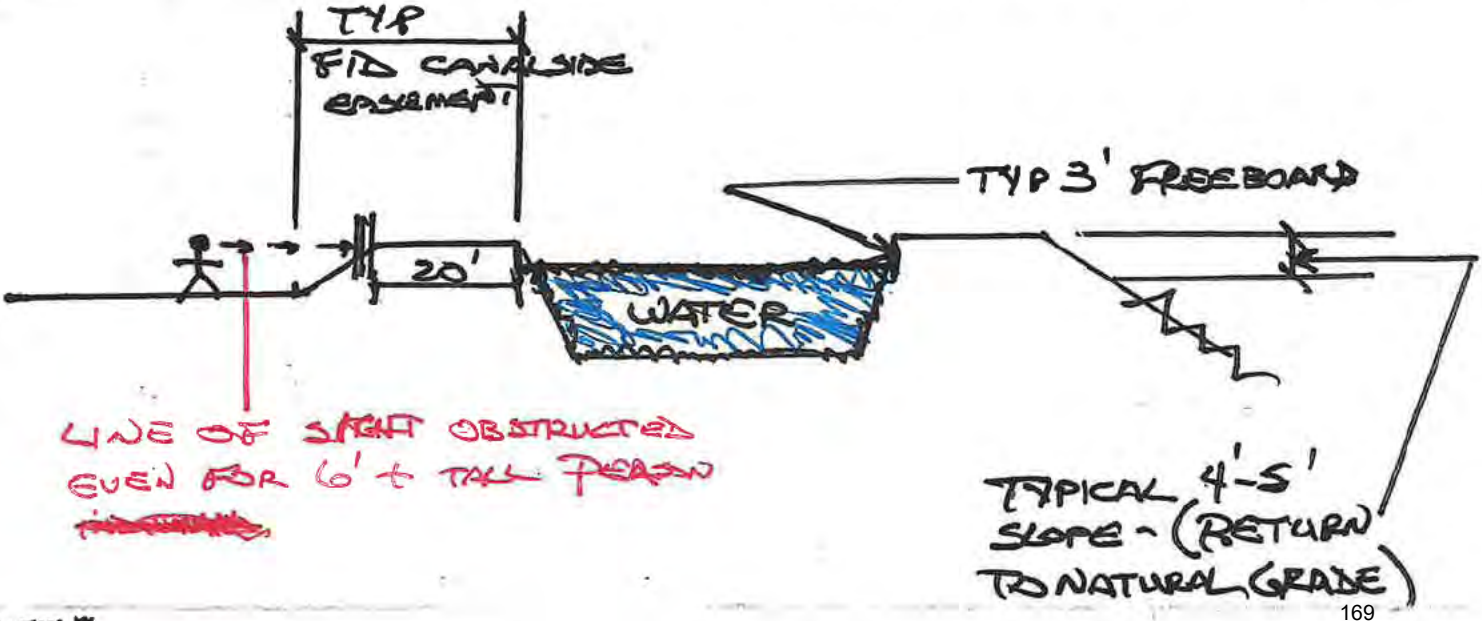
EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE THE CANAL IS EMPTY APPROXIMATELY 60% OF THE TIME ON AN AVERAGE YEAR.

NOTE: CANALS EXIST IN FLOOD PLAINS & DISTURBING GRADE CAN BE RESTRICTED.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan



25mm

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Michael Mathews

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

THE ORIGINAL SEGA/SEDA PREMISE WAS THIS GROWTH COULD PRESERVE THE "RURAL WAY OF LIFE" IN THE AREA. HOWEVER, NUMEROUS IMPACTS ARE NOTED IN THE EIR THAT ARE LISTED AS "SIGNIFICANT & UNAVOIDABLE IMPACT" EVEN AFTER MITIGATION EFFORTS ARE INACTED I.E. SE 3.1: AES-1 AES-2, AES-3 AES-4, CUMMULATIVE IMPACT. SECTION 3.2: AG-1, AG-2, CUMMULATIVE IMPACT. SECTION 3.3:, AIR 1, AIR-2, AIR3, CUMMULATIVE IMPACT. SECTION 3.8: GHG-1, GHG-2, CUMULATIVE IMPACT. SECTION 3.9: HAS BEEN LISTED AS "LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT,

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Michael Mathews

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

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Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

~~18 MM~~ 26 MM

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

BUT THIS IS [redacted] WITHOUT DISCOVERY AS OF THIS DATE WHEN HAZARDOUT WASTE SITES ARE PRESENT IN THE AREA SECTION 3.13: NOI-1 2 & b, NOI-2 NOI-3 CUMULATIVE MANY OTHER SECTIONS ARE LISTED AS NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED & LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION AS N/A WHICH IS HIGHLY SUSPECT.

WITH THIS MANY ITEMS LISTED AS N/A OR "SIGNIFICANT & UNAVOIDABLE IMPACT", HOW CAN THIS PLAN PROCEED?

From: Nancy Nelson
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc: Nancy Nelson
Subject: SEDA EIR COMMENTS
Date: Sunday, August 27, 2023 7:48:41 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.1 Aesthetics, Light and Glare

Impact AES-3 and 4 Project will degrade existing character of public views…. (Significant and unavoidable impact)

Concern: This proposes too much – more than necessary - light for the area. Current residents moved to the country to avoid such things as light and glare.

From: Nancy Nelson
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc: Nancy Nelson
Subject: SEDA EIR COMMENTS
Date: Sunday, August 27, 2023 7:50:25 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.1 Aesthetics, Light and Glare

Impact AG-1 Project will convert Prime and unique Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. (Significant and unavoidable impact)

Concern: The proposed Farmland Preservation Program reads like a riddle.

"Restrictive Covenants or Deeds, In Lieu Fees, Mitigation Banks, Fee Title Acquisition, Conservation Easements, Land Use Regulation."

Deeds, Fees, Regulations are not going to help lost Farmland. So they'll analyze on a project-by- project basis – the land will still be used for Non-Farm purposes. It is destruction and a waste of Prime Farmland! Current residents strongly object to this.

From: Nancy Nelson
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc: Nancy Nelson
Subject: SEDA EIR COMMENTS
Date: Sunday, August 27, 2023 7:56:52 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.7 Geology and soils

Impact Geo-2 (N/A Significance after Mitigation.) The proposed project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. (N/A - level of significance…)

Comment: Top soil certainly will be lost when project builds on top of it! Unless they scrape the top soil off before building on it – with a plan to sell it back to us later.

From: Nancy Nelson
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc: Nancy Nelson
Subject: SEDA EIR COMMENTS
Date: Sunday, August 27, 2023 7:58:56 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.9 Hazard and Hazardous Materials Impact Haz-2 MM HAZ-2b ….(3)_ Geographic surveys to ascertain the presence or absence of subsurface features of concern such as underground storage tanks, drywells. drain, plumbing, and septic systems.

Concern: While people representing the City of Fresno verbally tell us, on one hand, that property owners can stay in their homes as long as they want to stay, here is the threat of disrupting our septic systems. A good septic system can serve homeowners 50 years or longer without problems. Disruption or removal would cause residents to not be able to stay in their homes another minute!

Connecting to the city's sewer would be an expense many property owners could not afford. We don't want to be forced to pay these expenses when our current *conditions* are serving us well.

From:	Nancy Nelson
To:	Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc:	Nancy Nelson
Subject:	SEDA EIR COMMENTS
Date:	Sunday, August 27, 2023 8:01:27 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.9 Hazard and hazardous Materials Impact Haz-2 MM HAZ-2c …. If findings and conclusions of the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment…demonstrates the presence of concentrations of hazardous materials exceeding regulatory threshold level,…property owners and/or developers of properties shall complete site remediation….. Potential remediation could include the removal or treatment of water and or soil.

Concern: While people representing the City of Fresno verbally tell us, on one hand, that property owners can stay in their homes as long as they want to stay. While, on the other hand, here is the threat of disrupting our wells. That disruption would cause residents to not be able to stay in their homes another minute!

Connecting to the city's water systems would be an expenses many property owners can not afford. We don't want to be forced to pay those expenses when our current *conditions* are serving us well.

From: Nancy Nelson
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc: Nancy Nelson
Subject: SEDA EIR COMMENTS
Date: Sunday, August 27, 2023 8:02:41 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.9 Hazard and Hazardous Materials Impact Haz 3 - Project could emit hazardous emissions or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one quarter mile of an existing or proposed school

Concern: It irresponsible to consider exposing students in an existing school to hazardous emissions or materials. It's important for students to have outdoor activities and critical for their air to be clean at all times. A quarter of a mile is only about 1300 feet. During outdoor activities students could be exposed to the project's hazardous air. It's wreckless to propose situations where their clean air would be compromised.

From: Nancy Nelson
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc: Nancy Nelson
Subject: SEDA EIR COMMENTS
Date: Sunday, August 27, 2023 8:25:47 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.1 Aesthetics, Light and Glare

Impact AG-2. The proposed project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract. (Significant and unavoidable impact.)

Question: Using SEDA's "suggested" project map – and using the intersection of Butler and DeWolf as one example - how can the City build their planned '*Regional Center*' with all of the planned residential and commercial projects in that area when most of the land is protected under the Williamson Act? (Reference: attached most current map available – Fresno County Williamson Act map - 2015).

https://databasin.org/datasets/6871c77c876d421b985b1b70ee1640f5/

August 24, 2023

Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno, City Clerk
Fresno City Council, Chairman and Council Members
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor
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OPPOSE LETTER – EIR AND EDA/PROPOSED LAND USE/ANNEXATION/ BY THE CITY OF FRESNO

Dear Chairman, Council Members, City Clerk, and Ms. Asadoorian:

Please accept this letter as our **opposition** to the City of Fresno's EIR report and the SEDA development, annexation, proposed land use and the map thereto, which is an item that is expected to go before the City Council in or about October 2023.

Our specific property/land sits next to what is known as the Briggs Canal. It is our understanding that water in the Briggs comes from the Kings River. This water is what irrigates properties for the food that you and I to eat and serves a greater purpose. It is serviced and maintained by Fresno Irrigation District (FID). The District's web page, under About Us, states as follows: The FID is a leader in California water, serving over 200,000 acres of prime agricultural farmland … Farmland sitting next to or that abuts a water structure such as ours is rare in Fresno County and not easily attainable. With our property adjacent to Briggs, it is irrecoverable and we would suffer a great loss. Therefore, we oppose the redevelopment and conversion of prime farmland to serve a purpose as Flexible Research and Development, which by the City's definition means no residential uses will not be allowed. That would therefore leave eminent domain which the City has stated would not be used however if I do not sell and my neighbor does not sell then there is no other recourse but for the city to use eminent domain. We have all seen what has occurred with the Reedley lab and as stated by many of you councilmembers the public is placed at risk and so many other factors such as disease, groundwater contamination were common concerns. If we in this area "Flexible Research and Development" please explain with specificity what occurs to the property/land/farm owners the process and procedures and confirm if our property will be taken from us through eminent domain?

The City's project and plan area consists of Prime Farmland. We own 2.49 acres of farmland in the proposed SEDA plan area. We house two tractors, chickens, apricot trees, as well as house pets on our land. We are current fosters for the county animal shelter and we are able to assist with fostering of

more than one animal primarily due to the land we have. We work our land like most, if not all of the residents in this project area. Removing farmers who grow their own food; and/or who commercially feed this Community, County and State is reckless and negligent so that the City can expand. The City's proposed land use map reflects for our parcel "Flexible Research & Development." You want to take irrecoverable prime farmland for Flexible Research & Development when you can place Flexible Research & Development in the vacant Orchard Supply building (vacant for more than 5 years). Does that mean a lab such as that most recently found in Reedley, CA will go here. What does "Mixed Residential" mean on the City's map? I specifically asked if that meant low income housing, please explain. Again, there are so many other vacant buildings within the City of Fresno that would allow you to do this that we do not need to remove, redevelop and destroy Prime Farmland or Farmland in general.

We have been told on numerous occasions that we would not be required to hook up to City services (water, sewage). We believe that to be incorrect. We were told that the City would not require us to; if not the City then who? If I am the only house that does not hook up, will I be forced to hook up? What will the cost be? Is there the potential for placement of a lien on my home due to the cost of these services? Please also confirm with past projects in this area or within the City (i.e. the area in and around north Jensen and Fowler to Kings Canyon etc.) how that land development was handled and if the landowners that were pre-existing were required to hook up to City of Fresno services (water/sewage). If so, what were the services, what was the process, the cost, who was responsible to pay those charges or for those services; how many complaints did you receive from the landowners verbal and in writing, what was the remedy of said complaints; and if any of these homes resulted in liens being placed on landowners property/homes. Please also provide on current and past projects when property owners choose to stay and not sell, the city is therefore developed around their property, how many wells have gone dry due to the new development? Does this map become the zoning map for this area?

Property owners were also told by the City representatives that eminent domain is not allowed or can or will not be used on property owners and their land located on the Land Use Map for this project, please confirm if this is an accurate statement? When I spoke to Jennifer Clark at the last in-person Drop In meeting she stated that should one homeowner decide not to sell or annex, they (property owner) will not be forced to annex; however, later she stated that they (City) cannot have one house one way while the rest of the area is annexed. Please clarify this statement by Ms. Clark. How will her stated change occur if one home cannot be different from the rest? Please explain who will impose and force the annexation of the land/property owners unwilling and opposing to said annexation? Please explain the process and the impacts to the landowners as well as the changes to zoning affecting the homeowner who did not willingly annex their land. Will I still be able to farm with all these houses around me?

As you know, there is vacant land and buildings in or around Kings Canyon and Clovis Avenue; you have the Orchard Supply building that currently sits empty littered with homeless people. You have vacant land and buildings all throughout the City of Fresno and other cities within Fresno County and your plan is to destroy the Prime farmland of the SEPO (Fresno Southeast Property Owners). Destroy our farmland to build more homes, which thus creates more traffic, more congestion, more land and air pollution, more crime, and homelessness. With the Briggs Canal, if that waterway remains, with the increase in population and homelessness, our canals will turn into bathing facilities and used as restrooms. Please ask your homeless task force if that is a possibility that the homeless population uses waterways as bathing facilities and toilets? If this water is intended to feed the community, is it possible

for fecal matter, urine and other forms of illness to be in said water. Furthermore, take a drive around the City of Fresno, look at their canals and waterways, you currently have homelessness on your canal banks, tents, littered with trash (e.g. McKinley and Chestnut; in front of the Social Services building Phillip and Kings Canyon, the canal located east of Clovis Avenue--north of Kings Canyon by Orchard Supply). The City is unable to handle the demands of the current crisis and you want to spread it out. Your intent is to make a 15 minute city. We have seen the destruction of Paradise, Maui, when you began to impact the rural areas which are not intended to be within the city limits. We have water issues, we were just in a drought and there is no guarantee that we will be blessed with rain in the future. How will you control air pollution? Where will you get water from? How will you get the needed money to build the infrastructure for this plan?

The City of Fresno needs a boundary, do not grow it out here destroying the aesthetic rural southeast farmland.

The EIR REPORT:

Paragraph 1.2.1 lists the potential significant environmental issues that require further analysis. Therefore, this is incomplete. In light of this statement, we oppose this EIR and request that you vote to deny/oppose/reject.

Paragraph located on PDF page number 762 titled (Wild-2) … Pollutant Concentrations from Wildfire impacts under this topic would be less than significant and there is no substantial change. However, we disagree and oppose that statement in that the City has a wide-ranging homeless population. What factors were considered as it relates to the ongoing homeless population within city limits when addressing this issue? We see many fires started due to homelessness. City streets are littered with trash, drugs and/or paraphernalia, and the homeless population utilizing fire in order to cook or stay warm during the winter months. Therefore, we disagree with this report and believe further studies should be done. As a reminder and as stated in paragraph 3.19.7, you would be converting prime ag land to residential and mixed-use land uses. Significant and unavoidable.

Chapter 4 Other CEQA Considerations – Bulletpoint AG-1 (… Conversion of Farmland to Non-ag Uses) states 2,475 acres of land designated as Prime Farmland, 1,352 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, approximately 1,189 acres of land designated as Farmland of Local Importance, and 1,725 acres of land designated as Unique Farmland "**scattered" throughout the plan area**. The impact is significant. Based on this information contained in the EIR, we oppose and request that you vote to reject/deny/oppose and that this plan does not move forward. We further request that all maps be amended to identify the land properly in full transparency. Significant and unavoidable.

Bullet Ag-2 (… Conflict with Existing Zoning or Williamson Act Contract) – This paragraph states in part that according to the Williamson Act Property map, the majority of the Williamson Act properties within the SOI and City are located within the Plan Area. It further states that there is a significant impact on existing Williamson Act Contract land. Ultimately, you are still converting Williamson Act land to non-ag land. For this reason, we strongly oppose and request that you vote to oppose and/or deny on this basis. We further request that all maps be amended to identify the land properly in full transparency. Significant and unavoidable.

Bullet Cumulative Ag Resources and Forestry Resources Impacts states and acknowledges that there is a loss of Prime Farmland within the plan area. Under your plan, you destroy existing Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland and small farms to build or develop community farming and small farms. The EIR states that it will be a significant impact on Ag zoning and the Williams Act Contracts and there would be land use changes resulting in the conversion of farmland to non-ag uses and is unavoidable. We were told by the City at Drop-In meeting #1 on July 24, 2023 that we would not be rezoned should property owners choose not to sell. However, Jennifer Clark at the last in person drop-in meeting stated that we cannot have just one home not similarly zoned or annexed; therefore, please confirm what occurs based on Clark's statement. Rezoning would only occur if a neighbor complained, which thus alters my land use. The City's statement clearly is misleading and misrepresents what is occurring. I believe the impacts would be more than significant in that you are displacing property owners who are generational farmers, and farmers of their own land; how many of us current property owners would be physically displaced, and harmed financially. Based on this information we request that you strongly oppose and/or deny based on this statement.

Impact Air-1 paragraph states this projects exceeds the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District another significant and unavoidable impact. Based on this paragraph we request you vote to oppose and/or deny based on this paragraph. Please note that we asked at the drop-in meetings why the Air Pollution District was not a part of these meetings to share in on the added pollution due to this development.

Air-3 states that since it cannot be foreseen the amount of construction occurring nor the exact location it cannot be determined if the emissions could be adequately controlled or reduced. Based on this statement, we believe the study is not complete as it must be looked at, precise and discussed. We are opposed based on this statement and request that you vote to oppose/deny.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions cumulative impacts are significant and unavoidable. Based on this statement we oppose and request that you vote to oppose/deny.

Impact NOI-1 – This statement states that impacts are significant and unavoidable. It also states that they are unable to quantify therefore there is no true, accurate impact identified and said report is incomplete. Based on this statement we oppose and request that you vote to oppose/deny. The Cumulative Noise impact is again noted as significant and unavoidable.

Exhibit 5-2 of the EIR shows just under 2,500 acres of Prime Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide and Local Importance, Unique Farmland of Importance, etc.

The EIR Table 5-1 under paragraph 5.7 states there is no location in the City where 45,000 homes (yes the Plan calls for 45,000) could be constructed while avoiding environmental impacts to ag land. Ag land would be impacted regardless. However, the land is not your basic ag land, it is Prime Farmland, it is land that sits next to the Briggs Irrigation Ditch which is rare, it's farmland with statewide and local importance, it's my backyard, small farming, however, we the property owners choose to define it, its our land that you want to dismantle, convert, and take so that you can build 45,000 homes, parks, and research and development.

The Orchard Supply Building on Clovis and Kings Canyon has sat empty for a number of years, that can be your research and development. You want to take our farmland, our livelihood, what feeds our

families, our communities, for a bike trail, a park, a residential development to teach people to have a garden (who will teach them there is no guarantee that they will use it for such) all the while destroying the Prime Farmland we landowners have created destroying our way of life and country life. You will add 45,000 homes during a recession, a time when most cannot afford, thereby creating more empty houses. You want to disrupt our way of life and destroy the farmland that we have just to build more homes that most cannot afford. You want to help this community have your builders or developers lower the prices of their homes to sell those existing homes already built. Convert some of these developments/homes already in progress into mixed residential. Ag land should be the last thing we convert, land that currently feeds us. That salad you had for lunch, fruit, etc. came from one of us most likely.

We oppose the alternatives set forth in the EIR due to the type of land we are looking at as referred to in this report: Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide and Local Importance, Unique Farmland. Based on the impacts as listed above and based on viable alternatives, we request that you deny/oppose the EIR. Furthermore, we oppose as this EIR shows that the plan is fiscally irresponsible and environmentally irresponsible. Finally, we request that the SEDA Plan be opposed and denied. If you review the Level of Significance as outlined in the EIR, we have listed below just a few that are classified as Significant and Unavoidable; therefore, for these reasons request you oppose and deny the City's Plan and find another area or location in the City of Fresno for said projects. The impacts are significant and unavoidable.

Finally, we were informed and received in the mail, on July 21, 2023, the City's flyer for the "Drop-In" meeting; the first meeting set for July 24, 2023, hosted by the City of Fresno. As you can see from the dates, this was three days before the first scheduled meeting. As I verbally stated and inquired about with the City during the July 24th meeting, what is a the meaning of a Drop-in meeting? Who decided to title this meeting as a Drop-In? To title it as such, is misleading and misrepresenting the intent of the City and purposes of said meeting. This title lacks transparency and is intended to misstate and mislead the purpose of an extremely important topic of discussion. It does little to ensure community/public attendance, involvement, participation and is a sure way to prevent and limit public input. This is an extremely important meeting that impacts the community of southeast Fresno, specifically the Fresno Southeast Property Owners (SEPO) and therefore, I believe was titled as such to limit the number of attendees and silence the opposition. Furthermore, Sontaya Rose from the Mayor's office was in attendance and can confirm as well as other City representatives, the location picked for the first important meeting on July 24th lacked the capacity to hold the number of attendees, safely and comfortably, and posed a safety hazard in that it was about 105 degrees outside and there was no working AC inside said building thereby making it 110 degrees most likely inside with all the people in the building. As I stated on that date, I believe that was a safety hazard and put citizens at risk and compromised their health and well-being. Not one representative spoke to that and acknowledged that the first meeting should be rescheduled or some other remedy. The temperature inside the building added to the frustration felt by most of the members of the community. As I stated, this meeting labeled by the City is misleading, and a calculated manner in which to misrepresent, misstate, and divert the public's attention to what it is in actuality and that is to take and change or convert land from the property owners. Should the meeting have been labeled annexation, eminent domain, town hall, any one of those trigger words the public at large would have a true understanding of what is occurring in the southeast area of Fresno and would understand the true discussions and importance of what is happening thereby enhancing attendance and opposition. Furthermore, I see no link for those to participate virtually due to a disability, medical necessity or some other personal reason. It was stated that the City would have one day assigned to a webinar. As you know, the topics of discussion can be

convoluted and we the community would need time to research the Q&A dialogue that is provided to us therefore one day for those unable to physically attend is not enough. The public should not be limited to one day; we should all be afforded the same the ability to attend all meetings. Quite frankly, the information changes so frequently it would be in the best interest of the public to attend all meetings. As such, in this regard, **we strongly oppose**. Furthermore, the meeting by the City on 7/24/23 was very unorganized and lacked structure and foundation as to the discussions and topics and the City ran out of comment cards in English—the space allowed for comments was minimal on such an important topic of discussion.

I would also like to know why no representative of the County was in attendance at these meetings? A representative of the City was asked about annexing property and the City representative responded with the City would not annex. Please confirm the process for annexation and if not the City of Fresno, then please confirm the responsible agency. Please provide details on what grounds for annexation, the criteria or guidelines that must be met to annex property/land? If this response requires information from the County, I would ask that you direct City representatives to coordinate their response and work with the County of Fresno or any other agencies involved to get said information. I believe the City of Fresno when asked these types of questions it is their responsibility to answer in detail and they are required to be fully transparent and should be able to intelligently communicate if not their agency the appropriate agency involved and that would handle. To leave the response as simple as it's not the City, is vague and intended to mislead the public. The City knows the answer to the question and to not provide a full response is intentional. It may not be the City's responsibility to annex but if they know that it is the responsibility of another agency they should state as such.

I believe the SEDA homeowners/property owners have a right to know the following information. If there are costs associated with any of these requests, please confirm the amount or charges, in writing, prior to providing said information.

- Please provide the number of EIR's that are submitted to the City of Fresno per calendar year; and how many are rejected or voted as unapproved; how many are submitted to LAFCo per calendar year, voted as unapproved or rejected and the bases/reason for said vote.
- On April 25, 2023, an item went to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, Agenda Item #8 regarding a variance application that falls within SEDA. During Mr. Assemi's comments to the Board, he referred to having received a timeline from the Mayor on the project. Please confirm what that timeline was and if a copy can be provided electronically to the property owners should they wish to received; and please explain why a developer would have that information but not the property owners who would be negatively impacted by SEDA? When was the timeline (Assemi refers to in his comments) provided to him by the Mayor? When was this timeline provide to the property owners (SEPO) who will be impacted? If it has not been provided to the property owners, why? My household has not received a timeline from the Mayor nor was one provided to property owners at any drop-in meeting and to my knowledge a timeline has not been provided to property owners in any meeting thus far by the City of Fresno. Please confirm how many variances in the SEDA project area have gone through the process, what that process is, including how many have gone to the County of Fresno Board of Supervisors for vote and the vote result from the start of the project(s)/plan to present?
- Please identify the land parcels, land and farmland in the SEDA project area that have been purchased by developers, date of purchase, names of builders, corporations, school district, water districts, and any other business organization, corporation or entity from the start of SEDA

to present that have purchased. Please include the names, cross-streets, parcel numbers and any other identify factors of the land pending a sale, owned, purchased or sold.

- Please provide the information on when the property sold or was purchased and include land, property that is pending sale/purchase.
- Please provide the members of our community, SEPO (Southeast Property Owners), with information on how much farmland/land is currently owned in Fresno County, CA by Darrius Assemi and/or Granville Homes and any other developers, builders or business organizations.

If this type of development continues, the lack of farmland to our community as well as the substantial loss of prime farmland is irrecoverable and factor in good farmland with irrigation resources such as ours, it is irrecoverable. Therefore, **we strongly oppose** the EIR and the SEDA development and ask that you deny and reject both in order to protect and preserve our homes and land.

The City of Fresno needs a boundary, do not grow it out here destroying the aesthetic rural southeast farmland.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Natalie Ortiz & Family

SANGER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1905 SEVENTH STREET • SANGER, CA 93657
(559) 524-6521 FAX (559) 875-0311

DENNIS WIECHMANN, ED.D
SUPERINTENDENT

August 25, 2023

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner III
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Subject: Draft Program EIR for SEDA Specific Plan

Dear Ms. Asadoorian:

This letter includes the comments of the Sanger Unified School District on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan EIR. The Sanger Unified School District (District) encompasses most of the territory within SEDA (all land south of Tulare Avenue) and approximately 30,000 of the potential 45,000 new housing units.

The proposed plan shows 16 neighborhood centers within the Sanger Unified portion of SEDA, each of which would include an elementary school integrated with a park and other neighborhood center functions. High school and middle school facilities would also be needed. The District's March 25, 2022, letter in response to the Notice of Preparation indicated that the Draft Program EIR should analyze whether the number of schools shown is appropriate to serve the buildout population of the SEDA Specific Plan based on anticipated student generation rates for the various types of planned housing units. It does not appear that the information requested was provided in the DPEIR or Specific Plan. Only a very generalized estimate of the total number of students generated was provided and this is likely substantially inaccurate based on the information in the following paragraph.

On page 3.15-9, under the Student Generation Rates heading, the DPEIR cites a statewide K-12 student generation rate (0.7) and multiplies it by the total number of units anticipated in the SEDA Specific Plan area (45,000) to estimate the number of students generated at buildout of the plan (31,500 students). Since about two-thirds of the housing units would be within Sanger Unified, approximately 21,000 students would be generated in Sanger Unified. It is important to note, however, that student generation rates for individual school districts can vary greatly from the 0.7 statewide average, and there are also substantial variations in student generation rates depending on the type of unit constructed. The most recent student generation rates for Sanger Unified are .679 for single family units and .127 for multiple family units per the District's May 2022 Development Fee Justification Study.

(Note: Clovis Unified student generation rates are also less than the 0.7 statewide figure.) While the .679 student generation rate for single family units approaches the 0.7 statewide figure, the .127 multiple family unit rate is much lower than the single family rate, which is typical for most school districts. The SEDA plan provides for a large number of multiple family units to be built and the lower generation rate for such units is not accounted for in the estimate of students generated by the plan. Therefore, the estimated number of students resulting from development of the plan area would likely be substantially less than that stated on page 3.15-9. If this is the case, the number of planned schools needed might be less than that shown in the proposed land use plan.

On page 3.15-9, under the School Impact Fee heading, the discussion is oriented to street facilities fees rather than school impact fees. Shouldn't this section include information on the impact fees that the District charges for new residential and commercial/industrial development?

On page 3.15-13, under the heading of California Government Code, Section 65995(b) and Education Code, Section 17620, the fee information provided is substantially out of date. It mentions the statutory fees approved by the State as of January 24, 2014 ($3.36 per square foot for residential development and $0.54 per square foot for commercial/industrial development). The current fees as of the last time they were adjusted by the State allocation Board in January 2022, are $4.79 per square foot for residential development and $0.78 per square foot for commercial/industrial development.

The various objectives and policies related to schools on pages 3.15-24 through 3.15-27 are well thought out and laudable. Schools are essential to the fabric and success of neighborhoods and although the District has the primary legal responsibility for the location, design and operation of schools, the District wants to work closely with the City so that the objectives and policies of the plan can be realized to the extent possible.

On page 3.15-36, the second paragraph (continuation of Impact Analysis under Impact PUB-3), indicates that:

> " . . . as the City receives development applications for subsequent development under the proposed project, those applications will be reviewed by the City for compliance with the policies and objectives of the General Plan to ensure that school services keep pace with new development. In addition, the Municipal Code, which implements the General Plan would be reviewed when development applications are received. Therefore, future development under the proposed project would not result in significant adverse effects related to school services and impacts would be less than significant."

Regarding the above statement, it is unclear how reviewing development applications will ensure that school services will keep pace with new development. The key to ensure that school services will keep pace with new development is having adequate financing to build the schools in a timely manner. Schools are funded by a combination of statewide bond measures, local bond measures and developer fees. State bond measures require voter approval and are anything but certain. When they are approved, the funds are often depleted quickly due to a backlog of unfunded projects. To get state funding, school districts must match with a local funding contribution that mostly comes from local bond measures which

must be approved by local voters. The amount of the bond measures are based on assessed valuation, and the measures require a supermajority vote of either a 55% or 66.6% vote depending on the amount requested. Developer fees are an important school funding component, but they are substantially inadequate for funding schools unless state and local bond measures are approved.

Obtaining the funding necessary for 16 new elementary schools and at least another high school and middle school will be a substantial challenge if left to the current funding methods for financing schools. As stated in the EIR Notice of Preparation, implementation of the Specific Plan would require a comprehensive infrastructure plan that "must be accompanied by a comprehensive and detailed financing and implementation strategy that includes the phasing and financing of development and all major infrastructure." We believe it will be very important for the District to engage with the City in the infrastructure planning process to determine how best to fund the school facilities needed and provide them in a manner to keep pace with new development. We recognize that development of the Sanger Unified portion of SEDA is not anticipated to occur until about 2035, but it will be very important to set up an infrastructure financing plan that includes schools before this happens.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Program EIR. We look forward to collaborating with the City of Fresno in the implementation of the SEDA Specific Plan to ensure that well-located and designed school facilities can be financed and constructed when needed to serve future new development in the Sanger Unified portion of the SEDA Specific Plan. Please let me know if you have any questions on this letter.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Robles
Chief Operations Officer

From: Joshua
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Subject: SEDA
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 2:39:31 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hi Adrienne,

I am writing you because I was/ am unable to make any of the drop-in events to voice my opinion of the Southeast expansion.

I wanted to let made it be know as a property owner in the impacted area that I am very much against the annexation of our property to the city.

Not only will this forced annexation impact and diminish our rural lifestyle but It will force us to leave the area. In my opinion the City of Fresno should figure out how to effectively manage the land/area they already have, before adding more to the city limits. The city currently has many underserved and neglected neighborhoods that should be the focus rather than adding more into the city that will also, eventually, suffer the same fate. Between the homeless problem in the City and the trash/graffiti problem I don't understand how the City would even consider adding more onto an already impossibly full plate. Fix the current city before forcing us into this mess as well.

I speak for my entire family when I say I am strongly opposed to this annexation.

Please call me for any questions,

Joshua Palmer
[redacted]

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner III
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
Email: Adrienne.Asadoorian@Fresno.gov

August 19, 2023

Comments on Draft Program EIR for Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project

State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 – Comments by Mark Reitz and Dale Reitz

We would like to congratulate and thank the city of Fresno for their work in preparing this significant document and moving towards adoption of a Specific Plan for the Southeast Development Area that has been discussed and anticipated since 2007. As long-time property owners of a family home and farm within this area for over 100 years at 1080 S. Temperance (east of Temperance between the Railroad and Church Avenues), we and our neighbors welcome the opportunity to provide input to this Plan, and hopefully provide local perspective to responsible growth and for the benefit of the city of Fresno for years to come.

We have watched the city grow to the southeast over the past 50 years, and we are excited for a well-planned and responsible expansion of Fresno. Currently, there are three new major residential subdivisions directly across the street from our farm property on Temperance Ave.

We and our neighbors have attended numerous planning meetings and public presentations. We have offered our written recommendations and alternative maps regarding land use planning in our area going back to 2007. These documents have been passed on to various members of the Fresno Planning Department staff who have been very gracious in reviewing them and providing further direction for us on how we should submit our recommendations and input.

Below are a few of the justifications we presented in our prior letters and documents for relocating a portion of the Land Use Plan Area bounded by Temperance Ave. to the west, Church Ave. to the south, the Briggs Canal to the east, and the Railroad to the north, from Flexible Research and Development/Regional Business Park to a mixture of Community Center, Mixed Residential, and Neighborhood Residential. We request this change or some version of it for the reasons outlined in the documents previously submitted and summarized below. Also, considering there is a serious shortage of housing in Fresno and California this change should be desirable.

- The Sanger Unified School District has recently purchased and zoned a 15-acre parcel on the west side of Temperance about midway between the Railroad and Church Ave. This school as well as the new High School at Jensen and Fowler Avenue would benefit by having more residential homes and apartments closer to these schools to reduce car miles driven and allow walking to school.
- A community center, a small commercial center, and similar job-creating uses at this site will serve the proposed residential and mixed residential areas as well as the very large residential areas (4 square miles) to the west of Temperance between Kings Canyon Road and Jensen Avenue. Currently there are no shopping/commercial areas for over 3 driving miles to the Kings Canyon/Clovis Avenue center. Adding a small community center/office/ commercial center and some mixed residential would greatly reduce trip miles, air pollution, and noise. These uses would not conflict with the large community center proposed at DeWolf and California Avenue and would complement it by reducing trip miles between shopping/office space needed in both areas. The proposed four-lane California Avenue would support both developments and conveniently connect the Temperance and DeWolf arterial streets for both bicycle and foot traffic.
- There is significant pressure/demand on this area to develop employing these land uses due to the SR 180 Freeway completion. Temperance Avenue will be a major connector between SR 180 and Jensen Avenue for communities to the south and east such as Sanger, Del Rey, Reedley, Parlier, and Selma. There are no services, such as gas stations, grocery stores, drug stores, restaurants, etc., to serve this traffic volume. The streets and large community centers proposed over a mile to the east will not develop for 15 to 20 years or more and will not be able to serve the immediate needs. This inconvenient situation will create more trip miles, air pollution, and noise.
- More jobs will be created by the uses we proposed compared to the Business Park/Flexible R&D land uses. If these proposed Business Park lands develop in this area in the distant future, it would be primarily warehouses, storage areas, or agricultural-related processing industries. There are already many large industrial areas in the Fresno area along Jensen Avenue to the west, at the Fresno airport only 5 miles away, and in Clovis. There is no demand in this area for such land use, and it would cause this area to develop last, if ever. **By making this area Flexible R&D, it will essentially stop or severely slow development of this area and cause development to leapfrog over to areas east of the Briggs Canal. This would cause an expensive and undesirable situation for City services, such as roads, water, sewer, storm drainage, gas, and electrical, to be extended far to the east without development west of the Briggs Canal. Stranded areas of land development are sure to cause unnecessary environmental impacts, future inconvenience, and wasted money.**
- The industrial area to the north of the railroad at Temperance up to Butler Avenue is primarily an agricultural/wet industry (La Destria, formerly Bonner Packing). This is a

significant industrial development that has existed for over 125 years at this large site. Zoning of Business R&D may not be consistent with this existing use due to significant odors, noise, rail (double rail spur), truck traffic, and similar environmental impacts. We suggest that this entire area north of the railroad up to Butler Avenue be kept as industrial only. The railroad would provide a good buffer and transition to the community center/office/Mixed Residential uses we are proposing.

- If it is necessary to have a certain number of Industrial or Business Park/Flexible R&D acres in the plan, we suggest moving this zoning to south of Jensen Avenue and west of Temperance Avenue. The present plan shows some residential in these areas, which would be an environmentally unsound choice due to the heavy traffic noise, and air quality impacts created by a future six-lane roadway such as Jensen Avenue. An example of this undesirable situation can now be found on the north side of Jensen between Clovis and Fowler Avenues, where homes are being built adjacent to this busy highway.
- **As evidenced by our previously proposed application in 2008 for this modification, over 70 percent of the property owners (17 parcels) in this area do not want the Industrial/Flex R&D zoning in this area.** These property owners have owned and paid taxes on these properties for many years, in some cases over 75 years. Many of the parcels are small (less than 10 acres) and are not conducive to developing the larger parcels necessary for Business Park/Flexible R&D, which would further hamper the sales and development of the area for these uses. This condition would promote further leapfrogging over this area.
- The Phasing of Development shown as Exhibit 6 provided at the May 3rd 2022, public meeting showed our area to be developed third of four phases. We disagree with this phasing order and feel the area shown as third should be second and the area shown as second moved to third. The area south of Jensen is entirely agricultural now with no major roads completed other than Jensen Ave. There are also no utilities extended near this area. Development of this area would be much more expensive and cause additional deleterious environmental impacts. The State Center Community College is no longer planned for this area, so there is no reason for the land to be developed before the area east of Temperance Avenue between SR 180 south to Jensen Ave. The latter area is already developing due to the new Freeway and the near future extension of Temperance Ave as a super arterial. Also, the new Southeast Fresno water treatment plant is just to the northwest, and can be used to bring water to this area more economically. We would appreciate your consideration in this logical and environmentally sound change if phasing of the SEDA area is proposed.

In reading Chapter 5 of the Draft Program EIR prepared by the City of Fresno, the city considered various Land Use Alternatives. One of these, listed as **Alternative 2, Consolidated Business Park Alternative**, is described as follows:

*Under the **Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Alternative 2)**, the SEDA Specific Plan would occur as planned, but this alternative maintains the Flexible Research and Development land designations from the General Plan for the area south of Jensen Avenue. It would accommodate approximately 42,900 homes and 36,000 jobs within the 9,000-acre planning area. This is approximately 2,100 fewer homes and 1,000 fewer jobs, when compared with the proposed project. Alternative 2 would have slightly less density of development than the proposed project. The area identified in the SEDA Specific Plan as Flexible Research and Development to the east of Temperance Avenue and north of Jensen Avenue would be developed as Neighborhood Residential and Mixed Residential with two community centers and five neighborhood centers. Additionally, this alternative would change the land use designations for the planned Mixed Residential and Neighborhood Residential, along with the Community and Neighborhood Centers south of Jensen Avenue. Under Alternative 2, that area would be designated as Flexible Research and Development and Offices. **Please refer to Exhibit 5-1 for a visual representation of this alternative.***

The Exhibit 5-1 Land Use Map is enclosed with this letter as well as **Exhibit 1-1 which is the called the "Proposed Project"** in this document. This "Proposed Project" is the same land use document that has been unchanged since the original work on SEGA plan was done in 2007.

The **Alternative 2, Consolidated Business Park Alternative,** essentially agrees with what we and our neighbors have been proposing since 2008 and we are extremely pleased that it was analyzed to the same degree as the "Proposed Project" in the Draft EIR. The results of this analysis, as described in detail in Chapter 5, were determined to be an **environmentally superior alternative** as compared to the "Proposed Project" when all aspects are considered. This determination was illustrated in **Table 5-1** of the Draft Program EIR and is enclosed with this letter. Below are excerpts from the Draft Program EIR that reflect this determination as well as the project objectives relative to new dwelling units and jobs.

5.2 - Project Objectives

As stated in Chapter 2, Project Description, the objectives of the proposed project are to:

Quantified Objectives

- *Accommodate between 40,000 and 45,000 dwelling units of varying types, sizes, densities, and affordability levels.*
- *Accommodate between 30,000 and 37,000 jobs.*

5.6 - Environmentally Superior Alternative

*CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(e)(2) requires identification of an environmentally superior alternative. If the No Project Alternative is environmentally superior, CEQA requires selection of the "environmentally superior alternative other than the No Project Alternative" among the project and the alternatives evaluated. **The qualitative environmental effects of each alternative in relation to the proposed project are summarized in Table 5-1.***

Land Use and Planning

Alternative 2 would have slightly less density than the proposed project. ***Alternative 2 would not physically divide an established community. This alternative would allow for planned development and growth and would increase connectivity and support, strengthen, and connect new communities.*** *However, this alternative might reduce impacts to land use by consolidating Office Center and Flexible Research and Development land uses to the area south of Jensen Avenue.* ***Therefore, impacts to land use would be expected to be less than significant, similar to but slightly less than the proposed project.***

5.6 - Environmentally Superior Alternative

*"**The Consolidated Business Park Alternative** is the environmentally superior alternative because it has similar, but slightly less, impacts as compared to the proposed project and meets the project objectives."*

Also enclosed as a separate attachment is a brief executive summary of the relevant discussions in Chapter 5 of the Draft Program EIR that reinforce our conclusions and recommendations.

In summary we wish to thank the city and city staff for allowing us and our neighbors to comment on the Draft Program EIR. For the reasons stated above and also as stated in your own Draft Program EIR, we request that the ***Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Alternative 2),*** be adopted as the preferred land use plan and be adopted as such. We hope that the City Planning Department and the City Planning Commission will make this recommendation to the City Council for adoption based on the desires of the property owners in this area as well as the analysis performed by their EIR consultant in accordance with the CEQA process. If you have any questions, you may contact me at the address and contact information below.

Sincerely



Mark Reitz PE

[redacted]

Dale T. Reitz

Dale T. Reitz
[redacted]
[redacted]

Enclosures

CC:

Annalisa Perez District 1 Council Member, District1@fresno.gov

Mike Karbassi District 2 Council Member, District2@fresno.gov

Miguel Arias District 3 Council Member, District3@fresno.gov

Tyler Maxwell District 4 Council Member, District4@fresno.gov

Luis Chavez District 5 Council Member, District5@fresno.gov

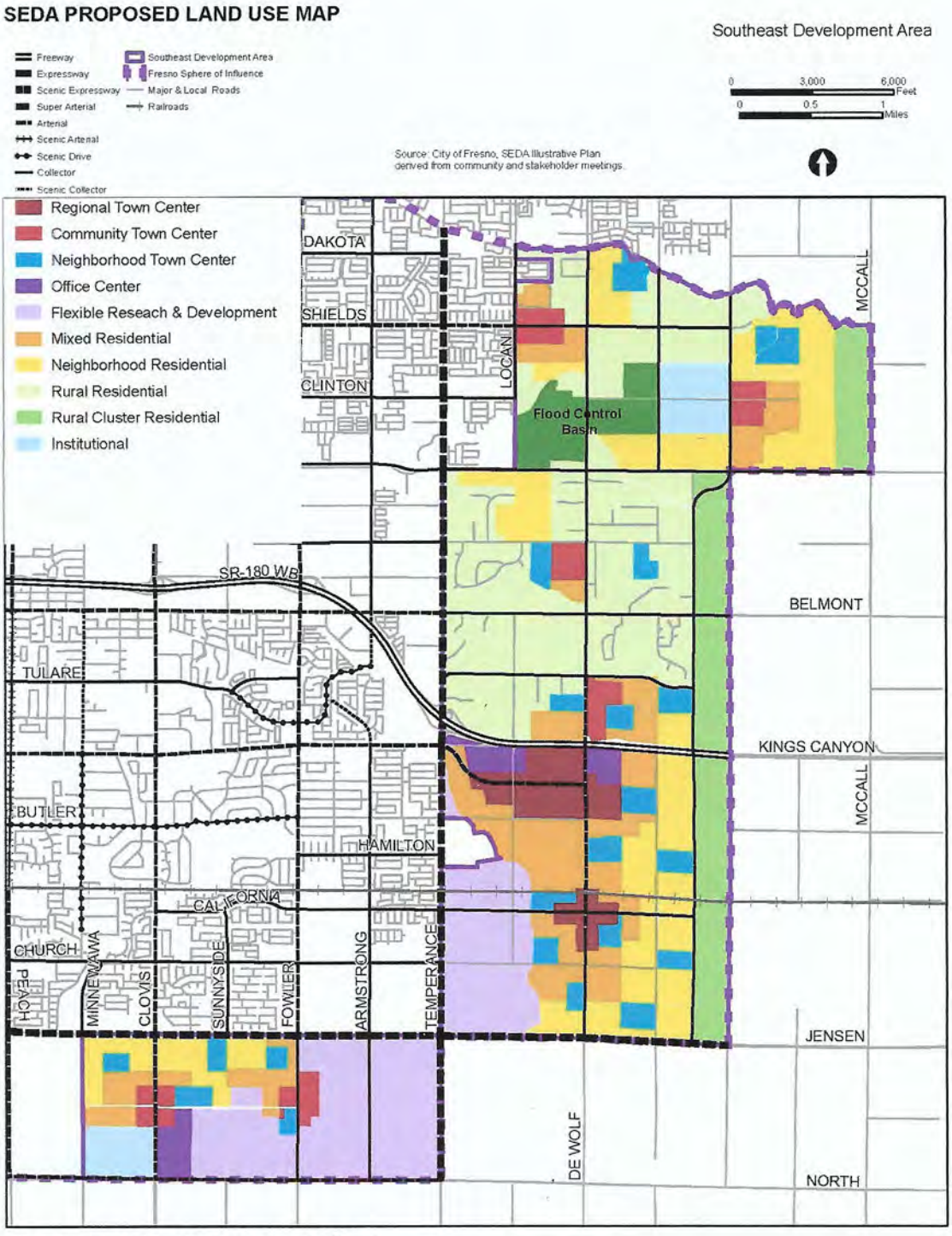
Gary Bredefeld District 6 Council Member, District6@fresno.gov

Nelson Esparaza District 7 Council Member, District7@fresno.gov

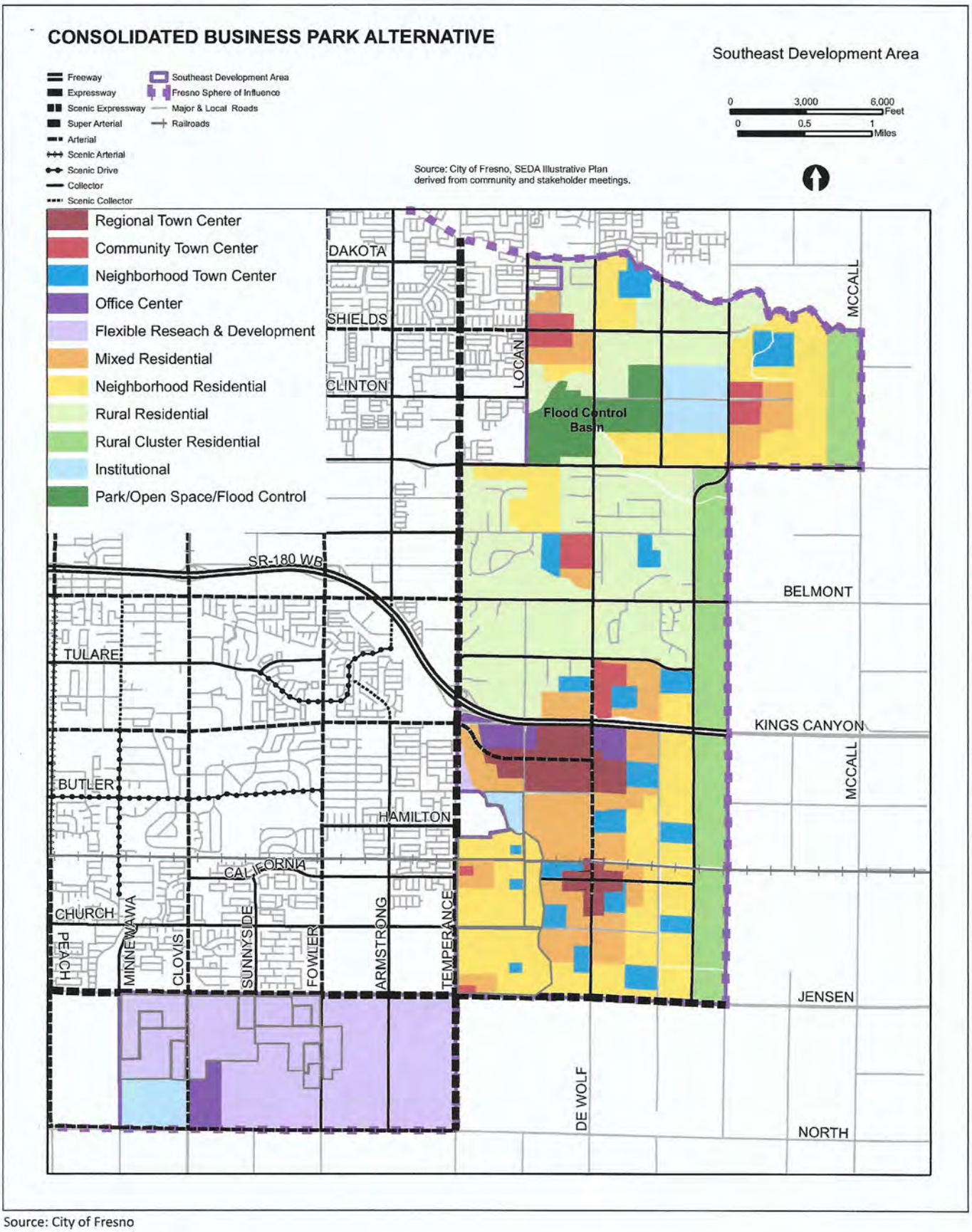
Buddy Mendes District 4 Supervisor, District4@fresnocountyca.gov

Nathan Magsig District 5 Supervisor, District5@fresnocountyca.gov

SEDA PROPOSED LAND USE MAP



Map 2.5 SEDA Proposed Land Use



Source: City of Fresno

FIRSTCARBON SOLUTIONS™

Exhibit 5-1
Consolidated Business Park Alternative

31680033 • 07/2023 | 5-1_consolidated_business_park_alt.cdr

5.6 - Environmentally Superior Alternative

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(e)(2) requires identification of an environmentally superior alternative. If the No Project Alternative is environmentally superior, CEQA requires selection of the "environmentally superior alternative other than the No Project Alternative" among the project and the alternatives evaluated. The qualitative environmental effects of each alternative in relation to the proposed project are summarized in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: Summary of Alternatives

Environmental Topic Area	Alternative 1: No Build Alternative	Alternative 2: Consolidated Business Park Alternative	Alternative 3: Farmland Conservation Alternative
Aesthetics, Light, and Glare	<=	<=	<=
Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources	<=	<=	<=
Air Quality	<=	<=	<=
Biological Resources	<=	<=	<=
Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources	<=	<=	<=
Geology, Soils, and Seismicity	<=	<=	<=
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<=	<=	<=
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<=	<=	<=
Hydrology and Water Quality	<=	<=	<=
Land Use and Planning	<=	<=	>
Mineral Resources	<=	<=	<=
Noise	<=	<=	<=
Population and Housing	<=	<=	<=
Public Services	<=	<=	<=
Transportation and Traffic	<=	<=	<=
Utilities and Service Systems	<=	<=	<=
Wildfire	<=	<=	<=

Key:
Impact finding is the same as the proposed project: =
Impact finding is the same as the proposed project but slightly less impactful: <=
Impact finding is the same as the proposed project but slightly more impactful: >=
Impact finding is less than the proposed project: <
Impact finding is greater than the proposed project: >
Source: FirstCarbon Solutions (FCS) 2022.

Comments on Proposed Draft PEIR, SEDA Specific Plan Project #2022020486

After a review of the SEDA General Plan, Draft PEIR Specific Plan, and the three Alternatives, we believe the Consolidated Business Park Alternative 2 offers the best course of action to satisfy the PEIR Project objectives.

Alt 2 would maintain existing R&D land designations from the General Plan for the area south of Jensen Avenue, but allow the area east of Temperance Avenue to be developed at Neighborhood and Mixed Residential with two community centers and five neighborhood centers (p. 5-6). This scenario would permit proper organized and phased development on potentially stranded land east of Temperance and west of the Briggs Canal. Consolidation of Flexible R&D land south of Jensen Avenue would offer the opportunity for synergies of planning and phased development in one contiguous area instead of two separate tracts.

Alt 2 would accommodate 42,900 homes and provide 36,000 jobs within the 9,000 ac planning area (p. 5-14). These estimates are 95% of the maximum in the range outlined in the project objectives of the SEDA Specific Plan (p. 5-7) and 97% of the maximum jobs in the range outlined in Plan, while offering the benefit of slightly less development density and environmental impact.

Alt 2 would consolidate the proposed Office Center and Flexible R&D land uses to the area south of Jensen Avenue, thus preserving more undeveloped space (p. 5-15). Alt 2 would not physically divide an established community, allow planned development, and increase connectivity to support and strengthen new communities (p. 5-18).

Alt 2 would provide similar development to the proposed project, but with slightly less intense impacts to agricultural, forestry, and biological resources (p.5-15).

Alt 1, No Project Alternative, would use current land use and zoning maps from the General Plan. This alternative would include an estimated 17,900 homes 29,600 jobs (p. 5-6). These numbers are below the range of homes and jobs identified as “quantified objectives” in the SEDA Specific Plan. Alt 1 would have similar, but slightly less, impacts than the proposed SEDA Specific Plan.

Alt 3, Farmland Conservation Alternative, envisions no future development or ground disturbing activities on specific farmland (648.61 ac) designated for conservation (p. 5-22). In addition, a Rural Cluster Residential Buffer (832 ac) on the east side of the Plan area would be excluded from development. Preserving this buffer farmland would reduce the transitional buffer and cause residential lands to be in closer contact with active agricultural land (p. 5-25). This unavoidable conflict of land use continuity would likely contradict the Specific Plan Policy UF-1.6 and create a significant environmental impact (Table 5-1). This land use conflict creates an incrementally greater environmental impact, rendering it inferior under CEQA Guidelines (p. 5-29).

"Alternative 1, the No Project Alternative, would not meet the project objectives. Alternatives 2 and 3 would meet many of the project objectives. The Consolidated Business Park Alternative is the environmentally superior alternative because it has similar, but slightly less, impacts as compared to the proposed project and meets the project objectives." (p. 5-29).

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Mark Reitz and Dale Reitz

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

August 28, 2023

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street
Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
Email: adrienne.asadoorian@fresno.gov
CC: Jennifer.Clark@fresno.gov; Sophia.Pagoulatos@fresno.gov; andrew.janz@fresno.gov

Subject: Additional Comments on the SEDA EIR from the Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council, Central Valley IAF, and Regenerate California Innovation, Inc. Please incorporate the following comments regarding the City's Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan and draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) into the record of this matter.

COMMENT SUMMARY: The SEDA EIR is fatally flawed for many reasons, as noted in a separate comment letter submitted on our behalf to the City of Fresno by Patience Milrod, Lawyer. Certainly not the least of these SEDA EIR deficiencies is the assumption and employment of out-of-date and questionable population growth projections in the EIR document, which do not recognize the accelerating trends of dramatically declining population growth in California and Fresno County as recently published by the California Department of Finance in July 2023. As a result of this critical flaw, the SEDA EIR materially overstates demand factors and the need for the SEDA Specific Plan to be seriously considered any time before 2060. Proceeding now with proposed SEDA Plan/EIR approvals and debt obligations for costly, unnecessary, uneconomic and potentially stranded public infrastructure investments in SEDA, will create significant debt service risks and a potential disaster for the City's long-term fiscal sustainability. These negative fiscal consequences from prematurely approving and implementing SEDA will further negatively impact existing city residents, businesses, and institutions who have and will be forced to continue to bear the stress and cost burdens of decades of cumulative and increasing urban decay and blight not effectively addressed by the City. We recommend that the deficient draft SEDA Specific Plan and EIR be shelved until the City of Fresno General Plan can be updated to comprehensively and factually reflect all changing trends, impacts, and resource constraints, and that the City of Fresno focus on addressing cumulative and increasing urban decay, and meeting housing and public infrastructure and service needs within the current Fresno city limits.

Questionable population growth projections in the SEDA EIR document are utilized to directly justify the extreme scale of new greenfield population and housing unit development proposed, and indirectly support the implied massive front-end public infrastructure costs required to

launch the scale of development suggested of SEDA Specific Plan. The SEDA Plan/EIR reference and apply out-of-date City of Fresno General Plan population estimates for 2035 (771,000 people) that reflected 1.5% annual population growth rates in the decade previous to General Plan adoption, and Fresno COG estimates for 2035 (621,540) and 2050 (COG: 728,200), that were apparently published pre-pandemic. Carrying these assumptions forward to current SEDA plan consideration is profoundly inconsistent with dramatically declining recent population growth trends for California and the central San Joaquin Valley. The California Department of Finance (DOF) released updated interim population projections in July 2023 that show no population growth for California as a whole over the next 37 years, and 3% net population growth for Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings Counties combined by 2060, which equates to an average annual compounded growth rate of barely 0.1% in Fresno's regional market area population and resulting related economic demand for Fresno.

The state of California Department of Finance (DOF) interim population projections issues in July 2023[1] indicate that in 2060, there will be 39,508,000 residents in the state, equating to 12,000 fewer residents than in 2020. This forecasts an actual long-term reduction in the Golden State's growth outlook, a dramatic decline in the population growth assumptions built into all California business demand and government funding models, which should cause all of us pause to reassess assumptions about major long-term investments and prospective returns on these investments throughout the state. The recent DOF projections come ***"after accounting for factors including declining births, aging residents, and more people moving away in the years leading up to and during the pandemic, officials now project the population will hold steady at around 39.5 million. . . A stagnant population could mean a shrinking labor force as the state fails to replace retiring Baby Boomers, potentially resulting in a flagging economy mirroring the decades-long malaise from which some Rust Belt states are still struggling to emerge."***[2]

When population growth baselines were developed for the current City of Fresno General Plan in 2008-2010, referenced in the SEDA EIR published in July 2023 as relevant population growth data, Fresno County was projected to have about 1.9 million in population by 2050. Fresno County is now projected by the State DOF to have about 1,095,000 people by 2060, up from 1,016,000 today, a little over 800,000 fewer people than forecasted 13-15 years ago. This new State DOF projection represents marginal Fresno County population growth of 79,000 people net over nearly four decades, better than the whole state losing 12,000 people net over the

[1] https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/projections/ (P-2: County Population Projections (2020-2060)

[2] https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/article/california-exodus-once-growing-rapidly-state-population-projected-to-remain-the-same-through-2060/ar-AA1eoT8j

same period, but not much net growth demand when compared to the Golden State's and our local area growth history.

The SEDA draft EIR states on Page 3.14-13: ***"The population potential for the Plan Area is within the population growth anticipated by the General Plan, which anticipates growth of up to 226,000 additional residents by 2035, consistent with the proposed project. Accordingly, implementation of the proposed project would not exceed the City's anticipated population growth."***

The statement above in the SEDA draft EIR as it relates to anticipated additional residents by 2035 is no longer realistic or supportable based on recent State of California Department of Finance (DOF) interim population projections that indicate Fresno County on the whole will only add 79,000 residents over 37 years– see breakdown and references below.

The planned population capacity proposed for the SEDA Plan Area now actually exceeds population growth forecasted by the State for all of Fresno County by 2060 by a factor of nearly 2 times. If city of Fresno population growth represents approximately 54% of County population growth as it has in the past, then planned SEDA population holding capacities now reflect nearly 3 times forecasted growth for all of Fresno County by 2060. These are serious and material growth area demand overestimates and miscalculations in the SEDA EIR with extremely negative potential fiscal and economic consequences. The SEDA draft EIR simply and dangerously reprises now stale references from Fresno COG as noted above and below, and population estimates contained in the Fresno General Plan (GP) approved in late 2014 that projected a Fresno SOI (Fresno's Shere of Influence containing incorporated and unincorporated planning areas) population of 771,000 in 2035 (Table 1.5, Page 1-24, Fresno GP). See comparisons below.

July 2023 State DOF Population Projection Numbers versus Those in SEDA EIR

Year	*July 2023 State DOF for Fresno County*	*Fresno City/SOI as 54% of County*	*SEDA EIR Numbers*
2020	*1,007,344*	*543,965*	
2023	*1,015,793*	*548,528*	
2030	*1,047,382*	*565,586*	
2035	*1,065,641**	*575,446**	*COG: 621,540** / City:771,000****
2040	*1,083,901*	*585,306*	
2050	*1,098,503*	*593,196*	*COG: 728,200***
2060	*1,095,205*	*591,410*	

**2030+2040 divided 2 = estimate of 5-year interval growth to 2035*
***SEDA EIR Page 3.14.2*
**** SEDA EIR Page 3.14.13 – references Fresno GP Page 1-24*

So, future population growth trends forecasted by the State of California have dramatically declined, but SEDA Plan/EIR numbers reflect a past era of faster growth applied to the future. If these out-of-date growth numbers for SEDA are used as the basis for current public finance decision making, such decisions would likely jeopardize the future fiscal sustainability of entire City enterprise if bond financing or other types of debt financing are used to advance massive front-end new growth area public infrastructure costs. Substantially less growth would equate to inadequate debt service revenue from new hoped for development, portending bond payment defaults or substituting other City funds for growth area debt service needed for other essential purposes. Not researching and employing up-to-date State population forecasts in the SEDA Plan and EIR are fatal flaws and critical misrepresentations of demand for SEDA plan area development with potentially perverse consequences for the municipality and all our city's existing and future residents, businesses, and institutions.

The SEDA Plan then, as currently conceived, is rendered an anachronism in terms of relevant population projections even before public hearings about the plan and infrastructure financing approvals, and a dangerous anachronism at that. If the SEDA plan is approved and piecemeal developed as proposed, with huge sums of money borrowed to finance the massive front-end public works and utility infrastructure required by the plan, Fresno's much slower growth now forecasted by the State DOF could end up stranding very expensive nonproductive public assets with little revenue for debt coverage at the best, or could be a bankruptcy in the making for our municipality at the worst. The SEDA Draft Plan and EIR also do not address urban decay and blight production linked to new growth area residential and retail commercial development, the costs of which should be mitigated by adoption of significantly expanded growth area development impact fees.

We recommend an economically prudent and fiscally sound alternative course for the City of Fresno related to SEDA. Do not take these unnecessary public resource risks by prematurely approving an already outdated SEDA plan and EIR with its current massive front-end public financing scheme. In light of recent State DOF projections, take SEDA off the table and shelve it until it can be properly assessed at a more relevant time, scale, and cost, as part of a comprehensively updated Fresno General Plan that fully considers how the world has changed and continues to change and disrupt old private and public business models since the last General Plan update, and properly assesses the many new risks to sound public financing in an era of specious growth prospects.

In the interests of existing city residents, businesses, and institutions who have and will be forced to continue to bear the stress and cost burdens of decades of cumulative and increasing urban decay and blight until effectively addressed by the City, we also recommend:

- The City of Fresno focus on addressing cumulative and increasing urban decay, and meeting housing and public infrastructure and service needs within the current Fresno city limits, which contain more than enough vacant and underutilized land

given the much slower growth anticipated for the state and our county and the Fresno market area region, and

- The City of Fresno work diligently with existing community, business and institutional leaders to investigate and genuinely consider expanded urban decay impact mitigation fees be applied to newly annexed residential and retail commercial development which is linked to urban decay and blight production.[3]

Submitted By:

Dated: 8/28/23

Dillon Savory FRESNO MADERA TULARE and KINGS COUNTIES CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Dated: 8/28/23

Keith Ford CENTRAL VALLEY IAF + State Center federation of Teachers

Dated: 8-28-23

Keith Bergthold REGENERATE CALIFORNIA INNOVATION (RCI)

[3] Fresno Urban Deacy Analysis: https://www.greenfieldcoalition.org/urban-decay-data

August 22, 2023

Via email to: Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors, Staff
and Commissioners of the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

We are writing to voice our opposition to the City of Fresno's Draft Specific Plan for its massive 8,700+ acre expansion into the re-branded Southeast Development Area (SEDA – formerly SEGA). We are property owners in the Sunnyside area near the SEDA plan area.

Fresno County's LAFCo Commission did the right thing in 2006 when it delayed allowing any annexations within the City's new SEGA Sphere of Influence (SOI) area until the City prepared not only a Specific Plan for the area, but also a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Now, some 17 years later, according to the City's new EIR (Exhibit 3.4.1), we now know that more than 7,700 acres of currently productive Deciduous Orchard and Irrigated Row and Field Crops will be torn out to make way for urban residential and commercial development.

The loss of more than 7,700 acres of valuable San Joaquin Valley agricultural land represents a significant economic impact far beyond the mere value of the crops that cannot be mitigated. Our Valley is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world and this land must be preserved for farming for our National Security. This impact is avoidable by LAFCo denying this Specific Plan.

Has the City of Fresno achieved its housing goal of 50/50 infill versus fringe development within its current (non-SEDA) boundaries under its current General Plan? Although some progress has certainly been made since the SEGA Sphere of Influence expansion in 2006, the City of Fresno still has more work to do to encourage infill development before proposing such a significant urban expansion as proposed in the SEDA Specific Plan.

Further, new 2023 data from California Department of Finance show that California's (-0.4%) and Fresno's (0.2%) population growth rate is much slower than was anticipated 17 years ago. The housing "crisis" described in the EIR is failing to materialize and there is simply no justification to push sprawl at this time when the need for more new housing has clearly slowed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the City's Draft Specific Plan and hope Fresno LAFCo will vote to deny the SEDA Specific Plan, rescind the 2006 LAFCo Sphere of Influence expansion vote and return full control and jurisdiction of the 8,700+ acre area to Fresno County to avoid all the significant impacts that have now been outlined in the project's EIR.

Sincerely,



Tom and Aletha Lang

[redacted]

July 23, 2023

City of Fresno Council
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
Mayor Jerry Dyer
Council President Tyler Maxwell, District 4
Council Member Annalisa Perea, District 1
Council Member Mike Karbassi, District 2
Council Member Miguel Arias, District 3
Council Member Luis Chavez, District 5
Council Member Garry Bredefeld, District 6
Council Member Nelson Esparza, District 7

City of Fresno Clerk Todd Stermer
City of Fresno Planner Adrienne Asadoorian
City of Fresno Planning Manager Sophia Pagoulatos

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2281 Tulare, Room 301
Fresno, CA 93721
Chairman Sal Quintero, District 3
Brian Pacheco, District 1
Steve Brandau, District 2
Buddy Mendes, District 4
Nathan Magsig, District 5
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Dear Ms. Asadoorian

I am rather disappointed that The City of Fresno continues to spend money to coerce its residents to believe that annexation of the surrounding rural landscape is responsible land management. I feel that I must speak out against the proposed SEDA project. Its impacts that affect today are relatively small compared to the long term effects to Fresno's tomorrow.

I am a lifetime Fresnan. I have chosen to be educated in Fresno (Class of 1981 CSUFresno). I chose to stay in Fresno and to establish my career. I chose to raise my family in Fresno; I believe my children are "Fresno Proud." I have always thought that I am a part of the fabric that makes Fresno special. However, last week, I received in my mailbox the SEDA meeting notice flyer. It was addressed to "Occupant." I have lived at this address for over 35 years, and considering I pay property taxes, one would think the City might have my name on record. Is this the City's way of informing me that I am non-essential?

The purpose of this letter is to reference a few of my many concerns. I would prefer to voice these concerns in person. Unfortunately, I am attending personal, family business the week of July 24, and I am unable to attend the first two of the four SEDA meetings.

1) **Why have other growth plans been disregarded?** Please address why the City of Fresno chooses not to infill within the city's boundaries where infrastructure already exists. Based on the houses currently being approved and built near the proposed annexation area, it is apparent that residents have no problem living in multi-level homes with only a patio for yard space. These same houses could be constructed within Fresno's city limit.

2) **Why is the soil in Fresno County not agriculturally valuable enough to be protected?** Populations continue to grow. Northern and southern California residents are fleeing their overpriced and crowded

continued on page 2

properties and moving to the quiet spaces of the central valley. Many of these new residents do not even work locally – rather they "zoom" to work. This migration inflates the central valley's property values thus making it more difficult for us "locals" to survive in the place we were born. The cycle is never ending. Please address how government officials can create innovative approaches to this growth other than paving over more agricultural land (AG-1). The soil in the project area is a natural resource. This soil produces food for millions of people worldwide, and once it is paved over it is gone. Much like California's coast line protections, this soil should be protected as well. Current growers are already being pushed out and ag workers are being displaced. Please save our agricultural jewel. Don't violate the Williamson Act.

3) **How does this growth outweigh the already growing health concerns surrounding air quality?** Please address why the City of Fresno chooses not to maintain air quality (AIR-1-2-3). This project clearly states the added growth "potentially" will exceed the air pollution thresholds with no mitigation plan offered. During a "regular" summer versus a summer laden with wildfire there is no clean air. Our children are suffocating from asthma. Per the American Lung Association, the central valley suffers from having some of the worst air in the world and is already a health risk. The air we breathe is yet another natural resource being attacked under this plan. Clean air is already gone, and this project ensures its non-existence.

4) **Is the avoidance of lowering greenhouse gas emissions purely a political maneuver for personal gain?** Please address why the City of Fresno chooses not to lower greenhouse gas emissions (GHG-1). The EIR clearly states the project will add to global warming. There is not much more to elaborate other than: It's hot here — don't add to it.

5) **How can the City of Fresno guarantee that the distribution of water will not be a repeat of the water crisis in the Madera Ranchos?** I know people who have been living in the Madera Ranchos with no water for over two years. This is a fact: there is not enough water for the SEDA expansion project's population growth. Please address a permanent and safe solution that does not create a negative impact on our water supply.

The EIR is too long; it is over 800 pages in length. I admit: I live in the proposed project area on two acres that was an abandoned vineyard. I do my best to be a steward of this land and air. I plant a small garden and share the fruit from my trees with my neighbors. I couldn't do this type of living within the City's limits, which is why I chose to live in a rural setting in the County of Fresno. The SEDA plan will take away my privilege of living where I chose to live 35 years ago. I will no longer be able to afford to live in my home. This cost to be annexed will force me to leave.

To City of Fresno officials: **Stop the SEDA project**.
To Fresno County Supervisors: **Stand up and protect the citizens who elected you**.
To everyone: **Stop the unrelenting land grab and protect California's unique central valley**.

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY.

Sincerely,

Annette Paxton

[redacted]

San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

HEALTHY AIR LIVING™

August 23, 2023

Adrienne Asadoorian
City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
21600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Project: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project

District CEQA Reference No: 20230643

Dear Ms. Asadoorian:

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) has reviewed the City of Fresno's (City) Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan (SEDA) (Project). The Project is a program level project and, while project-specific data may not be available until specific approvals are being granted, the DPEIR should include a discussion of policies, which when implemented, will reduce or mitigate impacts on air quality at the individual project level.

The District offers the following comments at this time regarding the Project:

1) Land Use Planning

Nearly all development projects within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, from specific plans to individual projects have the potential to generate air pollutants, making it more difficult to attain state and federal ambient air quality standards. Land use decisions are critical to improving air quality within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin because land use patterns greatly influence transportation needs, and motor vehicle emissions are the largest source of air pollution in the Valley. Land use decisions and project design elements such as preventing urban sprawl, encouraging mix-use development, and project design elements that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) have proven to be beneficial for air quality.

Samir Sheikh
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

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www.valleyair.org www.healthyairliving.com

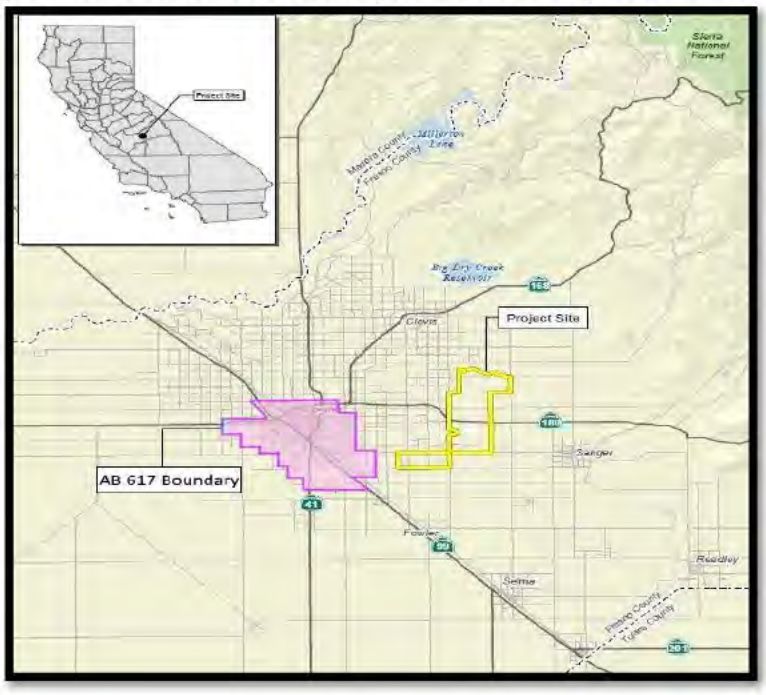
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More specifically, the DPEIR concludes Project air quality emission impacts will exceed District significance thresholds and thus result in significant and unavoidable impacts. As such, the District recommends the DPEIR incorporate strategies that reduce VMTs and require the cleanest available heavy duty truck vehicles, and off-road equipment, including zero and near-zero technologies. VMTs can be reduced through encouragement of walkable communities, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, etc. Additional design element options can be found at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/media/ob0pweru/clean-air-measures.pdf

2) Assembly Bill 617

Assembly Bill 617 requires CARB and air districts to develop and implement Community Emission Reduction Programs (CERPs) in an effort to reduce air pollution exposure in impacted disadvantage communities. The Project lies near one of the impacted communities (see Figure 1 below) in the State selected by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) under Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (2017, Garcia) and has the potential to expose sensitive receptors to increased air pollution within the nearby impacted community. The South Central Fresno CERP was adopted by the District's Governing Board in September of 2019 and identifies a wide range of measures designed to reduce air pollution exposure. Therefore, in an effort to reduce air pollution exposure to the impacted disadvantaged community, the District recommends the City incorporate mitigation measures outlined in the South Central Fresno CERP for the Project. For more information regarding the CERP approved for South Central Fresno, please visit the District's website at: http://community.valleyair.org/selected-communities/south-central-fresno

Figure 1: Southeast Development Area Specific Plan



3) Project Related Emissions

The DPEIR specifically states on page 2-13 that "*The proposed project is a policy-level document and does not include any specific development proposals and may not fully evaluate the impacts of other future specific, individual development that may be approved under implementation of the proposed project*".

The District recommends that the DPEIR require that future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project identify, assess and characterize project-level air emissions and require mitigation of air quality impacts at the individual project-specific level.

Environmental reviews of potential impacts on air quality should incorporate the following items:

3a) Construction Emissions

Future development projects should utilize the cleanest available off-road construction equipment.

3b) Operational Emissions

Operational (ongoing) air emissions from mobile sources and stationary sources should be analyzed separately. For reference, the District's significance thresholds are identified in the District's Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts: https://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI.pdf.

Recommended Mitigation Measure: At a minimum, project related impacts on air quality should be reduced to levels below the District's significance thresholds through incorporation of design elements such as the use of cleaner Heavy Heavy-Duty (HHD) trucks and vehicles. More information on transportation mitigation measures can be found at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/media/ob0pweru/clean-air-measures.pdf.

3c) Project Trip Length for HHD Truck Travel

The DPEIR page 3.3-65 states, "*The proposed project would permit residential, office, commercial and industrial land uses. Development of land uses that are allowed under the proposed project may result in stationary sources of TAC emissions, including light industrial facilities, warehouses…etc."* As a result, the City should include policies that require environmental review for future development projects (e.g. light industrial facilities/warehouses, commercial, etc.). Since the DPEIR acknowledges these types of development as part of the Project, these development projects have the potential to generate a high volume of HHD truck trips traveling further distances. As such, future

environmental review should adequately characterize and justify an appropriate trip length distance for off-site HHD truck travel to and from the project site as well as the estimated number of trips supported by project-specific factors.

3d) Recommended Model for Quantifying Air Emissions

Project-related criteria pollutant emissions from construction and operational sources should be identified and quantified. Emissions analysis should be performed using the California Emission Estimator Model (CalEEMod), which uses the most recent CARB-approved version of relevant emissions models and emission factors. CalEEMod is available to the public and can be downloaded from the CalEEMod website at: www.caleemod.com.

3e) Allowed Uses Not Requiring Project-Specific Discretionary Approval

In the event that the City determines that a project be approved as an allowed use not requiring a project-specific discretionary approval, the District recommends the DPEIR include language requiring such projects to prepare a technical assessment, in consultation with the District, to determine if additional analysis and/or mitigation is required.

4) Health Risk Screening/Assessment

The City should incorporate a requirement for all future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project to evaluate the risk on sensitive receptors (residences, businesses, hospitals, day-care facilities, health care facilities, etc.) in the area and mitigate any potentially significant risk to help limit exposure of sensitive receptors to emissions.

To determine potential health impacts on surrounding receptors (residences, businesses, hospitals, day-care facilities, health care facilities, etc.) a Prioritization and/or a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) should be performed for future development projects. These health risk determinations should quantify and characterize potential TACs identified by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment/California Air Resources Board (OEHHA/CARB) that pose a present or potential hazard to human health.

Health risk analyses should include all potential air emissions from the project, which include emissions from construction of the project, including multi-year construction, as well as ongoing operational activities of the project. Note, two common sources of TACs can be attributed to diesel exhaust emitted from heavy-duty off-road earth moving equipment during construction, and from ongoing operation of heavy-duty on-road trucks.

Prioritization (Screening Health Risk Assessment):
A "Prioritization" is the recommended method for a conservative screening-level health risk assessment. The Prioritization should be performed using the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association's (CAPCOA) methodology. Please contact the District for assistance with performing a Prioritization analysis.

The District recommends that a more refined analysis, in the form of an HRA, be performed for any project resulting in a Prioritization score of 10 or greater. This is because the prioritization results are a conservative health risk representation, while the detailed HRA provides a more accurate health risk evaluation.

Health Risk Assessment:
Prior to performing an HRA, it is strongly recommended that land use agencies/ project proponents develop and submit for District review a health risk modeling protocol that outlines the sources and methodologies that will be used to perform the HRA.

A development project would be considered to have a potentially significant health risk if the HRA demonstrates that the health impacts would exceed the District's established risk thresholds, which can be found here: http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/ceqa_idx.htm.

A project with a significant health risk would trigger all feasible mitigation measures. The District strongly recommends that development projects that result in a significant health risk not be approved by the land use agency.

The District is available to review HRA protocols and analyses. For HRA submittals please provide the following information electronically to the District for review:

- HRA (AERMOD) modeling files
- HARP2 files
- Summary of emissions source locations, emissions rates, and emission factor calculations and methodologies.

For assistance, please contact the District's Technical Services Department:

- E-mail: hramodeler@valleyair.org
- Phone: (559) 230-5900

Recommended Measure: Development projects resulting in TAC emissions should be located an adequate distance from residential areas and other sensitive receptors to prevent the creation of a significant health risk in accordance to CARB's Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective located at https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/resource-center/strategy-development/land-use-resources.

5) Ambient Air Quality Analysis

The District recommends an Ambient Air Quality Analysis (AAQA) be performed for any future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project with emissions that exceed 100 pounds per day of any pollutant.

An AAQA uses air dispersion modeling to determine if emissions increases from a project will cause or contribute to a violation of State or National Ambient Air Quality Standards. An acceptable analysis would include emissions from both project-specific permitted and non-permitted equipment and activities. The District recommends consultation with District staff to determine the appropriate model and input data to use in the analysis.

Specific information for assessing significance, including screening tools and modeling guidance, is available online at the District's website: www.valleyair.org/ceqa.

6) Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement

The District recommends the DPEIR include a feasibility discussion on implementing a Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement (VERA) as a mitigation measure for all future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project that are determined to exceed the District's CEQA significance thresholds.

A VERA is a mitigation measure by which the project proponent provides pound-for-pound mitigation of emissions increases through a process that develops, funds, and implements emission reduction projects, with the District serving a role of administrator of the emissions reduction projects and verifier of the successful mitigation effort. To implement a VERA, the project proponent and the District enter into a contractual agreement in which the project proponent agrees to mitigate project specific emissions by providing funds for the District's incentives programs. The funds are disbursed by the District in the form of grants for projects that achieve emission reductions. Thus, project-related impacts on air quality can be mitigated. Types of emission reduction projects that have been funded in the past include electrification of stationary internal combustion engines (such as agricultural irrigation pumps), replacing old heavy-duty trucks with new, cleaner, more efficient heavy-duty trucks, and replacement of agricultural equipment with the latest generation technologies.

In implementing a VERA, the District verifies the actual emission reductions that have been achieved as a result of completed grant contracts, monitors the emission reduction projects, and ensures the enforceability of achieved reductions. After the project is mitigated, the District certifies to the Lead Agency that the mitigation is completed, providing the Lead Agency with an enforceable mitigation measure demonstrating that project-related emissions have been mitigated. To assist the Lead Agency and project proponent in ensuring that the environmental document is

compliant with CEQA, the District recommends the environmental document includes an assessment of the feasibility of implementing a VERA.

7) Industrial/Warehouse Emission Reduction Strategies

The Project is expected to result in the development of industrial uses. Additionally, the DPEIR specifically page 3.3-65 states "*The proposed project would permit residential, office, commercial and industrial land uses. Development of land uses that are allowed under the proposed project may result in stationary sources of TAC emissions, including light industrial facilities, warehouses…etc."* Since the DPEIR acknowledges the potential development of industrial uses, the District recommends the City incorporate emission reduction strategies that can reduce potential harmful health impacts from industrial and warehouse developments, such as those listed below:

- Require cleanest available heavy-duty trucks and off-road equipment (see comment 9)
- Require HHD truck routing patterns that limit exposure of residential communities and sensitive receptors to emissions (see comment 8)
- Require the minimization of heavy-duty truck idling (see comment 10)
- Require loading docks be oriented away from sensitive receptors
- Require loading docks be located a minimum of 300 feet away from the property line of sensitive receptor unless dock is exclusively used for electric trucks
- Require truck entries be located on streets of a higher commercial classification
- Require projects be designed to provide the necessary infrastructure to support use of zero-emissions on-road vehicles and off-road equipment (see comment 11)
- Ensure all building roofs are solar-ready
- Ensure all portions of roof tops that are not covered with solar panels are constructed to have light colored roofing material with a solar reflective index of greater than 78
- Ensure rooftop solar panels are installed and operated to supply 100% of the power needed to operate all non-refrigerated portions of the development project
- Incorporate bicycle racks and electric bike plug-ins
- Require the use of low volatile organic compounds (VOC) architectural and industrial maintenance coatings
- Designate an area during construction to charge electric powered construction vehicles and equipment, if temporary power is available
- Prohibit the use of non-emergency diesel-powered generators during construction
- Ensure all landscaping be drought tolerant

- Inform the project proponent of the incentive programs (e.g., Carl Moyer Program and Voucher Incentive Program) offered to reduce air emissions from the Project

8) Truck Routing

The DPEIR, specifically pages 2-6 through 2-9, provides the various land-use development types that will be included into the Project. For example, light industrial, manufacturing, commercial, and mixed-use just to name a few. These land-use development types have the potential to generate HHD truck trips. As such, the District recommends the City evaluate HHD truck routing patterns, with the aim of limiting exposure of residential communities and sensitive receptors to emissions.

Truck routing involves the assessment of which roads HHD trucks take to and from their destination, and the emissions impact that the HHD trucks may have on sensitive receptors (e.g. residential communities).

This evaluation would consider the current truck routes, the quantity and type of each truck (e.g., Medium Heavy-Duty, HHD, etc.), the destination and origin of each trip, traffic volume correlation with the time of day or the day of the week, overall Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), and associated exhaust emissions. The truck routing evaluation would also identify alternative truck routes and their impacts on VMT and air quality.

9) Cleanest Available Heavy-Duty Trucks

The San Joaquin Valley will not be able to attain stringent health-based federal air quality standards without significant reductions in emissions from HHD trucks, the single largest source of NOx emissions in the San Joaquin Valley. Accordingly, to meet federal air quality attainment standards, the District's ozone and particulate matter attainment plans rely on a significant and rapid transition of HHD fleets to zero or near-zero emissions technologies.

The DPEIR, specifically pages 2-6 through 2-9, provides the various development types that will be included into the Project. For example, light industrial, manufacturing, commercial, and mixed-use just to name a few. These types of development have the potential to generate HHD truck trips. As such, the District recommends that the following measures be considered by the City to reduce Project-related operational emissions:

- *Recommended Measure*: Fleets associated with operational activities utilize the cleanest available HHD trucks, including zero and near-zero technologies.

- *Recommended Measure*: All on-site service equipment (cargo handling, yard hostlers, forklifts, pallet jacks, etc.) utilize zero-emissions technologies.

10) Reduce Idling of Heavy-Duty Trucks

The goal of this strategy is to limit the potential for localized PM2.5 and toxic air contaminant impacts associated with the idling of Heavy-Duty trucks. The diesel exhaust from idling has the potential to impose significant adverse health and environmental impacts.

The Project is expected to result in future development (e.g. commercial, industrial, etc.), that have the ability to result in HHD truck trips. The District recommends the DPEIR be revised to include a more stringent 3-minute idling restriction and requiring appropriate signage and enforcement of idling restrictions.

11) Electric Infrastructure For Future Development Projects

The DPEIR specifically MM AIR 1C states *"All nonresidential buildings shall be designed to provide infrastructure to support use of electric-powered forklifts and/or other interior vehicles…. and all nonresidential buildings shall be designed to provide electric infrastructure to support use of exterior yard trucks and on-site vehicles.*"

The District recommends that the DPEIR be revised to expand MM AIR 1C to also require all nonresidential buildings be designed to provide electric infrastructure to support use of on-road zero-emissions vehicles, such as HHD trucks associated with a warehouse or commercial project.

To support and accelerate the installation of electric vehicle charging equipment and development of required infrastructure, the District offers incentives to public agencies, businesses, and property owners to install electric charging infrastructure (Level 2 and 3 chargers). The purpose of the District's Charge Up! Incentive program is to promote clean air alternative-fuel technologies and the use of low or zero-emission vehicles. The District recommends that the City and project proponents install electric vehicle chargers at project sites, and at strategic locations.

Please visit www.valleyair.org/grants/chargeup.htm for more information.

12) Under-fired Charbroilers

Future development projects (e.g. commercial) have the potential to include restaurants with under-fired charbroilers. Such charbroilers may pose the potential for immediate health risk, particularly when located in densely populated areas or near sensitive receptors.

Since the cooking of meat can release carcinogenic PM2.5 species, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, controlling emissions from new under-fired charbroilers will have a substantial positive impact on public health. The air quality impacts on neighborhoods near restaurants with under-fired charbroilers can be significant on days when meteorological conditions are stable, when dispersion is

limited and emissions are trapped near the surface within the surrounding neighborhoods. This potential for neighborhood-level concentration of emissions during evening or multi-day stagnation events raises air quality concerns. Furthermore, reducing commercial charbroiling emissions is essential to achieving attainment of multiple federal PM2.5 standards. Therefore, the District recommends that the DPEIR include a measure requiring the assessment and potential installation, as technologically feasible, of particulate matter emission control systems for new large restaurants operating under-fired charbroilers.

The District is available to assist the City and project proponents with this assessment. Additionally, the District is currently offering substantial incentive funding that covers the full cost of purchasing, installing, and maintaining the system during a demonstration period covering two years of operation. Please contact the District at (559) 230-5800 or technology@valleyair.org for more information, or visit: http://valleyair.org/grants/rctp.htm

13) Vegetative Barriers and Urban Greening

The Project is expected to result in future development (e.g. commercial, industrial, etc.). As such, the District suggests the City consider incorporating vegetative barriers and urban greening as a measure to further reduce air pollution exposure on sensitive receptors (e.g., residences, schools, healthcare facilities).

While various emission control techniques and programs exist to reduce air quality emissions from mobile and stationary sources, vegetative barriers have been shown to be an additional measure to potentially reduce a population's exposure to air pollution through the interception of airborne particles and the update of gaseous pollutants. Examples of vegetative barriers include, but are not limited to the following: trees, bushes, shrubs, or a mix of these. Generally, a higher and thicker vegetative barrier with full coverage will result in greater reductions in downwind pollutant concentrations. In the same manner, urban greening is also a way to help improve air quality and public health in addition to enhancing the overall beautification of a community with drought tolerant, low-maintenance greenery.

14) Clean Lawn and Garden Equipment in the Community

Gas-powered lawn and garden equipment have the potential to result in an increase of NOx and PM2.5 emissions. Utilizing electric lawn care equipment can provide residents with immediate economic, environmental, and health benefits. The District recommends future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project consider the District's Zero-Emission Landscaping Equipment program, which provides incentive funding for replacement of existing gas powered lawn and garden equipment. More information on the District CGYM program and funding can be found at: http://valleyair.org/grants/cgym-commercial.htm.

15) On-Site Solar Deployment

It is the policy of the State of California that renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 100% of retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2045. While various emission control techniques and programs exist to reduce air quality emissions from mobile and stationary sources, the production of solar energy is contributing to improving air quality and public health. The District suggests that the City consider incorporating solar power systems as an emission reduction strategy for future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project .

16) District's Bikeway Incentive Program

Incorporating design elements (e.g., installing bikeways) within the Project area that enhance walkability and connectivity can result in an overall reduction of vehicles miles traveled (VMT) and improve air quality within the area. The Project includes new bikeways and bikeways improvements, and may be eligible for funding through the District's Bikeway Incentive Program. The Bikeway Incentive Program provides funding for eligible Class 1 (Bicycle Path Construction), Class II (Bicycle Lane Striping), or Class III (Bicycle Route) projects. These incentives are designed to support the construction of new bikeway projects to promote clean air through the development of a widespread, interconnected network of bike paths, lanes, or routes and improving the general safety conditions for commuter bicyclists. Only municipalities, government agencies, or public educational institutions are eligible to apply. More information on the grant program can be found at: http://valleyair.org/grants/bikepaths.htm

Guidelines and Project Eligibility for the grant program can be found at: http://valleyair.org/grants/documents/bikepaths/2015_Bikeway_Guidelines.pdf

17) District Rules and Regulations

The District issues permits for many types of air pollution sources, and regulates some activities that do not require permits. A project subject to District rules and regulations would reduce its impacts on air quality through compliance with the District's regulatory framework. In general, a regulation is a collection of individual rules, each of which deals with a specific topic. As an example, Regulation II (Permits) includes District Rule 2010 (Permits Required), Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review), Rule 2520 (Federally Mandated Operating Permits), and several other rules pertaining to District permitting requirements and processes.

The list of rules below is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. Current District rules can be found online at: www.valleyair.org/rules/1ruleslist.htm. To identify other District rules or regulations that apply to future projects, or to obtain information about District permit requirements, the project proponents are strongly encouraged to

contact the District's Small Business Assistance (SBA) Office at (559) 230-5888.

17a) District Rules 2010 and 2201 - Air Quality Permitting for Stationary Sources

Stationary Source emissions include any building, structure, facility, or installation, which emits or may emit any affected pollutant directly or as a fugitive emission. District Rule 2010 (Permits Required) requires operators of emission sources to obtain an Authority to Construct (ATC) and Permit to Operate (PTO) from the District. District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review) requires that new and modified stationary sources of emissions mitigate their emissions using Best Available Control Technology (BACT).

Future development projects may be subject to District Rule 2010 (Permits Required) and Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review) and may require District permits. Prior to construction, project proponents shall obtain an ATC permit from the District for equipment/activities subject to District permitting requirements.

Recommended Mitigation Measure: For projects subject to permitting by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, demonstration of compliance with District Rule 2201 (obtain ATC permit from the District) shall be provided to the City before issuance of the first building permit.

For further information or assistance, project proponents may contact the District's SBA Office at (559) 230-5888.

17b) District Rule 9510 - Indirect Source Review (ISR)

The purpose of District Rule 9510 is to reduce the growth in both NOx and PM emissions associated with development and transportation projects from mobile and area sources; specifically, the emissions associated with the construction and subsequent operation of development projects. The ISR Rule requires developers to mitigate their NOx and PM emissions by incorporating clean air design elements into their projects. Should the proposed development project clean air design elements be insufficient to meet the required emission reductions, developers must pay a fee that ultimately funds incentive projects to achieve off-site emissions reductions.

Accordingly, future development projects within the Project may be subject to District Rule 9510 if upon full buildout, the project would equal or exceed any of the following applicability thresholds, depending on the type of development and public agency approval mechanism:

Table 1: ISR Applicability Thresholds

Development Type	Discretionary Approval Threshold	Ministerial Approval / Allowed Use / By Right Thresholds
Residential	50 dwelling units	250 dwelling units
Commercial	2,000 square feet	10,000 square feet
Light Industrial	25,000 square feet	125,000 square feet
Heavy Industrial	100,000 square feet	500,000 square feet
Medical Office	20,000 square feet	100,000 square feet
General Office	39,000 square feet	195,000 square feet
Educational Office	9,000 square feet	45,000 square feet
Government	10,00 square feet	50,000 square feet
Recreational	20,000 square feet	100,000 square feet
Other	9,000 square feet	45,000 square feet

District Rule 9510 also applies to any transportation or transit development projects where construction exhaust emissions equal or exceed two tons of NOx or two tons of PM.

In the case the individual development project is subject to District Rule 9510, per Section 5.0 of the rule, an Air Impact Assessment (AIA) application is required to be submitted no later than applying for project-level approval from a public agency so that proper mitigation and clean air design under ISR can be incorporated into the public agency's analysis.

Information about how to comply with District Rule 9510 can be found online at: http://www.valleyair.org/ISR/ISRHome.htm.

The AIA application form can be found online at: http://www.valleyair.org/ISR/ISRFormsAndApplications.htm.

District staff is available to provide assistance with determining if future development projects will be subject to Rule 9510, and can be reached by phone at (559) 230-5900 or by email at ISR@valleyair.org.

17c) District Rule 9410 (Employer Based Trip Reduction)

Future development projects may be subject to District Rule 9410 (Employer Based Trip Reduction) if the project would result in employment of 100 or more "eligible" employees. District Rule 9410 requires employers with 100 or more "eligible" employees at a worksite to establish an Employer Trip Reduction Implementation Plan (eTRIP) that encourages employees to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips, thus reducing pollutant emissions associated with work commutes. Under an eTRIP plan, employers have the flexibility to select the options that work best for their worksites and their employees.

Information about District Rule 9410 can be found online at: www.valleyair.org/tripreduction.htm.

For additional information, you can contact the District by phone at 559-230-6000 or by e-mail at etrip@valleyair.org

17d) District Rule 4002 (National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants)

In the event an existing building will be renovated, partially demolished or removed, future development projects may be subject to District Rule 4002. This rule requires a thorough inspection for asbestos to be conducted before any regulated facility is demolished or renovated. Information on how to comply with District Rule 4002 can be found online at: http://www.valleyair.org/busind/comply/asbestosbultn.htm.

17e) District Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings)

Future development projects may be subject to District Rule 4601 since they may utilize architectural coatings. Architectural coatings are paints, varnishes, sealers, or stains that are applied to structures, portable buildings, pavements or curbs. The purpose of this rule is to limit VOC emissions from architectural coatings. In addition, this rule specifies architectural coatings storage, cleanup and labeling requirements. Additional information on how to comply with District Rule 4601 requirements can be found online at: http://www.valleyair.org/rules/currntrules/r4601.pdf

17f) District Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions)

The project proponent may be required to submit a Construction Notification Form or submit and receive approval of a Dust Control Plan prior to commencing any earthmoving activities as described in Regulation VIII, specifically Rule 8021 - *Construction, Demolition, Excavation, Extraction, and Other Earthmoving Activities.*

Should the project result in at least 1-acre in size, the project proponent shall provide written notification to the District at least 48 hours prior to the project proponents intent to commence any earthmoving activities pursuant to District Rule 8021 (Construction, Demolition, Excavation, Extraction, and Other Earthmoving Activities). Also, should the project result in the disturbance of 5-acres or more, or will include moving, depositing, or relocating more than 2,500 cubic yards per day of bulk materials, the project proponent shall submit to the District a Dust Control Plan pursuant to District Rule 8021 (Construction, Demolition, Excavation, Extraction, and Other Earthmoving Activities). For additional information regarding the written notification or Dust Control Plan requirements, please contact District Compliance staff at (559) 230-5950.

The application for both the Construction Notification and Dust Control Plan can be found online at:
https://www.valleyair.org/busind/comply/PM10/forms/DCP-Form.docx

Information about District Regulation VIII can be found online at:
http://www.valleyair.org/busind/comply/pm10/compliance_pm10.htm

17g) District Rule 4901 - Wood Burning Fireplaces and Heaters

The purpose of this rule is to limit emissions of carbon monoxide and particulate matter from wood burning fireplaces, wood burning heaters, and outdoor wood burning devices. This rule establishes limitations on the installation of new wood burning fireplaces and wood burning heaters. Specifically, at elevations below 3,000 feet in areas with natural gas service, no person shall install a wood burning fireplace, low mass fireplace, masonry heater, or wood burning heater.

Information about District Rule 4901 can be found online at:
http://valleyair.org/rule4901/

17h) Other District Rules and Regulations

Future development projects may also be subject to the following District rules: Rule 4102 (Nuisance) and Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations).

18) Future Projects / Land Use Agency Referral Documents

Future development projects may require an environmental review and air emissions mitigation. A project's referral documents and environmental review documents provided to the District for review should include a project summary, the land use designation, project size, air emissions quantifications and impacts, and proximity to sensitive receptors and existing emission sources, and air emissions mitigation measures. For reference and guidance, more information can be found in the District's Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts at: https://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI.pdf

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Cherie Reed by e-mail at Cherie.Reed@valleyair.org or by phone at (559) 230-5940.

Sincerely,

Brian Clements
Director of Permit Services



Mark Montelongo
Program Manager

[redacted]operty Owners Association

[redacted]

August 25, 2023

City of Fresno
Jennifer Clark, Director
Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

ATT: Adrienne Asadoorian

RE: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 2022020486)

The Board of Directors of the Sunnyside Property Owners Association (SPOA) appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding the above referenced Program Environmental Impact Report (EIA) for the proposed Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan.

The plan area would accommodate 45,000 homes and 37,000 jobs within the nearly 9,000 acres by the year 2050 and provide for 31% of the total planned capacity of the City at General Plan Horizon buildout (2035).

While adoption of the SEDA Specific Plan will provide new opportunities for residents who want to move from blighted areas within the City, or for those who would prefer a Clovis or Sanger Unified School; it will unnecessarily remove large areas of prime farmland, transfer tax dollars from the inner City to newly annexed areas, and most importantly disincentivize quality development within the City core. In August of 2023, the Greenfield Coalition released an independent study by ECONorthwest to analyze the impacts of fringe development on the urban core. It outlines five causes of urban decay in the City of Fresno; Inefficient Land Use, Flight, Investment Patterns, Location/Relocation of Institutional Uses, and Location of Uses with Negative Neighborhood Effects. (More information can be found at greenfieldcoaltion.org.) While the State has promised an allocation of $250,000 million for infrastructure repairs for downtown Fresno, developers have expressed concerns about the high cost of providing water and sewer lines in other legacy neighborhoods often preferring to build in locations outside the city center including land requiring annexation where they can accurately access infrastructure costs and receive public investment dollars to cover off-site and system wide infrastructure.

Fresno County's population is expected to peak at 1,098,725 in 2053 and then drop to 1,095,205, setting growth back to 2047's population of 1,095,984. 2023 data from the California Department of Finance shows only a 0.2% increase in the City of Fresno's growth, down from a peak of 1.06% in 2014.

Infrastructure costs for SEDA are estimated to be in the neighborhood of 400-600 million. This is above and beyond what developers are expected to pay for roads, sewer, water and street lights. Fresno Irrigation District will need to sign on to provide water, bus rapid transit will need to be expanded and most importantly, the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and County will need to be agreed upon.

Prior to adoption of the SEDA or annexation into the City of Fresno, we would strongly suggest that infrastructure and revitalization efforts within the City limits are explored, identified and

implemented. For without a concerted effort to improve what we have, we will only perpetuate further decay in the neighborhoods left behind.

We would offer the following comments on the PEIR:

Conversion of Prime Farmland: There are 6,741 acres of land in the plan area designated as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance and Unique Farmland. The Southeast Development Area contains roughly fifty percent of the existing farming within the Planning Area of the General Plan, with approximately 5,000 acres currently farmed. While the proposed plan highlights compact and efficient development, most of the planned land use featuring intense development is proposed for the area around Kings Canyon Road and south of Jensen, where the majority of prime farmland and parcels covered under the Williamson Act are located. GP Policy RC-9-c requires the City of Fresno to adopt a Farmland Preservation Program when Prime, Unique and Farmland of Statewide Importance is converted to urban uses outside of city limits. GP MM AG-1.1 requires a program be established that would offset potential impacts from loss of farmland. **We would suggest that the Policy requirements of GP RC-9-c be implemented and include:**

- **Placing an equivalent amount of high quality farmland in an agricultural conservation easement.**
- **Restrictive Covenants or Deeds**
- **In Lieu Fees**
- **Mitigation Banks**
- **Fee Title Acquisition**
- **Land Use Regulations**

This policy should be in place prior to any annexations within the SEDA Fresno City Sphere of Influence. The City of Fresno should require all developments abide by the Farmland Preservation Program and strongly consider purchasing the equivalent amount and designation of farmland within the newly annexed area for placement as a conservation easement or restrictive covenant. In addition, the City should consider adding the Agriculture Land Use Districts to the Development Code, consistent with existing County of Fresno zoned parcels.

We would also recommend that the area south of Jensen from Minnewawa to Temperance be excluded from the SEDA Specific Plan as this is the area that has the most intense farming use.

Hydrology and Water Quality: The City of Fresno Metropolitan Plan was being updated when the Draft PEIR was being prepared to revise and update recommendations for water supplied in the Plan Area. Among the improvements are new municipal groundwater wells, recharge inter-ties to FMFCD basins to facilitate groundwater recharge in the Plan Area, expansion of SWTFs, new water storage and booster pump sites, and new water mains. The drilling of a new well can potentially impact the groundwater and flow patterns in the surrounding area which can affect nearby wells. Although there are no existing municipal wells in the study area, residents of rural residential and agricultural parcels depend on the groundwater for their water supplies. Domestic and small water system wells are typically drilled shallower than larger agricultural and municipal wells and are often the first to experience effects of declining water levels resulting in increased operating costs, changes in water quality, or inadequate water supply. **We would ask that a policy reflecting the requirements in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act related to considerations for identifying and addressing**

drinking water well impacts be added to General Plan Policies under the Resource Conservation and Resilience Element. And any hook-ups to water or sewer for existing property owners in the Plan Area be subsidized and evaluated in the Pending Infrastructure Plan.

Transportation and Traffic: Unfortunately the Level of Service system of identifying traffic impacts has been replaced by Vehicle Mile Trips (SB 743). The project generated trips are divided by the total population at project year horizon: if the Vehicle Miles Traveled/per population is lower than the base year, then the project impact is less than significant.The traffic trips calculated for this plan area do not include:

- Projects that are within 0.5 of an existing major transit stop with service frequencies of 15-minutes or less during morning and evening peak hours, if the project has a floor ratio (FAR) greater than 0.75, does not include more parking than required by the jurisdiction (AB 2097 eliminated all parking requirements for mixed use development within 0.5 miles of a transit stop), and does not replace affordable units with moderate or high income units.
- Projects generating less than 110 trips per day.
- Projects involving local serving retail space of less than 50,000 square feet.
- Projects with a high level of affordable housing units.
- Projects generating less than 500 Average Daily Trips.
- Projects that develop institutional/government and public service uses that support community, health, safety and welfare.
- In addition, parking supply for retail uses can be reduced by 12.5 percent at project level.

Existing vehicle miles traveled in the SEDA plan are 330,350 and the SEDA VMT per Service Population is 57.79. The project is expected to generate an additional 866,452 daily vehicle trips. The Year 2035 with Project Conditions is 974,369 and a SEDA VMT per service population is 5.07. *Even though the Vehicle Miles Traveled will triple, there is no mitigation required for this project.*

The Traffic Impact Analysis evaluated traffic conditions at 20 study segments, and assumes all residents will work, live and play within the plan boundaries. It discusses connections to downtown but does not address those road segments. **The California Department of Transportation requested peak hour ramp queue analysis be completed at the Highway 180 interchanges of Clovis Avenue, Fowler Avenue Temperance Avenue, DeWolf, Highland and McCall Avenues. The Fancher Creek Town Center will feature retail, restaurants and a movie theater and it is unreasonable and shortsighted not to consider the traffic impacts on Clovis Avenue from this plan area. We would request all California Department of Transportation recommendations regarding queue analysis be completed.**

There are numerous references in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the SEDA that reference additional studies when discretionary projects come up for review. **Because many of the City's programs, policies and plans have either not been adopted or do not include the SEDA, it is essential that *all* projects remain discretionary providing a thorough assessment of the development's impact and public notification.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Williams, Corresponding Secretary

Cc: Fresno County Supervisors Brian Pacheco, Steve Brandau, Sal Quintero, Buddy Mendes, Nathan Magsig, LAFCO Executive Officer Brian Spaunhurst and LAFCO Clerk Amanda Olives

7-24-2023

Comments on the EIR for the SEDA Specific Plan released 7-14-2023

Because I am not an expert, I began reading the EIR with something I am familiar with. I saw Temperance Avenue at the top of page 3.17-5 so I started reading. My question; **'HOW CAN A DOCUMENT THAT WILL SO GREATLY AFFECT PROPERTY OWNER IN FRESNO COUNTY HAVE SUCH A GROSSLY ERRONIOUS STATEMENT AS THE ONE REGARDING TEMPERANCE AVENUE'?**

Temperance Ave. is designated throughout as a "SUPER ARTERIAL". This is described as a 4, 5, or 6 lane road with a raised median.

It is described on page 3.17-5 as a four lane north-south arterial with an interchange at SR-180. Land adjacent to Temperance Avenue consists mostly of farmland, and the road becomes a two-lane facility south of Hamilton Avenue. The speed limit along Temperance Avenue is 40 mph.

Apart from the four lane at SR-180, **nothing of the above is factual.**

Temperance Avenue is a Super Arterial as defined from Shields Avenue north to Dakota Avenue. South of Shields Avenue to the four lane approaching SR-180 it is a two lane. South of Kings Canyon it becomes a three lane for a short period before returning to a two lane. It is not largely farmland, it is largely rural residential.

The speed limit along Temperance Avenue is never 40 mph, It varies along its length from 45 mph to 55 mph.

Every scenario for the road that has been previously presented by the city has shown it as being upgraded to a six lane with raised median, a raised median to frontage roads and pedestrian walkways. This is in the city's General Plan. We attended a city meeting at Boris Elementary School on this subject.

In no way does this coincide with any description found in the EIR.

If this is an example of the accuracy to the EIR as a whole, I think it calls into question the entire EIR. Especially since it would be so easy to accurately describe a single road.

The EIR says the speed limit on Jensen Avenue is 45 mph. In fact, through the plan area, the speed limit is 55 mph. It was, until recently 65 mph.

These may be small errors but they are indicative of poor research, possibly even research that has never been actual on-site research. Such sloppiness in one area will likely be evident in other areas and calls into question the accuracy and validity of the entire EIR. Also, perusing the full report, one finds page after page of repetitive language that seems carefully crafted to actually say nothing. A classic case of boilerplate that has probably been used in many other reports. This is certainly not the work of a report that actually took years and thousands of dollars to prepare.

Why is this important? Because this is base or background upon which policy and implementation are built. The end product is never any better than the foundation on which it is built.

Thank you,

Ross & Marie Potter

[redacted]

[redacted]

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FRESNO SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA SPECIFIC PLAN PROJECT
CITY OF FRESNO, FRESNO COUNTY, CA
State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486

AUGUST 27, 2023

Submitted by Email and USPS to

City of Fresno
Jennifer Clark, Director
Planning & Development Dept.
2600 Fresno Street
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Submitted by

VICTORIA Y. YOKOYAMA
[redacted]

History

The author purchased a five-acre parcel in Southeast Fresno in 1994 from a well-known African American farmer, built a home on the lot in 1997, and moved to Southeast Fresno from northern Clovis. The author and family have enjoyed the benefits of a Southeast Fresno rural life style by living in the Rural Residential zone for more than 30 years. The author's land is bordered on the south side by Fancher Creek Canal, and the author has been a conservationist in protecting the wildlife associated with the natural waterway. In 2001, the author objected to the proposed construction of a linear park on the Fanch Creek Canal ditch bank. In 2008, the original SEGA plan included the linear park. The SEGA plan then made an abrupt transition to the SEDA Plan in 2022. The issuance of the SEDA plan EIR was then announced in 2023 without adequate public warning to impacted property owners, and members of the public.

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iii. Species of birds found in the MFTD protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2023) include the following:

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Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) Comments – Annual Nesting Pairs Observed.

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Others species of protected birds observed include, but are not limited to the following:

Canada goose, Common merganser, Double crested cormorant, White tailed kite, Killdeer, California gull, Mourning dove, Bell's Vireo, Black phoebe, American pipet, many Warbler spp., White crowned sparrow, many Sparrow spp., Spotted towhee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bushtit, Dark eyed junco, Brewer's blackbird, American Robin, Northern mockingbird, Woodpecker sp., Sapsucker sp., Magpie sp., Oak titmouse, Blue-gray gnat catcher, Western bluebird, House finch, Lesser goldfinch, Belted kingfisher, Black-headed grosbeak and more.

c. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact on biodiversity in the SEDA. Small diversified farms in the MFTD grow specialty and vegetable crops, and raise farm animals including poultry, swine, sheep, cattle, and horses. Homes adjacent to Fancher Creek Canal have ponds (Exhibit 3.4-1) and others have extensive ornamental gardens. The rural residential area supports a diversity of plant species, some that are native to California and the US. Cultivated and natural vegetation includes established trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers. The rural landscape supports a growing diversity of wildlife including mammals, marsupials, rodents, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

i. Pollinators. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact of removing pollinator habitat from areas in the SEDA that would contribute to an agricultural disaster in the region. Pollinators including hummingbirds, butterflies, bats, and bees are in decline in California (Chrobak 2022), across the U.S., and globally (Rhodes 2018). Plants in agricultural margins have the potential to greatly enhance habitat connectivity for pollinating insects (Wolterbeek 2023; Dilts et al. 2023) and prevent biodiversity collapse while providing natural pollination services. A variety of plant types found in gardens attract a diversity of bees (Frankie 2019). Gardens are larger in the rural residential areas of the MFTD compared to the city helping to support pollinator diversity and survival, and restore habitat for the Monarch butterfly (Cutting and Tallamy 2015).

ii. Horticultural Nursery. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact of replacing a large horticultural plant nursery with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD (Exhibits 1-1, 2-2, 3.11-1, and 5-1). The nursery is classified as unique farmland in the SEDA (Exhibit 3.2-1), conducive to the rural residential landscape, and supports biodiversity (Liquete et al. 2016).

iii. Golf Course. The EIR fails to identify the environmental value of a golf course located in the southern area of the MFTD. Golf courses support biodiversity and provide ecosystem services (Petrosillo et al. 2019). The golf course in Exhibit 5-2, Farmland Conservation Alternative, is replaced by urban development.

10. Disagree with Regulated Trees. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact on California native oaks that are found in the SEDA and along the Fancher Creek Canal banks in the MFTD including valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) and California live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). One hundred-year-old eucalyptus trees grow from the banks of Fancher Creek Canal. Although these extremely tall trees are not protected, they are suitable habitats for nesting birds, especially raptors.

a. EIR fails to identify the Fresno County oak woodland policy (UC Oaks 2022) and impact of the plan on oak trees in the SEDA.

b. EIR fails to identify the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (2001) and impact of the plan on oak trees in the SEDA.

B. Regulatory Framework 3.4.3

1. The EIR fails to identify the significant negative impact of a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD community. The SEDA specific plan does not define the purpose of the MFTD Neighborhood Town Center. Therefore, the land can be used for an elementary school (two schools are already located nearby), a local park (residents already live in open spaces), community gardens (residents have their own gardens) or a range of housing options or retail shopping which is apparently the objective of a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD.

a. The property designated as the Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD is not owned by the current horticultural nursery operators according to Fresno County public records. The motive for Fresno City planners to designate this particular site for development is questionable, especially when a second Neighborhood Town Center is planned about 3000 ft to the west.

b. The EIR fails to address the significant negative environmental impact of the Neighborhood Town Center on the Fancher Creek Canal habitat along the development's southern border (Exhibit 3.4-1).

i. Fresno General Plan PEIR Mitigation Measures BIO-1.1, -1.2, and -1.3 are avoidance measures that justify eliminating the Neighborhood Town Center from the MFTD in the SEDA specific plan (Exhibits 1-1 and 2-2) and in Alternative 2-Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Exhibit 5-1)**.**

C. Thresholds of Significance 3.4.5

1. A Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would be significant because of the substantial adverse effect on the special-status species associated with the Fancher Creek Canal habitat (Impact Bio-1) by disrupting the environment that is currently a favorable habitat for the listed special-status species.

D. Level of Significant After Mitigation 3.4.6

1. Disagree with Impact BIO-1 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on special-status species (Impact BIO-1) with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan.

a. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1.1, -1.2, -1.3 to eliminate a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would result in a level of significance after mitigation of less than significant impact.

2. Disagree with Impact BIO-2 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on the riparian habitat of the Fancher Creek Canal (Impact BIO-2) with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan.

a. Eliminating the Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would result in a level of significance after mitigation of less than significant impact.

3. Disagree with Impact BIO-4 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on fish, established protected species, and wildlife movement through the corridor of the Fancher Creek Canal (Impact BIO-4) with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan.

a. Eliminating the Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would result in a level of significance after mitigation of less than significant impact.

4. Disagree with Impact BIO-5 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on California native oak trees within the MFTD and SEDA specific plan.

a. Fresno County has an oak woodland policy (UC Oaks 2022) and the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (2001) applies to oak trees in the SEDA specific plan.

E. Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 to the SEDA

The results of the author's evaluation of the impact of the SEDA on biological resources in the MFTD would apply to the entire SEDA specific plan region. The SEDA specific plan and the adverse effects of a Neighborhood Town Center on biodiversity and environmental habitat in the MFTD would also affect the adjacent areas of Sanger. The SEDA is a plan that supports urban sprawl into established rural residential and agricultural areas, and will destroy biological resources. Environmentally conscious agricultural and rural practices can benefit wildlife, but urban development will cause the greatest threat to all wildlife species and their habitats (Kucera and Barrett 1995).

1. Acceptable: Alternative 1-No Project Alternative is the preferred alternative and would have no significant environmental (Table 5-1) effect on the existing biological resources in the MFTD and within the region of the SEDA boundaries.

2. Not Acceptable: Alternative 2-Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Exhibit 5-1) would have the same unacceptable and significant environmental impact in the MFTD as the SEDA specific plan. In Alternative 2, the Neighborhood Town Center bordered by the Fancher Creek Canal on the south would remain in the MFTD. Alternative 2 will destroy farmland and cause habitat fragmentation and destruction that result in an unrecoverable loss of biological resources within the SEDA.

a. Disagree with Table 5-1 Biological Resources, Alternative 2 quantitative environmental effect is greater than or equal to (≥) in part, and greater than (>) in part.

3. Acceptable: Alternative 3-Farmland Conservation Alternative (Exhibit 5-2) would eliminate the Neighborhood Town Center, and the golf course a source of habit in the MFTD, but the Fancher Creek Canal that supports environmental habitat and species diversity would be preserved. Alternative 3 would implement the MM AG-2 mitigation measure to preserve farmland, and prevent farmland conversion into nonagricultural uses. Alternative 3 limits urban sprawl into farmland and helps preserve biological resources, and conservation of the environmental and ecological integrity of the SEDA.

F. References

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CITY OF FRESNO, FRESNO COUNTY, CA
State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486

AUGUST 27, 2023

Submitted by Email and USPS to

City of Fresno
Jennifer Clark, Director
Planning & Development Dept.
2600 Fresno Street
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Fresno, CA 93721
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Submitted by

VICTORIA Y. YOKOYAMA
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Others species of protected birds observed include, but are not limited to the following:

Canada goose, Common merganser, Double crested cormorant, White tailed kite, Killdeer, California gull, Mourning dove, Bell's Vireo, Black phoebe, American pipet, many Warbler spp., White crowned sparrow, many Sparrow spp., Spotted towhee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bushtit, Dark eyed junco, Brewer's blackbird, American Robin, Northern mockingbird, Woodpecker sp., Sapsucker sp., Magpie sp., Oak titmouse, Blue-gray gnat catcher, Western bluebird, House finch, Lesser goldfinch, Belted kingfisher, Black-headed grosbeak and more.

c. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact on biodiversity in the SEDA. Small diversified farms in the MFTD grow specialty and vegetable crops, and raise farm animals including poultry, swine, sheep, cattle, and horses. Homes adjacent to Fancher Creek Canal have ponds (Exhibit 3.4-1) and others have extensive ornamental gardens. The rural residential area supports a diversity of plant species, some that are native to California and the US. Cultivated and natural vegetation includes established trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers. The rural landscape supports a growing diversity of wildlife including mammals, marsupials, rodents, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

i. Pollinators. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact of removing pollinator habitat from areas in the SEDA that would contribute to an agricultural disaster in the region. Pollinators including hummingbirds, butterflies, bats, and bees are in decline in California (Chrobak 2022), across the U.S., and globally (Rhodes 2018). Plants in agricultural margins have the potential to greatly enhance habitat connectivity for pollinating insects (Wolterbeek 2023; Dilts et al. 2023) and prevent biodiversity collapse while providing natural pollination services. A variety of plant types found in gardens attract a diversity of bees (Frankie 2019). Gardens are larger in the rural residential areas of the MFTD compared to the city helping to support pollinator diversity and survival, and restore habitat for the Monarch butterfly (Cutting and Tallamy 2015).

ii. Horticultural Nursery. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact of replacing a large horticultural plant nursery with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD (Exhibits 1-1, 2-2, 3.11-1, and 5-1). The nursery is classified as unique farmland in the SEDA (Exhibit 3.2-1), conducive to the rural residential landscape, and supports biodiversity (Liquete et al. 2016).

iii. Golf Course. The EIR fails to identify the environmental value of a golf course located in the southern area of the MFTD. Golf courses support biodiversity and provide ecosystem services (Petrosillo et al. 2019). The golf course in Exhibit 5-2, Farmland Conservation Alternative, is replaced by urban development.

10. Disagree with Regulated Trees. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact on California native oaks that are found in the SEDA and along the Fancher Creek Canal banks in the MFTD including valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) and California live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). One hundred-year-old eucalyptus trees grow from the banks of Fancher Creek Canal. Although these extremely tall trees are not protected, they are suitable habitats for nesting birds, especially raptors.

a. EIR fails to identify the Fresno County oak woodland policy (UC Oaks 2022) and impact of the plan on oak trees in the SEDA.

b. EIR fails to identify the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (2001) and impact of the plan on oak trees in the SEDA.

B. Regulatory Framework 3.4.3

1. The EIR fails to identify the significant negative impact of a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD community. The SEDA specific plan does not define the purpose of the MFTD Neighborhood Town Center. Therefore, the land can be used for an elementary school (two schools are already located nearby), a local park (residents already live in open spaces), community gardens (residents have their own gardens) or a range of housing options or retail shopping which is apparently the objective of a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD.

a. The property designated as the Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD is not owned by the current horticultural nursery operators according to Fresno County public records. The motive for Fresno City planners to designate this particular site for development is questionable, especially when a second Neighborhood Town Center is planned about 3000 ft to the west.

b. The EIR fails to address the significant negative environmental impact of the Neighborhood Town Center on the Fancher Creek Canal habitat along the development's southern border (Exhibit 3.4-1).

i. Fresno General Plan PEIR Mitigation Measures BIO-1.1, -1.2, and -1.3 are avoidance measures that justify eliminating the Neighborhood Town Center from the MFTD in the SEDA specific plan (Exhibits 1-1 and 2-2) and in Alternative 2-Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Exhibit 5-1)**.**

C. Thresholds of Significance 3.4.5

1. A Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would be significant because of the substantial adverse effect on the special-status species associated with the Fancher Creek Canal habitat (Impact Bio-1) by disrupting the environment that is currently a favorable habitat for the listed special-status species.

D. Level of Significant After Mitigation 3.4.6

1. Disagree with Impact BIO-1 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on special-status species (Impact BIO-1) with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan.

a. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1.1, -1.2, -1.3 to eliminate a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would result in a level of significance after mitigation of less than significant impact.

2. Disagree with Impact BIO-2 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on the riparian habitat of the Fancher Creek Canal (Impact BIO-2) with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan.

a. Eliminating the Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would result in a level of significance after mitigation of less than significant impact.

3. Disagree with Impact BIO-4 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on fish, established protected species, and wildlife movement through the corridor of the Fancher Creek Canal (Impact BIO-4) with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan.

a. Eliminating the Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would result in a level of significance after mitigation of less than significant impact.

4. Disagree with Impact BIO-5 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on California native oak trees within the MFTD and SEDA specific plan.

a. Fresno County has an oak woodland policy (UC Oaks 2022) and the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (2001) applies to oak trees in the SEDA specific plan.

E. Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 to the SEDA

The results of the author's evaluation of the impact of the SEDA on biological resources in the MFTD would apply to the entire SEDA specific plan region. The SEDA specific plan and the adverse effects of a Neighborhood Town Center on biodiversity and environmental habitat in the MFTD would also affect the adjacent areas of Sanger. The SEDA is a plan that supports urban sprawl into established rural residential and agricultural areas, and will destroy biological resources. Environmentally conscious agricultural and rural practices can benefit wildlife, but urban development will cause the greatest threat to all wildlife species and their habitats (Kucera and Barrett 1995).

1. Acceptable: Alternative 1-No Project Alternative is the preferred alternative and would have no significant environmental (Table 5-1) effect on the existing biological resources in the MFTD and within the region of the SEDA boundaries.

2. Not Acceptable: Alternative 2-Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Exhibit 5-1) would have the same unacceptable and significant environmental impact in the MFTD as the SEDA specific plan. In Alternative 2, the Neighborhood Town Center bordered by the Fancher Creek Canal on the south would remain in the MFTD. Alternative 2 will destroy farmland and cause habitat fragmentation and destruction that result in an unrecoverable loss of biological resources within the SEDA.

a. Disagree with Table 5-1 Biological Resources, Alternative 2 quantitative environmental effect is greater than or equal to (≥) in part, and greater than (>) in part.

3. Acceptable: Alternative 3-Farmland Conservation Alternative (Exhibit 5-2) would eliminate the Neighborhood Town Center, and the golf course a source of habit in the MFTD, but the Fancher Creek Canal that supports environmental habitat and species diversity would be preserved. Alternative 3 would implement the MM AG-2 mitigation measure to preserve farmland, and prevent farmland conversion into nonagricultural uses. Alternative 3 limits urban sprawl into farmland and helps preserve biological resources, and conservation of the environmental and ecological integrity of the SEDA.

F. References

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR, and Specific Plan

A MAJOR CONCERN WOULD BE THE AIR POLLUTION THE PROJECT WOULD GENERATE. ACCORDING TO THE EIR PG 6-5 THE PROJECT WOULD GENERATE A SUSTANTIAL LONG TERM POLLUTANTS.

AS A RETIRED SCHOOL NURSE, THE INCREASE OF ASTHMA & OTHER RESPIRATORY ISSUES IS A MAJOR CONTINUING HEATH ISSUE.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Sec. 3.3
1) Site the studies done that show how air quality will change with reference to time

Sec. 3.17
2) How will the influx of trucks impact the residents. Site data.

Sec. 3.17
3) What information do you have that supports the project is consistent with state and local plans and policies?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Sec. 3.8

1) How is this project consistent with Assembly Emissions Bill 32's statewide goal of 29% reduction of emissions from business as usual?

Sec. 3.8

2) How frequently and for what length of time will the level of particulate air pollution in the area surrounding the Project exceed the Threshold of Significance as outlined by CEQA?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

1) How will a potential cumulative expansion project affect pollutant concentrations? Please site studies. Sec. 3.8 + Sec. 3.3

2) What were the studies that showed the effects of energy usage with respect to the project's potential impacts on air quality and GHG? Sec. 3.3 and 3.8 and results

3) How does this project affect Global Warming? Site statistics

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Sec. 3.17

1) What is the data concerning calculating the energy impacts of the project relating to vehicle trips?

Sec. 3.8

2) In 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger promoted AB 32 to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Give data to support that this Project will comply with these standards.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Sec. 3.13

What is the maximum single event noise level allowed by the City of FRESNO and how would this project affect the level?

NW #1

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

HOW IS IT of good conscious THAT THE EIR AND THE INFILL REPORTS ARE RELEASED ~~ME~~ AND THEN GIVEN 45 DAYS TO COMMENT ON. THERE ARE OVER 800 pages IN THE EIR AND 46 pages IN THE IFD PLEASE COMMENT

NW-12

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PER IMPACT AG 2 on ES-13

DOES THE SPECIFIC EIR PLAN CONFLICT WITH THE WILLIAMSON ACT?

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DW-2

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

HOW CAN OR WILL YOU PURPOSE A SUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE TO SEDA PLAN WHEN THERE ISN'T SUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CITY OF FRESNO?

DW-3

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HAS THE CITY REACHED A TAX AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY? I HOPE NOT

WHEN?

DW-4

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ARE THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR A $900 MILLION ESTIMATED COST FOR SEDA PLAN AND WHERE ARE FUNDS COMING FROM?

DW-5

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

THE CITY HAS CLAIMED NO EMINANT DOMAIN, WHAT ABOUT THE FARMS WITHIN THE RURAL CLUSTERS. HOW WILL THEY NOT BE EFFECTED BY THESE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TYPES. WHAT LAND WILL THEY BE ON? WHO'S LAND?

DW-6

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

DOES THE SEDA SPECIFIC PLAN ALREADY HAVE THE "LAND" PURPOSED FOR THESE COMMUNITY CENTERS, REGIONAL, NEIGHBORHOOD & OFFICE CENTERS, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AND ALL THE OTHER PURPOSED LAND USES? IF NOT HOW DOES YOUR MAPS SHOW THEM IN SPECIFIC & UNIQUE AREAS?

DW-7

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WHO ARE THESE AFFORDABLE HOUSES FOR? LOW INCOME? WILL THEY BE FOR RENT OR SALE? OR GOVERNMENT, STATE, PAID FOR.

WITH THE ECONOMY & INTEREST RATES INCREASING HOW WILL ANYONE BE ABLE TO RENT OR BUY.

AN AVERAGE 1 BEDROOM APT IS $1200.00 - $2500.!!

Dist-8

COMMENT CARD

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WHERE IN THE EIR IS THE HOMELESS STOPPED? WHY NOT CLEAN UP THE PEOPLE ON THE STREETS & THEIR FILTH BEFORE EXPANDING THEIR TERRITORY? WHAT IS THAT PLAN? AFFORDABLE HOUSING? WHO PAYS FOR IT? US?

Dist-9

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

HOW DO YOU PURPOSE A 250,000 MORE POPULATION GROWTH TO THE CITY OF FRESNO WHEN ~~CVWIDE~~ FRESNO LACKS ARTICLE SAYS CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION IS SHRINKING DUE TO HIGH COST OF LIVING

"Growth for the sake of Growth is the ideology of the cancer cell"
Edward Abbey

DW-10

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

~~INTRODUCTION/PROJECT~~

IN YOUR EFFORT TO CONSERVE ENERGY, WHAT ARE THE HEALTH RISKS LIVING NEAR THESE SOLAR FARMS? A 160 ACRE SOLAR FARM WHITNEY POINT! Pg 98 SEDA SPECIFIC PLAN IN MY RESEARCH I FOUND THESE SOLAR FARMS CAN HAVE LOSS OF HABITAT, INTERFERENCE WITH RAINFALL AND DRAINAGE. OR DIRECT CONTACT CAUSING INJURY OR DEATH. ARK FLASHES, ARK FLASH BURNS + BLAST HAZARDS, ELECTRIC SHOCK FALLS, THERMAL BURN, ELECTRICAL FIRES (DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN) TRAFFIC HAZARDS DUE TO LARGE NUMBER OF VEHICLES NEEDED TO TRANPORT EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO FARMS.

DW #11

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Pg 1st INTERDUCTION, PARAGRAPH 1?
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO GROW ~~WHEN~~ PER CHAVEZ IN THE GV WIRE ARTICLE, WE NEED TO GROW IN AN ARTICLE BY DAN WALTERS ON CalMATTERS SAYS - NEWSOM: HOUSING MANDATE UNDERCUT BY DRAMATIC POPULATION DECLINE DATA? IT SAYS IN THE ARTICLE THAT A NEW SET OF PROJECTIONS THAT CALFORNIA POPULATION WILL SHOW LITTLE OR NO GROWTH through 2060!

DW-13

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

HAS THE City completed THE EXPANSION OF THE BASIN FOR FUTURE STORM-WATER IN SEDA

DW-14

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WHY DO HOMEOWNERS HAVE TO PAY FOR HOOK UPS FOR WATER AND SEWER, WHEN ITS THE CITY WHO ARE PUSHING THE PLAN. WHY DON'T THEY OR THE DEVELOPERS YOUR IN BED WITH HAVE TO?

Ltr #15

SEDA SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

PER YOUR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
AS A CITY
YOU SAY YOU DON'T WANT TO BURDEN THE FRESNO RESIDENTS OUTSIDE SEDA ALL THE WHILE MAKING SEDA RESIDENTS PAY TO HOOK TO WATER & SEWER COSTING US AROUND 50-60 THOUSAND DOLLARS, ALONG BURDENING US HOMEOWNERS IN SEDA

Ltr #16

SEDA SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

DOESN'T THE CITY HAVE ANY CONSCIENCE TOWARD THE PEOPLE IN SEDA?
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DO WILL TURN BACK ON YOU AT SOME POINT. YOU CAN'T DO EVIL AND EVIL NOT BE ON YOU.
ITS EVIL FOR EVIL AND GOOD FOR GOOD
LINING YOUR POCKETS ON THE BACKS OF OUR PROPERTIES IS EVIL

DW #17

SEDA COMMENT CARD

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WITH THE HIGH DENSITY HOUSING PLAN, WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY RESPONCE PLAN?

DO WE HAVE ONE INCASE OF FIRE WITHIN THE SIDE BY SIDE HOUSING, THAT COULD CAUSE MULTIPLE HOUSES TO BE IN DANGER

DW #18

SEDA COMMENT CARD

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

SHOULD AN UNEXPECTED POTENTIAL THREAT DEVELOP FROM FLOODING, ETC, FIRES

WHAT IS THE PLAN & F EVACUATING PEOPLE

DW #19

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WITHOUT THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF ROADS, HOW WILL FIRE FIGHTERS & RESCUE PERSONNEL BE ABLE TO ACCESS VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE HIGH DENSITY AREAS DURING AN EMERGENCY?

DW #20

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

DUE TO CLOSE PROXIMITY OF THE HIGH DENSITY HOUSING, AND THEREFORE, THE HIGH WILDFIRE RISKS OF RAPID SPREADING WHAT IS THE PLAN TO PROTECT THE OCCUPANTS FROM POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS?

COMMENT CARD

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

What is the timeline for annexation, fee study and water survey to type II areas?

Thank you

[illegible]

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

What would happen if developers didn't obtain the plan? If building of infrastructure is planned prior to developer ownership, what happens if they are prevented from purchasing land in SEDA? Why are these plans intended to be executed without the primary factor - developer ownership being established? This is a prime case of cart before the horse and the City wasting time, effort and energy on large assumptions.

SEDA
SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

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Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

According to the city's SEDA timeline displayed at the drop-in event, public utilities - namely water - will be made accessible to the area by 2029. What is the specific plan/timeline for how this stated goal will be achieved? Particularly given the 2050 completion date of the plan. What happens

COMMENT CARD

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540-3

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

What is the cost of this plan? Does the city have the funds? Or where will the funds come from? What part of the cost will default to property owners? Can the city provide a detailed plan for and budgeted execution of how this plan will be paid for?

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546-2

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

What is the plan for when and where water is not available. Please demonstrate plan for both Type I and type II water in the case of shortage and/or inaccessibility.

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540-1

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

What is the specific plan and timeline for building infrastructure as it pertains to water and sewage out to the area. Will this be clearly demonstrated to the public?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

According to Granville Coalition, there are 8,700 acres of vacant and undeveloped land within the city. With the capacity to hold over 134,000 housing units this is sufficient to account for nearly half of your projected population growth of 250,000 by 2050. Why aren't these areas being the focus for the aims and objectives of SEDA in an effort to protect, preserve and respect agriculture?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

According to a Calmatters article, "the state's population has been drifting downward for several years and the State Dept. of Finance recently projected it will remain virtually unchanged at around 40 million at least until 2060 – a radical change from earlier predictions that it would top 50 mill." How did the city of Fresno come up with their astronomical and outdated projections of major growth? The entire EIR is based on this erroneous claim.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

A GV Wire article noted that "Newsom Housing mandates undercut by dramatic population drop data." Why is there so much push to continue development despite these declines. How many homes are already developed and uninhabited? "Demographers now estimate that in 2030 CA will now have just 39.4 million residents - 3 million fewer than the previous projection - which would translate into about a million fewer household needing homes." Yet this EIR supports an additional 45,000 units.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

GV Wire points out that "State officials say CA. needs to build 2.5 million new housing units by 2030, more than double the previous 2025 goal that was close to being met." Why would the city of Fresno keep up with these growing goals? ~~Wasteful~~ Particularly when "CA. projects zero population growth through 2060." According to globest.com.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

One Cal Matters article reveals the latest population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau that "California's total population declined by more than 500,000 between April 2020 and July 2022." How does the EIR justify their continued growth claims despite both State and Federal projections that are in stark contradiction with the city's.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

A recent Bee article points out that "Downtown Fresno to receive $250 million under Newsom's proposed budget plan." These monies are designated to improve "parks, water infrastructure, and plans to improve walkability," All of which SEDA aims to do. If these monies are already allocated for a downtown who wants and needs these improvements, why isn't downtown prioritized for these aims and objectives over SEPA [273] an effort to save our prime farmland?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

SE Fresno is overwhelmingly already a safe place to live. Meanwhile inhabitants of the inner city are crying for the support of the city to aid them in cleaning up their neighborhoods and making their neighborhoods safe. Why isn't the city addressing these needs of their current residents? Why would you they uphold their claims to keep SEDA safe when they won't even heed the cries of their own citizens? Give your people the benefits you promise in SEDA before bothering our land to make empty promises.

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540-5

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

According to city documents, the purpose of the EIR is to "ensure prevention of environmental damage by requiring implementation of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures." Yet numerous "significant and unavoidable adverse impacts" are documented therein. And seemingly completely being ignored. What other "feasible alternatives" have been considered to avoid these substantial impacts? This is severely concerning. Why aren't other alternatives being discussed so as to uphold the purpose of the EIR and its objectives which are

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540-4

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

What is the specific and articulated timeline of events and cost of each phase as it pertains to annexation, development, zoning, infrastructure and completion? Does the City have a budget to implement each of these phases according to the specified timeline? Can the public see a clear demonstration of this timeline and how it will be executed by the completion date of 2050?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The city can't make up its mind for their varied attempts to make it a better city. How can we be sure that SEDA won't be the next neglected and abandoned project. We've seen the city repeatedly fail to fulfill their promises of [illegible] to first, the mercheants area, then Fashion Fair, downtown, Riverpark the city invests a bunch of wasted time oh. empty promises to get start up a new project and leave the old to rot.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The city has it provides requested info. regarding crime rate in the city. My question is, how do they intend to carry out promise of safety in the SEDA area when they can't properly steward safety in their existing jurisdiction?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The city claims that they want the public to be informed but ~~they~~ at their first drop-in event, they didn't even present the Executive Summary - the main focus of the event - ~~[redacted]~~ Only after my request was made, did they present it at the second event? ~~[redacted]~~ their efforts have not been consistent with their claims. Another example was the invite to attend a drop-in. Why was there no clarity of what would be presented? Just a convoluted way of confusion.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The timeline that was given for the community to respond to this EIR is insufficient. 45 days to respond to a document of 800+ pages is inconceivable when the city couldn't even respond to one statistical request regarding homes and crime rates within the city. Request was submitted 8/15 and is still pending. If the city representative don't have this information at hand, how was the plan even designed? And why is the information being withheld until the deadline for comments passes?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

There is a lack of transparency surrounding this plan. The City representatives have been nothing but elusive and ambiguous in their "attempts" to inform the public of this plan. Their literature is designed to be disposed and ignored by recipients as junk; their events have created more than clarity; their representatives are ill informed and have provided conflicting messages and the plan itself is contradictory. Why isn't there a clear explanation of what is being planned?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

~~[illegible]~~ Fresno representatives have confirmed that type II water is not allocated for the area. What is the plan to do so? What is the projected timeline for doing so?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

This EIR completely ignores my customs and traditions as a lover of the rural lifestyle. As a city-dweller, I retreat to this area often for artistic inspiration. The sights, smells and sounds of SE Fresno encourage my wide artistic expression in written prose, poetry, music and visual photography. The EIR clearly identifies the visual impacts that will disrupt both the light and the landscape. Not to mention the animals who will be forced to relocate with their rural human counterpart. Their lifestyle loss equates to my artistic loss.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Policy HCR-3 would supposedly "promote the integration of public art into historic buildings and established neighborhoods" but neglects to foster the creation of art. The land in SE Fresno is my studio. The dirt, my ink. AES-3 blatantly shows that the plan will "substantially degrade the visual character" of the area and AES-4 would create "a new source of light or glare" which pose adverse effects on these views. Light is the primary function of photography and the artistic output in this area will be dramatically affected. The EIR fails to mention these artistic losses to our community. Applying art to

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Southeast Fresno is predominantly composed of ~~[illegible]~~ people who would identify with a rural lifestyle | culture. This community of small farmers & citizens with an appreciation for the outdoors, animals, gardening and the natural world will be forced to change their lifestyle due to SEDA Impacts such as AES-4 which would "Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views." Uttering prayers under the view of the stars is a ritual of ours. How does the plan/EIR justify the destruction of our sanctuary? How is it consistent with th social equity objectives?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

AES-3 states "the proposed project would, in non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings." It would also "alter the existing visual character by increasing the intensity of development in areas that are primarily agriculture." For individuals whose lifestyles and culture are built upon the natural world, this plan would force a mass exodus by expelling all who depend on nature for a thriving life, and discriminates them by limiting them to the eastern border of the proposed area. It reverts the area to

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The plan claims to "build on a definition of affordability that considers household transportation burdens as a component of housing costs." There is only one definition of affordability — so what are you re-defining it to mean here? Supposing these homes are "affordable" (I would be interested in your definition of affordable as well) — for how long? What's to stop the SEDA home from skyrocketing in the future? Is there a contract to hold the price to "affordable" standards? When does it expire?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

It has been confirmed by both City and County representatives that there is no tax-sharing agreement which is a ~~pre~~ prerequisite for carrying out the plan. Why is this being considered without the pre-existing agreement?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Policy CF-3.4 regarding community farming in the Specific Plan draft suggests that this Plan will "expand a viable community farming program that promotes an Appreciation of food and local ecology, installs a sense of Stewardship and community...." This "goal" directly conflicts with the outcome: a disrespect of the food currently being Produced on the land to be developed over (7000 such acres); and blatant disrespect for the existing ecology and community; a complete FAILURE to steward what We already have.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The EIR objectives claim to "respect the major economic & cultural role of ag" The NOA Dictionary defines culture as "the arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively." and "the customs, arts, social institutions and achievements of a particular group." As a writer from the area, this plan disregards my own artistic endeavors which depend on ag and natural land to create metaphor which speak to the life, growth and development of the human heart, mind and soul.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Our English word "Culture" comes from the latin "cultura" which fundamentally denotes agricultural concepts like "growth", "cultivation" and "tend". That is to say, our social understanding of culture—to cultivate the growth of certain underprivileged groups—would be moot without the basic biological understanding of what it means to cultivate the earth in the agricultural sense. So the claim in the EIR to "respect the cultural role of ag" this plan directly disrupts the cultural customs, traditions and even religious observations of the ag community by way of destroying 7000 acres of land we depend on despite

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Section 3.5.1 describes "the existing cultural and tribal cultural resources setting and potential effects from project implementation on the site and its surrounding area." But it makes no mention of the existing cultures that thrive on these soils and the extinction of the cultural practice of farming on these lands that this plan will enforce. A side by side look at the proposed land use map and Exhibit 3.2.1, Important farmland map vividly display this extinction, but the EIR doesn't acknowledge it.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

This EIR aims to protect certain cultures at the expense of others. The erection of buildings over the top of sacred soils and prime ag land show complete disregard for the ag community. Section 3.5-3 outlines an inventory of significant historical properties, but is limited by those listed in the NRHP. It makes no mention of historical institutions like 4-H & FFA and the chapters from the area, nor the numerous and diverse ethnic cultures that currently farm the land in the proposed area and the estates that have been farmed for generations

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Under its social equity aim in its project objectives, the EIR states one of its objective is to "respect the major economic & cultural role of ag in the Central Valley." But its repeated assertions that there will be "significant and unavoidable impact" directly disrespects and disrupts the rural culture that thrives in SE Fresno. The EIR ignores the harm this plan will cause to the cultural practices and lifestyle of the rural ~~rural~~ farmer and resident. How will this be addressed?

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Exib. 3.4.1 shows that there are 7,000 acres of productive farmland in the SEDA area. The EIR claims in its project objectives to "respect ag land" How then, is this loss of productive ag land to development (2,475 of which the EIR acknowlegdes as "prime farmland") justified? "Green spaces" and "community gardens" won't suffice. The "significant and unavoidable" impacts of converting prime ag land to nonagricultural use is far from respectful.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The ecological disruption this plan will enforce on the land, existing community and lifestyle of SE Fresno culture will inevitably encourage conflict between new tenants to the SEDA developed area and pre-existing rural dwellers. What is the city's plan to properly handle complaints regarding an increase of litter, crime, vehicular disturbances, trespassing, etc? And how will they respond to complaints of residents adjacent to farms who won't appreciate the smells, dust and practices of nearby farmers?

296

Where? How does the specific plan address this?

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At one of the city's "drop-in" events their timeline poster projected that a "Zoning code update" will occur in June of 2024. What exactly does this update entail? On what basis is this projection of June 2024 made, considering the claims from the city that rezoning won't occur before development. Does the city anticipate development in 2024? And how is this consistent with EIR Impact AG-2

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Exhibit 3.2.5 Impact AG-5 states that ~~SEDA~~ "Implementation of the approved general plan would conflict with land under Williamson Act Contracts." When do these contracts expire. Is the city simply ignoring them? How else is this plan being considered with ~~out~~ this blatant disregard for these existing contracts?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The Executive Summary states on Pg. ES-5 under Impact AG-2 that "the continued implementation of the general plan and proposed specific plan would result in significant impact on existing Williamson Act Contract Land." and "result in the conversion of Williamson Act land to non-ag uses." But on pg. ES-13 under Impact AG-2 says "the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for ag use or a Williamson Act Contract. Which is it?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Have the local 4-H and FFA chapters been informed of this plan? How does it respect or consider the next generation who wants to farm? There are at least 4 4-H chapts in and around the proposed area who are encouraged to grow plants and raise livestock. (see Lone Star, Blossom Trail, Dry Creek and Fairmont 4-H club websites) Where are children located in the SEDA development supposed to raise their animals and cultivate their projects? This plan robs them of the opportunity

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The Social equity claim in the Project Objective that this plan will "sustain the diversity of Fresno's population by providing a wide variety of housing choices," is erroneous. The design of the housing units, and structures aren't conducive to a rural lifestyle. Was the rural subculture considered at the planning phase as a part of a diverse population? And what efforts were made for the protection and preservation of rural cultures in the SEDA plan and EIR?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

In regards to Implementation, the project objectives state that SEDA development will be "based on housing needs, infrastructure availability and minimization of impacts."

how are the city's projections of "growth in Fresno to continue at a rapid pace" and 250,000 people by 2050 consistant with the state of CA's recent projections of zero growth by 2060, released by the Dept. of Finance?

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

What is the detailed timeline for carrying out the extensive infrastructure for getting water and sewer lines to the area? How and when will the infrastructure be introduced to feed the planned development? What will the cost be for said infrastructure? And where will the hook ups be? (the treatment plant?) And how are you planning for this PRIOR to developers ownership? Since we're told this can't occur before developers purchase the land.

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The city of Fresno doesn't have a good reputation for formulating a vision and carrying it forward to completion. Turnover for city reps poses another layer of difficulty for the city to develop a long-term mindset and continuity enough to carry out such an extensive plan as the SEDA. In addition, the city can't stay focused on any given project (ie. downtown). What is the detailed, long-term timeline for seeing this plan to fruition? The devil is in the details.

August 21, 2023

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street
Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Ms. Asadoorian,

Regarding the Program Environmental Impact Report for the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (State Clearninghouse Number 2022020486), I am writing to express my many great concerns.

I am fiercely opposed to this plan and find that the Program EIR is deeply flawed. Enclosed are my comments contesting various sections of the EIR, with reference to its corresponding fallacies and distortions therein.

I have also included additional sources of evidence to support my finings. I ask that First Carbon Solutions take these errs and discrepancies into consideration, and take note that the public is widely concerned by this top heavy report (and SEDA plan) which have no substantial foundations to support the following areas:

A. The loss of productive agricultural land

B. The demise of rural subculture and a blunt force blow to our future generations

C. Lack of water, in particular type II

D. Ethical disparity and lack of transparency

E. Discrepancies within the EIR which conflict with the stated plan objectives

F. Defective, incomplete and inadequate timeline for plan execution

G. Lack of resources and infrastructure

The EIR does not account for these major areas of loss, deficiency and discrepancy. For these reasons, I have copied various city, county and LAFCO representatives to urge their objection and request their assistance in avoiding the dramatic ramifications of a faulty EIR and destructive plan.

Sincerely,

Leah Bigham
Grateful product of a Southeast Fresno upbringing
SEPO member



August 21, 2023

Jennifer Clark, Director, Planning and Development Department
c/o Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street
Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Ms. Clark,

Regarding the Program Environmental Impact Report for the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (State Clearninghouse Number 2022020486), I am writing to express my many great concerns.

I am fiercely opposed to this plan and find that the Program EIR is deeply flawed. Enclosed are my comments contesting various sections of the EIR, with reference to its corresponding fallacies and distortions therein.

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F. Defective, incomplete and inadequate timeline for plan execution

G. Lack of resources and infrastructure

The EIR does not account for these major areas of loss, deficiency and discrepancy. For these reasons, I have copied various city, county and LAFCO representatives to urge their objection and request their assistance in avoiding the dramatic ramifications of a faulty EIR and destructive plan.

Sincerely,

Leah Bigham
Grateful product of a Southeast Fresno upbringing
SEPO member

DW #1

SEDA SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

How is it of good conscious that the EIR and the infill reports are released ~~the~~ and then given 45 days to comment on. There are over 800 pages in the EIR and 41 pages in the IFD Please comment

DW-17

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

PER IMPACT AG 2 on ES-13

DOES THE SPECIFIC PLAN CONFLICT WITH THE WILLIAMSON ACT?

DW-2

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Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

HOW CAN OR WILL YOU PURPOSE A SUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE TO SEDA PLAN WHEN THERE ISN'T SUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CITY OF FRESNO?

DW-3

SEDA SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA COMMENT CARD

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Address and Nearest Cross Streets:
[redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

HAS THE CITY REACHED A TAX AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY? I HOPE NOT

WHEN?

DW-4

SEDA
SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number:
647-2292

Email:
[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:
[redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

ARE THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR $ 900 MILLION ESTIMATED COST FOR SEDA PLAN AND WHERE ARE FUNDS COMING FROM?

DW-5

SEDA
SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number:
[redacted]

Email:
[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:
[redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

THE CITY HAS CLAIMED NO EMINANT DOMAIN, WHAT ABOUT THE FARMS WITHIN THE RURAL CLUSTERS. HOW WILL THEY NOT BE EFFECTED BY THESE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TYPES. WHAT LAND WILL THEY BE ON? WHO'S LAND?

DW-6

SEDA SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

Name:

DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

DOES THE SEDA SPECIFIC PLAN ALREADY HAVE THE "LAND" PURPOSED FOR THESE COMMUNITY CENTERS, REGIONAL, NEIGHBORHOOD & OFFICE CENTERS, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AND ALL THE OTHER PURPOSED LAND USES? IF NOT HOW DOES YOUR MAPS SHOW THEM IN SPECIFIC & UNIQUE AREAS?

DW-7

SEDA SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WHO ARE THESE AFFORDABLE HOUSES FOR? LOW INCOME? WILL THEY BE FOR RENT OR SALE? OR GOVERNMENT, STATE, PAID FOR.

With the economy & INTEREST RATES INCREASING how will anyone BE ABLE TO RENT OR BUY.

AN AVERAGE 1 BEDROOM APT IS $1200.00 - $2500.11

Dist-8

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WHERE IN THE EIR IS THE HOMELESS STOPED? WHY NOT CLEAN UP THE PEOPLE ON THE STREETS & THEIR FILTH BEFORE EXPANDING THEIR TERRITORY? WHAT IS THAT PLAN? AFFORDABLE HOUSING? WHO PAYS FOR IT? US?

Dist-9

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

HOW DO YOU PURPOSE A 250,000 MORE POPULATION SOUTH TO THE CITY OF FRESNO WHEN ~~CVWHEE~~ FRESNO LANDS ARTICLE SAYS CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION IS SHRINKING DUE TO HIGH COST OF LIVING

"Growth for the sake of Growth is the ideology of The Cancer cell"
Edward Abbey

DW-10

SEDA SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

~~TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES~~

IN YOUR EFFORT TO CONSERVE ENERGY,

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH RISKS LIVING NEAR

THESE SOLAR FARMS? A 160 ACRE SOLAR FARM

WHITNEY POINT! Pg 98 SEDA SPECIFIC PLAN

IN MY RESEARCH I FOUND THESE SOLAR FARMS

CAN HAVE LOSS OF HABITAT, INTERFERENCE

WITH RAINFALL AND DRAINAGE. OR DIRECT

CONTACT CAUSING INJURY OR DEATH. ARC FLASHES,

ARC FLASH BURNS & BLAST HAZARDS, ELECTRIC

SHOCK FAILS, THERMAL BURN, ELECTRICAL

FIRES (DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN) TRAFFIC

HAZARDS DUE TO LARGE NUMBER OF

VEHICLES NEEDED TO TRANPORT

EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO FARMS.

DW #11

SEDA SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB

DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Pg 1st INTERDUCTION, Paragraph 1?

HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO GROW

~~WHEN~~ PER CHAVEZ, IN

THE GVWIRE ARTICLE, WHEN WE REACH 2040

IN AN ARTICLE BY DAN

WALTERS ON CalMATTERS

SAYS - NEWSOM: HOUSING MANDATE

UNDERCUT BY DRAMATIC POPULATION

DECLINE DATA? IT SAYS IN THE

ARTICLE THAT A NEW SET OF PROJECTIONS

THAT CALFORNIA POPULATION WILL SHOW

LITTLE OR NO GROWTH through

2060!

DW-13

SEDA SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

HAS THE City completed THE EXPANSION OF THE BASIN FOR FUTURE STORM-WATER IN SEDA

DW-14

SEDA SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WHY DO HOMEOWNERS HAVE TO PAY FOR HOOK UPS FOR WATER AND SEWER, WHEN ITS THE CITY WHO ARE PUSHING THE PLAN. WHY DON'T THEY OR THE DEVELOPERS YOUR IN BED WITH HAVE TO?

Dup #15

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

PER YOUR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ANALYSIS
YOU CITY SAY YOU DON'T WANT TO BURDEN THE FRESNO RESIDENTS OUTSIDE SEDA ALL THE WHILE MAKING SEDA RESIDENTS PAY TO HOOK TO WATER & SEWER COSTING US AROUND 50-60 THOUSAND DOLLARS, ALONG BURDENING US HOMEOWNERS IN SEDA

Dup #16

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

DOESN'T THE CITY HAVE ANY CONSIDERATION TOWARDS THE PEOPLE IN SEDA?
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DO WILL TURN BACK ON YOU AT SOME POINT. YOU CAN'T DO EVIL AND EVIL NOT BE ON YOU.
ITS EVIL FOR EVIL AND GOOD FOR GOOD
LINING YOUR POCKETS ON THE BACKS OF OUR PROPERTIES IS EVIL

DW #17

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WITH THE HIGH DENSITY HOUSING PLAN, WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY RESPONCE PLAN?

DO WE HAVE ONE INCASE OF FIRE WITHIN THE SIDE BY SIDE HOUSING, THAT COULD CAUSE MULTIPLE HOUSES TO BE IN DANGER

DW #18

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

SHOULD AN UNEXPECTED POTENTIAL THREAT DEVELOP FROM FLOODING, ETC, FIRES

WHAT IS THE PLAN IF EVACUATING PEOPLE

DW #19

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WITHOUT THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF ROADS, HOW WILL FIRE FIGHTERS & RESCUE PERSONNEL BE ABLE TO ACCESS VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE HIGH DENSITY AREAS DURING AN EMERGENCY?

DW #20

COMMENT CARD

Name: DEB BIGHAM

Phone Number: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets: [redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

DUE TO CLOSE PROXIMITY OF THE HIGH DENSITY HOUSING, AND THEREFORE, THE HIGH WILDFIRE RISKS OF RAPID SPREADING WHAT IS THE PLAN TO PROTECT THE OCCUPANTS FROM POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS?

Comments on Draft SEDA Environmental Impact Report

3.2 - Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources

Policy CF-3.1 Organic and Pesticide-Free Farming

Comments:
Pesticide Use and Regulation is regulated and monitored by the California Department of Pesticides Regulation. **What authority does the City of Fresno have to restrict pesticide use?**

Is the City of Fresno also going to restrict the use of pesticides in the home to being organic or pesticide-free? There are many products used in households for cleaning, insect control, etc. that fall under the umbrella of pesticides. An example being ant and roach spray used by homeowners. That product has an EPA registration number and are considered pesticides and are not organic. **Is the City of Fresno going to restrict pesticides used in households?**

Policy CF-4.4
Encouraging the long-term economic viability of Fresno County agriculture would not be removing 6,174 acres of farmland from production.

Fresno General Plan PEIR Mitigation Measures

MM AG-1.1
The Farmland Preservation Program has not been implemented by the City of Fresno as of the Draft SEDA EIR.

According to the City of Fresno website the City Council in 2017 initiated an amendment to Policy RC-9-c of the Fresno General Plan. This item is tentatively scheduled to be considered by the City Council on December 6 of this year.

The EIR is incomplete without this information of how the City of Fresno plans to implement the Farmland Preservation Program.

Article:
https://www.kvpr.org/government-politics/2015-04-09/fresno-city-council-says-no-to-farmland-preservation-project

KVPR reported on April 9, 2015 that Fresno City Council says “No” to Farmland Preservation Project.

The Fresno City Council rejected a proposal to move forward with an effort to preserve area farmland from development.

The council voted down the proposed grant application to start a farmland preservation program, which is key part of the city’s newly adopted general plan.

The program would require developers to offset the loss of farmland from urbanization by agreeing to preserve farmland elsewhere.

It goes on to say, According to the American Farmland Trust, Fresno County has the smallest amount of farmland held under conservation easements in the valley, while the amount of farmland converted to development from 1990 to 2008 was among the highest.
Article:
https://sjvsun.com/news/fresno/brandau-pushing-brand-administration-for-fast-action-on-nixing-farmland-preservation-regs/

The link above is titled, Brandau pushing Brand administration for fast action on nixing farmland preservations regs.

The past history of the City Council has not been if favor of preserving farmland. Until the CIty Council actually adopts and approves a Farmland Preservation Plan the Draft EIR is not complete and shouldn't be approved.

How is the City Council going to address the preservation of farmland?

There needs to be an answer before the City of Fresno tries to annex 6,174 acres of farmland. If the developers are required to preserve a 1:1 ratio of farmland or preserve at an even higher ratio the costs of farmland preservation will dramatically increase the cost for the SEDA project.

Article:
June 29th, 2022
https://farmland.org/new-report-smarter-land-use-planning-is-urgently-needed-to-safeguard-the-land-that-grows-our-food/

It is urgent we safeguard the land that grows our food.

Page 1E-2-9 of the Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element, July 2023 states that Fresno has many vacant residential development opportunities along with underutilized non-vacant sites with redevelopment potential with sufficient capacity to meet and exceed the identified housing need for 2023-2031.

What is the justification for approving SEDA until the infill and utilizing the available land in the City of Fresno is completed first?

https://www.agalert.com/california-ag-news/archives/sept-7-2022/california-needs-housing-but-must-protect-its-farms/

Project Specific Mitigation Measures
MM AG-2
Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance Impact Reduction Measure.

The EIR states the Level of Significance After Mitigation is Significant and has unavoidable impact.

What mitigation measures are going to taken for the preservation of farmland?

Conflict with Existing Zoning or Williamson Act Contract
Impact AG-2

The EIR states there is no feasible mitigation measures that are available for Williamson Act Contract land. The majority of land within the Plan Area that is under Williamson Act Contract would be designated for non-agricultural land uses (such as various types of residential, regional and community center land uses) with the implementation of the Specific Plan. That would conflict with land under Williamson Act Contracts. That would result in a significant and unavoidable impact.

How is the Specific Plan going to address this conflict? Until this is addressed the EIR is incomplete and should not be approved.

3.3 Air Quality

Air quality is a major concern in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley.

According to the EIR, SEDA will have a detrimental effect on the air quality and there is not sufficient mitigation available to reduce the potential criteria pollutant emissions associated with the proposed project to levels that would not exceed the Valley Air District threshold of significance. Therefore, cumulative impacts to air quality would be considered to remain significant and unavoidable.

There are serious health and environmental consequences that are not being addressed. **How are these issues going to be mitigated?**

3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Per the Draft SEDA EIR, the proposed project would generate a significant net increase in GHG emissions and would have a “significant” GHG impact per the City of Fresno GHG Reduction Plan Update. As the proposed project would have a significant impact per the guidance included in the GHG Plan Update, the project has a potential significant level of cumulative significance.

There are no project specific mitigation measures available. The cumulative significance after mitigation is significant and unavoidable.

This project will add to greenhouse emissions that will have a significant level of cumulative significance.

With the focus on climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and irreversible damage to the earth SEDA is actually contributing and not helping the problem.

Any new project should be reducing the negative effects on the climate and environment not adding to the detrimental effects.

How is this going to be mitigated? This project should be abandoned until sufficient mitigation measures are developed and the EIR rejected until it addresses how to mitigate greenhouse emissions.

3.10 - Hydrology and Water Quality

We are currently in a difficult water situation. The implementation of SEDA would greatly stress an already strained situation. **How is SEDA complying with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act?**

3.11 - Land Use and Planning

General Comment:
SEDA removes 6,741 acres of farmland from production. That is in direct opposition to many of the goals to promote and preserve agriculture as listed under the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan. **How is that promoting and supporting agriculture when SEDA removes 6,741 acres of farmland?**

Policy CF-3.1
Organic and Pesticide-Free Farming.
Promote ecologically sensitive farming methods that are safe for farm workers, consumers, and residents by restricting pesticide use and promoting integrated pest management practices within the SEDA.

Comment:
Pesticide Use and Regulation is regulated and monitored by the California Department of Pesticides Regulation. **What authority does the City of Fresno have to restrict pesticide use?**

Is the City of Fresno also going to restrict the use of pesticides in the home to being organic or pesticide-free? There are many products used in households for cleaning, insect control, etc. that fall under the umbrella of pesticides. An example being ant and roach spray used by homeowners. That product has an EPA registration number and are considered pesticides and
are not organic. **Is the City of Fresno also going to restrict pesticides used in households?**

3.14 Population and Housing

Page 1E-2-9 of the Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element, July 2023 states that Fresno has many vacant residential development opportunities along with underutilized non-vacant sites with redevelopment potential with sufficient capacity

to meet and exceed the identified housing need for 2023-2031. **What is the plan for developing that land?**

3.17 Transportation and Traffic

The California Department of Transportation requested peak hour ramp queue analysis be completed at the Highway 180 interchanges of Clovis Avenue, Fowler Avenue, Temperance Avenue, DeWolf, Highland and McCall Avenues. **Have those analysis been completed?** If so, they should be included in the EIR for comment.

4.1 Significant Unavoidable Impacts
Significant environmental effects of the proposed project, including effects that cannot be avoided if the proposed project were implemented.

The following are listed as significant unavoidable impacts.

Impact AES-3 (Project-level Visual Character):
No feasible mitigation measures are available to mitigate the impact to a less than significant level.

Impact AES-4 (Project-level Light and Glare):
This increase in illumination is considered a significant impact. Impacts would remain significant and unavoidable .

Cumulative Aesthetics, Lights, and Glare Impacts:
Impacts would remain significant and unavoidable.

Impact AG-1 (Project-level Conversion of Farmland to Nonagricultural Uses):
Loss of Prime Farmland would still occur with implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, this impact would be significant and unavoidable even with implementation of available mitigation.

Impact AG-2 (Project-level Conflict with Existing Zoning or Williamson Act Contract):
This impact would be significant and unavoidable without any available mitigation.

Cumulative Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources Impacts:
No feasible mitigation measures are available. Therefore this impact would be significant and unavoidable

Impact AIR-1 (Project-level Consistency with Air Quality Management Plan):

Due to the magnitude and intensity of development accommodated by the proposed project, it would have a significant and unavoidable impact.

Impact AIR-2 (Project-level Cumulative Criteria Pollutant Emissions):
Implementation fo the proposed project would result in a significant impact because it would significantly contribute to the non attainment designation of the San Joaquin Valley Air basin (SJVAD). This impact would be significant and unavoidable.

AIR-3 (Project-level Sensitive Receptors Exposure to Pollutant Concentrations):
Without needed information it is not possible to conclude that air pollutant emissions resulting from construction activities would be adequately reduced to the point that sensitive receptors are not exposed to substantial concentrations of air pollutants, and thus a significant and unavoidable impact may result.

Cumulative Air Quality Impacts:
There is currently not enough information to quantify emissions of specific project development that may occur under the proposed project. Without quantification to guarantee a less than significant finding, future development projects may still exceed the Valley Air District regional significance thresholds. Additionally, due to the size of the proposed project, there is not sufficient mitigation available to reduce the potential criteria pollutant emissions associated with the proposed project to levels that would not exceed the Valley Air District thresholds of significance. Therefore, cumulative impacts to air quality would be considered to remain significant and unavoidable.

Impact GHG-1 (Project-level Greenhouse Gas Emissions):
The proposed project is not consistent with the GHG Plan Update, and the proposed project's contribution to environmental impacts related to GHG emissions are significant. There is no mitigation feasible to reduce the GHG emissions of the proposed project to less than significant levels. The GHG impacts of the proposed project are significant and unavoidable.

Cumulative Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts:
There are no feasible mitigation measures available. As such, cumulative impacts with regard to GHG emissions are significant and unavoidable.

Impact NOI-1 (Project-level Construction Noise):
Because these construction activities may occur near noise-sensitive receptors and because noise disturbances may occur for prolonged periods of time, construction noise impacts would remain significant and unavoidable.

Cumulative Construction Noice:
Because construction activities associated with implementation of the Specific Plan could then also occur simultaneously and because noise disturbances could occur for prolonged periods of time, there is the possibility for a cumulative construction noise impacts tat would remain significant and unavoidable.

These are significant and unavoidable impacts that have severe and irreversible consequences. They must be addressed and if not able to be mitigated the EIR and SEDA project should not be approved.

[redacted]

COMMENT CARD

Name:

BOB JUNGMAN

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

[redacted]

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

AS A HOME OWNER IN RURAL RESIDENTIAL WE SEE NO VALUE IN THIS - PLEASE STOP THIS PROJECT

DO WE REALLY HAVE A POLICY MEAN IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN? (OUT YOU (CITY) LEAVE US ALONE

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Juliet Doty

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The EIR has many concerning elements including increases in traffic, problems for wildlife + Ag land trust will be taken. And no mitigation for any of this? Really? Also you will be taking our Septics + wells + we have to pay to hook up? No one wants to have this pass! Please go away.

SEDA
SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Albert Vasquez

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

① We need Temperance Ave Expanded/Fixed! We have Hwy 180 on & off Ramps that connect to Temperance Ave, however the Road South of Kings Canyon is Horrible!

② Our Area, Southeast, needs to be cleaned-up to look like Clovis or Riverpark! Do Not develop A new Area Before Cleaning of what we Already have.

DAIM NTAWV MUAB LUS XAM POM

Lub Npe:

Jaime Rodriguez Carrillo

Nab Npawb Xov Tooj:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Chaw Nyob thiab Cov Kev Hla Uas Nyob Ze Tshaj Plaws:

[redacted]

Yog xav paub ntxiv

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Thov qhia rau peb txog koj tej lus xam pom rau rau SEDA Daim Qauv EIR tsim ua Qhov Kev Npaj Ua Tshwj Xeeb

Having lived in the county this long. I dont think its fair having the City Just move in and take ownership of all the county property. This land is used as farm land. Having to Relocate our livestock would be an expense on its own. I dont agree with the city and they should Really Consider how many People & familys they are affecting.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Ray C Stanton IV

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information [redacted]

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

I purchased my property to be county to live in peace, raise livestock, and run my mobile ag mechanic business. With SEDA, I am worried about being able to stay county & not City. For one I dont want it to affect my livestock & mechanic business. Two with the new developments we have been getting more & more drug users and general riff raff from the west side of fowlers, industrial area. Just the other day had to call pd on an overdose. I'm worried with the center there will be more issues

DAIM NTAWV MUAB LUS XAM POM

Lub Npe:

KATHY STANTON

Nab Npawb Xov Tooj:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Chaw Nyob thiab Cov Kev Hla Uas Nyob Ze Tshaj Plaws:

STATE
CA

[redacted]

Yog xav paub ntxiv

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Thov qhia rau peb txog koj tej lus xam pom rau rau SEDA Daim Qauv EIR tsim ua Qhov Kev Npaj Ua Tshwj Xeeb

My family purchase Co property to have livestock Goats, sheep turkeys Chickens + ducks.

I want to remain in the County.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Karen Baker

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

EIR states this plan will impact water and does not meet air quality standards. Taking prime ag land out of production adversely impact the water quality. I have already been sued by tenants coming on my property, being hurt by a goose, ranch dog. I have had to fence my property but people still climb the fence.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Marjory Beekman

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted].com

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Old Hwy connecting to City H2O and Sewer. Who pays for it?

(2) [redacted].com

(3) Neighborhood Residential what does that incl.: Mc

TARJETA DE COMENTARIOS

Nombre:

David + Natalie Ortiz

Número de teléfono:

Correo electrónico:

Dirección y calles transversales más cercanas:

[redacted]

Para más información

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Díganos sus comentarios sobre el Borrador del EIR y el Plan Específico de SEDA

(1) Why are these Drop-in mtgs?
(2) It is above 100° deg. in room for 7/24 mtg - Safety hazard
(3) Oppose - water issues; sewage system; traffic + air quality issues due to increased traffic
(4) Catastraphoic to Prime Farmland - how is the benefical
No more English pamphlets

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Keith Tony Flores

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

where will the water come from, what will happen to all the vermin and wild life in the area

COMMENT CARD

Name:

William (Bill) Beekman

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

I oppose Annexation

1- water Table drop from new Deep Wells

2. crime

3. increase Traffic

4. cost of sewer connection (we already have)

5- cost of water connection

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Chris Montross

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

I live here to NOT be in the city.

I don't ~~want~~ want city water.
I don't want city sewage.
I don't want city gas.
I don't want city corruption
I don't want city crime.
I don't want city housing.
I don't want city noise.
I don't want city regulations
I don't want SEDA!!!!!

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Juanita Jungman

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Opposed to annexation Don't want to pay to hook up to city water & sewer. Don't want to have more housing around me. Concerned about crime & homeless camps moving in. Don't want additional taxes & I want to have my animals & farm land.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Brett Thompson

Phone Number:

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

How Many Residents are Currently in The Proposed 9000 Acres?

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Mark Reitz

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

[redacted]

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Thank you for considering the Consolidated Business Park in Ch 5 of the EIR. It is superior to the proposed land use plan per Table 5.6 in EIR in all catagories. I will support this Plan as shown in Exhibit 5-1. Please have this plan at all future meetings to show the public. The people I spoke with all support it over the proposed plan. This should be emphasized as no one is finding it in the 900 page EIR at the back. Thanks, Good job. Sophia.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Cherry Reitz

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information [redacted]

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

I support the land use plan for the Consolidated Business Park & not the proposed plan. The proposed plan has R&D Bus. Park in the wrong area east of Temperance between Jensen & the California Ave/RR alignment. This is not wanted by the land owners in this area & will definetly serve as a roadblock to development to the east. Thanks

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Cathy Gilles

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

After reading just a small portion of the EIR, I'm disappointed that it's still moving forward! The EIR is to advise whether a project is appropriate & I'm thinking there's enough bad news in the EIR to stop this project from moving ahead.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

rossi1939@aol.com

English of

How to comment

on the ~~EIR~~ EIR handout

page 1 ~~handout~~

not

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

F. tonyfloresa@zimbracloud.com
email flyer English "Que es un informe"

COMMENT CARD

Name:

NORMAN WINSLOW

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

I DO NOT SEE ANY POSITIVE PERSONAL BENEFIT TO ANNEXATION. I DO SEE HIGHER CRIME, HIGHER CROWDING, LESS PRIVACY, HIGER TAXES, LOSS OF CONTROL OF MY PROPERTY. MY FAMILY HAS OWNED OUR PROPERTY FOR 50 YEARS. IT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO FRESNO.

Norman E Winslow

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Andrea Wise

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

My thoughts are unique to many others as I currently farm across from the city on Temperance, which will soon be houses. I do not want to farm across from houses and am not naive ~~enough~~ and understand that this com plan will go forward with or without support. My main personal concern is that I will be held to Industrial use and can't or won't be able to sell to a housing developer. I do not understand why Flex research is around houses and not contained to one area ie Jensen South

COMMENT CARD

Name:

MARIE POTTER

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Will we have to hook up to the sewer & water? If so when would that occur? What would be our cost to do this?

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Rosa Blanco

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

1. Where will we live? If this does goes thru, we will be homeless.
2. What is the time frame for our area to be destroyed?
3. Will eminent domain be used by Parks + Rec?
4. Where will the elderly homeowners be move to?
5. Why are you taking our homes to build more homes?
6. How much are the developers paying for our properties?

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Gary & Mardys Hofer

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

We are concerned and against the annexation of our property to the city of Fresno — water concerns and cost for hooking up to the city. Farmland will be lost in our area.

How many people, at the current time occupy the 9,000 acres that are subject to annexation?

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Bill Misaki

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

WHAT IS THE CURRENT POPULATION OF THE PROPOSED SEDA ANNEXATION?

COMMENT CARD

Name:
Audrey Mantel

Phone Number:
[redacted]

Email:
[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:
[redacted]

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

- I am concerned about the cost of installing water and SEWER.
- I have horses. I ~~want~~ want to continue to have horses.
- I am concernad about the crime that will come to the area with this plan

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Andrea Montross

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

No to Fresno City
No to city water
No to city sewage
No to natural gas
No to city PD
No to city Fire
No to city crime
No to city populatou density
No to city homelessness
If I wanted to live in the city
I would move to the city.
NO TO ANNEXATION/SEDA

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Carol Bloesser

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The report says that the loss of prime ag land can not be mitigated. What is the loss based on a money amount? Do you realize once the land is lost it can never be retrieved?

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Carol Bloesser

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Who is going to pay the estimated $900 million this plan costs?

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Carol Bloesser

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

[redacted]

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The report from the Irrigation District says that all of the canals have to be repiped if this plan goes through. Who will pay for this?

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Cathy Gilles

[redacted]

[redacted]

Is her prop in SEDA?

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Chris Montross

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

The SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan have numerous enviormentally damaging provisions with NO way to mitigate. These plans are climate damgging locally and globally.

There is NO "Aplicant" to "Step 1:" of the "Annexation Process".

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Rosa Blanco

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

1. How much will it cost the homeowner to connect to water/sewage?
2. Does the valley have enough water for new development?
3. Do this plan on the west side.
4. This is hurting our property value.
5. Homes will be destroyed.
6. Elderly homeowners will be affected, this is elderly abuse.
7. We are opposed this plan - leave our area alone.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Andrea Montross

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

NO ANNEXATION!

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

There is no mitigation for the add'l pollution this plan will cause, per the report. This includes air, water, noise, etc.

Directly from the EIR, there is NO applicant identified. WHO IS THE APPLICANT?!

The EIR does not address the impact on native plant & wild life. Another environmental disaster.

Need more room for add'l comments :/

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Henry Salazar

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

What mitigation efforts will happen to address traffic, noise, and air quality on the Peach Ave corridor between Butler & Jensen Aves? How will safety of pedestrians be addressed with the increased traffic? Will a concrete block fence be installed; as the new housing developments are required.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Robert Bethel

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

What will be done to mitigate Noise and air Quality along Peach Ave Between North of Jensen and south of Kings Canyon Road? Is there a plan to install a concrete block fence as required for new housing developments. Safety of pedestrians and residents along Peach Ave is paramount. There are car accidents resulting in death; along Peach Ave Noise is pollution & needs mitigation

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Greg Vitucci

Phone Number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

[redacted]

For more information

(559) 621-8339

Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Concerns the Park on Church and Peach. Concerns traffic, noises pollution air pollution,

City of FRESNO



EIR Partial Recirculation: October 3 – November 17, 2023

PATIENCE MILROD
LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

November 6, 2023

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street
Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Sent by email: adrienne.asadoorian@fresno.gov

RE: Supplemental Public Comment on Southeast Development Area Plan and Partial Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 dated July 14, 2023 and October 3, 2023

Dear Ms. Asadoorian:

On behalf of the Fresno Madera Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council, the Central Valley IAF, and Regenerate California Innovation (RCI), please incorporate the following comments regarding the City's Southeast Development Area Specific Plan and draft Program Environmental Impact Report into the record of this matter.

Joinder in other public comment

As a preliminary matter, my clients join in the comments submitted to date, as well as any additional comments made through the end of the public comment period at the close of the City Council's final hearing on the Project. Of the 358 pages of comments available for review, only one was made after August 28, and that by previous arrangement with City staff. Because comments made after August 28, 2023 have not been made available to the public, this inclusion by reference cannot be specific as to commenter or comment.

Of the comments available for review, my clients do not join the following: BIA letter dated August 25, 2023; emails from Mark and Dale Reitz, dated August 19, 2023; Granville Homes letter dated August 22, 2023; email submitted on behalf of Harrison Farms by Arakel Arisian, dated August 25, 2023.

Partial Recirculated Draft Program EIR

My clients have no comments on the Geology, Soils, and Seismicity chapter included in the recirculated draft.

As to the amended Transportation and Traffic chapter, the only identifiable difference between the original and the recirculated Draft PEIR was the queuing analysis added at the behest of

985 NORTH VAN NESS AVENUE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93728
559.246.7239
PM@PATIENCEMILROD.COM

California Department of Transportation (CalTrans). However, the recommendation to perform a queuing analysis was only the first of many issues CalTrans raised in its comment letter. CalTrans' other recommendations generated no corrective action: for better planning (the SEDA plan should require multimodal methods), better mitigation (the City needs to develop and apply policies for EV charging stations), and better data:

> The preparer of the VMT Analysis concluded that the VMT per Service Population in the SEDA project region will fall from 45.72 to 5.07 when the project is completed in 2035. The move from a primarily rural location (as the SEDA project area is now) to a developed urbanized mixed-use site results in a significant drop in VMT. Additionally, the VMT Analysis preparer claims that this is attributable to residents and employees being better connected to jobs and services within the SEDA project area, reducing travel times on both the production (residential) and attraction (commercial) sides. Conversely, the Year 2035 No Project Conditions VMT for the SEDA Project Area is 371,397 per Table 7. Table 10 presents the Year 2035 With Project Conditions VMT for the SEDA Project Area is 974,369. This translates to ***a net VMT increase of 162.35%.***
>
> In theory, the relationship between production (residential) and attraction (commercial) may minimize VMT at full buildout; ***nevertheless, a typical land-use plan buildout begins with the production (residential), followed by the attraction (commercial). The concern is that the attraction (commercial) will develop slowly over time, causing a VMT impact in the SEDA region***.[1]

Based on its review of the PEIR's VMT Analysis, CalTrans recommends the City do the queue analysis it has now actually performed. Thus, although the Recirculated Draft PEIR does not correct its indefensible VMT numbers, it effectively acknowledges the accuracy of CalTrans' VMT analysis over its own.

A 162% increase in VMT produces its own massive air quality impacts, in the form of pollutants, and consequent human health impacts. To reduce those environmental impacts, the PEIR is required to impose feasible mitigation, which it does not even attempt to do. CalTrans' letter, at page 3, goes on to identify ***eight*** separate VMT mitigation strategies—none of which has been explored, discussed, or included as an enforceable condition of SEDA project entitlements in the Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report.

The Draft PEIR must be still further revised, and recirculated to the public and public agencies for additional comment. Please include my clients (see cc's, below) and me on the notification list for next steps in this process. Thanking you for your attention to these matters, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Patience Milrod

PATIENCE MILROD
Attorney for Central Valley IAF, Fresno Madera Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council, and Regenerate California Innovation

[1] CalTrans' August 25, 2023 comment letter, pp. 2-3 [emphasis added].

cc: Dillon Savory, Fresno Madera Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council, by email to dsavory@myunionworks.com

Keith Ford, Central Valley IAF, by email to theabsolutmoose@gmail.com

Keith Bergthold, Regenerate California Innovation (RCI), by email to keith@regenerateca.org

Jennifer Clark, Development Director, by email to Jennifer.Clark@fresno.gov

Sophia Pagoulatos, Manager of Long-Range Planning, by email to Sophia.Pagoulatos@fresno.gov

Andrew Janz, City Attorney, by email to Andrew.Janz@fresno.gov

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Telephone (775) 333-0400
Fax (775) 333-0412

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA OFFICE
1041 Mill Street, Suite 105
San Luis Obispo, California 93401
Telephone (805) 541-2800
Fax (805) 541-2802

November 7, 2023

Via Email: Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov
Jennifer.Clark@fresno.gov
Sophia.Pagoulatos@fresno.gov

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner III
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

With a copy to
Jennifer Clark, Director
Planning and Development Department
c/o Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

SUBJECT: Partial Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2022020486)

This comment letter is being submitted on behalf of our client, the County of Fresno (the "County") Department of Public Works and Planning regarding the City of Fresno's (the "City") Partial recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (the "Specific Plan"), which is intended to govern future development of the area commonly referred to as SEDA (the "Project"). Please ensure this letter and its referenced enclosures are included in the Record of Proceedings regarding the consideration of the Project by the City of Fresno (the "City").

A. The Recirculated Materials to Not Fix All of the Deficiencies in the DEIR's Transportation and Traffic Analysis.

In our prior comment letter to the originally circulated DEIR, we noted that the Project lacked sufficient planning details to permit an adequate analysis in the DEIR of the Project's potentially significant environmental impacts. Among those inadequacies is the fact that the Specific Plan does not indicate how such infrastructure is designed to integrate with the intensity of the intended development, because important facets of that density is deferred to a future SEDA Development Code update. We further noted that the actual impact on existing roadways (including intersections) is nowhere detailed in either the Specific Plan or its DEIR, presumably because, without any understanding of the density of developments in the land use designations, the projected traffic demands on specific roadways cannot be fairly estimated. As an example of that deficiency we also noted that the queuing analysis for impacts on the State High system interchanges, requested by Caltrans in its Comment Letter dated August 25, 2023, was not prepared.

The recirculated materials now include the previously omitted queuing analysis. However, that analysis is based on modeling data that apparently does not incorporate specific densities of specific land areas. This is confirmed by the statement in Section 3.6.5 of the Recirculated materials which cautions that "*As previously discussed, the proposed project does not approve or entitle any specific development and specific project design is unknown at this time.*" Therefore the primary point of our prior criticism, that the Project lacks sufficient planning details to permit an adequate analysis of the Project's potentially significant environmental impacts, remains unaffected by the inclusion of the previously omitted queuing analysis.

Other inconsistencies in the Recirculated DEIR materials also remain. For instance, page 3.6-30 of the Recirculated materials states that the Project will be consistent with the City's General Plan policy of planning and designing roadway systems to meet LOS D on major roadways. Page 11 of the Traffic Impact Analysis says that the relevant General Plan policy is that a standard of E or better for all roadway segments is to apply.

At its page 3.4-27 Recirculated DEIR materials state that the Project's standard is to provide for LOS E at peak hour impacts, rather than LOS D. Further, at page 3.3-22 the analysis includes Policy UF-6.1, which states that for arterials, collectors and local streets (both intersections and segments) at peak traffic hours, LOS E applies, but that LOS F would apply in areas with transit, including in an around mixed use districts. This standard is driven by a stated goal of not having more than four through lanes on the roadway facilities (other than portions of Jensen and Temperance).

At page 11 of the Traffic Impact Analysis, it states that the SEDA project is located in Traffic Impact Zone IV. However, at page 3.4-27 of the Partially Recirculated Materials, it states that SEDA is located in Traffic Impact Zone III (which it also labels as TIZ II).

We understand that the traffic impact analysis indicates that none of the road segments it evaluated would fall below LOS D. However, no analysis was set forth for any relevant intersections other than those requested by Caltrans in the recently distributed queuing analysis. The hazard analysis intended by the DEIR is therefore inadequate because of the lack of the intersection LOS analysis.

In addition, based on the above inconsistent statements about the applicable regulatory standard, it is not clear what LOS standard would apply, if and when an appropriate intersection analysis is conducted. Further, it appears that the lack of an intersection analysis of LOS standards is due to the lack of fully determined density standards and land uses applicable to various elements of the Project, which the City intends to defer until the adoption of a future SEGA development code. It is also therefore unclear how the queuing analysis or the road segment analysis that are included have sufficient information to provide an adequate analysis of the impacts, regardless of the uncertainty of the LOS Standards that the DEIR intends to apply.

B. Conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully renew our request that the City not consider the Project DEIR until after there have been appropriate updates to the Specific Plan and the DEIR, to address the matters detailed above and in our prior comment letter.

Sincerely,
McCORMICK, BARSTOW, SHEPPARD,
WAYTE & CARRUTH LLP

Jeffrey M. Reid

cc: Bernard Jimenez, Planning & Resource Management Officer
Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning

November 8, 2023

City of Fresno

Planning and Development Department

c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner

2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065

Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Ms. Asadoorian:

Reviewing the revised EIR, I note that the description of Temperance Ave. has been changed only with the addition of '45' to the speed limit. Nothing else was changed. All previous challenges to the description made in my previous comments of July 24, 2023 and letter of September 27, 2023 to the Mayor and City Council Members remain.

1, Temperance Ave. is not now and never has been a four-lane super arterial.

2. The speed limit in front of my house is 55 mph. Three lots south of my house is a sign reading 'END 45'.

3. Land adjacent to Temperance Ave., with the exception of Sunny Farms at Butler Ave., is not now farmland. It is and has been, for decades, rural residential.

While the expansion of Temperance Ave. has been in the Master Plan for decades, it is unlikely to ever happen simply because Fresno depends on developers to expand roadways. Since the area around Temperance Ave. is almost fully built-out there is nowhere Fresno can obtain the tens of millions of dollars required for not only construction but property acquisition as well.

It is quite obvious that, once again, no on-site research has been done. Once again, I must say, if something so minor cannot be corrected, the validity of the entire EIR must be questioned.

Such sloppy and/or absent research should be neither tolerated nor accepted.

Thank you,



Ross & Marie Potter

1598 N. Temperance Ave.

Fresno, CA 93727559-252-2085

SUNNYSIDE
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
SERVING SUNNYSIDE FOR 75 YEARS
P.O. Box 8096, Fresno, CA 93747-8096

November 10, 2023

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner III
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Proposed Partial Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Southeast Development Area (State Clearinghouse No. 2022020486)

ATT: Adrienne Asadoorian

Thank you for recirculating the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) with the missing Chapter on Soils and the queue analysis of State Highway 180 interchanges for public comment.

However, the recirculated materials do not fix all of the deficiencies in the DEIR's transportation and traffic analysis. We agree with the issues raised in the County of Fresno's letter (attached for your reference) regarding the inconsistent application of LOS, inadequate queuing analysis for impacts on the State Highway system because the modeling data does not incorporate specific densities of specific land uses, as the SEDA Development Code has yet to be adopted, and the failure to study relevant intersections other than those requested by Caltrans.

The Specific Plan and DEIR should not be considered until the City addresses the inadequacies and inconsistencies in the Specific Plan and DEIR.

Respectfully,

Sue Williams

Sue Williams
Corresponding Secretary

Cc: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

Attachments: County of Fresno letter dated October 2023

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 6 OFFICE
1352 WEST OLIVE AVENUE | P.O. BOX 12616 | FRESNO, CA 93778-2616
(559) 981-7284 | FAX (559) 488-4195 | TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

November 17, 2023

FRE-180-64.104
Southeast Development Area
Re-circulated Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
SCH #2022020486
GTS #: https://ld-igr-gts.dot.ca.gov/district/6/report/28801

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mx. Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
adrienne.asadoorian@fresno.gov

Dear Mx. Asadoorian:

Caltrans has completed our review of the Re-circulated Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) in the City of Fresno.

The proposed development area covers nearly 9,000 acres. It is bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, on the east by McCall and Highland Avenues, on the south by Jensen and North Avenues, and on the West by Locan, Temperance, and Minnewawa Avenues.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) process reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

All comments from our previous letter dated August 25th, 2023, regarding the VMT Analysis Comments, still apply.

SR 180 Interchange Queuing Analysis

1. This document provided a peak hour ramp queue analysis at the following State Route 180 interchanges: Clovis Avenue, Fowler Avenue, and Temperance Avenue. It also provided a peak hour queue analysis at the De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall Avenue intersections along State Route (SR) 180.

The results of this analysis are listed in Table 3-8: 2035 Project and No Project Queue Analyses Results within the document. A substantial amount of the data in Table 3-8 needs to be more accurate. The following irregularities were observed:

A. Odd lane utilization on adjacent turn lanes (e.g., PM Peak Eastbound Clovis Avenue off-ramp, Left (pocket) versus Left (full lane) and PM Peak Eastbound Temperance Avenue off-ramp, Left (pocket) versus Left (full lane)).

B. Low queue lengths are listed at the Eastbound Fowler Avenue off-ramp left-turn lanes. Given the location of this development area, this off-ramp would be expected to receive many project-generated trips with the resulting vehicle queues.

C. Heavy reductions in queue lengths from "No Project Conditions" to "Proposed Project Conditions" at the Clovis Avenue interchange off-ramps.

D. Change values at the McCall Avenue intersection do not show the correct difference between "No Project Conditions" and "Proposed Project Conditions" queue lengths.

2. Given the irregularities, **it is recommended that the values in Table 3-8 be re-examined and updated where required**. Since the Project Specific Mitigation Measures were primarily based on Table 3-8 data, mitigation measures should also be re-examined.

3. Table 3-8 also utilized the full length of the off-ramp as available vehicle storage. This practice neglects the deceleration length needed by high-speed vehicles to come to a stop. The deceleration length should be accounted for on each off-ramp as provided in the Caltrans Highway Design Manual Figure 504.2B (single-lane exit) and Figure 504.3K (two-lane exit).

4. This document's Project Specific Mitigation Measures MM TRANS-3a and MM TRANS-3c propose the restripe of the eastbound State Route (SR) 180 off-ramp lane configurations at Clovis Avenue and Temperance Avenue. The alteration proposes to replace the existing two left-turn lanes and two right-turn lanes configuration with one left-turn lane and three right-turn lanes. The need for dual left turn lanes at each off-ramp was established during the development of those improvements. The additional capacity needed for right-turns at each ramp should be made through widening, not reducing left-turn capacity.

A cost estimate to be included in a traffic impact fee program should be prepared once the values in Table 3-8 are reevaluated and updated and the mitigation strategies are revised.

<u>Funding for Developer-Driven Impacts to State Facilities</u>

1. The Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan does not designate SR 180 as a High Emphasis Focus Route, so the State's portion of the State Transportation Improvement Program cannot be used to fund improvements to the SR 180 interchanges. Possible funding sources include Measure C, the Traffic Signal Mitigation Impact Fee (TSMIF) of the City of Fresno, the Regional Transportation

Mitigation Fee (RTMF) of Fresno County, the Regional Improvement Program, developer mitigation, etc. To deliver "needed" projects, infrastructure improvements in today's funding environment frequently require a variety of funding sources. The City of Fresno should mitigate since the SEDA creates the need for improvements.

2. Caltrans should be involved in reviewing any proposed new developments within the SEDA that would impact SR 180. **It is recommended that any proposed new developments that would impact SR 180 mitigate their impacts by including them in the next updates to Measure C, Fresno County's RTMF, and the City of Fresno TSMIF.** This would ensure the maintenance and improvement of the State facilities due to the absence of an all-inclusive fee program.

If you have any other questions, please call or email Keyomi Jones, Transportation Planner, at (559) 981-7284 or keyomi.jones@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Mr. Dave Padilla, Branch Chief,
Transportation Planning – North

C: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager, City of Fresno

City of FRESNO



EIR Full Recirculation: February 7 – March 24, 2025

From: Todd Stermer
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Cc: Sophia Pagoulatos
Subject: FW: SEDA
Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 2:53:54 PM

Below, please find SEDA comments received today, March 25, 2025 at 12:44 P.M.

Best,

Todd Stermer, MMC
City Clerk
559-621-7650

-----Original Message-----
From: Bruce Jewell [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 12:44 PM
To: Miguel Arias <Miguel.Arias@fresno.gov>; Nelson Esparza <nelson.esparza@fresno.gpv>; Mike Karbassi <Mike.Karbassi@fresno.gov>; Tyler Maxwell <Tyler.Maxwell@fresno.gov>; Annalisa Perea <Annalisa.Perea@fresno.gov>; Nick Richardson <Nick.Richardson@fresno.gov>; Todd Stermer <Todd.Stermer@fresno.gov>
Subject: SEDA

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

The Fresno City Council will be considering the SEDA Project. As a third generation Fresno resident I have watched the city deteriorate over my life time. The air quality has worsened to the point that we experience the worst asthma rates in the nation. I have to navigate potholes in the streets around my home in north Fresno, and the prime farmland which is vital to our economy and beneficial to the environment is being covered by housing projects.

The SEDA Project would only worsen these problems. Moreover as billion dollar bonds will be required you are asking the people of Fresno to pay for a project which will be more damaging than helpful to our city. I believe money spent should be spent on the necessary upgrades to the city's infrastructure, for example potholes, and devoted to infill housing projects.

Sincerely,

Bruce Jewell

INVEST FRESNO in Community. in Jobs. in Our Future.

INVESTFresnoCA.com

March 24, 2025

Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
Planning & Development Department
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Submitted Electronically

RE: Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for Specific Plan for the Southeast Development Area

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos:

I write today on behalf of INVEST Fresno, a coalition of residents, businesses, and community organizations committed to building a diverse and sustainable economy in Fresno, to submit comments on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report ("RDEIR") for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan ("SEDA") that is currently being proposed by the City of Fresno.

INVEST Fresno is aligned in our position with the letter and recommendations submitted by John Kinsey, with Wanger Jones Helsley PC.

Generally, INVEST Fresno supports and applauds the City's stated intent to bring "45,000 homes and 37,000 jobs" to the plan area by 2050. However, we share particular concern regarding the definition of Flexible Research and Development, which does not appear to include job-creating land uses such as light or heavy industrial.

Most manufacturing uses fall within the definition of "General Industrial." However, most of the land use designations that could fall within the Flexible Research and Development Districts do not allow General Industrial uses. And those that do, such as the Regional Business Park and Business Park zoning districts, require that new or expanded manufacturing uses—no matter how small—go through the conditional use permit (CUP) process, which in the City of Fresno typically means a full EIR must be prepared. For all but the largest manufacturing projects, a CUP requirement will render a new manufacturing project non-viable.

Further, to the extent the Flexible Research and Development District does not allow Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial land uses, the SEDA would not include any such uses, and the SEDA would have the opposite effect of increasing land zoned for economic development and job creation purposes. Indeed, the downzoning of properties away from heavy and light industrial land uses within the

SEDA—combined with the City's limited opportunities for industrial growth or expansion—would consequently steer existing and potential economic investment elsewhere.

A well-balanced land use plan that includes job creation and other tax-generating uses is essential to strengthening the City's economic standing. Job-creating industries not only provide stable employment opportunities for Fresno residents but also generate critical revenue through sales taxes, business license fees, and property taxes. This revenue directly funds essential public services, including public safety, infrastructure improvements, and community programs. By ensuring that the SEDA includes a mix of land uses that promote job creation and economic development, the City can secure long-term financial stability.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Granholm at [redacted]. We look forward to working with you and staff to help keep Fresno's economy moving.

Sincerely,

Ben Granholm
[redacted]

cc: Jerry Dyer, Mayor
Georgeanne White, City Manager
Councilmembers, City of Fresno

March 24, 2025

Sent via email

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Re: Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report for the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan (SCH # 2022020486)

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos:

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity (the "Center") regarding the Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report for the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan (SCH # 2022020486) (the "Project"). The Center has reviewed the Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") closely and is concerned about errors in the Project's biological resources analysis, inadequate consideration of water supply impacts, staggering air quality impacts that will not be mitigated, and inadequate analysis and mitigation of significant greenhouse gas impacts. The Center urges the City of Fresno to revise the EIR to disclose and analyze these impacts and mitigate accordingly.

The Center is a non-profit, public interest environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 1.7 million members and online activists throughout California and the United States. The Center has worked for many years to protect imperiled plants and wildlife, open space, air and water quality, and overall quality of life for people in Fresno County.

I. THE EIR LACKS AN ADEQUATE ANALYSIS OF AND MITIGATION FOR THE PROJECT'S IMPACTS TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

The EIR fails to adequately describe and analyze the Project's impacts to special-status species in and near the Plan area. The EIR also fails to mitigate the Project's significant impacts to local and regional wildlife connectivity.

A. The EIR Fails to Adequately Analyze and Mitigate the Project's Impacts to Birds that Occupy Agricultural Lands

Many bird species throughout North America area experiencing declines. The widely-publicized results of a 2019 research study showed that nearly three billion birds have been lost in the last half-century, with grassland birds experiencing the heaviest losses (Rosenberg et al., 2019). Threats to birds are numerous and complex, and include habitat loss, pesticide and rodenticide use, urban and agricultural development, and climate change, among others.

Although the intensification of agriculture throughout the United States has contributed to these declines (Stanton et al., 2018), some species—including numerous sensitive and special-status birds—are able to use agricultural lands as nesting and/or foraging habitat (Iglay et al., 2017). For example, white-faced ibis, long-billed curlew, and Swainson's hawk all depend to various extents on alfalfa fields for wintering, breeding, and foraging habitat respectively (Hartman & Kyle, 2010). While species richness is lower in agricultural landscapes than intact native habitats, diverse bird communities can still exist in orchards and vineyards. For example, a study of bird community composition across different types of orchards and vineyards in Australia observed 56 species in almond orchards and 48 in vineyards (Luck et al., 2015). As noted in the EIR, orchards make up the majority of the existing landscape of the Plan Area (EIR at 3.4-7), and destruction of these landscapes may have significant impacts on native birds.

The EIR acknowledges that Swainson's hawk and tricolored blackbird may occur in the Plan Area. (EIR at 3.4-9.) If these species (or any other native birds) are present, it is likely that they are using agricultural landscapes for foraging, wintering, and potentially nesting habitat. Conversion of agricultural land to other land uses is therefore extremely likely to impact these species, yet the EIR failed to acknowledge this and failed to provide any analysis on the impacts of agricultural land loss to these species whatsoever. The EIR therefore fails to sufficiently analyze and mitigate its impacts in violation of CEQA.

Burrowing Owl

The EIR misrepresents the status of burrowing owls. Burrowing owls are not a special-status species (EIR at 3.4-9), they are a listed species, with all the attendant protections. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) made the Western Burrowing Owl a candidate for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).[1] As a candidate species, the Western Burrowing Owl now has full protection of a threatened species under CESA. Take of any endangered, threatened, or candidate species that results from a project is prohibited, except as authorized by State law (Fish & G. Code, §§ 86, 2062, 2067, 2068, 2080, 2085; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 786.9.)

Burrowing owls have experienced significant declines in California. The Southwestern California population, which includes burrowing owls local to the Project area, along with two other populations, was recently petitioned for listing as endangered under CESA due to substantial population declines. As the petition states:

> Burrowing owls were historically abundant throughout Southwestern California. Focused surveys from 1991-1993 estimated 263 pairs in the region (227 in the interior and 36 on the coast), a 57-85% decline since the mid-1980s… Resurvey efforts from 2006-2007 estimated 150 pairs in the interior, a further 34%

[1] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=227089&inline

> decline… Significant breeding populations remained in western Riverside and southwestern San Bernardino counties, where further recent declines have been documented and long term persistence is unlikely. Southwestern California owls are threatened by urban development, habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, ground squirrel eradication, coastal predator management, and disturbance. (Miller, 2024).

Any impacts to burrowing owls in the Project area, including loss of current or potential habitat and further habitat fragmentation, will push this population closer to extinction. Harm prevention is especially essential for this species, as scientists have never successfully reintroduced burrowing owls to a location where they have been extirpated, partly due to the owl's strong fidelity to burrow sites. Owls regularly reuse burrows from one year to the next, and prefer not to move to a different burrow, especially during nesting season. Adding more intensive development will hurt this protected species.

The City must recirculate the EIR to acknowledge the listen status of burrowing owls and properly mitigate impacts to avoid take.

Swainson's Hawk

As the EIR acknowledges, the Specific Plan could result in approximately 5,000 acres of farmland being converted to urban uses. The EIR wholly fails, however, to address the importance of these agricultural lands as nesting and foraging habitat for the Swainson's hawk, a highly migratory raptor species known to occur in the Specific Plan area. (EIR at 3.4-14.) The Swainson's hawk is listed as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. The EIR does not disclose the potential impact to Swainson's hawks due to the loss of agricultural lands, nor does it evaluate potential mitigation measures for this impact. While the EIR discusses measures to mitigate the loss of farmland, it does not address the value of the lost farmland to Swainson's hawks, and measures that may mitigate the agricultural impact will not necessarily address the biological impact. The EIR should be revised and recirculated to fully disclose and mitigate the Specific Plan's impacts to Swainson's hawks.

B. The EIR's Mitigation for Impacts to Biological Resources is Inadequate and Improperly Deferred.

Although the Project will have significant impacts on special-status species, the EIR includes no specific or enforceable mitigation measures. The mitigation merely says that take will be "avoided to the greatest extent feasible," if it is unavoidable, further mitigation will be developed by the developer and the City in consultation with CDFW. (EIR at 3.4-31-33.) None of the mitigation measures address any species specifically.

The EIR provides insufficient detail for the public and decision makers to ascertain whether such measures would adequately mitigate the Project's impacts to biological impacts *before* the Project is approved. (See *San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center v. County of Merced* (2007) 149 Cal.App.4th 645, 670 [EIR inadequate where the success or failure of mitigation efforts "may largely depend upon management plans that have not yet been formulated, and have not been subject to analysis and review within the EIR"]). This improperly deferred mitigation violates CEQA. (see *San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center v. County of Merced* (2007) 149 Cal.App.4th 645, 670 [EIR inadequate where the success or failure of mitigation efforts "may

largely depend upon management plans that have not yet been formulated, and have not been subject to analysis and review within the EIR"]). In the limited circumstances in which deferred mitigation is appropriate, the agency must meet all of the following elements: (1) practical considerations prevented the formulation of mitigation measures during the planning process; (2) the agency committed itself to developing mitigation measures in the future; (3) the agency adopted specific performance criteria prior to project approval; and (4) the EIR lists the mitigation measures to be considered, analyzed, and possibly incorporated into the mitigation plan. (See *POET, LLC v. State Air Resources Bd.* (2013) 218 Cal.App.4th 681, 736-37 [review denied].) As courts have pointed out "[f]undamentally, the development of mitigation measures, as envisioned by CEQA, is not meant to be a bilateral negotiation between a project proponent and the lead agency after project approval, but rather, an open process that also involves other interested agencies and the public." (*Communities for a Better Environment v. City of Richmond*, (2010) 184 Cal.App.4th 70, 93.) The EIR contains no reason why mitigation measures cannot be developed now and does not include specific performance criteria. It violates CEQA and must be revised and recirculated to provide evidence of mitigation now—not in a negotiation between the developer and the agency after approval.

II. THE EIR'S ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION OF WATER SUPPLY IMPACTS IS INADEQUATE.

California is facing unprecedented challenges in its effort to allocate and conserve limited water resources, especially as water supply dwindles in the face of climate change and population growth. Studies predict that in the next 35 to 60 years, if emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases continue unchecked, the American West's snowpack will continuously shrink, disappearing for a decade or more at a time. (Siirila-Woodburn et al., 2021) Groundwater reserves in the Central Valley have been declining over the past decades, and without proper mitigation, that decline will continue at an accelerated rate due to climate change. (Alam et al., 2019) Consequently, a recent Executive Order from Governor Newsom declared that California must "redouble near-, medium-, and long-term efforts to adapt its water management to a changing climate, shifting precipitation patterns, and water scarcity." (Executive Order N-7-22 (2022).)

Fresno must engage in a meaningful analysis of climate change's effects on water resources that is in step with evolving scientific knowledge and state regulatory schemes, and include that analysis in its discussion of water supply for the Project. (*Natural Resources Defense Council v. Kempthorne* (2007) 506 F.Supp.2d 322, 369; *County of Butte*, 90 Cal.App.5th at 162, internal citations omitted; *Cleveland National Forest Foundation v. San Diego Association of Governments* (2017) 3 Cal.5th 497, 504.) Considering that both groundwater and surface water supplies will be negatively impacted by climate change, the EIR must discuss what measures will be implemented to ensure that future water needs will be met.

The EIR concludes that the City's existing water supplies will be adequate to serve future development under the Specific Plan, which could include 45,000 new residential units by 2050, while still meeting existing demands (EIR at 3.18-67). Accordingly, the EIR does not evaluate the Specific Plan's environmental consequences of obtaining new water sources, or its impacts on existing residents.

The EIR's analysis considers potential water availability during wet, dry, and multiple dry years, but its conclusion assumes that the City's long-term average water supply obtained from surface water sources will remain relatively stable. According to Appendix F at p. 6-17 (Water Technical Study), the City's allocation of Fresno Irrigation District water diverted from Kings River is projected to remain at a steady percentage of the average Fresno Irrigation District deliveries between 1964 and 2019—453,800 acre-feet per year. This assumption is likely invalid in light of the foreseeable effects of climate change. Indeed, it is directly inconsistent with the acknowledgment elsewhere in the EIR that "By 2050, the average water supply from snowpack is projected to decline to two-thirds from historical levels. If emissions reductions do not occur, water from snowpack could fall to less than one-third of historical levels by 2100" (EIR at 3.8-10.)

If the anticipated decline in surface water supplies due to climate change are considered in the Specific Plan's water supply analysis, the Specific Plan's water demand is likely to result in a significant shortfall in water supplies. The EIR should be revised and recirculated to address the foreseeable effects of climate change on water supply available for development pursuant to the Specific Plan.

III. THE EIR'S ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION OF AIR QUALITY IMPACTS IS INADEQUATE.

Air quality is a significant environmental and public health concern in California. Unhealthy, polluted air contributes to and exacerbates many diseases and increases mortality rates. The U.S. government has estimated that between 10 to 12 percent of total health costs can be attributed to air pollution. (Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, 2003) Greenhouse gases, such as the air pollutant carbon dioxide, which is released by fossil fuel combustion, contribute directly to human-induced climate change, and in a positive feedback loop, poor air quality that contributes to climate change will in turn worsen the impacts of climate change and attendant air pollution. (Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 2016)

Air pollution and its impacts are felt most heavily by young children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with existing heart and lung disease. People living in poverty are also more susceptible to air pollution as they are less able to relocate to less polluted areas, and their homes and places of work are more likely to be located near sources of pollution, such as freeways or ports, as these areas are more affordable. (American Lung Association, 2024) Some of the nation's most polluted counties are in the Central Valley. (*Ibid*.) According to the American Lung Association's 2024 "State of the Air" report, Fresno County is the second-worst county in the country for particle pollution and sixth-worst county in the country for ozone pollution. (*Ibid*.) Even more disturbing, the same report found that Fresno County is one of only thirty counties in the country that received a "Fail" grade in all air quality metrics. (*Ibid.*)

Although there are many different types of air pollution, ozone, PM2.5, and toxic air contaminants (TACs) are of greatest concern in Fresno County. These three air pollutants have been linked to an increased incidence and risk of cancer, birth defects, low birth weights and premature death, in addition to a variety of cardiac and lung diseases such as asthma, COPD,

stroke and heart attack. (American Lung Association, 2024; Laurent et al., 2016) Ozone (commonly referred to as smog) is created by the atmospheric mixing of chemicals released from fossil fuel combustion – such as reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) – and sunlight. Although it is invisible, ozone poses one of the greatest health risks, prompting the EPA to strengthen its National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone in 2015. (American Lung Association, 2024.) PM2.5 is a common component of vehicle exhaust emissions and contributes to visible air pollution. These tiny particles are dangerous because they are small enough to escape our body's natural defenses and enter the blood stream. Fugitive dust is a term used for fine particulate matter that results from disturbance by human activity such as construction and road-building operations. (VCAPCD 2003.) TACs are released from vehicle fuels, especially diesel, which accounts for 70% of the cancer risk from TACs. (CARB, 2022)

Air quality analysis and mitigation is crucial here because, by the EIR's own admission, the Project will emit staggering levels of air pollutants. The VOC emissions will exceed the significance threshold by over one hundred times during operations. The NOx emissions are thirty times the limit. In an air basin that already some of the the highest levels of these pollutants in the county, permitting additional pollution on this scale is inexcusable. Doing it without proper analysis, disclosure, and mitigation is a violation of CEQA.

A. The Project's Air Quality Mitigation is Vague and Improperly Deferred.

Mitigation must include concrete, specific, and enforceable actions. (*California Clean Energy Committee v. City of Woodland* (2014) 225 Cal.App.4th 173 [City's urban decay mitigation measures were inadequate under CEQA to address the impact from the development of a 234-acre regional shopping center on undeveloped agricultural land because the measures did not ensure the city would take concrete, measurable actions].) In the limited circumstances in which deferred mitigation is appropriate, the agency must meet all of the following elements: (1) practical considerations prevented the formulation of mitigation measures during the planning process; (2) the agency committed itself to developing mitigation measures in the future; (3) the agency adopted specific performance criteria prior to project approval; and (4) the EIR lists the mitigation measures to be considered, analyzed, and possibly incorporated into the mitigation plan. (14 Cal. Code Regs §15126.4(a)(1)(B); *POET, LLC v. State Air Resources Bd.* (2013) 218 Cal.App.4th 681, 736-37 [review denied]; *San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Ctr. v County of Merced* (2007) 149 Cal.App.4th 645, 670; *Cleveland Nat'l Forest Found. v San Diego Ass'n of Gov'ts* (2017) 17 Cal.App.5th 413, 442.) Unfortunately, the EIR's proposed mitigation fails to meet these standards.

Instead of mitigating the significant air quality impacts by requiring specific mitigation measures, the EIR instead relies on mitigation measures AIR-1a through 1d, which amount to a promise to develop a mitigation plan in the future. Mitigation measure AIR-1b, 1c, and 1d say that impacts will be analyzed and mitigated by the applicant after the Project is approved. (EIR at 3.3-43-46.) The mitigation measures list possible methods to reduce emissions that might be required in the future but do not require any of them. Fatally, the mitigation measures do not include any specific performance criteria. Measures 1b and 1c merely promise to "reduce" emissions an unspecified amount, and measure 1c says it will "reduce risks to an acceptable level" without any indication what that might be. This leaves the public and decision-makers

with no assurances that impacts will be mitigated in any significant way, much less to the maximum extent feasible, as required by CEQA.

An EIR is inadequate if "[t]he success or failure of mitigation efforts may largely depend upon management plans that have not yet been formulated, and have not been subject to analysis and review within the EIR." (*San Joaquin Raptor, supra*, 149 Cal.App.4th at p. 670.) As courts have pointed out "[f]undamentally, the development of mitigation measures, as envisioned by CEQA, is not meant to be a bilateral negotiation between a project proponent and the lead agency after project approval, but rather, an open process that also involves other interested agencies and the public." (*Communities for a Better Environment v. City of Richmond*, (2010) 184 Cal.App.4th 70, 93.) Here, the City proposes exactly that—a mitigation plan that will be developed by the City and the developer after Project approval, with no metrics for success. This is especially egregious in an air basin with that has long had some of the worst air in the country, when evaluating a Project that will exceed significance thresholds for air pollutants by up to one hundred times. (EIR at 3.3-51.)

IV. THE EIR'S GHG ANALYSIS IS INADEQUATE AND MISLEADING.

The Project will emit significant GHG emissions, which the EIR obscures with an incorrect threshold of significance that ignores feasible mitigation and misrepresents the state's climate plans. The Project will emit 510,791 MT CO_2e at full buildout in 2050, five years after California needs to achieve net zero emissions. (EIR at 3.8-43.) Approving a Project of this scale without adequate consideration of GHG impacts is irresponsible and a violation of CEQA.

A. The Climate Crisis Is a Catastrophic and Urgent Threat to California.

A strong, international scientific consensus has established that human-caused climate change is causing widespread harms to human society and natural systems, and that climate change threats are becoming increasingly dangerous. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the leading international scientific body for the assessment of climate change, concluded in its 2023 Sixth Assessment Report that: "[u]nsustainable and unequal energy and land use as well as more than a century of burning fossil fuels have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1°C above 1850-1900 in 2011-2020." (IPCC, 2023) The increase in global surface temperature has resulted in sea level rise, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and has resulted in "irreversible losses" at the species and ecosystem levels. (IPCC, 2023). These findings were echoed in the United States' own 2023 Fifth National Climate Assessment, prepared by scientific experts and reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences and multiple federal agencies. The 2023 Assessment concluded that "[t]he global warming observed over the industrial era is unequivocally caused by greenhouse gas emissions from human activities–primarily burning fossil fuels" and long-term responses include "sea level rise, ice sheet losses, and associated disruptions to human health, social systems, and ecosystems." (US Global Change Research Program, 2023)

In its 2020 update, the National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society concluded that climate change is largely a result of human activity, as "natural causes alone are inadequate to explain the recent observed changes in climate." (National Academy of Sciences & Royal Society, 2020) The additional carbon input from human activities has significantly disturbed the

natural carbon cycle, resulting in an imbalance in the system that fosters global climate stability. (National Academy of Sciences & Royal Society, 2020). Based on observed and expected harms from climate change, in 2009 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that greenhouse gas pollution endangers the health and welfare of current and future generations. (74 Fed. Reg. 66496 (Dec. 15, 2009) [U.S. EPA, Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act; Final Rule].) In 2021, EPA again recognized the critical nature of the climate crisis, stating that: "[t]he changing climate is affecting people's health and livelihoods and damaging infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems in communities in every region of the nation." (US Environmental Protection Agency, 2021)

These authoritative climate assessments decisively recognize the dominant role of greenhouse gases in driving climate change. In its 2023 Assessment Report, IPCC stated that "the extent to which current and future generations will experience a hotter and different world depends on choices now and in the near term." (IPCC, 2023). In order to prevent global warming from reaching an irreversible point, policies must be implemented to reach net zero CO2 emissions and achieve significant reductions in other greenhouse gases. (IPCC, 2023).

The impacts of climate change will be felt by humans and wildlife. Climate change is increasing stress on species and ecosystems—causing species-level changes in morphology, behavior, phenology, and geographic range shifts, and ecosystem-level changes such as the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, widespread changes in productivity, species interactions, and vulnerability to biological invasions (Weiskopf et al., 2020) Climate-change-related local extinctions are already widespread and have occurred in hundreds of species. ((Wiens, 2016) Catastrophic levels of species extinctions are projected during this century if climate change continues unabated (Maclean & Wilson, 2011; Thomas et al., 2004; Urban, 2015) Conservation actions aimed at protecting biodiversity can slow the progression of climate change–the ecosystem services provided by biodiverse ecosystems are an integral part in the balanced functioning of our climate system (Shin et al., 2022)

Therefore, immediate and aggressive greenhouse gas emissions reductions are necessary to keep warming well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report and other expert assessments have established global carbon budgets, or the total amount of carbon that can be burned while maintaining some probability of staying below a given temperature target. According to the IPCC, "[t]he best estimates of the remaining carbon budgets from the beginning of 2020 are 500 GtCO2 for a 50% likelihood of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and 1150 GtCO2 for a 67% likelihood of limiting warming to 2°C." (IPCC, 2023). Additionally, "[i]f the annual CO2 emissions between 2020-2030 stayed, on average, at the same level as 2019, the resulting cumulative emissions would almost exhaust the remaining carbon budget for 1.5°C (50%), and deplete more than a third of the remaining carbon budget for 2°C (67%)." (IPCC, 2023). As of 2023, climate policies by the world's countries would lead to an estimated 2.7°C of warming, and possibly up to 3.4°C of warming, well above the level needed to avoid the worst dangers of climate change (Climate Action Tracker, 2023)

The United States has contributed more to climate change than any other country. The U.S. is the world's biggest cumulative emitter of greenhouse gas pollution, responsible for 24

percent of cumulative global CO2 emissions from 1850 to 2022, and the U.S. is currently the world's second highest emitter on an annual and per capita basis (Friedlingstein et al., 2023; Friedrich et al., 2023) U.S. climate policy is wholly inadequate to meet the international climate target to hold global average temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels to avoid the worst dangers of climate change. Current U.S. climate policy has been ranked as "insufficient" by an international team of climate policy experts and climate scientists which concluded: "[w]ithout additional, drastic emission reductions measures, the US will still be far from meeting its domestic climate target, let alone get its emissions onto a 1.5°C trajectory." (Climate Action Tracker, 2023). In its 2018 Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the IPCC—the leading international scientific body for the assessment of climate change—described the devastating harms that would occur at 2°C warming. The report highlights the necessity of limiting warming to 1.5°C to avoid catastrophic impacts to people and life on Earth (IPCC, 2018) The report also provides overwhelming evidence that climate hazards are more urgent and more severe than previously thought, and that aggressive reductions in emissions within the next decade are essential to avoid the most devastating climate change harms.

In California, climate change will transform our climate, resulting in such impacts as increased temperatures and wildfires, and a reduction in snowpack and precipitation levels and water availability (Turco et al., 2023) In response to inadequate action on the national level, California has taken steps through legislation and regulation to fight climate change and reduce statewide GHG emissions. Enforcement and compliance with these steps are essential to help stabilize the climate and avoid catastrophic impacts to our environment. California has a mandate under AB 1279, the California Climate Crisis Act, to achieve net zero GHG emissions by no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative GHG emissions thereafter, and to ensure that by 2045, statewide GHG emissions are reduced to 85% the level in 1990. (AB 1279 2022.) In 2019, Governor Newsom issued an executive order to leverage state investments to further California's climate goals (Executive Order N-19-19 (2019).) Newsom has continued to issue climate-related executive orders, such as a 2020 order requiring that, by 2035, all passenger vehicles will be zero-emission, in addition to other motor vehicle emission goals. (Executive Order N-79-20 (2020).) Through these bills and orders, California has laid a path that may allow the state to achieve tangible climate solutions, but there is still work to be done.

Although some sources of GHG emissions may seem insignificant, climate change is a problem with cumulative impacts and effects. (*Ctr. for Biological Diversity v. Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Admin.*, (9th Cir. 2008) 538 F.3d 1172, 1217 ("the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on climate change is precisely the kind of cumulative impacts analysis" that agencies must conduct).) One source or one small project may not appear to have a significant effect on climate change, but the combined impacts of many sources can drastically damage California's climate as a whole. Therefore, project-specific GHG emission disclosure, analysis and mitigation is vital to California meeting its climate goals and maintaining our climate.

B. The EIR fails to accurately analyze and mitigate the GHG impact of destroying habitat and converting agricultural land.

The EIR improperly discounts the Specific Plan's anticipated GHG impacts from construction, stating (EIR at 3.8-42) that "Short-term construction GHG emissions are a one-time release of GHGs and are not expected to significantly contribute to global climate change." The

EIR, however, projects that construction emissions will total more than 2.3 million metric tons of CO2 equivalents over 20 years, with average annual emissions of over 115,000 metric tons. (EIR at 3.8-42.) There is no support for the EIR's conclusion that "future development under the proposed project at construction would not result in significant adverse effects related to GHG emissions." (EIR at 3.8-42.)

Moreover, even the 2.3 million MT CO_2e this analysis dismisses is in fact a dramatic underestimation of the construction emissions from the Project because it ignores the loss of carbon sequestration and storage. CEQA requires a thorough disclosure and analysis of a project's impact on climate change. (*See Communities for a Better Env't v. City of Richmond* (2010) 184 Cal.App.4th 70, 89-91). In order to meet CEQA's requirement for adequate analysis, an EIR must disclose all potential sources of a GHG emission resulting from the project. Lead agencies are required to quantify and disclose GHG emissions that would occur during construction. Yet the EIR fails to comply with these requirements. When describing the emissions sources during construction activities, the EIR only lists emissions from "heavy-duty construction equipment, worker trips, and material delivery and handling." (DEIR at 4.8-41). The EIR fails to account for carbon emissions from intact habitats or agricultural landscapes that would be dug up and paved over during construction as well as the annual loss of carbon that existing open space would have continued to sequester for 30 years if the Project were not constructed.

As detailed in a 2023 Center Report, "Hidden in Plain Sight: California's Native Habitats are Valuable Carbon Sinks" (Yap et al., 2023), agricultural lands can store significant amounts of carbon by keeping it from being released and sequester it by removing it from the atmosphere. (Kroodsma & Field, 2006). Carbon cycling in agricultural landscapes can vary greatly depending on crop species and agricultural practices, and some agricultural lands can act as carbon sources themselves (Ceschia et al., 2010). However, numerous crop types—including orchards, which make up the majority of the agricultural landscape of the Plan Area (EIR at 3.4-7)—are able to sequester carbon, and act as carbon sinks (Kroodsma & Field, 2006; Scandellari et al., 2016).

Given the increased urgency in combatting climate change and new knowledge that California is currently not on track to meet its GHG reduction targets, it is important to accurately quantify and mitigate for loss of carbon storage and sequestration potential. However, the EIR fails entirely to consider the impact of conversion of native habitats, open space and agricultural landscapes and the loss of carbon sequestration capacity of these landscapes on GHG emissions. This is an egregious oversight, as the conversion of 5,000 acres of open space to industrial, commercial, residential, or uses necessitates the removal of 5,000 acres of vegetation that is potentially sequestering carbon. This exclusion is particularly inexcusable because CalEEMod, upon which the EIR relies, has the modelling capabilities to calculate the loss of carbon from changes in land use and the associated loss of vegetation (CAPCOA, 2022). The modelling also provides detailed inputs for calculating GHG emissions from land use changes and vegetation loss. While the EIR uses CalEEMod to model the Project's GHG emissions from construction (EIR at 3.8-41), the EIR fails to perform any of the available analyses of land use change and sequestration.

The failure to account for emissions resulting from land conversion and loss of sequestration ability of existing vegetation leads to an inaccurate estimation of total Project emissions. The omission of any sequestration analysis is particularly concerning, as the loss of

sequestration ability of existing landscapes will lead to a continued increased net emissions into the future. The EIR states that "the analysis presented herein quantifies GHG emissions resulting from anticipated development under the plan through the planning horizon of 2040, and describes, calculates, and estimates those emissions." However, because the EIR performs no analysis of carbon sequestration whatsoever, the document fails to account for the annual loss of carbon that existing habitats would have continued to sequester for 30 years if the Project were not constructed. The EIR therefore fails to meet this requirement.

Because the EIR does not account for either carbon emissions resulting from land use conversion, which could be substantial in the proposed Plan, nor the loss of carbon sequestration capacity that will result from such land use conversion, the estimate of total emissions is inaccurate, and the true levels of GHG emissions resulting from the proposed Plan are likely to be higher than stated in the EIR. A supplemental EIR must disclose the carbon emissions associated with the loss of currently stored carbon as well as the loss of future carbon that would have been sequestered by these habitats over the Project lifetime.

CEQA requires the adequate assessment and mitigation of a project's impacts. Destroying native habitats, agricultural landscapes, and open space could release significant amounts of carbon that must be accounted for. An EIR must disclose and "give the public and decision makers the most accurate and understandable picture practically possible of the project's likely near-term and long-term impacts." (Guidelines § 15125(a).) By failing to disclose the carbon emissions associated with the loss of currently stored carbon as well as the loss of future carbon that would have been sequestered by these habitats over the Project lifetime the FEIR fails as an informational document.

C. The EIR's Analysis of VMT Is Not Supported by Evidence.

The EIR contains a surprising claim—that the Project will shrink the area's VMT per service population over 80%, from 45 down to 5.07. (EIR at 3.17-35.) A VMT per capita of 5 is unheard of in the United States. The VMT per capita in New York City, the most dense and public-transit-oriented area in the country, is 15.2. (US Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 2022) The EIR does not acknowledge the implausibility of this claim, and supports it with no evidence beyond stating that the analysis was done by FresnoABM. The EIR must be revised and recirculated with an evidenced-based analysis of VMT.

D. The EIR's Threshold of Significance Forecloses Consideration of Foreseeable GHG Impacts and Is Not Supported by Substantial Evidence.

A lead agency's selection of a threshold of significance must be supported with substantial evidence. Moreover, a determination that an environmental impact complies with a particular threshold of significance does not relieve a lead agency of its obligation to consider evidence that indicates the impact may be significant despite compliance with the threshold. (CEQA Guidelines § 15064(b)(2).) If evidence shows that an environmental impact might be significant despite the significance standard used in the EIR, the agency must address that evidence. (*Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th 1099, 1111.)

The EIR incorrectly finds a less than significant GHG impact based on claimed consistency with CARB's 2022 Scoping Plan and the Fresno 2022 RTP/SCS (EIR at 3.8-56) and does not support that finding with evidence.

It claims the Project is consistent with the 2022 Scoping Plan, but the consistency analysis is incorrect. First, and most glaringly, the 2022 Scoping Plan requires a reduction in VMT. The EIR's claim to achieve that is contrary to logic and common sense, as discussed above. And the consistency analysis contains other errors. For one example, the EIR says the Project complies with the parts of the Scoping Plan that require adopting energy efficiency and electrification policies because the Project "considers adopting" such policies, and "encourage[es]" compliance with "voluntary energy conservation programs." (EIR at 3.8-46.) Voluntary, unenforceable measures cannot be the basis for a finding of no significant impact. The EIR also says the Project is consistent with the requirement not to convert "greenfield" land to urban uses, but it does not admit that CARB considers agricultural land to be greenfield land. (EIR at 3.8-46, CARB 2025.) A project that develops 5,000 acres of agriculture is not consistent with this requirement.

The DEIR also purports to find consistency with Fresno COG's 2022 RTP/SCS, but it conducts this analysis at such a high level of generality that it is meaningless. (EIR at 3.8-48-49.) It lists each of the plan's five goals, which are general, aspirational statements that include "improved mobility and accessibility for all" and "vibrant communities that are accessible by sustainable transportation options," and asserts that the Project advances each of these goals in some way. It does not acknowledge that the RTP/SCS contains specific growth projections for different areas of the City, specific action steps to achieve each of the five general goals, and metrics for success, and it does not analyze consistency with any of those aspects of the plan.

Moreover, if some effort generally in line with each of the five goals was all the RTP/SCS required, then the EIR would have to defend this supposed threshold of significance by establishing that any project that "improved mobility and accessibility for all" in any way could not possibly have GHG impacts. Given that under this interpretation the threshold of significance would contain no concrete metrics—either qualitative or quantitative—it would fail the meet CEQA's requirements for an adequate threshold of significance.

E. The EIR Does Not Mitigate the Project's Foreseeable GHG Impacts.

The City proposes no mitigation measures at all for GHG emissions. But CEQA does not exempt specific plans from the requirement to adopt all feasible mitigation measures, nor does it relieve program EIRs from the requirement to evaluate feasible mitigation measures for the foreseeable environmental consequences of a specific plan. The EIR concludes that there are no feasible project-specific mitigation measures, but none are considered. In fact, there is a broad range of mitigation measures that can be adopted at the Specific Plan level to guide future development. A representative but non-exclusive list of such measures includes the following:

- Require onsite renewable energy generation (ideally rooftop solar or community solar) to meet all residential and commercial energy demand.
- Require all construction to exceed Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards by 20% in light of the Specific Plan's extended buildout.
- Require installation of all-electric energy efficient appliances.
- Require use of high efficiency public street and area lighting.

- Increase transit accessibility and reach by providing transit incentives to construction personnel and future residents; build transit facilities during initial phase of build out; include reliable connections to existing public transit.
- Require pedestrian friendly measures including interconnecting street/pedestrian networks; narrower roadways and shorter block lengths; sidewalks; tree canopy for shade and transit shelters.
- Require traffic calming measures including marked crosswalks, curb extensions, raised crosswalks, roundabouts, and planter strips with native vegetation.
- Require a neighborhood electric vehicle network.
- Require bicycle-friendly designs including bike lanes, bike sharing programs, bike parking, and dedicated bike trails.

In addition, Appendix D of the California Air Resources Board's 2022 Scoping Plan Update provides a set of measures and criteria to achieve equitable reduction of GHG emissions, including:

- Utilizing existing infill sites that are surrounded by urban uses, and reuse or redevelop previously developed, underutilized land presently served by existing utilities and essential public services (e.g., transit, streets, water, sewer).
- Providing proximity to public transit (within ½ mile).
- Ensuring that development does not result in the loss or conversion of the State's natural and working lands.
- Requiring installation of all electric appliances, without any gas connections for space heating, water heating, or indoor cooking.
- Making at least 20 percent of residential units affordable to lower-income residents.
- Ensuring no net loss of existing affordable units.
- Providing EV charging infrastructure at least in accordance with CalGreen Tier 2 standards.

The EIR must be revised and recirculated to include these mitigation measures and others like them to the maximum extent feasible.

V. CONCLUSION

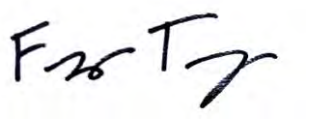
Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report for the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan. We urge the City to revise the EIR to address the issues detailed here, and recirculate a legally compliant document.

Given the possibility that the Center will be required to pursue legal remedies in order to ensure that the City complies with its legal obligations including those arising under CEQA, we would like to remind the City of its statutory duty to maintain and preserve all documents and communications that may constitute part of the "administrative record" of this proceeding. (§ 21167.6(e); *Golden Door Properties, LLC v. Superior Court* (2020) 53 Cal.App.5th 733, 762-65.) The administrative record encompasses any and all documents and communications that relate to any and all actions taken by the City with respect to the Project, and includes "pretty much everything that ever came near a proposed [project] or [] the agency's compliance with

CEQA…" (*County of Orange v. Superior Court* (2003) 113 Cal.App.4th 1, 8.) The administrative record further includes all correspondence, emails, and text messages sent to or received by the City's representatives or employees, that relate to the Project, including any correspondence, emails, and text messages sent between the City's representatives or employees and the Applicant's representatives or employees. Maintenance and preservation of the administrative record requires that, *inter alia*, the City (1) suspend all data destruction policies; and (2) preserve all relevant hardware unless an exact replica of each file is made.

Please add the Center to your notice list for all future updates to the Project and do not hesitate to contact the Center with any questions at the number or email listed below.

Sincerely,



Frances Tinney
Attorney
[redacted]

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March 19, 2025

Sophia Pagoulatos
City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
21600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Project: Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project

District CEQA Reference No: 20250134

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos:

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) has reviewed the City of Fresno's (City) Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (RDPEIR) for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan (SEDA) (Project). The Project consists of 5,580 acres for up to 45,000 homes and 3,220 acres for commercial and retail businesses, office spaces and professional services, industrial uses, and research facilities. Although this is a program level project and project-specific data may not be available until specific approvals are being granted, the RDPEIR should include a discussion of policies, which when implemented, will reduce or mitigate impacts on air quality at the individual project level.

The District offers the following comments at this time regarding the Project:

1) Land Use Planning

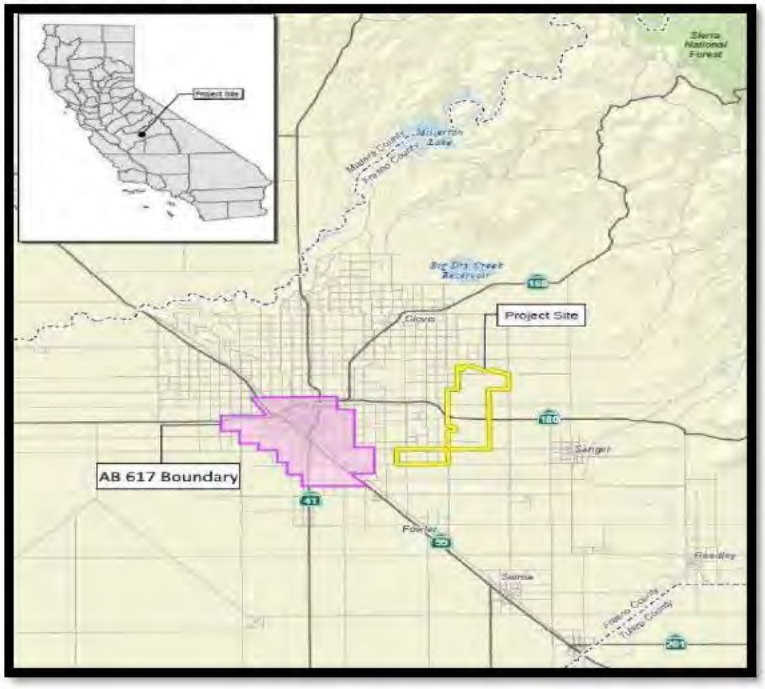
Nearly all development projects within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, from specific plans to individual projects have the potential to generate air pollutants, making it more difficult to attain state and federal ambient air quality standards. Land use decisions are critical to improving air quality within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin because land use patterns greatly influence transportation needs, and motor vehicle emissions are the largest source of air pollution in the Valley. Land use decisions and project design elements such as preventing urban sprawl, encouraging mix-use development, and project design elements that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) have proven to be beneficial for air quality. More specifically, the RDPEIR concludes Project air quality emissions impacts will exceed District

significance thresholds and thus result in significant and unavoidable impacts. As such, the District recommends that the RDPEIR incorporate strategies that reduce VMTs and require the cleanest available heavy duty trucks, vehicles, and off-road equipment, including zero and near-zero technologies. VMTs can be reduced through encouragement of mix-use development, walkable communities, etc. Additional design element options can be found at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/media/ob0pweru/clean-air-measures.pdf

2) Assembly Bill 617

Assembly Bill 617 requires California Air Resources Board (CARB) and air districts to develop and implement Community Emission Reduction Programs (CERPs) in an effort to reduce air pollution exposure in impacted disadvantage communities. The Project lies near one of the impacted communities in the State selected by the CARB under the Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (2017, Garcia) and has the potential to expose sensitive receptors to increased air pollution within the nearby impacted community. The South Central Fresno CERP was adopted by the District's Governing Board in September of 2019 and identifies a wide range of measures designed to reduce air pollution exposure. Therefore, in an effort to reduce air pollution exposure to the impacted disadvantaged community, the District recommends the City incorporate mitigation measures outlined in the South Central Fresno CERP for the Project. For more information regarding the CERP approved for South Central Fresno, please visit the District's website at: http://community.valleyair.org/selected-communities/south-central-fresno

Figure 1: Southeast Development Area Specific Plan



3) Project Related Emissions

The RDPEIR specifically states on page 2-13 that "*The proposed project is a policy level document and does not include any specific development proposals and may not fully evaluate the impacts of other future specific, individual development that may be approved under implementation of the proposed project*".

The District recommends that the RDPEIR require that future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project identify, assess and characterize project-level air emissions and require mitigation of air quality impacts at the individual project-specific level.

Environmental reviews of potential impacts on air quality should incorporate the following items:

3a) Construction Emissions

The RDPEIR Mitigation Measure (MM) AIR-1B states on page 3.3-44 that *"If construction-related air pollutants are determined to have the potential to exceed the SJVAPCD-adopted threshold of significance, project applicants for new development projects shall be required to incorporate mitigation measures into construction plans to reduce air pollutant emissions during construction activities."* The RDPEIR MM AIR-1B also contains a list of possible mitigation measures which includes the use of off-road construction equipment that meets United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tier 4 Final off-road engine emissions standards.

Despite significant progress, the San Joaquin Valley faces one of the most significant air quality challenges in the country. Reducing emission from all feasible sources remains essential to sustain clean air progress. As such, the District recommends this mitigation measure be considered for all future development projects to ensure air quality emission impacts from construction activities are lessened.

3b) Operational Emissions

Operational (ongoing) air emissions from mobile sources and stationary sources should be analyzed separately. For reference, the District's significance thresholds are identified in the District's Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts: https://ww2.valleyair.org/media/g4nl3p0g/gamaqi.pdf.

Recommended Mitigation Measure: At a minimum, project related impacts on air quality should be reduced to levels below the District's significance thresholds through incorporation of design elements such as the use of cleaner

Heavy Heavy-Duty (HHD) trucks and vehicles. More information on transportation mitigation measures can be found at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/media/ob0pweru/clean-air-measures.pdf

3c) Project Trip Length for HHD Truck Travel

The RDPEIR page 3.3-60 states, "*The proposed project would permit residential, office, commercial and industrial land uses. Development of land uses that are allowed under the proposed project may result in stationary sources of TAC emissions, including light industrial facilities, warehouses…etc."*

As a result, the City should include policies that require environmental review for future development projects (e.g. light industrial facilities/warehouses, commercial, etc.). Since the RDPEIR acknowledges these types of development as part of the Project, these development projects have the potential to generate a high volume of HHD truck trips traveling further distances. As such, future environmental review should adequately characterize and justify an appropriate trip length distance for off-site HHD truck travel to and from the project site as well as the estimated number of trips supported by project-specific factors.

3d) Recommended Model for Quantifying Air Emissions

Project-related criteria pollutant emissions from construction and operational sources should be identified and quantified. Emissions analysis should be performed using the California Emission Estimator Model (CalEEMod), which uses the most recent CARB-approved version of relevant emissions models and emission factors. CalEEMod is available to the public and can be downloaded from the CalEEMod website at: www.caleemod.com.

4) Allowed Uses Not Requiring Project-Specific Discretionary Approval

In the event that the City determines that a project be approved as an allowed use not requiring a project-specific discretionary approval, the District recommends the RDPEIR include language requiring such projects to prepare a technical assessment, in consultation with the District, to determine if additional analysis and/or mitigation is required.

5) Health Risk Screening/Assessment

The RDPEIR MM AIR-1D on page 3.3-46 states that development projects with diesel particulate matter and/or toxic air contaminants within 1,000 feet of a sensitive receptor must prepare a Health Risk Assessment (HRA).

The District would like to clarify that relying solely on the 1,000-foot sensitive receptor distance as a condition to require an HRA may overlook future development projects that are more than 1,000-foot from sensitive receptors that could still pose a significant health risk to sensitive receptors. The District recommends revising MM AIR-1D to at minimum consider the following factors when determining whether an HRA should be performed: the size and scope of project, the amount of air toxic emissions from project construction and operation sources (HHD truck trips, stationary source emissions, etc), the type of pollutants emitted, the proximity to the nearest sensitive receptor, and the expected duration of project construction.

To determine potential health impacts on surrounding receptors (residences, businesses, hospitals, day-care facilities, health care facilities, etc.) a Prioritization and/or a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) should be performed for future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project. These health risk determinations should quantify and characterize potential Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs) identified by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment/California Air Resources Board (OEHHA/CARB) that pose a present or potential hazard to human health.

Health risk analyses should include all potential air emissions from the project, which include emissions from construction of the project, including multi-year construction, as well as ongoing operational activities of the project. Note, two common sources of TACs can be attributed to diesel exhaust emitted from heavy-duty off-road earth moving equipment during construction, and from ongoing operation of heavy-duty on-road trucks.

Prioritization (Screening Health Risk Assessment):
A “Prioritization” is the recommended method for a conservative screening-level health risk assessment. The Prioritization should be performed using the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association’s (CAPCOA) methodology. Please contact the District for assistance with performing a Prioritization analysis.

The District recommends that a more refined analysis, in the form of an HRA, be performed for any project resulting in a Prioritization score of 10 or greater. This is because the prioritization results are a conservative health risk representation, while the detailed HRA provides a more accurate health risk evaluation.

Health Risk Assessment:
Prior to performing an HRA, it is strongly recommended that land use agencies/ project proponents develop and submit for District review a health risk modeling protocol that outlines the sources and methodologies that will be used to perform the HRA.

A development project would be considered to have a potentially significant health risk if the HRA demonstrates that the health impacts would exceed the District’s

established risk thresholds, which can be found here: https://ww2.valleyair.org/permitting/ceqa/.

A project with a significant health risk would trigger all feasible mitigation measures. The District strongly recommends that development projects that result in a significant health risk not be approved by the land use agency.

The District is available to review HRA protocols and analyses. For HRA submittals please provide the following information electronically to the District for review:

- HRA (AERMOD) modeling files
- HARP2 files
- Summary of emissions source locations, emissions rates, and emission factor calculations and methodologies.

For assistance, please contact the District's Technical Services Department by:

- E-Mailing inquiries to: hramodeler@valleyair.org
- Calling (559) 230-5900

Additionally, per the RDPEIR, MM AIR-1D requires the implementation of Best Available Control Technologies for Toxics (T-BACT) for development projects that exceed health risk thresholds. The District would like to clarify that T-BACT is typically applied as part of District permitting process for stationary sources; whereas the list of T-BACTs under MM AIR-1D may not necessarily apply for stationary sources nor be considered T-BACT. Therefore, for mobile sources and other emission sources not subject to T-BACT, alternative mitigation measures should still be required, as feasible, to minimize air toxic emissions and reduce associated health risks.

6) Ambient Air Quality Analysis

The District recommends, an Ambient Air Quality Analysis (AAQA) be performed for any future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project with emissions that exceed 100 pounds per day of any pollutant.

An AAQA uses air dispersion modeling to determine if emission increase from a project will cause or contribute to a violation of State or National Ambien Air Quality Standards. An acceptable analysis would include emissions from both project-specific permitted and non-permitted equipment and activities. The District recommends consultation with District staff to determine the appropriate model and input data to use in the analysis.

Specific information for assessing significance, including screening tools and modeling guidance, is available online at the District's website: https://ww2.valleyair.org/permitting/ceqa/.

7) Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement

The District recommends the RDPEIR include a feasibility discussion on implementing a Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement (VERA) as a mitigation measure for future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project that are determined to exceed the District's CEQA significance thresholds.

A VERA is a mitigation measure by which the project proponent provides pound-for-pound mitigation of emissions increases through a process that develops, funds, and implements emission reduction projects, with the District serving a role of administrator of the emissions reduction projects and verifier of the successful mitigation effort. To implement a VERA, the project proponent and the District enter into a contractual agreement in which the project proponent agrees to mitigate project specific emissions by providing funds for the District's incentives programs. The funds are disbursed by the District in the form of grants for projects that achieve emission reductions. Thus, project-related impacts on air quality can be mitigated. Types of emission reduction projects that have been funded in the past include electrification of stationary internal combustion engines (such as agricultural irrigation pumps), replacing old heavy-duty trucks with new, cleaner, more efficient heavy-duty trucks, and replacement of agricultural equipment with the latest generation technologies.

In implementing a VERA, the District verifies the actual emission reductions that have been achieved as a result of completed grant contracts, monitors the emission reduction projects, and ensures the enforceability of achieved reductions. After the project is mitigated, the District certifies to the Lead Agency that the mitigation is completed, providing the Lead Agency with an enforceable mitigation measure demonstrating that project-related emissions have been mitigated. To assist the Lead Agency and project proponent in ensuring that the environmental document is compliant with CEQA, the District recommends the environmental document includes an assessment of the feasibility of implementing a VERA.

8) Industrial/Warehouse Emission Reduction Strategies

The Project is expected to result in the development of industrial uses. Additionally, the RDPEIR specifically page 3.3-60 states, "*The proposed project would permit residential, office, commercial and industrial land uses. Development of land uses that are allowed under the proposed project may result in stationary sources of TAC emissions, including light industrial facilities, warehouses…etc.*" Since the RDPEIR acknowledges the potential development of industrial uses, the District recommends

the City incorporate emission reduction strategies that can reduce potential harmful health impacts, such as those listed below:

- Require cleanest available heavy-duty trucks and off-road equipment (see comment 10)
- Require HHD truck routing patterns that limit exposure of residential communities and sensitive receptors to emissions (see comment 9)
- Require minimization of heavy-duty truck idling (see comment 11)
- Require solid screen buffering trees, solid decorative walls, and/or other natural ground landscaping techniques are implemented along the property line of adjacent sensitive receptors
- Orient loading docks away from sensitive receptors unless physically impossible
- Require loading docks a minimum of 500 feet away from the property line of the nearest truck loading bay opening, unless dock is exclusively used for electric trucks
- Incorporate signage and “pavement markings” to clearly identify on-site circulation patterns to minimize unnecessary on-site vehicle travel
- Require truck entries be located on streets of a higher commercial classification
- Locate and require truck entry, exit, and internal circulation away from sensitive receptors
- Prohibit Heavy-Duty diesel truck drive aisles from being used on sides of the building that are directly adjacent to a sensitive receptor property line
- Require a separate entrance for heavy-duty trucks accessible via a truck route, arterial road, major thoroughfare, or a local road that predominantly serves commercial oriented uses
- Require projects be designed to provide the necessary infrastructure to support use of zero-emissions on-road vehicles and off-road equipment (see comment 12)
- Require all building roofs are solar-ready
- Require all portions of roof tops that are not covered with solar panels are constructed to have light colored roofing material with a solar reflective index of greater than 78
- Ensure rooftop solar panels are installed and operated to supply 100% of the power needed to operate all non-refrigerated portions of the development project
- Install solar photovoltaic systems and associated battery storage on the project site
- Require power sources at loading docks for all refrigerated trucks have “plugin” capacity, which will eliminate prolonged idling while loading and unloading goods
- Incorporate bicycle racks and electric bike plug-ins
- Require the use of low volatile organic compounds (VOC) architectural and

industrial maintenance coatings
- Designate an area during construction to charge electric powered construction vehicles and equipment, if temporary power is available
- Prohibit the use of non-emergency diesel-powered generators during construction
- Inform the project proponent of the incentive programs (e.g., Carl Moyer Program and Voucher Incentive Program) offered to reduce air emissions from the Project
- Ensure all landscaping be drought tolerant

9) Truck Routing

The RDPEIR, specifically pages 2-8 through 2-13, provides the various land-use development types that will be included into the Project. For example, light industrial, manufacturing, commercial, and mixed-use just to name a few. These land-use development types have the potential to generate HHD truck trips. As such, the District recommends the City evaluate HHD truck routing patterns, with the aim of limiting exposure of residential communities and sensitive receptors to emissions.

Truck routing involves the assessment of which roads Heavy Heavy-Duty (HHD) trucks take to and from their destination, and the emissions impact that the HHD trucks may have on residential communities and sensitive receptors (e.g. residential communities).

This evaluation would consider the current truck routes, the quantity and type of each truck (e.g., Medium Heavy-Duty, HHD, etc.), the destination and origin of each trip, traffic volume correlation with the time of day or the day of the week, overall Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), and associated exhaust emissions. The truck routing evaluation would also identify alternative truck routes and their impacts on VMT and air quality.

10) Cleanest Available Heavy-Duty Trucks

The San Joaquin Valley will not be able to attain stringent health-based federal air quality standards without significant reductions in emissions from HHD trucks, the single largest source of NOx emissions in the San Joaquin Valley. Accordingly, to meet federal air quality attainment standards, the District's ozone and particulate matter attainment plans rely on a significant and rapid transition of HHD fleets to zero or near-zero emissions technologies.

The RDPEIR, specifically pages 2-8 through 2-13, provides the various land-use development types that will be included into the Project. For example, light industrial, manufacturing, commercial, and mixed-use just to name a few. These

land-use development types have the potential to generate HHD truck trips. As such, the District recommends that the following measures be considered by the City to reduce Project-related operational emissions:

- *Recommended Measure*: Fleets associated with operational activities utilize the cleanest available HHD trucks, including zero and near-zero technologies.

- *Recommended Measure*: All on-site service equipment (cargo handling, yard hostlers, forklifts, pallet jacks, etc.) utilize zero-emissions technologies.

11) Reduce Idling of Heavy-Duty Trucks

The goal of this strategy is to limit the potential for localized PM2.5 and toxic air contaminant impacts associated with the idling of Heavy-Duty trucks. The diesel exhaust from idling has the potential to impose significant adverse health and environmental impacts.

The Project is expected to result in future development (e.g. commercial, industrial, etc.), that have the ability to result in HHD truck trips. The District recommends the RDPEIR be revised to include a more stringent 3-minute idling restriction and requiring appropriate signage and enforcement of idling restrictions.

12) Electric Infrastructure For Future Development Projects

The District recommends that the RDPEIR be revised to require all nonresidential buildings be designed to provide electric infrastructure to support the use of on-road zero emissions vehicles, such as HHD trucks associated with a warehouse or commercial project.

To support and accelerate the installation of electric vehicle charging equipment and development of required infrastructure, the District offers incentives to public agencies, businesses, and property owners of multi-unit dwellings to install electric charging infrastructure (Level 2 and 3 chargers). The purpose of the District's Charge Up! Incentive program is to promote clean air alternative-fuel technologies and the use of low or zero-emission vehicles. The District recommends that the City and project proponents install electric vehicle chargers at project sites, and at strategic locations.

Please visit https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/charge-up for more information.

13) Under-fired Charbroilers

Future development projects (e.g. commercial) have the potential to include restaurants with under-fired charbroilers. Such charbroilers may pose the potential for immediate health risk, particularly when located in densely populated areas or

near sensitive receptors.
Since the cooking of meat can release carcinogenic PM2.5 species, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, controlling emissions from new under-fired charbroilers will have a substantial positive impact on public health. The air quality impacts on neighborhoods near restaurants with under-fired charbroilers can be significant on days when meteorological conditions are stable, when dispersion is limited and emissions are trapped near the surface within the surrounding neighborhoods. This potential for neighborhood-level concentration of emissions during evening or multi-day stagnation events raises air quality concerns.

Furthermore, reducing commercial charbroiling emissions is essential to achieving attainment of multiple federal PM2.5 standards. Therefore, the District recommends that the RDPEIR include a measure requiring the assessment and potential installation, as technologically feasible, of particulate matter emission control systems for new large restaurants operating under-fired charbroilers.

The District is available to assist the City and project proponents with this assessment. Additionally, the District is currently offering substantial incentive funding that covers the full cost of purchasing, installing, and maintaining the system during a demonstration period covering two years of operation. Please contact the District at (559) 230-5800 or technology@valleyair.org for more information, or visit: https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/restaurant-charbroiler-technology-partnership/

14) Vegetative Barriers and Urban Greening

The Project is expected to result in future development (e.g. commercial, industrial, etc.). As such, the District suggests the City consider incorporating vegetative barriers and urban greening as a measure to further reduce air pollution exposure on sensitive receptors (e.g., residences, schools, healthcare facilities).

While various emission control techniques and programs exist to reduce air quality emissions from mobile and stationary sources, vegetative barriers have been shown to be an additional measure to potentially reduce a population's exposure to air pollution through the interception of airborne particles and the update of gaseous pollutants. Examples of vegetative barriers include, but are not limited to the following: trees, bushes, shrubs, or a mix of these. Generally, a higher and thicker vegetative barrier with full coverage will result in greater reductions in downwind pollutant concentrations. In the same manner, urban greening is also a way to help improve air quality and public health in addition to enhancing the overall beautification of a community with drought tolerant, low-maintenance greenery.

15) Clean Lawn and Garden Equipment in the Community

Gas-powered lawn and garden equipment have the potential to result in an increase of NOx and PM2.5 emissions. Utilizing electric lawn care equipment can provide

residents with immediate economic, environmental, and health benefits. The District recommends the Project proponent consider the District's Clean Green Yard Machines (CGYM) program which provides incentive funding for replacement of existing gas powered lawn and garden equipment. More information on the District CGYM program and funding can be found at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/clean-green-yard-machines-residential/
and https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/zero-emission-landscaping-equipment-voucher-program/.

16) On-Site Solar Deployment

It is the policy of the State of California that renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 100% of retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2045. While various emission control techniques and programs exist to reduce air quality emissions from mobile and stationary sources, the production of solar energy is contributing to improving air quality and public health. The District suggests that the City consider incorporating solar power systems as an emission reduction strategy for future development projects that may be approved under implementation of the Project.

17) District's Bikeway Incentive Program

Incorporating design elements (e.g., installing bikeways) within the Project that enhance walkability and connectivity can result in an overall reduction of vehicles miles traveled (VMT) and improve air quality within the area. The Project includes new bikeways and bikeways improvements, and may be eligible for funding through the District's Bikeway Incentive Program. The Bikeway Incentive Program provides funding for eligible Class 1 (Bicycle Path Construction), Class II (Bicycle Lane Striping), or Class III (Bicycle Route) projects. These incentives are designed to support the construction of new bikeway projects to promote clean air through the development of a widespread, interconnected network of bike paths, lanes, or routes and improving the general safety conditions for commuter bicyclists. Only municipalities, government agencies, or public educational institutions are eligible to apply. More information on the grant program can be found at:
https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/bike-paths/
Guidelines and Project Eligibility for the grant program can be found at:
https://ww2.valleyair.org/media/drpijuw1/bikeway-program-guidelines-62515.pdf

18) District Rules and Regulations

The District issues permits for many types of air pollution sources, and regulates some activities that do not require permits. A project subject to District rules and regulations would reduce its impacts on air quality through compliance with the District's regulatory framework. In general, a regulation is a collection of individual rules, each of which deals with a specific topic. As an example, Regulation II

(Permits) includes District Rule 2010 (Permits Required), Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review), Rule 2520 (Federally Mandated Operating Permits), and several other rules pertaining to District permitting requirements and processes.

The list of rules below is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. Current District rules can be found online at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/rules-and-planning/current-district-rules-and-regulations. To identify other District rules or regulations that apply to future projects, or to obtain information about District permit requirements, the project proponents are strongly encouraged to contact the District's Small Business Assistance (SBA) Office at (559) 230-5888.

18a) District Rules 2010 and 2201 - Air Quality Permitting for Stationary Sources

Stationary Source emissions include any building, structure, facility, or installation which emits or may emit any affected pollutant directly or as a fugitive emission. District Rule 2010 (Permits Required) requires operators of emission sources to obtain an Authority to Construct (ATC) and Permit to Operate (PTO) from the District. District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review) requires that new and modified stationary sources of emissions mitigate their emissions using Best Available Control Technology (BACT).

Future development projects may be subject to District Rule 2010 (Permits Required) and Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review) and may require District permits. Prior to construction, project proponents shall obtain an ATC permit from the District for equipment/activities subject to District permitting requirements.

Recommended Mitigation Measure: For projects subject to permitting by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, demonstration of compliance with District Rule 2201 (obtain ATC permit from the District) shall be provided to the City before issuance of the first building permit.

For further information or assistance, project proponents may contact the District's SBA Office at (559) 230-5888.

18b) District Rule 9510 - Indirect Source Review (ISR)

The purpose of District Rule 9510 is to reduce the growth in both NOx and PM emissions associated with development and transportation projects from mobile and area sources; specifically, the emissions associated with the construction and subsequent operation of development projects. The ISR Rule requires developers to mitigate their NOx and PM emissions by incorporating clean air

design elements into their projects. Should the proposed development project clean air design elements be insufficient to meet the required emission reductions, developers must pay a fee that ultimately funds incentive projects to achieve off-site emissions reductions.

Accordingly, future development projects within the Project may be subject to District Rule 9510 if upon full buildout, the project would equal or exceed any of the following applicability thresholds, depending on the type of development and public agency approval mechanism:

Table 1: ISR Applicability Thresholds

Development Type	Discretionary Approval Threshold	Ministerial Approval / Allowed Use / By Right Thresholds
Residential	50 dwelling units	250 dwelling units
Commercial	2,000 square feet	10,000 square feet
Light Industrial	25,000 square feet	125,000 square feet
Heavy Industrial	100,000 square feet	500,000 square feet
Medical Office	20,000 square feet	100,000 square feet
General Office	39,000 square feet	195,000 square feet
Educational Office	9,000 square feet	45,000 square feet
Government	10,00 square feet	50,000 square feet
Recreational	20,000 square feet	100,000 square feet
Other	9,000 square feet	45,000 square feet

District Rule 9510 also applies to any transportation or transit development projects where construction exhaust emissions equal or exceed two tons of NOx or two tons of PM.

In the case the individual development project is subject to District Rule 9510, per Section 5.0 of the rule, an Air Impact Assessment (AIA) application is required to be submitted no later than applying for project-level approval from a public agency so that proper mitigation and clean air design under ISR can be incorporated into the public agency's analysis.

Information about how to comply with District Rule 9510 can be found online at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/permitting/indirect-source-review-rule-overview

The AIA application form can be found online at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/permitting/indirect-source-review-rule-overview/forms-and-applications/

District staff is available to provide assistance with determining if future development projects will be subject to Rule 9510, and can be reached by phone at (559) 230-5900 or by email at ISR@valleyair.org.

18c) District Rule 9410 (Employer Based Trip Reduction)

Future development projects may be subject to District Rule 9410 (Employer Based Trip Reduction) if the project would result in employment of 100 or more "eligible" employees. District Rule 9410 requires employers with 100 or more "eligible" employees at a worksite to establish an Employer Trip Reduction Implementation Plan (eTRIP) that encourages employees to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips, thus reducing pollutant emissions associated with work commutes. Under an eTRIP plan, employers have the flexibility to select the options that work best for their worksites and their employees.

Information about District Rule 9410 can be found online at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/compliance/rule-9410-employer-based-trip-reduction/.

For additional information, you can contact the District by phone at 559-230-6000 or by e-mail at etrip@valleyair.org

18d) District Rule 4002 (National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants)

In the event an existing building will be renovated, partially demolished or removed, future development projects may be subject to District Rule 4002. This rule requires a thorough inspection for asbestos to be conducted before any regulated facility is demolished or renovated. Information on how to comply with District Rule 4002 can be found online at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/compliance/demolition-renovation/

18e) District Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings)

Future development projects may be subject to District Rule 4601 since they may utilize architectural coatings. Architectural coatings are paints, varnishes, sealers, or stains that are applied to structures, portable buildings, pavements or curbs. The purpose of this rule is to limit VOC emissions from architectural coatings. In addition, this rule specifies architectural coatings storage, cleanup and labeling requirements. Additional information on how to comply with District Rule 4601 requirements can be found online at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/media/tkgjeusd/rule-4601.pdf

18f) District Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions)

The project proponent may be required to submit a Construction Notification Form or submit and receive approval of a Dust Control Plan prior to commencing any earthmoving activities as described in Regulation VIII,

specifically Rule 8021 – *Construction, Demolition, Excavation, Extraction, and Other Earthmoving Activities.*

Should the project result in at least 1-acre in size, the project proponent shall provide written notification to the District at least 48 hours prior to the project proponents intent to commence any earthmoving activities pursuant to District Rule 8021 (Construction, Demolition, Excavation, Extraction, and Other Earthmoving Activities). Also, should the project result in the disturbance of 5-acres or more, or will include moving, depositing, or relocating more than 2,500 cubic yards per day of bulk materials, the project proponent shall submit to the District a Dust Control Plan pursuant to District Rule 8021 (Construction, Demolition, Excavation, Extraction, and Other Earthmoving Activities). For additional information regarding the written notification or Dust Control Plan requirements, please contact District Compliance staff at (559) 230-5950.

The application for both the Construction Notification and Dust Control Plan can be found online at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/media/fm3jrbsq/dcp-form.docx

Information about District Regulation VIII can be found online at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/dustcontrol

18g) District Rule 4901 - Wood Burning Fireplaces and Heaters

The purpose of this rule is to limit emissions of carbon monoxide and particulate matter from wood burning fireplaces, wood burning heaters, and outdoor wood burning devices. This rule establishes limitations on the installation of new wood burning fireplaces and wood burning heaters. Specifically, at elevations below 3,000 feet in areas with natural gas service, no person shall install a wood burning fireplace, low mass fireplace, masonry heater, or wood burning heater.

Information about District Rule 4901 can be found online at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/compliance/residential-wood-smoke-reduction-program/

18h) Other District Rules and Regulations

Future development projects may also be subject to the following District rules: Rule 4102 (Nuisance) and Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations).

19) Future Projects / Land Use Agency Referral Documents

Future development projects may require an environmental review and air emissions mitigation. A project's referral documents and environmental review documents

provided to the District for review should include a project summary, the land use designation, project size, air emissions quantifications and impacts, and proximity to sensitive receptors and existing emission sources, and air emissions mitigation measures. For reference and guidance, more information can be found in the District's Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts at: https://ww2.valleyair.org/media/g4nl3p0g/gamaqi.pdf

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Michael Corder by e-mail at [redacted] or by phone at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Tom Jordan
Director of Policy and Government Affairs



For: Mark Montelongo
Program Manager

From the Desk of Dr. Carol Bloesser	[redacted]

March 19, 2025

These are comments regarding the SEDA EIR along with the marked reference:

	3.1	Aesthetics. Light, and Glare
	3.2	Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources
	3.3	Air Quality
	3.4	Biological Resources
u	3.5	Cultural Resources and Tribal Resources
	3.6	Energy
	3.7	Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
	3.8	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
	3.9	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
	3.10	Hydrology and Water Quality
	3.11	Land Use and Planning
	3.12	Mineral Resources
	3.13	Noise
X	3.14	Population and Housing
	3.15	Public Services
	3.16	Recreation
		Transportation and Traffic
	3.18	Utilities and Service Systems
	3.19	Wildfire
		Mandatory Finds of Significance

The population of California is diminishing. The population of Fresno is not growing at the rate that it was when this plan was first initiated. In fact, it is growing little. There is enough land and housing within the City of Fresno to last until 2035 and probably longer. Why take valuable farmland and create urban sprawl when it is unnecessary? The EIR does not prove the need for the 45,000 houses indicated in this plan.

From the Desk of Dr. Carol Bloesser	[redacted]

March 19, 2025

These are comments regarding the SEDA EIR along with the marked reference:

	3.1	Aesthetics. Light, and Glare
	3.2	Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources
	3.3	Air Quality
	3.4	Biological Resources
u	3.5	Cultural Resources and Tribal Resources
	3.6	Energy
	3.7	Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
	3.8	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
	3.9	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
	3.10	Hydrology and Water Quality
	3.11	Land Use and Planning
	3.12	Mineral Resources
	3.13	Noise
X	3.14	Population and Housing
	3.15	Public Services
	3.16	Recreation
		Transportation and Traffic
	3.18	Utilities and Service Systems
	3.19	Wildfire
		Mandatory Finds of Significance

The population of California is diminishing. The population of Fresno is not growing at the rate that it was when this plan was first initiated. In fact, it is growing little. There is enough land and housing within the City of Fresno to last until 2035 and probably longer. Why take valuable farmland and create urban sprawl when it is unnecessary unless it is to appease a few wealthy developers?

From the Desk of Dr. Carol Bloesser	[redacted]

March 23, 2025

These are comments regarding the SEDA EIR along with the marked reference:

	3.1	Aesthetics. Light, and Glare
	3.2	Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources
	3.3	Air Quality
	3.4	Biological Resources
u	3.5	Cultural Resources and Tribal Resources
	3.6	Energy
	3.7	Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
	3.8	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
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	3.19	Wildfire
		Mandatory Finds of Significance

In reading the EIR, I see no provision for fire stations or police stations. There is not even a suggestion of how many of each would be needed. This EIR is totally incomplete. It provides no estimate of a budget and many important things are not covered in this EIRE.

From the Desk of Dr. Carol Bloesser	[redacted]

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BLUM, COLLINS & HO LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
AON CENTER

March 21, 2025

Sophia Pagoulatos
Planning Manager
City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3043
Fresno, CA 93721

Via Email to:
sophia.pagoulatos@fresno.gov

Subject: Comments on Recirculated Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project EIR (SCH NO. 2022020486)

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Recirculated Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project. Please accept and consider these comments on behalf of Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance. Also, Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance formally requests to be added to the public interest list regarding any subsequent environmental documents, public notices, public hearings, and notices of determination for this project. Send all communications to Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance P.O. Box 79222 Corona, CA 92877.

1.0 Summary

The proposed project is a Specific Plan (SP) for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) formerly known as the Southeast Growth Area (SEGA). The mixed-use SEDA SP would permit residential, commercial, and employment generating uses. It has the potential to accommodate approximately 45,000 homes and 37,000 jobs within the nearly 9,000-acre planning area by the year 2050.
The EIR lists the following items as additional components of the project:

1. Phasing Plan: The Phasing Plan defines the required sequence of development for various areas within SEDA.
2. Infrastructure Financing Plan: The proposed project would include a Public Facilities Financing Plan to present a strategy and funding options for backbone infrastructure and public facilities, including roads, sewer, water, storm drainage, parks, and other public facilities.

Backbone infrastructure and public facilities required for development would be funded through a combination of public and private funding. The Public Facilities Financing Plan has been developed through a review of the SEDA Specific Plan, infrastructure studies, and coordination with the City.

3. Annexation: The proposed project requires annexation of Fresno County (County) lands into the City. LAFCo is a Responsible Agency under CEQA for the proposed project. LAFCo will consider the analysis contained in this EIR when considering the annexation of the project site into the City. Annexation will be strategic and proactive to facilitate infrastructure development by the City.
4. General Plan Amendment and Development Code Change: The proposed project would also amend the General Plan and Development Code to implement the land use and zoning described in the proposed project.

1.4 Documents Incorporated by Reference

The EIR states that the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan (SEDA SP) document itself (2023) is incorporated by reference. The SEDA SP *is* the proposed project and excluding it as an attachment for public review does not comply with CEQA's requirements for meaningful disclosure. Incorporation by reference (CEQA § 15150 (f)) is not appropriate as the SEDA SP document contributes directly to analysis of the problem at hand. The EIR must be revised to include the SEDA SP document for review, analysis, and comment by the public and decision makers.

2.0 Project Description

The EIR is not clear regarding the proposed General Plan land use designations for the project site. Specifically, the EIR only provides exhibits that depict the Existing General Plan land use designations and the proposed SEDA SP land use designations, leaving the reader to assume that the proposed SEDA land uses *are* the new General Plan land use designations. It must be noted that the City's General Plan does not list any of the 10 proposed SEDA land use designations as existing land use designations. For example, SEDA's employment-focused land use designations are "Office Center" and "Flexible Research and Development." These land use designations do not exist in the City's General Plan, and neither do any of the other eight proposed land use designations. The City's General Plan also does not include a broad "Specific Plan" land use designation that would be applied to all parcels within any approved Specific Plan within the City. Therefore, all 10 land use designations proposed in the SEDA SP will be new additions to the General Plan and the EIR must be revised to include all text and exhibits that will be part of the revised General Plan and Development Code in order to comply with CEQA's requirements for meaningful disclosure and adequate informational documents (CEQA § 15121).

Further, the EIR impact analysis throughout the document relies on the notion that bus rapid transit (BRT) service will be expanded in Fresno to serve the project area (Kings Canyon), rendering several impact areas less than significant. However, the EIR does not provide any meaningful evidence to support the conclusion that the BRT expansion will actually be constructed. Most notably, the Fresno COG Long Range Transportation Plan[1] (LRTP) (2019-2050) does not include service to the SEDA SP area as a specific project. Table 2 - LRTP Project List within the LRTP only includes, "Project 6: Extend the Kings Canyon BRT corridor to Fancher Creek," and the Fancher Creek area is located north/west of the SEDA areas and not contiguous to it. Therefore, BRT service to the project area is not a funded commitment or project and is not planned to exist by 2050. The EIR must be revised to clarify this and update its impact analysis throughout the document.

Additionally, the EIR lists several items as "additional components" of the project that are not included for public review: Phasing Plan, Infrastructure Financing Plan, Annexation, and the above-mentioned General Plan Amendment and Development Code Change. These project components are necessary for the public to review as they directly inform the environmental analysis, such as Utilities and Service Systems, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Public Services. Excluding these project components as attachments for public review does not comply with CEQA's requirements for meaningful disclosure. Incorporation by reference (CEQA § 15150 (f)) is not appropriate as all project components contribute directly to analysis of the problem at hand. The EIR must be revised to include all project components for review, analysis, and comment by the public and decision makers.

3.3 Air Quality, 3.6 Energy, and 3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The EIR does not include for analysis relevant environmental justice issues in reviewing potential impacts, including cumulative impacts from the proposed project. The EIR provides general information about the census tract's CalEnviroScreen scores but does not provide meaningful analysis regarding the health impacts and effects of severe pollution rates. This is in conflict with CEQA Guidelines Section 15131 (c), which requires that "Economic, social, and particularly housing factors shall be considered by public agencies together with technological and environmental factors in deciding whether changes in a project are feasible to reduce or avoid the significant effects on the environment identified in the EIR. If information on these factors is not contained in the EIR, the information must be added to the record in some other manner to allow the agency to consider the factors in reaching a decision on the project."

[1] https://www.fresnocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Fresno-County-Regional-Long-Range-Transit-Plan-050519-RL-34.pdf

This is especially significant as the surrounding community is highly burdened by pollution. According to CalEnviroScreen 4.0[2], CalEPA's screening tool that ranks each census tract in the state for pollution and socioeconomic vulnerability, the proposed project spans multiple census tracts ((6019005904 (Temperance south of Church Street extending east to McCall); 6019001413 (Temperance north of Church Street extending north to Belmont); and 6019001500 (Temperance between Jensen and North extending west to Peach)) that rank significantly worse than the rest of the state in overall pollution burden and specific factors that directly contribute to pollution applied to the socioeconomic factors of the population. Census tract 6019005904 ranks in the 77th percentile for overall pollution burden, census tract 6019001413 ranks in the 57th percentile, and census tract 6019001500 ranks in the 100th percentile, meaning that it is among the most highly polluted census tracts in the state.

The project census tracts rank highly for ozone burden (6019005904 and 6019001413: 89th percentile; 6019001500: 85th percentile), particulate matter (PM) 2.5 burden (6019005904: 95th percentile; 6019001413 and 6019001500: 96th percentile), and diesel PM burden (6019001500: 65th percentile). All of these environmental factors are typically attributed to heavy truck activity in the area. Ozone can cause lung irritation, inflammation, and worsening of existing chronic health conditions, even at low levels of exposure[3]. The very small particles of diesel PM can reach deep into the lung, where they can contribute to a range of health problems. These include irritation to the eyes, throat and nose, heart and lung disease, and lung cancer[4].

The census tracts also bear more impacts from cleanup sites compared to the rest of the state (6019005904: 89th percentile; 6019001500: 98th percentile). Chemicals in the buildings, soil, or water at cleanup sites can move into nearby communities through the air or movement of water[5]. The census tracts also rank highly for impacts from toxic releases (6019005904: 70th percentile; 6019001413: 74th percentile; 6019001500: 95th percentile). People living near facilities that emit toxic releases may breathe contaminated air regularly or if contaminants are released during an accident[6].

The census tracts rank among the most severely impacted in several areas that impact water quality. Census tract 6019001500 rank in the 94th percentile for groundwater threats. People who live near contaminated groundwater may be exposed to chemicals moving from the soil into the air

[2] CalEnviroScreen 4.0 https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40
[3] OEHHA Ozone https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/air-quality-ozone
[4] OEHHA Diesel Particulate Matter https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/diesel-particulate-matter
[5] OEHHA Cleanup Sites https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/cleanup-sites
[6] OEHHA Toxic Releases https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/toxic-releases-facilities

inside their homes[7]. Additionally, the project census tracts rank highly for drinking water impacts (6019005904: 99th percentile; 6019001413: 94th percentile; 6019001500: 100th percentile), which indicates that the project site ranks with the worst quality drinking water in the state. Poor communities and people in rural areas are exposed to contaminants in their drinking water more often than people in other parts of the state[8].

The census tracts also rank highly for solid waste facility impacts (6019005904: 70th percentile; 6019001500: 100th percentile), which can expose people to hazardous chemicals, release toxic gases into the air (even after these facilites are closed), and chemicals can leach into soil around the facility and pose a health risk to nearby populations[9]. Census tract 6019001500 ranks in the 100th percentile for hazardous waste impacts. Hazardous waste generators and facilities contribute to the contamination of air, water and soil near waste generators and facilities can harm the environment as well as people[10].

Further, the census tract is a diverse community including many Hispanic residents (6019005904: 32%; 6019001413: 46%; 6019001500: 75%), Asian-American residents (6019005904: 24%; 6019001413: 25%; 6019001500: 3%), and African-American residents (6019005904: 2%; 6019001413: 2%; 6019001500: 1%), whom are especially vulnerable to the impacts of pollution. The communities have a high rate of low educational attainment, meaning significant portions of the census tracts over age 25 has not attained a high school diploma (6019005904: 56%; 6019001413: 54%; 6019001500: 95%). The community also has a high rate of poverty, meaning significant portions of the households in the census tract have a total income before taxes that is less than the poverty level (6019001500: 94%). Income can affect health when people cannot afford healthy living and working conditions, nutritious food and necessary medical care[11]. Poor communities are often located in areas with high levels of pollution[12]. Poverty can cause stress that weakens the immune system and causes people to become ill from pollution[13]. Living in poverty and low education levels are also an indication that residents may lack health insurance or access to medical care. Medical care is vital for the project census tracts as they rank significantly for the incidence of cardiovascular disease (6019001413: 55th percentile;

[7] OEHHA Groundwater Threats https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/groundwater-threats
[8] OEHHA Drinking Water https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/drinking-water
[9] OEHHA Solid Waste Facilities https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/solid-waste-sites-and-facilities
[10] OEHHA Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/hazardous-waste-generators-and-facilities
[11] OEHHA Poverty https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/poverty
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ibid.

6019001500: 71st percentile) and the incidence of asthma (6019001413: 55th percentile; 6019001500: 93rd percentile). The communities also have a high rate of linguistic isolation, meaning significant portions of residents in the census tracts speak little to no English and faces further inequities as a result (6019005904: 49%; 6019001413: 50%; 6019001500: 70%).

Additionally, the proposed project's census tracts (6019001413 and 6019001500) are identified as SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities[14]. This indicates that cumulative impacts of development and environmental impacts in the area are disproportionately impacting these communities. The EIR does not discuss that the project site and surrounding area are disadvantaged communities and does not utilize this information in its analysis. The EIR has not considered the project's significant and unavoidable cumulatively considerable environmental impacts in relation to the SB 535 status of the project census tracts and surrounding area. The negative environmental, health, and quality of life impacts in the City have become distinctly inequitable. The severity of environmental impacts particularly on these Disadvantaged Communities must be included for analysis as part of a revised EIR.

The State of California lists three approved compliance modeling softwares[15] for non-residential buildings: CBECC-Com, EnergyPro, and IES VE. CalEEMod and EMFAC are not listed as approved softwares. The CalEEMod/EMFAC and spreadsheet-based modeling does not comply with the 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards and under-reports the project's significant Energy impacts and fuel consumption to the public and decision makers. Since the EIR did not accurately or adequately model the energy impacts in compliance with Title 24, a finding of significance must be made. A revised EIR with modeling using one of the approved software types must be prepared and circulated for public review in order to adequately analyze the project's significant environmental impacts. This is vital as the EIR utilizes CalEEMod/EMFAC as sources in its methodology and analysis, which are clearly not approved softwares.

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The EIR states that, "According to the Fresno Yosemite International Airport Safety Compatibility Zones Map, a small portion of the Plan Area is located within the 60 dB CNEL contour. A Larger portion of the Plan Area is located within the Traffic Pattern Zone." The EIR concludes that, "The ALUC found the proposed project to be consistent with the ALUCP on August 7, 2023. Therefore, at the programmatic level, impacts to the Plan Area would be less than significant. Consistent with the General Plan and SEDA Specific Plan policies, individual development projects would be

[14] OEHHA SB 535 Census Tracts https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535
[15] California Energy Commission 2022 Energy Code Compliance Software https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-energy-efficiency-standards/2022-building-energy-efficiency-1

required to undergo project-specific environmental review, which may require additional site-specific or project-specific airport land use compatibility measures to reduce any potential impacts and ensure that impacts remain less than significant."

However, the EIR has not provided any meaningful evidence or analysis to support the claim that the impacts are less than significant. Notably, the Fresno County Airport Land Use Commission (FC ALUC) review document is not included as an attachment for public review in compliance with CEQA's requirements for meaningful disclosure. Incorporation by reference (CEQA § 15150 (f)) is not appropriate as the FC ALUC review document contributes directly to analysis of the problem at hand. The EIR must be revised to include the FC ALUC review document for review, analysis, and comment by the public and decision makers.

Additionally, based on the August 7, 2023 FC ALUC meeting agenda[16], attachments[17]/[18], and minutes[19] of the meeting, the FC ALUC only reviewed the SEDA Specific Plan. The FC ALUC did not explicitly review or take action on all aspects of the project, including the required General Plan Amendment and Development Code Change required to implement the proposed project. The California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook[20] states that Airport Land Use Commission review is required "Prior to the amendment of a general plan or specific plan, or the adoption of a zoning ordinance or building regulation within the ALUCP planning boundary, the ALUC shall review the plan, ordinance, or regulation for consistency with the ALUCP (PUC Section 21676(b))." Given that the proposed project includes General Plan Amendment and Development Code Change to proceed, FC ALUC review of all associated actions is required. As stated above in the Project Description analysis, the EIR has not provided the new text or exhibits to be included in the revised General Plan associated with the 10 new land use designations created by the proposed project, or the new text of the development code. Therefore, the FC ALUC has not reviewed the required General Plan Amendment and a revised EIR must be prepared to include a finding of significance.

[16] August 7, 2023 FC ALUC meeting agenda https://agendas2011-24.fresnocog.org/agenda/read/785
[17] August 7, 2023 FC ALUC attachment for SEDA project https://agendas2011-24.fresnocog.org/itemAttachments/785/SEDA_-_ALUC_Submittal_-_7.24_.23_.pdf
[18] August 7, 2023 FC ALUC attachment for SEDA project https://agendas2011-24.fresnocog.org/itemAttachments/785/SEDA_-_FAT_Influence_Areas.pdf
[19] August 7, 2023 FC ALUC meeting minutes https://agendas2011-24.fresnocog.org/itemAttachments/794/080723_ALUC_Action_Summary.pdf
[20] California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/aeronautics/documents/californiaairportlanduseplanninghandbook-a11y.pdf

3.11 Land Use and Planning

It must be noted that the EIR does not accurately characterize or analyze the permitted use types within each land use designation of the SEDA SP[21]. For example, SEDA SP Policy EO-2.1 states, "Promote industry clusters that build on Fresno's local strengths. The SEDA Plan presents opportunities for each of the following clusters: Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy, Construction, Food Processing, Healthcare, Information Processing, **Logistics & Distribution**, Software Development, Tourism, and Water Technology. This list may evolve as Fresno grows and changes." The EIR does not discuss or analyze the possibility of logistics and distribution uses in any of the proposed land use designations. The EIR is inadequate as an informational document and must be revised to accurately list all permitted/conditionally permitted uses within each land use designation and update all associated impact analysis.

The EIR is not clear regarding the proposed General Plan land use designations for the project site. Specifically, the EIR only provides exhibits that depict the Existing General Plan land use designations and the proposed SEDA SP land use designations, leaving the reader to assume that the proposed SEDA land uses *are* the new General Plan land use designations. It must be noted that the City's General Plan does not list any of the 10 proposed SEDA land use designations as existing land use designations. For example, SEDA's employment-focused land use designations are "Office Center" and "Flexible Research and Development." These land use designations do not exist in the City's General Plan, and neither do any of the other eight proposed land use designations. The City's General Plan also does not include a broad "Specific Plan" land use designation that would be applied to all parcels within any approved Specific Plan within the City. Therefore, all 10 land use designations proposed in the SEDA SP will be new additions to the General Plan and the EIR must be revised to include all text and exhibits that will be part of the revised General Plan and Development Code in order to comply with CEQA's requirements for meaningful disclosure and adequate informational documents (CEQA § 15121).

Additionally, the EIR does not provide adequate information to determine the project's compliance or noncompliance with statutory requirements of the Housing Crisis Act (HCA) of 2019/Senate Bill (SB) 330[22]/SB 8[23]. The HCA/SB 330/SB 8 require replacement housing sites when land designated for housing development experience land use changes to ensure no net loss of housing capacity.

[21] SEDA SP https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Draft-SEDA-Specific-Plan.pdf
[22] Housing Crisis Act of 2019/SB 330 https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB330
[23] SB 8 https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB8

Government Code Section 66300(b)(1)(A) requires that agencies shall not "change the general plan land use designation, specific plan land use designation, or zoning to a less intensive use below what was allowed under the land use designation and zoning ordinances in effect at the time of the proposed change." Under Government Code Section 66300(b)(1)(A), a "less intensive use" includes, but is not limited to, reductions to height, density, or floor area ratio, new or increased open space or lot size requirements, or new or increased setback requirements, minimum frontage requirements, or maximum lot coverage limitations, or any other action that would individually or cumulatively reduce residential development capacity. Pursuant to SB 330, replacement capacity for any displaced residential units must be provided **concurrently** at the **time of project approval**.

Government Code Section 66300 (h)(i)(1) states that, "this section does not prohibit an affected county or an affected city, including the local electorate acting through the initiative process, from changing a land use designation or zoning ordinance to a less intensive use, or reducing the intensity of land use, if the city or county concurrently changes the development standards, policies, and conditions applicable to other parcels within the jurisdiction to ensure that there is no net loss in residential capacity." The EIR is inadequate in that it does not provide the acreage of each existing General Plan land use designation within the project area. The total acreage for each existing General Plan land use designation is necessary to calculate the existing total residential development capacity to ensure there is no net loss of capacity. The EIR must be revised to include this information for analysis.

3.14 Population and Housing

The EIR states that, "According to General Plan Tables 1-3 (Residential Development Capacity at General Plan Horizon) and 1-4 (Residential Development Capacity at General Plan Buildout, the proposed project would generate up to 14,900 dwelling units at General Plan Horizon and an additional 25,000 at buildout occurring sometime after 2050, for a total of 45,000 new dwelling units, comprising approximately 31 percent of the total planned capacity for the City. Buildout of the proposed project is considered planned growth and would provide housing to meet the demand for new residential units." However, this statement does not accurately reflect General Plan Tables 1-3 and 1-4. According to the General Plan, the project site is located within Development Areas (DA) DA-3 Southeast and DA-4 East. General Plan Tables 1-3 and 1-4 provide the following buildout information for DA-3 and DA-4:

Table 1-3: Residential Development Capacity Under General Plan Horizon (2035)
DA-3 Southeast
Type of Dwelling Unit (DU)
Multi-Family/Townhouse: 2,500 DU
SFD: 3,500 DU

Total: 6,000 DU
Location
City Limits: 0
Development on Sites in Growth Areas Requiring Annexation: 6,000 DU

DA-4 East
Type of DU
MF/Townhouse: 5,100 DU
SFD: 3,800 DU
Location
City Limits: 0
Development on Sites in Growth Areas Requiring Annexation: 8,900 DU
Total General Plan Horizon (2035) = 14,900 DU

Table 1-4: Residential Development Capacity Under Buildout (2056)
DA-3 Southeast
Location
City Limits: 0
Development on Sites in Growth Areas Requiring Annexation: 9,092 DU

DA-4 East
Location
City Limits: 0
Development on Sites in Growth Areas Requiring Annexation: 35,008 DU

Total General Plan Buildout (2056) = 44,100 DU

The EIR states that the General Plan provides for, "up to 14,900 dwelling units at General Plan Horizon and an additional 25,000 at buildout occurring sometime after 2050, for a total of 45,000 new dwelling units." However, the sum of 14,900 DU and 25,000 DU is 39,900 DU, which is 5,100 DU fewer than the proposed project. It must be noted that the General Plan excludes the specific date of total buildout, but the 2019 EIR for the General Plan Update[24] clearly identifies the total buildout year as 2056.

As shown above, the General Plan accommodates a cumulative total of 44,100 DU on the project site from General Plan adoption through 2056. This is 900 DU fewer than the 45,000 DU proposed by the project. The proposed project exceeds the cumulative General Plan buildout scenario through 2056 and the EIR must be revised to disclose this with a finding of significance.

[24] https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Fresno-GP-Public-Review-Draft-Program-EIR.pdf

A revised EIR must also provide a cumulative analysis of projects approved and "in the pipeline" to provide an adequate and accurate analysis to determine if the project will exceed Fresno COG's employment and population growth forecasts, and all projects approved since 2014 and projects "in the pipeline" to provide an adequate and accurate analysis to determine if the project will exceed the City's General Plan employment and population growth forecasts. For example, the General Plan includes Table 1-5: Population Estimate Under Horizon and Buildout that depicts the City will add 226,000 residents by horizon year 2035 and a cumulative total of 425,000 residents by General Plan buildout in 2056. The EIR's estimated 134,550 residents accounts for 59.5% of horizon population buildout (2035), 31.6% of total General Plan population buildout (2056), and 67.5% of the population increase from 2035 to 2056. This is a significant amount of growth attributable to a single project. The EIR has not prepared an adequate cumulative analysis to determine the City's progress towards these buildout scenarios and a revised EIR must be prepared with this information in order to provide an adequate and accurate environmental analysis.

The EIR states that, "new development would be required to address potential environmental impacts as part of individual project review. As such, cumulative development would not induce substantial unplanned population growth, either directly or indirectly. Because cumulative projects would comply with all applicable land use plans to provide adequate development within a jurisdiction, cumulative impacts would be less than significant." This statement is misleading and erroneous as CEQA provides several options to exempt future projects from environmental review. New development would not be required to address potential environmental impacts as part of individual project review. New residential development proposed pursuant to the SEDA SP is statutorily exempt from CEQA due to the adoption of a Program EIR. Specifically, CEQA Guidelines Section 15168 (c)(2) states regarding later activities that, "If the agency finds that pursuant to Section 15162, no subsequent EIR would be required, the agency can approve the activity as being within the scope of the project covered by the program EIR, and no new environmental document would be required." CEQA Guidelines Section 15182 exempts "residential, commercial and mixed-use projects that are consistent with a specific plan." CEQA Guidelines Section 15182 (c) exempts residential projects so long as no new information has been presented pursuant to Section 15162. Additionally, CEQA Guidelines Section 15168 (b)(2) provides a list of advantages for developing a Program EIR as, "Ensure consideration of cumulative impacts that might be slighted in a case-by-case analysis." Therefore, the EIR's reliance upon delayed/future CEQA review as part of individual project review is not adequate or accurate and does not support a less than significant finding. The EIR must be revised to remove these statements and provide a finding of significance.

3.17 Transportation and Traffic

The EIR has not provided any consistency analysis with the Fresno Council of Governments (COG) 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)[25]. Due to errors in modeling, modeling without supporting evidence, and the EIR's conclusion the project will result in significant and unavoidable cumulatively considerable impacts to Air Quality, the proposed project has signifiant potential for inconsistency with Goal 2: Vibrant communities that are accessible by sustainable transportation options, Policy 4: Encourage alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas emissions, and Policy 6: Encourage sustainable development that focuses growth near activity centers and mobility options that achieve greater location efficiency. Portions of the project site is also identified as an Environmental Justice area[26] in Fresno COG's 2022 RTP/SCS. Since the project requires a General Plan Amendment to the land use designations on the project site to proceed, it was clearly not accounted for or analyzed by the 2022 RTP/SCS. A revised EIR must be prepared to accurately analyze and disclose the inconsistency with the 2022 RTP/SCS document with a finding of significance.

Further, the EIR impact analysis relies on the notion that bus rapid transit (BRT) service will be expanded in Fresno to serve the project area (Kings Canyon), rendering several impact areas less than significant. However, the EIR does not provide any meaningful evidence to support the conclusion that the BRT expansion will actually be constructed. Most notably, the Fresno COG Long Range Transportation Plan[27] (LRTP) (2019-2050) does not include service to the SEDA SP area as a specific project. Table 2 - LRTP Project List within the LRTP only includes, "Project 6: Extend the Kings Canyon BRT corridor to Fancher Creek," and the Fancher Creek area is located north/west of the SEDA areas and not contiguous to it. Therefore, BRT service to the project area is not a funded commitment or project and is not planned to exist by 2050. The EIR must be revised to clarify this and update its impact analysis throughout the document.

4.2 Growth-Inducing Impacts

The EIR has excluded for discussion for the precedence setting action that approval of the required General Plan Amendment and Development Code Change set for future changes in the City. The EIR must be revised to include a finding of significance as the required GPA/Development Code Change to implement the project will result in significant and unavoidable cumulatively

[25] Fresno COG 2022 RTP/SCS https://www.planfresno.com/sustainable-communities-strategies-fall-outreach/
[26] Environmental Justice Chapter of 2022 Fresno COG RTP/SCS https://www.planfresno.com/planfresno/uploads/2022/06/Chapter-7-Environmental-Justice-Final-Draft.pdf
[27] https://www.fresnocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Fresno-County-Regional-Long-Range-Transit-Plan-050519-RL-34.pdf

considerable impacts to Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, and Noise, and approval of the proposed project will set precedent for approval of other projects with significant and unavoidable impacts that require changes in land use designations and will encourage and facilitate other activities that will have significant negative impacts to the environment. The EIR must be revised to disclose this information and provide a finding of significance.

The EIR has excluded discussion of the precedence setting action that approval of the required General Plan Amendment and Development Code Change set for future changes in the City. The EIR does not analyze that the project will create 10 new General Plan land use designations that can be applied to any property in the City. The EIR must be revised to disclose this information and provide a finding of significance.

The EIR states that, "According to General Plan Tables 1-3 (Residential Development Capacity at General Plan Horizon) and 1-4 (Residential Development Capacity at General Plan Buildout, the proposed project would generate up to 14,900 dwelling units at General Plan Horizon and an additional 25,000 at buildout occurring sometime after 2050, for a total of 45,000 new dwelling units, comprising approximately 31 percent of the total planned capacity for the City. Buildout of the proposed project is considered planned growth and would provide housing to meet the demand for new residential units." However, this statement does not accurately reflect General Plan Tables 1-3 and 1-4. According to the General Plan, the project site is located within Development Areas (DA) DA-3 Southeast and DA-4 East. General Plan Tables 1-3 and 1-4 provide the following buildout information for DA-3 and DA-4:

Table 1-3: Residential Development Capacity Under General Plan Horizon (2035)
DA-3 Southeast
Type of Dwelling Unit (DU)
Multi-Family/Townhouse: 2,500 DU
SFD: 3,500 DU
Total: 6,000 DU
Location
City Limits: 0
Development on Sites in Growth Areas Requiring Annexation: 6,000 DU

DA-4 East
Type of DU
MF/Townhouse: 5,100 DU
SFD: 3,800 DU
Location
City Limits: 0
Development on Sites in Growth Areas Requiring Annexation: 8,900 DU

Total General Plan Horizon (2035) = 14,900 DU

Table 1-4: Residential Development Capacity Under Buildout (2056)
DA-3 Southeast
Location
City Limits: 0
Development on Sites in Growth Areas Requiring Annexation: 9,092 DU

DA-4 East
Location
City Limits: 0
Development on Sites in Growth Areas Requiring Annexation: 35,008 DU

Total General Plan Buildout (2056) = 44,100 DU

The EIR states that the General Plan provides for, "up to 14,900 dwelling units at General Plan Horizon and an additional 25,000 at buildout occurring sometime after 2050, for a total of 45,000 new dwelling units." However, the sum of 14,900 DU and 25,000 DU is 39,900 DU, which is 5,100 DU fewer than the proposed project. It must be noted that the General Plan excludes the specific date of total buildout, but the 2019 EIR for the General Plan Update[28] clearly identifies the total buildout year as 2056.

As shown above, the General Plan accommodates a cumulative total of 44,100 DU on the project site from General Plan adoption through 2056. This is 900 DU fewer than the 45,000 DU proposed by the project. The proposed project exceeds the cumulative General Plan buildout scenario through 2056 and the EIR must be revised to disclose this with a finding of significance.
The EIR must also be

A revised EIR must also provide a cumulative analysis of projects approved and "in the pipeline" to provide an adequate and accurate analysis to determine if the project will exceed Fresno COG's employment and population growth forecasts, and all projects approved since 2014 and projects "in the pipeline" to provide an adequate and accurate analysis to determine if the project will exceed the City's General Plan employment and population growth forecasts. For example, the General Plan includes Table 1-5: Population Estimate Under Horizon and Buildout that depicts the City will add 226,000 residents by horizon year 2035 and a cumulative total of 425,000 residents by General Plan buildout in 2056. The EIR's estimated 134,550 residents accounts for 59.5% of horizon population buildout (2035), 31.6% of total General Plan population buildout

[28] https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Fresno-GP-Public-Review-Draft-Program-EIR.pdf

(2056), and 67.5% of the population increase from 2035 to 2056. This is a significant amount of growth attributable to a single project. The EIR has not prepared an adequate cumulative analysis to determine the City's progress towards these buildout scenarios and a revised EIR must be prepared with this information in order to provide an adequate and accurate environmental analysis.

4.3 Mandatory Findings of Significance

The EIR concludes that the proposed project will have a less than significant impact regarding Mandatory Finding of Significance Threshold 3: "The environmental effects of a project will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly." The EIR states that, "Compliance with and implementation of mitigation measures, existing regulations, and the City's standard permit conditions would ensure that the proposed project, and future development consistent with the proposed project, would not result in substantial adverse effects on human beings, including effects related to air pollution, seismic and geologic hazards, hazardous materials, flooding and natural disasters, or noise and vibration. Therefore, impacts associated with the proposed project would be less than significant."

However, this analysis fails to account for the project's significant and unavoidable cumulatively considerable impact for Threshold AIR-3: Project-level Sensitive Receptors Exposure to Pollutant Concentrations. Regarding this signifiant impact, the EIR states that proposed mitigation would reduce impacts to the extent feasible, but, "the proposed project would result in the future development of numerous projects, each contributing incrementally to air emissions affecting sensitive receptors. Thus, it is possible that the proposed project would result in cumulatively significant impacts to sensitive receptors, even if individual projects were each less than significant. This is particularly likely since none of the measures herein would prevent multiple development projects from being constructed concurrently within close proximity to sensitive receptors in such a manner as to cause substantial concentrations within the area. Further, neither the amount of construction occurring nor the exact location within the Plan Area is foreseeable and, as such, it cannot be determined whether the resultant construction emissions could be adequately controlled or reduced to below regulatory thresholds. Without such information, it is not possible to conclude that air pollutant emissions resulting from construction activities would be adequately reduced to the point that sensitive receptors are not exposed to substantial concentrations of air pollutants, and thus a significant and unavoidable impact may result." The EIR is internally inconsistent as it does not acknowledge this impact in the Mandatory Findings. The EIR must be revised to include this information for analysis and provide a finding of significance.

5.0 Alternatives

The EIR is required to evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project which will avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project (CEQA § 15126.6.) The alternatives chosen for analysis include the CEQA required "No Project/No Build" alternative and only two others - Consolidated Business Park Alternative and Farmland Conservation Alternative. The EIR does not evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives as only two alternatives beyond the required No Project alternative are analyzed. The EIR does not include an alternative eliminates any of the project's significant and unavoidable impacts. The EIR must be revised to include analysis of a reasonable range of alternatives and foster informed decision making (CEQA § 15126.6). This could include alternatives such as development of the site with a project that eliminates all of the proposed project's significant and unavoidable impacts to less than significant levels while meeting all project objectives. The EIR must be revised to include analysis of a reasonable range of alternatives and foster informed decision making (CEQA § 15126.6).

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, GSEJA believes the EIR is flawed and a revised EIR must be prepared for the proposed project and circulated for public review. Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance requests to be added to the public interest list regarding any subsequent environmental documents, public notices, public hearings, and notices of determination for this project. Send all communications to Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance P.O. Box 79222 Corona, CA 92877.

Sincerely,



Vashon Simien
Blum, Collins & Ho, LLP

Attachments:

1. SWAPE Technical Analysis

SWAPE Technical Consultation, Data Analysis and Litigation Support for the Environment

[redacted]

Matt Hagemann, P.G, C.Hg.

[redacted]

Paul E. Rosenfeld, PhD

[redacted]

March 18, 2025

Gary Ho

[redacted]

Subject: **Comments on the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (SCH No. 2022020486)**

Dear Mr. Ho,

We have reviewed the February 2025 Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report ("RDPEIR") for the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project ("Specific Plan") located in the City of Fresno. The Project proposes constructing complete communities and mixed-use centers, including up to 45,000 dwelling units, over a 9,000-acre plan area.

In our opinion, the RDPEIR does not sufficiently evaluate the Project's air quality and greenhouse gas ("GHG") impacts. Emissions associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project may therefore be inadequately addressed. A revised Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") should be prepared to adequately assess and mitigate the potential air quality and greenhouse gas impacts that the project may have on the environment.

Air Quality

Failure to Implement All Feasible Mitigation Measures to Reduce Construction-Related and Operational Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions

The RDPEIR relies on California Emissions Estimator Model ("CalEEMod") to estimate emissions from construction and operation of future projects under the Specific Plan. Despite incorporating Mitigation Measures ("MM") AIR-1a through AIR-1d, the RDPEIR concludes that construction-related and operational emissions of volatile organic compounds ("VOC"), nitrogen oxide ("NO_x"), carbon oxide ("CO"), particulate matter 10 ("PM_{10}"), and particulate matter 2.5 ("$PM_{2.5}$") would remain significant and unavoidable (pp. 3.3-48–51, Table 3.3-8, Table 3.3-9).

The RDPEIR, however, does not implement all feasible mitigation for reducing these emissions. The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires lead agencies to implement all feasible mitigation to reduce significant impacts to the maximum extent feasible.[1] The RDPEIR fails to evaluate or adopt additional measures that could further reduce emissions. As outlined in the "Feasible Mitigation Measures Available to Reduce Emissions" section of this letter, we suggest further mitigation measures to be considered; a revised EIR should be prepared to further assess and incorporate all available mitigation before concluding that impacts are significant and unavoidable.

Greenhouse Gas

Failure to Implement All Feasible Mitigation Measures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Impacts

The RDPEIR estimates that Project construction and operation would generate 2,316,578 and 510,791 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per year ("MT CO_2e/year"), respectively (p. 3.8-42–43, Table 3.8-2, 2.8-3). The RDPEIR concludes that the Project's GHG emissions would be less than significant based on consistency with the 2022 ARB Scoping Plan and the Fresno 2022 Regional Transportation Plant ("RTP") and the Sustainable Communities Strategy ("SCS") (p. 3.8-56).

In our opinion, however, the RDPEIR's significant and unavoidable conclusion lacks sufficient support. CEQA requires the RDPEIR to implement all feasible mitigation to minimize impacts to the maximum extent feasible.[2] An impact can only be deemed significant and unavoidable after considering all available feasible mitigation. The RDPEIR does not incorporate all feasible mitigation measures despite declaring compliance with the RTP and SCS plans.

A revised EIR should be prepared to include and provide evidence for the implementation of additional feasible mitigation measures which we recommend below in the section titled, "Feasible Mitigation Measures Available to Reduce Emissions."

Mitigation

Feasible Mitigation Measures Available to Reduce Emissions

The RDPEIR concludes that the construction and operation of future projects under the Specific Plan would lead to significant air quality and GHG impacts. Under CEQA, the RDPEIR is required to implement all feasible mitigation. We have provided a list of additional mitigation measures below for the Project Applicant to consider implementing as formal mitigation measures in a future EIR.

[1] "Guidance on Frequently Questioned Topics in Roadway Analysis for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)." CEQA, February 2018, *available at*: https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/roadway-ceqa-guidance_v10.pdf, p. 2.
[2] *Ibid*.

To reduce the VOC emissions associated with the construction and operation of future projects, we recommend the RDPEIR consider incorporating the following mitigation measures used by other land use development projects to address VOC emissions: [3]

- Recycle leftover paint. Take any leftover paint to a household hazardous waste center; do not mix leftover water-based and oil-based paints.
- Keep lids closed on all paint containers when not in use to prevent VOC emissions and excessive odors.
- For water-based paints, clean up with water only. Whenever possible, do not rinse the cleanup water down the drain or pour it directly into the ground or the storm drain
- Use compliant low-VOC cleaning solvents to clean paint application equipment.
- Keep all paint- and solvent-laden rags in sealed containers to prevent VOC emissions.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency recommends conducting calculations for coverage area and thinning ratios prior to purchasing paints. By applying these calculations, the appropriate quantity of paint can be acquired, helping to minimize waste and optimize resource use.[4]

To reduce construction VOC emissions, the California Department of Public Health ("CDPH") recommends the use of:[5]

- Composite wood products that comply with the California Air Resources Board's ("CARB") Airborne Toxic Control Measure for formaldehyde.
- Interior paints, coatings, adhesives, and sealants that comply with South Coast AQMD Rule 1168 or CARB's Suggested Control Measure for Architectural Coatings.
- Flooring materials that are certified as low emitting under the CDPH Standard Method v1.2 or equivalent.
- Sealer on the surface of spray-on fireproofing to reduce adsorption of VOCs using a low-VOC sealer, if necessary.

An additional mitigation measure that may reduce the impact from operational VOC emissions is to implement a mechanical ventilation system meeting the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standards 62.1 and 62.2. [6] HVAC systems should include MERV 13 or higher filters to reduce indoor pollutant exposure. Prior to occupancy, the building should undergo a flush-out

[3] "Banning Commerce Center Project." Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., June 2024, *available at*: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2022090102/2; Draft Environmental Impact Report, p. 1-7.
[4] "Methods for Estimating Air Emissions from Paint, Ink, and Other Coating Manufacturing Facilities." Emissions Inventory Improvement Program, February 2005, *available at*: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-08/documents/ii08_feb2005.pdf, Volume II, Chapter 8, p. 8.3-1.
[5] "Reducing occupant exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from indoor sources: Guidelines for building occupants." California Department of Public Health, July 1996, *available at*: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHLB/IAQ/CDPH%20Document%20Library/reducing_occupant_exposure_vocs_guidelines_ADA.pdf.
[6] *Ibid.*, p. xii.

period with HVAC systems operating at full capacity for at least 48 hours to remove residual VOCs and improve indoor air quality.

To reduce the NO_x, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions from the construction and operation of future project, which commonly originate from mobile source engines and road dust, we recommend the DPEIR consider incorporating several mitigation measures (see list below).[7,8]

The Southern California Association of Governments ("SCAG")'s 2020 *RTP/SCS* Program Environmental Impact Report recommends the following Air Quality Project Level Mitigation Measures, which are applicable to future projects: [9]

- Minimize land disturbance.
- Cover trucks when hauling dirt.
- Limit vehicular paths on unpaved surfaces and stabilize any temporary roads.
- Minimize unnecessary vehicular and machinery activities.
- Provide an operational water truck on-site at all times. Use watering trucks to minimize dust; watering should be sufficient to confine dust plumes to the project work areas. Sweep paved streets at least once per day where there is evidence of dirt that has been carried on to the roadway.
- Develop a traffic plan to minimize community impacts as a result of traffic flow interference from construction activities. The plan may include advance public notice of routing, use of public transportation, and satellite parking areas with a shuttle service. Schedule operations affecting traffic for off-peak hours. Minimize obstruction of through-traffic lanes. Provide a flag person to guide traffic properly and ensure safety at construction sites. Project sponsors should consider developing a goal for the minimization of community impacts.
- Require contractors to assemble a comprehensive inventory list (i.e., make, model, engine year, horsepower, emission rates) of all heavy-duty off-road (portable and mobile) equipment (50 horsepower and greater) that could be used an aggregate of 40 or more hours for the construction project.
- Require residential area parking permit.

To reduce the CO emissions associated with the construction and operation of future projects under the Specific Plan, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District recommends implementing "reduction programs to reduce vehicle miles traveled ("VMT"), improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and access; improving public transit service and access; designating truck routes and limiting heavy-duty

[7] "Proposed Revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide." EPA, July 2009, *available at*: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-07-15/pdf/E9-15944.pdf.
[8] "Particle Pollution and your Health." EPA, September 2003, *available at*: https://www.airnow.gov/publications/air-quality-andyour-health/partical-pollution-and-your-health/.
[9] "4.0 Mitigation Measures." Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report Addendum #1, September 2020, available at: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/fpeir_connectsocal_addendum_4_mitigationmeasures.pdf?1606004420, p. 4.0-2 – 4.0-10; 4.0-19 – 4.0-23; See also: "Certified Final Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report." SCAG, May 2020, *available at:* https://scag.ca.gov/peir.

truck traffic during peak hours, and encouraging the use of cleaner fuel vehicles."[10] We recommend the following mitigation measures used by other land use development projects:

- All construction equipment shall be properly tuned and maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- The use of electrical or natural-gas-powered construction equipment shall be employed where feasible, including forklifts and other comparable equipment types.

To reduce the GHG emissions associated with future projects, we suggest several mitigation measures (see list below).

The SCAG's 2020 RTP/SCS Program Environmental Impact Report Greenhouse Gas Project Level Mitigation Measures recommends:

- Incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities into project designs, maintaining these facilities, and providing amenities incentivizing their use; and planning for and building local bicycle projects that connect with the regional network.
- Improving transit access to rail and bus routes by incentives for construction and transit facilities within developments, and/or providing dedicated shuttle service to transit stations.
- Designate a percentage of parking spaces for ride-sharing vehicles or high-occupancy vehicles, and provide adequate passenger loading and unloading for those vehicles.

In their 2022 Scoping Plan, CARB recommends that new residential projects "[use] all-electric appliances without any natural gas connections and [do] not use propane or other fossil fuels for space heating, water heating, or indoor cooking" in order to reduce Project-related GHG emissions. [11]

CEQA Guidelines 15126.4 (c)(3) include "[o]ffsite measures, including offsets that are not otherwise required, to mitigate a project's emissions" as viable options for GHG mitigation.[12] While the use of local carbon offset programs to reduce a project's GHG impacts should be considered as a measure of last resort, around 5% of project have implemented such strategies to mitigate residual emissions.[13] There are many instances of projects implementing similar strategies, one example is the Otay Ranch Village

[10] "Mitigating Air Quality and Climate Impacts." BAAQMD, 2022, *available at:* https://www.baaqmd.gov/~/media/files/planning-and-research/ceqa/ceqa-guidelines-2022/ceqa-guidelines-chapter-8-mitigation_final-pdf.pdf?rev=5a4aa8d31c394498b8b4de4e9eb46edc, p. 8-2 and 3.
[11] "2022 Scoping Plan For Achieving Carbon Neutrality" CARB, November 2022, *available at*: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/2022-sp-appendix-d-local-actions.pdf, Appendix D, p. 23, Table 3.
[12] "Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 15126.4." CEQA Guidelines, May 2024, *available at*: https://casetext.com/regulation/california-code-of-regulations/title-14-natural-resources/division-6-resources-agency/chapter-3-guidelines-for-implementation-of-the-california-environmental-quality-act/article-9-contents-of-environmental-impact-reports/section-151264-consideration-and-discussion-of-mitigation-measures-proposed-to-minimize-significant-effects.
[13] "Local CEQA Mitigation Best Practices and Lessons Learned." CARB and California EPA, September 2023, *available at*: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/CARB%2021STC001%20White%20Paper.pdf, p. ix, 46.

13 Project in San Diego County which proposed the use of carbon offsets to mitigate its GHG emissions.[14] Another example of this was in the case of the Oakland Sports and Mixed-Use Project, where off-site reduction measures in the neighboring communities were recommended.[15]

The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association recommends the establishment of community gardens as a method of mitigation for greenhouse gas.[16] Community gardens can provide local food sources, potentially reducing VMT for grocery shopping and displacing carbon-intensive food production practices. The reduced VMT could minimize CO, NO_x, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions from the operations of future projects under the Specific Plan.

The measures provided offer feasible ways to incorporate lower-emitting design features into the proposed Project, which can subsequently reduce emissions released during the construction and operation of the future projects.

We recommend a revised EIR be prepared to include all feasible mitigation measures, as well as updated air quality and GHG analyses to ensure that the necessary mitigation measures are implemented. The revised EIR should also demonstrate a commitment to the implementation of these measures prior to Specific Plan approval to ensure that the potentially significant emissions from future projects are reduced to the maximum extent possible.

Disclaimer

SWAPE has received limited documentation regarding this project. Additional information may become available in the future; thus, we retain the right to revise or amend this report when additional information becomes available. Our professional services have been performed using that degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised, under similar circumstances, by reputable environmental consultants practicing in this or similar localities at the time of service. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the scope of work, work methodologies and protocols, site conditions, analytical testing results, and findings presented. This report reflects efforts which were limited to information that was reasonably accessible at the time of the work, and may contain informational gaps, inconsistencies, or otherwise be incomplete due to the unavailability or uncertainty of information obtained or provided by third parties.

[14] "List Of Mitigation Measures and Environmental Design Considerations." Otay Ranch Resort Village FEIR, County of San Diego, September 2020, *available at*: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/ceqa/OtayRanchVillage13Resort/PreBoard/DFEIR/7.0%20List%20of%20Mitigation%20Measures%20.pdf, Chapter 7.0, p. 7-50.

[15] "Cal. Pub. Resources Code § 21168.6.7." 2024, *available at*: https://casetext.com/statute/california-codes/california-public-resources-code/division-13-environmental-quality/chapter-6-limitations/section-2116867-oakland-sports-and-mixed-use-project-conditions-for-approval-certification-of-project-for-streamlining.

[16] "Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures." CAPCOA, August 2010, *available at:* https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/capcoa-quantifying-greenhouse-gas-mitigation-measures.pdf, p. 448.

Sincerely,



Matt Hagemann, P.G., C.Hg.



Paul E. Rosenfeld, Ph.D.

Attachment A: Matt Hagemann CV
Attachment B: Paul Rosenfeld CV

SWAPE Technical Consultation, Data Analysis and Litigation Support for the Environment

[redacted]

Matt Hagemann, P.G, C.Hg.

[redacted]

Matthew F. Hagemann, P.G., C.Hg., QSD, QSP

Geologic and Hydrogeologic Characterization
Investigation and Remediation Strategies
Litigation Support and Testifying Expert
Industrial Stormwater Compliance
CEQA Review

Education:

M.S. Degree, Geology, California State University Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, 1984.
B.A. Degree, Geology, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, 1982.

Professional Certifications:

California Professional Geologist
California Certified Hydrogeologist
Qualified SWPPP Developer and Practitioner

Professional Experience:

Matt has 30 years of experience in environmental policy, contaminant assessment and remediation, stormwater compliance, and CEQA review. He spent nine years with the U.S. EPA in the RCRA and Superfund programs and served as EPA's Senior Science Policy Advisor in the Western Regional Office where he identified emerging threats to groundwater from perchlorate and MTBE. While with EPA, Matt also served as a Senior Hydrogeologist in the oversight of the assessment of seven major military facilities undergoing base closure. He led numerous enforcement actions under provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and directed efforts to improve hydrogeologic characterization and water quality monitoring. For the past 15 years, as a founding partner with SWAPE, Matt has developed extensive client relationships and has managed complex projects that include consultation as an expert witness and a regulatory specialist, and a manager of projects ranging from industrial stormwater compliance to CEQA review of impacts from hazardous waste, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Positions Matt has held include:

- Founding Partner, Soil/Water/Air Protection Enterprise (SWAPE) (2003 – present);
- Geology Instructor, Golden West College, 2010 – 2104, 2017;
- Senior Environmental Analyst, Komex H2O Science, Inc. (2000 -- 2003);

- Executive Director, Orange Coast Watch (2001 – 2004);
- Senior Science Policy Advisor and Hydrogeologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1989–1998);
- Hydrogeologist, National Park Service, Water Resources Division (1998 – 2000);
- Adjunct Faculty Member, San Francisco State University, Department of Geosciences (1993 – 1998);
- Instructor, College of Marin, Department of Science (1990 – 1995);
- Geologist, U.S. Forest Service (1986 – 1998); and
- Geologist, Dames & Moore (1984 – 1986).

Senior Regulatory and Litigation Support Analyst:

With SWAPE, Matt's responsibilities have included:

- Lead analyst and testifying expert in the review of over 300 environmental impact reports and negative declarations since 2003 under CEQA that identify significant issues with regard to hazardous waste, water resources, water quality, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and geologic hazards. Make recommendations for additional mitigation measures to lead agencies at the local and county level to include additional characterization of health risks and implementation of protective measures to reduce worker exposure to hazards from toxins and Valley Fever.
- Stormwater analysis, sampling and best management practice evaluation at more than 100 industrial facilities.
- Expert witness on numerous cases including, for example, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) contamination of groundwater, MTBE litigation, air toxins at hazards at a school, CERCLA compliance in assessment and remediation, and industrial stormwater contamination.
- Technical assistance and litigation support for vapor intrusion concerns.
- Lead analyst and testifying expert in the review of environmental issues in license applications for large solar power plants before the California Energy Commission.
- Manager of a project to evaluate numerous formerly used military sites in the western U.S.
- Manager of a comprehensive evaluation of potential sources of perchlorate contamination in Southern California drinking water wells.
- Manager and designated expert for litigation support under provisions of Proposition 65 in the review of releases of gasoline to sources drinking water at major refineries and hundreds of gas stations throughout California.

With Komex H2O Science Inc., Matt's duties included the following:

- Senior author of a report on the extent of perchlorate contamination that was used in testimony by the former U.S. EPA Administrator and General Counsel.
- Senior researcher in the development of a comprehensive, electronically interactive chronology of MTBE use, research, and regulation.
- Senior researcher in the development of a comprehensive, electronically interactive chronology of perchlorate use, research, and regulation.
- Senior researcher in a study that estimates nationwide costs for MTBE remediation and drinking water treatment, results of which were published in newspapers nationwide and in testimony against provisions of an energy bill that would limit liability for oil companies.
- Research to support litigation to restore drinking water supplies that have been contaminated by MTBE in California and New York.

- Expert witness testimony in a case of oil production-related contamination in Mississippi.
- Lead author for a multi-volume remedial investigation report for an operating school in Los Angeles that met strict regulatory requirements and rigorous deadlines.
- Development of strategic approaches for cleanup of contaminated sites in consultation with clients and regulators.

Executive Director:

As Executive Director with Orange Coast Watch, Matt led efforts to restore water quality at Orange County beaches from multiple sources of contamination including urban runoff and the discharge of wastewater. In reporting to a Board of Directors that included representatives from leading Orange County universities and businesses, Matt prepared issue papers in the areas of treatment and disinfection of wastewater and control of the discharge of grease to sewer systems. Matt actively participated in the development of countywide water quality permits for the control of urban runoff and permits for the discharge of wastewater. Matt worked with other nonprofits to protect and restore water quality, including Surfrider, Natural Resources Defense Council and Orange County CoastKeeper as well as with business institutions including the Orange County Business Council.

Hydrogeology:

As a Senior Hydrogeologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Matt led investigations to characterize and cleanup closing military bases, including Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, Treasure Island Naval Station, Alameda Naval Station, Moffett Field, Mather Army Airfield, and Sacramento Army Depot. Specific activities were as follows:

- Led efforts to model groundwater flow and contaminant transport, ensured adequacy of monitoring networks, and assessed cleanup alternatives for contaminated sediment, soil, and groundwater.
- Initiated a regional program for evaluation of groundwater sampling practices and laboratory analysis at military bases.
- Identified emerging issues, wrote technical guidance, and assisted in policy and regulation development through work on four national U.S. EPA workgroups, including the Superfund Groundwater Technical Forum and the Federal Facilities Forum.

At the request of the State of Hawaii, Matt developed a methodology to determine the vulnerability of groundwater to contamination on the islands of Maui and Oahu. He used analytical models and a GIS to show zones of vulnerability, and the results were adopted and published by the State of Hawaii and County of Maui.

As a hydrogeologist with the EPA Groundwater Protection Section, Matt worked with provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act and NEPA to prevent drinking water contamination. Specific activities included the following:

- Received an EPA Bronze Medal for his contribution to the development of national guidance for the protection of drinking water.
- Managed the Sole Source Aquifer Program and protected the drinking water of two communities through designation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. He prepared geologic reports, conducted

public hearings, and responded to public comments from residents who were very concerned about the impact of designation.
- Reviewed a number of Environmental Impact Statements for planned major developments, including large hazardous and solid waste disposal facilities, mine reclamation, and water transfer.

Matt served as a hydrogeologist with the RCRA Hazardous Waste program. Duties were as follows:

- Supervised the hydrogeologic investigation of hazardous waste sites to determine compliance with Subtitle C requirements.
- Reviewed and wrote "part B" permits for the disposal of hazardous waste.
- Conducted RCRA Corrective Action investigations of waste sites and led inspections that formed the basis for significant enforcement actions that were developed in close coordination with U.S. EPA legal counsel.
- Wrote contract specifications and supervised contractor's investigations of waste sites.

With the National Park Service, Matt directed service-wide investigations of contaminant sources to prevent degradation of water quality, including the following tasks:

- Applied pertinent laws and regulations including CERCLA, RCRA, NEPA, NRDA, and the Clean Water Act to control military, mining, and landfill contaminants.
- Conducted watershed-scale investigations of contaminants at parks, including Yellowstone and Olympic National Park.
- Identified high-levels of perchlorate in soil adjacent to a national park in New Mexico and advised park superintendent on appropriate response actions under CERCLA.
- Served as a Park Service representative on the Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee, a national workgroup.
- Developed a program to conduct environmental compliance audits of all National Parks while serving on a national workgroup.
- Co-authored two papers on the potential for water contamination from the operation of personal watercraft and snowmobiles, these papers serving as the basis for the development of nation-wide policy on the use of these vehicles in National Parks.
- Contributed to the Federal Multi-Agency Source Water Agreement under the Clean Water Action Plan.

Policy:

Served senior management as the Senior Science Policy Advisor with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9.

Activities included the following:

- Advised the Regional Administrator and senior management on emerging issues such as the potential for the gasoline additive MTBE and ammonium perchlorate to contaminate drinking water supplies.
- Shaped EPA's national response to these threats by serving on workgroups and by contributing to guidance, including the Office of Research and Development publication, Oxygenates in Water: Critical Information and Research Needs.
- Improved the technical training of EPA's scientific and engineering staff.
- Earned an EPA Bronze Medal for representing the region's 300 scientists and engineers in negotiations with the Administrator and senior management to better integrate scientific

principles into the policy-making process.
- Established national protocol for the peer review of scientific documents.

Geology:

With the U.S. Forest Service, Matt led investigations to determine hillslope stability of areas proposed for timber harvest in the central Oregon Coast Range. Specific activities were as follows:

- Mapped geology in the field, and used aerial photographic interpretation and mathematical models to determine slope stability.
- Coordinated his research with community members who were concerned with natural resource protection.
- Characterized the geology of an aquifer that serves as the sole source of drinking water for the city of Medford, Oregon.

As a consultant with Dames and Moore, Matt led geologic investigations of two contaminated sites (later listed on the Superfund NPL) in the Portland, Oregon, area and a large hazardous waste site in eastern Oregon. Duties included the following:

- Supervised year-long effort for soil and groundwater sampling.
- Conducted aquifer tests.
- Investigated active faults beneath sites proposed for hazardous waste disposal.

Teaching:

From 1990 to 1998, Matt taught at least one course per semester at the community college and university levels:

- At San Francisco State University, held an adjunct faculty position and taught courses in environmental geology, oceanography (lab and lecture), hydrogeology, and groundwater contamination.
- Served as a committee member for graduate and undergraduate students.
- Taught courses in environmental geology and oceanography at the College of Marin.

Matt is currently a part time geology instructor at Golden West College in Huntington Beach, California where he taught from 2010 to 2014 and in 2017.

Invited Testimony, Reports, Papers and Presentations:

Hagemann, M.F., 2008. Disclosure of Hazardous Waste Issues under CEQA. Presentation to the Public Environmental Law Conference, Eugene, Oregon.

Hagemann, M.F., 2008. Disclosure of Hazardous Waste Issues under CEQA. Invited presentation to U.S. EPA Region 9, San Francisco, California.

Hagemann, M.F., 2005. Use of Electronic Databases in Environmental Regulation, Policy Making and Public Participation. Brownfields 2005, Denver, Coloradao.

Hagemann, M.F., 2004. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River and Impacts to Drinking Water in Nevada and the Southwestern U.S. Presentation to a meeting of the American Groundwater Trust, Las Vegas, NV (served on conference organizing committee).

Hagemann, M.F., 2004. Invited testimony to a California Senate committee hearing on air toxins at schools in Southern California, Los Angeles.

Brown, A., Farrow, J., Gray, A. and **Hagemann, M.**, 2004. An Estimate of Costs to Address MTBE Releases from Underground Storage Tanks and the Resulting Impact to Drinking Water Wells. Presentation to the Ground Water and Environmental Law Conference, National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2004. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River and Impacts to Drinking Water in Arizona and the Southwestern U.S. Presentation to a meeting of the American Groundwater Trust, Phoenix, AZ (served on conference organizing committee).

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River and Impacts to Drinking Water in the Southwestern U.S. Invited presentation to a special committee meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, Irvine, CA.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River. Invited presentation to a tribal EPA meeting, Pechanga, CA.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River. Invited presentation to a meeting of tribal repesentatives, Parker, AZ.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Impact of Perchlorate on the Colorado River and Associated Drinking Water Supplies. Invited presentation to the Inter-Tribal Meeting, Torres Martinez Tribe.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. The Emergence of Perchlorate as a Widespread Drinking Water Contaminant. Invited presentation to the U.S. EPA Region 9.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. A Deductive Approach to the Assessment of Perchlorate Contamination. Invited presentation to the California Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate: A Cold War Legacy in Drinking Water. Presentation to a meeting of the National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. From Tank to Tap: A Chronology of MTBE in Groundwater. Presentation to a meeting of the National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. A Chronology of MTBE in Groundwater and an Estimate of Costs to Address Impacts to Groundwater. Presentation to the annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. An Estimate of the Cost to Address MTBE Contamination in Groundwater (and Who Will Pay). Presentation to a meeting of the National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. An Estimate of Costs to Address MTBE Releases from Underground Storage Tanks and the Resulting Impact to Drinking Water Wells. Presentation to a meeting of the U.S. EPA and State Underground Storage Tank Program managers.

Hagemann, M.F., 2001. From Tank to Tap: A Chronology of MTBE in Groundwater. Unpublished report.

Hagemann, M.F., 2001. Estimated Cleanup Cost for MTBE in Groundwater Used as Drinking Water. Unpublished report.

Hagemann, M.F., 2001. Estimated Costs to Address MTBE Releases from Leaking Underground Storage Tanks. Unpublished report.

Hagemann, M.F., and VanMouwerik, M., 1999. Potential Water Quality Concerns Related to Snowmobile Usage. Water Resources Division, National Park Service, Technical Report.

VanMouwerik, M. and **Hagemann, M.F**. 1999, Water Quality Concerns Related to Personal Watercraft Usage. Water Resources Division, National Park Service, Technical Report.

Hagemann, M.F., 1999, Is Dilution the Solution to Pollution in National Parks? The George Wright Society Biannual Meeting, Asheville, North Carolina.

Hagemann, M.F., 1997, The Potential for MTBE to Contaminate Groundwater. U.S. EPA Superfund Groundwater Technical Forum Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Hagemann, M.F., and Gill, M., 1996, Impediments to Intrinsic Remediation, Moffett Field Naval Air Station, Conference on Intrinsic Remediation of Chlorinated Hydrocarbons, Salt Lake City.

Hagemann, M.F., Fukunaga, G.L., 1996, The Vulnerability of Groundwater to Anthropogenic Contaminants on the Island of Maui, Hawaii. Hawaii Water Works Association Annual Meeting, Maui, October 1996.

Hagemann, M. F., Fukanaga, G. L., 1996, Ranking Groundwater Vulnerability in Central Oahu, Hawaii. Proceedings, Geographic Information Systems in Environmental Resources Management, Air and Waste Management Association Publication VIP-61.

Hagemann, M.F., 1994. Groundwater Characterization and Cleanup at Closing Military Bases in California. Proceedings, California Groundwater Resources Association Meeting.

Hagemann, M.F. and Sabol, M.A., 1993. Role of the U.S. EPA in the High Plains States Groundwater Recharge Demonstration Program. Proceedings, Sixth Biennial Symposium on the Artificial Recharge of Groundwater.

Hagemann, M.F., 1993. U.S. EPA Policy on the Technical Impracticability of the Cleanup of DNAPL-contaminated Groundwater. California Groundwater Resources Association Meeting.

Hagemann, M.F., 1992. Dense Nonaqueous Phase Liquid Contamination of Groundwater: An Ounce of Prevention... Proceedings, Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Meeting, v. 35.

Other Experience:

Selected as subject matter expert for the California Professional Geologist licensing examinations, 2009-2011.

SWAPE Technical Consultation, Data Analysis and Litigation Support for the Environment

SOIL WATER AIR PROTECTION ENTERPRISE
[redacted]
Attn: Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D.
[redacted]

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D.

Chemical Fate and Transport & Air Dispersion Modeling

Principal Environmental Chemist

Risk Assessment & Remediation Specialist

Education

Ph.D. Soil Chemistry, University of Washington, 1999. Dissertation on volatile organic compound filtration.

M.S. Environmental Science, U.C. Berkeley, 1995. Thesis on organic waste economics.

B.A. Environmental Studies, U.C. Santa Barbara, 1991. Focus on wastewater treatment.

Professional Experience

Dr. Rosenfeld has over 25 years of experience conducting environmental investigations and risk assessments for evaluating impacts to human health, property, and ecological receptors. His expertise focuses on the fate and transport of environmental contaminants, human health risk, exposure assessment, and ecological restoration. Dr. Rosenfeld has evaluated and modeled emissions from oil spills, landfills, boilers and incinerators, process stacks, storage tanks, confined animal feeding operations, industrial, military and agricultural sources, unconventional oil drilling operations, and locomotive and construction engines. His project experience ranges from monitoring and modeling of pollution sources to evaluating impacts of pollution on workers at industrial facilities and residents in surrounding communities. Dr. Rosenfeld has also successfully modeled exposure to contaminants distributed by water systems and via vapor intrusion.

Dr. Rosenfeld has investigated and designed remediation programs and risk assessments for contaminated sites containing lead, heavy metals, mold, bacteria, particulate matter, petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorinated solvents, pesticides, radioactive waste, dioxins and furans, semi- and volatile organic compounds, PCBs, PAHs, creosote, perchlorate, asbestos, per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFOA/PFOS), unusual polymers, fuel oxygenates (MTBE), among other pollutants. Dr. Rosenfeld also has experience evaluating greenhouse gas emissions from various projects and is an expert on the assessment of odors from industrial and agricultural sites, as well as the evaluation of odor nuisance impacts and technologies for abatement of odorous emissions. As a principal scientist at SWAPE, Dr. Rosenfeld directs air dispersion modeling and exposure assessments. He has served as an expert witness and testified about pollution sources causing nuisance and/or personal injury at sites and has testified as an expert witness on numerous cases involving exposure to soil, water and air contaminants from industrial, railroad, agricultural, and military sources.

Professional History:

Soil Water Air Protection Enterprise (SWAPE); 2003 to present; Principal and Founding Partner
UCLA School of Public Health; 2007 to 2011; Lecturer (Assistant Researcher)
UCLA School of Public Health; 2003 to 2006; Adjunct Professor
UCLA Environmental Science and Engineering Program; 2002-2004; Doctoral Intern Coordinator
UCLA Institute of the Environment, 2001-2002; Research Associate
Komex H_2O Science, 2001 to 2003; Senior Remediation Scientist
National Groundwater Association, 2002-2004; Lecturer
San Diego State University, 1999-2001; Adjunct Professor
Anteon Corp., San Diego, 2000-2001; Remediation Project Manager
Ogden (now Amec), San Diego, 2000-2000; Remediation Project Manager
Bechtel, San Diego, California, 1999 – 2000; Risk Assessor
King County, Seattle, 1996 – 1999; Scientist
James River Corp., Washington, 1995-96; Scientist
Big Creek Lumber, Davenport, California, 1995; Scientist
Plumas Corp., California and USFS, Tahoe 1993-1995; Scientist
Peace Corps and World Wildlife Fund, St. Kitts, West Indies, 1991-1993; Scientist

Publications:

Rosenfeld P. E., Spaeth K., Hallman R., Bressler R., Smith, G., (2022) Cancer Risk and Diesel Exhaust Exposure Among Railroad Workers. *Water Air Soil Pollution.* **233,** 171.

Remy, L.L., Clay T., Byers, V., **Rosenfeld P. E.** (2019) Hospital, Health, and Community Burden After Oil Refinery Fires, Richmond, California 2007 and 2012. *Environmental Health.* 18:48

Simons, R.A., Seo, Y. **Rosenfeld, P**., (2015) Modeling the Effect of Refinery Emission On Residential Property Value. Journal of Real Estate Research. 27(3):321-342

Chen, J. A, Zapata A. R., Sutherland A. J., Molmen, D.R., Chow, B. S., Wu, L. E., **Rosenfeld, P. E.,** Hesse, R. C., (2012) Sulfur Dioxide and Volatile Organic Compound Exposure To A Community In Texas City Texas Evaluated Using Aermod and Empirical Data. *American Journal of Environmental Science*, 8(6), 622-632.

Rosenfeld, P.E. & Feng, L. (2011). *The Risks of Hazardous Waste.* Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing.

Cheremisinoff, N.P., & **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (2011). *Handbook of Pollution Prevention and Cleaner Production: Best Practices in the Agrochemical Industry*, Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing.

Gonzalez, J., Feng, L., Sutherland, A., Waller, C., Sok, H., Hesse, R., **Rosenfeld, P.** (2010). PCBs and Dioxins/Furans in Attic Dust Collected Near Former PCB Production and Secondary Copper Facilities in Sauget, IL. *Procedia Environmental Sciences*. 113–125.

Feng, L., Wu, C., Tam, L., Sutherland, A.J., Clark, J.J., **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (2010). Dioxin and Furan Blood Lipid and Attic Dust Concentrations in Populations Living Near Four Wood Treatment Facilities in the United States. *Journal of Environmental Health*. 73(6), 34-46.

Cheremisinoff, N.P., & **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (2010). *Handbook of Pollution Prevention and Cleaner Production: Best Practices in the Wood and Paper Industries.* Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing.

Cheremisinoff, N.P., & **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (2009). *Handbook of Pollution Prevention and Cleaner Production: Best Practices in the Petroleum Industry*. Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing.

Wu, C., Tam, L., Clark, J., **Rosenfeld, P**. (2009). Dioxin and furan blood lipid concentrations in populations living near four wood treatment facilities in the United States. *WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment, Air Pollution,* 123 (17), 319-327.

Tam L. K.., Wu C. D., Clark J. J. and **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (2008). A Statistical Analysis Of Attic Dust And Blood Lipid Concentrations Of Tetrachloro-p-Dibenzodioxin (TCDD) Toxicity Equivalency Quotients (TEQ) In Two Populations Near Wood Treatment Facilities. *Organohalogen Compounds*, 70, 002252-002255.

Tam L. K.., Wu C. D., Clark J. J. and **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (2008). Methods For Collect Samples For Assessing Dioxins And Other Environmental Contaminants In Attic Dust: A Review. *Organohalogen Compounds*, 70, 000527-000530.

Hensley, A.R. A. Scott, J. J. J. Clark, **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (2007). Attic Dust and Human Blood Samples Collected near a Former Wood Treatment Facility. *Environmental Research*. 105, 194-197.

Rosenfeld, P.E., J. J. J. Clark, A. R. Hensley, M. Suffet. (2007). The Use of an Odor Wheel Classification for Evaluation of Human Health Risk Criteria for Compost Facilities. *Water Science & Technology* 55(5), 345-357.

Rosenfeld, P. E., M. Suffet. (2007). The Anatomy Of Odour Wheels For Odours Of Drinking Water, Wastewater, Compost And The Urban Environment. *Water Science & Technology* 55(5), 335-344.

Sullivan, P. J. Clark, J.J.J., Agardy, F. J., **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (2007). *Toxic Legacy, Synthetic Toxins in the Food, Water, and Air in American Cities.* Boston Massachusetts: Elsevier Publishing

Rosenfeld, P.E., and Suffet I.H. (2004). Control of Compost Odor Using High Carbon Wood Ash. *Water Science and Technology*. 49(9),171-178.

Rosenfeld P. E., J.J. Clark, I.H. (Mel) Suffet (2004). The Value of An Odor-Quality-Wheel Classification Scheme For The Urban Environment. *Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC) 2004.* New Orleans, October 2-6, 2004.

Rosenfeld, P.E., and Suffet, I.H. (2004). Understanding Odorants Associated With Compost, Biomass Facilities, and the Land Application of Biosolids. *Water Science and Technology*. 49(9), 193-199.

Rosenfeld, P.E., and Suffet I.H. (2004). Control of Compost Odor Using High Carbon Wood Ash, *Water Science and Technology*, 49(9), 171-178.

Rosenfeld, P. E., Grey, M. A., Sellew, P. (2004). Measurement of Biosolids Odor and Odorant Emissions from Windrows, Static Pile and Biofilter. *Water Environment Research*. 76(4), 310-315.

Rosenfeld, P.E., Grey, M and Suffet, M. (2002). Compost Demonstration Project, Sacramento California Using High-Carbon Wood Ash to Control Odor at a Green Materials Composting Facility. *Integrated Waste Management Board Public Affairs Office*, Publications Clearinghouse (MS–6), Sacramento, CA Publication #442-02-008.

Rosenfeld, P.E., and C.L. Henry. (2001). Characterization of odor emissions from three different biosolids. *Water Soil and Air Pollution*. 127(1-4), 173-191.

Rosenfeld, P.E., and Henry C. L., (2000). Wood ash control of odor emissions from biosolids application. *Journal of Environmental Quality.* 29, 1662-1668.

Rosenfeld, P.E., C.L. Henry and D. Bennett. (2001). Wastewater dewatering polymer affect on biosolids odor emissions and microbial activity. *Water Environment Research*. 73(4), 363-367.

Rosenfeld, P.E., and C.L. Henry. (2001). Activated Carbon and Wood Ash Sorption of Wastewater, Compost, and Biosolids Odorants. *Water Environment Research*, 73, 388-393.

Rosenfeld, P.E., and Henry C. L., (2001). High carbon wood ash effect on biosolids microbial activity and odor. *Water Environment Research*. 131(1-4), 247-262.

Chollack, T. and **P. Rosenfeld. (**1998). Compost Amendment Handbook For Landscaping. Prepared for and distributed by the City of Redmond, Washington State.

Rosenfeld, P. E. (1992). The Mount Liamuiga Crater Trail. *Heritage Magazine of St. Kitts*, 3(2).

Rosenfeld, P. E. (1993). High School Biogas Project to Prevent Deforestation On St. Kitts. *Biomass Users Network*, 7(1).

Rosenfeld, P. E. (1998). Characterization, Quantification, and Control of Odor Emissions From Biosolids Application To Forest Soil. Doctoral Thesis. University of Washington College of Forest Resources.

Rosenfeld, P. E. (1994). Potential Utilization of Small Diameter Trees on Sierra County Public Land. Masters thesis reprinted by the Sierra County Economic Council. Sierra County, California.

Rosenfeld, P. E. (1991). How to Build a Small Rural Anaerobic Digester & Uses Of Biogas In The First And Third World. Bachelors Thesis. University of California.

Presentations:

Rosenfeld, P.E., "The science for Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFAS): What makes remediation so hard?" Law Seminars International, (May 9-10, 2018) 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 101 Seattle, WA.

Rosenfeld, P.E., Sutherland, A; Hesse, R.; Zapata, A. (October 3-6, 2013). Air dispersion modeling of volatile organic emissions from multiple natural gas wells in Decatur, TX. *44th Western Regional Meeting, American Chemical Society.* Lecture conducted from Santa Clara, CA.

Sok, H.L.; Waller, C.C.; Feng, L.; Gonzalez, J.; Sutherland, A.J.; Wisdom-Stack, T.; Sahai, R.K.; Hesse, R.C.; **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (June 20-23, 2010). Atrazine: A Persistent Pesticide in Urban Drinking Water. *Urban Environmental Pollution*. Lecture conducted from Boston, MA.

Feng, L.; Gonzalez, J.; Sok, H.L.; Sutherland, A.J.; Waller, C.C.; Wisdom-Stack, T.; Sahai, R.K.; La, M.; Hesse, R.C.; **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (June 20-23, 2010). Bringing Environmental Justice to East St. Louis, Illinois. *Urban Environmental Pollution.* Lecture conducted from Boston, MA.

Rosenfeld, P.E. (April 19-23, 2009). Perfluoroctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluoroactane Sulfonate (PFOS) Contamination in Drinking Water From the Use of Aqueous Film Forming Foams (AFFF) at Airports in the United States. *2009 Ground Water Summit and 2009 Ground Water Protection Council Spring Meeting*, Lecture conducted from Tuscon, AZ.

Rosenfeld, P.E. (April 19-23, 2009). Cost to Filter Atrazine Contamination from Drinking Water in the United States" Contamination in Drinking Water From the Use of Aqueous Film Forming Foams (AFFF) at Airports in the United States. *2009 Ground Water Summit and 2009 Ground Water Protection Council Spring Meeting*. Lecture conducted from Tuscon, AZ.

Wu, C., Tam, L., Clark, J., **Rosenfeld, P**. (20-22 July, 2009). Dioxin and furan blood lipid concentrations in populations living near four wood treatment facilities in the United States. Brebbia, C.A. and Popov, V., eds., *Air Pollution XVII: Proceedings of the Seventeenth International Conference on Modeling, Monitoring and Management of Air Pollution*. Lecture conducted from Tallinn, Estonia.

Rosenfeld, P. E. (October 15-18, 2007). Moss Point Community Exposure To Contaminants From A Releasing Facility. *The 23rd Annual International Conferences on Soils Sediment and Water.* Platform lecture conducted from University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA.

Rosenfeld, P. E. (October 15-18, 2007). The Repeated Trespass of Tritium-Contaminated Water Into A Surrounding Community Form Repeated Waste Spills From A Nuclear Power Plant. *The 23rd Annual International Conferences on Soils Sediment and Water*. Platform lecture conducted from University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA.

Rosenfeld, P. E. (October 15-18, 2007). Somerville Community Exposure To Contaminants From Wood Treatment Facility Emissions. The *23rd Annual International Conferences on Soils Sediment and Water*. Lecture conducted from University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA.

Rosenfeld P. E. (March 2007). Production, Chemical Properties, Toxicology, & Treatment Case Studies of 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP). *The Association for Environmental Health and Sciences (AEHS) Annual Meeting*. Lecture conducted from San Diego, CA.

Rosenfeld P. E. (March 2007). Blood and Attic Sampling for Dioxin/Furan, PAH, and Metal Exposure in Florala, Alabama. *The AEHS Annual Meeting.* Lecture conducted from San Diego, CA.

Hensley A.R., Scott, A., **Rosenfeld P.E.,** Clark, J.J.J. (August 21 – 25, 2006). Dioxin Containing Attic Dust And Human Blood Samples Collected Near A Former Wood Treatment Facility. *The 26th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants – DIOXIN2006*. Lecture conducted from Radisson SAS Scandinavia Hotel in Oslo Norway.

Hensley A.R., Scott, A., **Rosenfeld P.E.,** Clark, J.J.J. (November 4-8, 2006). Dioxin Containing Attic Dust And Human Blood Samples Collected Near A Former Wood Treatment Facility. *APHA 134 Annual Meeting & Exposition.* Lecture conducted from Boston Massachusetts.

Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D. (October 24-25, 2005). Fate, Transport and Persistence of PFOA and Related Chemicals. Mealey's C8/PFOA. *Science, Risk & Litigation Conference.* Lecture conducted from The Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia, PA.

Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D. (September 19, 2005). Brominated Flame Retardants in Groundwater: Pathways to Human Ingestion, *Toxicology and Remediation PEMA Emerging Contaminant Conference*. Lecture conducted from Hilton Hotel, Irvine California.

Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D. (September 19, 2005). Fate, Transport, Toxicity, And Persistence of 1,2,3-TCP. *PEMA Emerging Contaminant Conference.* Lecture conducted from Hilton Hotel in Irvine, California.

Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D. (September 26-27, 2005). Fate, Transport and Persistence of PDBEs. *Mealey's Groundwater Conference.* Lecture conducted from Ritz Carlton Hotel, Marina Del Ray, California.

Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D. (June 7-8, 2005). Fate, Transport and Persistence of PFOA and Related Chemicals. *International Society of Environmental Forensics: Focus On Emerging Contaminants*. Lecture conducted from Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D. (July 21-22, 2005). Fate Transport, Persistence and Toxicology of PFOA and Related Perfluorochemicals. *2005 National Groundwater Association Ground Water And Environmental Law Conference*. Lecture conducted from Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor, Baltimore Maryland.

Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D. (July 21-22, 2005). Brominated Flame Retardants in Groundwater: Pathways to Human Ingestion, Toxicology and Remediation. *2005 National Groundwater Association Ground Water and Environmental Law Conference.* Lecture conducted from Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor, Baltimore Maryland.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. and James Clark Ph.D. and Rob Hesse R.G. (May 5-6, 2004). Tert-butyl Alcohol Liability and Toxicology, A National Problem and Unquantified Liability. *National Groundwater Association. Environmental Law Conference*. Lecture conducted from Congress Plaza Hotel, Chicago Illinois.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. (March 2004). Perchlorate Toxicology. *Meeting of the American Groundwater Trust*. Lecture conducted from Phoenix Arizona.

Hagemann, M.F., **Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D.** and Rob Hesse (2004). Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River. *Meeting of tribal representatives*. Lecture conducted from Parker, AZ.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. (April 7, 2004). A National Damage Assessment Model For PCE and Dry Cleaners. *Drycleaner Symposium. California Ground Water Association*. Lecture conducted from Radison Hotel, Sacramento, California.

Rosenfeld, P. E., Grey, M., (June 2003) Two stage biofilter for biosolids composting odor control. *Seventh International In Situ And On Site Bioremediation Symposium Battelle Conference* Orlando, FL.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. and James Clark Ph.D. (February 20-21, 2003) Understanding Historical Use, Chemical Properties, Toxicity and Regulatory Guidance of 1,4 Dioxane. *National Groundwater Association. Southwest Focus Conference. Water Supply and Emerging Contaminants*.. Lecture conducted from Hyatt Regency Phoenix Arizona.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. (February 6-7, 2003). Underground Storage Tank Litigation and Remediation. *California CUPA Forum*. Lecture conducted from Marriott Hotel, Anaheim California.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. (October 23, 2002) Underground Storage Tank Litigation and Remediation. *EPA Underground Storage Tank Roundtable*. Lecture conducted from Sacramento California.

Rosenfeld, P.E. and Suffet, M. (October 7- 10, 2002). Understanding Odor from Compost, *Wastewater and Industrial Processes. Sixth Annual Symposium On Off Flavors in the Aquatic Environment. International Water Association*. Lecture conducted from Barcelona Spain.

Rosenfeld, P.E. and Suffet, M. (October 7- 10, 2002). Using High Carbon Wood Ash to Control Compost Odor. *Sixth Annual Symposium On Off Flavors in the Aquatic Environment. International Water Association*. Lecture conducted from Barcelona Spain.

Rosenfeld, P.E. and Grey, M. A. (September 22-24, 2002). Biocycle Composting For Coastal Sage Restoration. *Northwest Biosolids Management Association*. Lecture conducted from Vancouver Washington..

Rosenfeld, P.E. and Grey, M. A. (November 11-14, 2002). Using High-Carbon Wood Ash to Control Odor at a Green Materials Composting Facility. *Soil Science Society Annual Conferenc*e. Lecture conducted from Indianapolis, Maryland.

Rosenfeld. P.E. (September 16, 2000). Two stage biofilter for biosolids composting odor control. *Water Environment Federation.* Lecture conducted from Anaheim California.

Rosenfeld. P.E. (October 16, 2000). Wood ash and biofilter control of compost odor. *Biofest.* Lecture conducted from Ocean Shores, California.

Rosenfeld, P.E. (2000). Bioremediation Using Organic Soil Amendments. *California Resource Recovery Association*. Lecture conducted from Sacramento California.

Rosenfeld, P.E., C.L. Henry, R. Harrison. (1998). Oat and Grass Seed Germination and Nitrogen and Sulfur Emissions Following Biosolids Incorporation With High-Carbon Wood-Ash. *Water Environment Federation 12th Annual Residuals and Biosolids Management Conference Proceedings*. Lecture conducted from Bellevue Washington.

Rosenfeld, P.E., and C.L. Henry. (1999). An evaluation of ash incorporation with biosolids for odor reduction. *Soil Science Society of America*. Lecture conducted from Salt Lake City Utah.

Rosenfeld, P.E., C.L. Henry, R. Harrison. (1998). Comparison of Microbial Activity and Odor Emissions from Three Different Biosolids Applied to Forest Soil. *Brown and Caldwell.* Lecture conducted from Seattle Washington.

Rosenfeld, P.E., C.L. Henry. (1998). Characterization, Quantification, and Control of Odor Emissions from Biosolids Application To Forest Soil. *Biofest.* Lecture conducted from Lake Chelan, Washington.

Rosenfeld, P.E, C.L. Henry, R. Harrison. (1998). Oat and Grass Seed Germination and Nitrogen and Sulfur Emissions Following Biosolids Incorporation With High-Carbon Wood-Ash. Water Environment Federation 12th Annual Residuals and Biosolids Management Conference Proceedings. Lecture conducted from Bellevue Washington.

Rosenfeld, P.E., C.L. Henry, R. B. Harrison, and R. Dills. (1997). Comparison of Odor Emissions From Three Different Biosolids Applied to Forest Soil. *Soil Science Society of America*. Lecture conducted from Anaheim California.

Teaching Experience:

UCLA Department of Environmental Health (Summer 2003 through 20010) Taught Environmental Health Science 100 to students, including undergrad, medical doctors, public health professionals and nurses. Course focused on the health effects of environmental contaminants.

National Ground Water Association, Successful Remediation Technologies. Custom Course in Sante Fe, New Mexico. May 21, 2002. Focused on fate and transport of fuel contaminants associated with underground storage tanks.

National Ground Water Association; Successful Remediation Technologies Course in Chicago Illinois. April 1, 2002. Focused on fate and transport of contaminants associated with Superfund and RCRA sites.

California Integrated Waste Management Board, April and May, 2001. Alternative Landfill Caps Seminar in San Diego, Ventura, and San Francisco. Focused on both prescriptive and innovative landfill cover design.

UCLA Department of Environmental Engineering, February 5, 2002. Seminar on Successful Remediation Technologies focusing on Groundwater Remediation.

University Of Washington, Soil Science Program, Teaching Assistant for several courses including: Soil Chemistry, Organic Soil Amendments, and Soil Stability.

U.C. Berkeley, Environmental Science Program Teaching Assistant for Environmental Science 10.

Academic Grants Awarded:

California Integrated Waste Management Board. $41,000 grant awarded to UCLA Institute of the Environment. Goal: To investigate effect of high carbon wood ash on volatile organic emissions from compost. 2001.

Synagro Technologies, Corona California: $10,000 grant awarded to San Diego State University.
Goal: investigate effect of biosolids for restoration and remediation of degraded coastal sage soils. 2000.

King County, Department of Research and Technology, Washington State. $100,000 grant awarded to University of Washington: Goal: To investigate odor emissions from biosolids application and the effect of polymers and ash on VOC emissions. 1998.

Northwest Biosolids Management Association, Washington State. $20,000 grant awarded to investigate effect of polymers and ash on VOC emissions from biosolids. 1997.

James River Corporation, Oregon: $10,000 grant was awarded to investigate the success of genetically engineered Poplar trees with resistance to round-up. 1996.

United State Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest: $15,000 grant was awarded to investigating fire ecology of the Tahoe National Forest. 1995.

Kellogg Foundation, Washington D.C. $500 grant was awarded to construct a large anaerobic digester on St. Kitts in West Indies. 1993

Deposition and/or Trial Testimony:

In the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Bernardino
Billy Wildrick, Plaintiff vs. BNSF Railway Company
Case No. CIVDS1711810
Rosenfeld Deposition 10-17-2022

In the State Court of Bibb County, State of Georgia
Richard Hutcherson, Plaintiff vs Norfolk Southern Railway Company
Case No. 10-SCCV-092007
Rosenfeld Deposition 10-6-2022

In the Civil District Court of the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana
Millard Clark, Plaintiff vs. Dixie Carriers, Inc. et al.
Case No. 2020-03891
Rosenfeld Deposition 9-15-2022

In The Circuit Court of Livingston County, State of Missouri, Circuit Civil Division
Shirley Ralls, Plaintiff vs. Canadian Pacific Railway and Soo Line Railroad
Case No. 18-LV-CC0020
Rosenfeld Deposition 9-7-2022

In The Circuit Court of the 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Hillsborough County, Florida Civil Division
Jonny C. Daniels, Plaintiff vs. CSX Transportation Inc.
Case No. 20-CA-5502
Rosenfeld Deposition 9-1-2022

In The Circuit Court of St. Louis County, State of Missouri
Kieth Luke et. al. Plaintiff vs. Monsanto Company et. al.
Case No. 19SL-CC03191
Rosenfeld Deposition 8-25-2022

In The Circuit Court of the 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Hillsborough County, Florida Civil Division
Jeffery S. Lamotte, Plaintiff vs. CSX Transportation Inc.
Case No. NO. 20-CA-0049
Rosenfeld Deposition 8-22-2022

In State of Minnesota District Court, County of St. Louis Sixth Judicial District
Greg Bean, Plaintiff vs. Soo Line Railroad Company
Case No. 69-DU-CV-21-760
Rosenfeld Deposition 8-17-2022

In United States District Court Western District of Washington at Tacoma, Washington
John D. Fitzgerald Plaintiff vs. BNSF
Case No. 3:21-cv-05288-RJB
Rosenfeld Deposition 8-11-2022

In Circuit Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Macon Illinois
Rocky Bennyhoff Plaintiff vs. Norfolk Southern
Case No. 20-L-56
Rosenfeld Deposition 8-3-2022

In Court of Common Pleas, Hamilton County Ohio
Joe Briggins Plaintiff vs. CSX
Case No. A2004464
Rosenfeld Deposition 6-17-2022

In the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Kern
George LaFazia vs. BNSF Railway Company.
Case No. BCV-19-103087
Rosenfeld Deposition 5-17-2022

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois
Bobby Earles vs. Penn Central et. al.
Case No. 2020-L-000550
Rosenfeld Deposition 4-16-2022

In United States District Court Easter District of Florida
Albert Hartman Plaintiff vs. Illinois Central
Case No. 2:20-cv-1633
Rosenfeld Deposition 4-4-2022

In the Circuit Court of the 4th Judicial Circuit, in and For Duval County, Florida
Barbara Steele vs. CSX Transportation
Case No.16-219-Ca-008796
Rosenfeld Deposition 3-15-2022

In United States District Court Easter District of New York
Romano et al. vs. Northrup Grumman Corporation
Case No. 16-cv-5760
Rosenfeld Deposition 3-10-2022

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois
Linda Benjamin vs. Illinois Central
Case No. No. 2019 L 007599
Rosenfeld Deposition 1-26-2022

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois
Donald Smith vs. Illinois Central
Case No. No. 2019 L 003426
Rosenfeld Deposition 1-24-2022

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois
Jan Holeman vs. BNSF
Case No. 2019 L 000675
Rosenfeld Deposition 1-18-2022

In the State Court of Bibb County State of Georgia
Dwayne B. Garrett vs. Norfolk Southern
Case No. 20-SCCV-091232
Rosenfeld Deposition 11-10-2021

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois
Joseph Ruepke vs. BNSF
Case No. 2019 L 007730
Rosenfeld Deposition 11-5-2021

In the United States District Court For the District of Nebraska
Steven Gillett vs. BNSF
Case No. 4:20-cv-03120
Rosenfeld Deposition 10-28-2021

In the Montana Thirteenth District Court of Yellowstone County
James Eadus vs. Soo Line Railroad and BNSF
Case No. DV 19-1056
Rosenfeld Deposition 10-21-2021

In the Circuit Court Of The Twentieth Judicial Circuit, St Clair County, Illinois
Martha Custer et al.cvs. Cerro Flow Products, Inc.
Case No. 0i9-L-2295
Rosenfeld Deposition 5-14-2021
Trial October 8-4-2021

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois
Joseph Rafferty vs. Consolidated Rail Corporation and National Railroad Passenger Corporation d/b/a AMTRAK,
Case No. 18-L-6845
Rosenfeld Deposition 6-28-2021

In the United States District Court For the Northern District of Illinois
Theresa Romcoe vs. Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation d/b/a METRA Rail
Case No. 17-cv-8517
Rosenfeld Deposition 5-25-2021

In the Superior Court of the State of Arizona In and For the Cunty of Maricopa
Mary Tryon et al. vs. The City of Pheonix v. Cox Cactus Farm, L.L.C., Utah Shelter Systems, Inc.
Case No. CV20127-094749
Rosenfeld Deposition 5-7-2021

In the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas Beaumont Division
Robinson, Jeremy et al vs. CNA Insurance Company et al.
Case No. 1:17-cv-000508
Rosenfeld Deposition 3-25-2021

In the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Bernardino
Gary Garner, Personal Representative for the Estate of Melvin Garner vs. BNSF Railway Company.
Case No. 1720288
Rosenfeld Deposition 2-23-2021

In the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring Street Courthouse
Benny M Rodriguez vs. Union Pacific Railroad, A Corporation, et al.
Case No. 18STCV01162
Rosenfeld Deposition 12-23-2020

In the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri
Karen Cornwell, Plaintiff, vs. Marathon Petroleum, LP, Defendant.
Case No. 1716-CV10006
Rosenfeld Deposition 8-30-2019

In the United States District Court For The District of New Jersey
Duarte et al, Plaintiffs, vs. United States Metals Refining Company et. al. Defendant.
Case No. 2:17-cv-01624-ES-SCM
Rosenfeld Deposition 6-7-2019

In the United States District Court of Southern District of Texas Galveston Division
M/T Carla Maersk vs. Conti 168., Schiffahrts-GMBH & Co. Bulker KG MS "Conti Perdido" Defendant.
Case No. 3:15-CV-00106 consolidated with 3:15-CV-00237
Rosenfeld Deposition 5-9-2019

In The Superior Court of the State of California In And For The County Of Los Angeles – Santa Monica
Carole-Taddeo-Bates et al., vs. Ifran Khan et al., Defendants
Case No. BC615636
Rosenfeld Deposition 1-26-2019

In The Superior Court of the State of California In And For The County Of Los Angeles – Santa Monica
The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments et al. vs El Adobe Apts. Inc. et al., Defendants
Case No. BC646857
Rosenfeld Deposition 10-6-2018; Trial 3-7-19

In United States District Court For The District of Colorado
Bells et al. Plaintiffs vs. The 3M Company et al., Defendants
Case No. 1:16-cv-02531-RBJ
Rosenfeld Deposition 3-15-2018 and 4-3-2018

In The District Court Of Regan County, Texas, 112th Judicial District
Phillip Bales et al., Plaintiff vs. Dow Agrosciences, LLC, et al., Defendants
Cause No. 1923
Rosenfeld Deposition 11-17-2017

In The Superior Court of the State of California In And For The County Of Contra Costa
Simons et al., Plaintifs vs. Chevron Corporation, et al., Defendants
Cause No. C12-01481
Rosenfeld Deposition 11-20-2017

In The Circuit Court Of The Twentieth Judicial Circuit, St Clair County, Illinois
Martha Custer et al., Plaintiff vs. Cerro Flow Products, Inc., Defendants
Case No.: No. 0i9-L-2295
Rosenfeld Deposition 8-23-2017

In United States District Court For The Southern District of Mississippi
Guy Manuel vs. The BP Exploration et al., Defendants
Case No. 1:19-cv-00315-RHW
Rosenfeld Deposition 4-22-2020

In The Superior Court of the State of California, For The County of Los Angeles
Warrn Gilbert and Penny Gilber, Plaintiff vs. BMW of North America LLC
Case No. LC102019 (c/w BC582154)
Rosenfeld Deposition 8-16-2017, Trail 8-28-2018

In the Northern District Court of Mississippi, Greenville Division
Brenda J. Cooper, et al., Plaintiffs, vs. Meritor Inc., et al., Defendants
Case No. 4:16-cv-52-DMB-JVM
Rosenfeld Deposition July 2017

In The Superior Court of the State of Washington, County of Snohomish
Michael Davis and Julie Davis et al., Plaintiff vs. Cedar Grove Composting Inc., Defendants
Case No. 13-2-03987-5
Rosenfeld Deposition, February 2017
Trial March 2017

In The Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda
Charles Spain., Plaintiff vs. Thermo Fisher Scientific, et al., Defendants
Case No. RG14711115
Rosenfeld Deposition September 2015

In The Iowa District Court In And For Poweshiek County
Russell D. Winburn, et al., Plaintiffs vs. Doug Hoksbergen, et al., Defendants
Case No. LALA002187
Rosenfeld Deposition August 2015

In The Circuit Court of Ohio County, West Virginia
Robert Andrews, et al. v. Antero, et al.
Civil Action No. 14-C-30000
Rosenfeld Deposition June 2015

In The Iowa District Court for Muscatine County
Laurie Freeman et. al. Plaintiffs vs. Grain Processing Corporation, Defendant
Case No. 4980
Rosenfeld Deposition May 2015

In the Circuit Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit, in and For Broward County, Florida
Walter Hinton, et. al. Plaintiff, vs. City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a Municipality, Defendant.
Case No. CACE07030358 (26)
Rosenfeld Deposition December 2014

In the County Court of Dallas County Texas
Lisa Parr et al, Plaintiff, vs. Aruba et al, Defendant.
Case No. cc-11-01650-E
Rosenfeld Deposition: March and September 2013
Rosenfeld Trial April 2014

In the Court of Common Pleas of Tuscarawas County Ohio
John Michael Abicht, et al., Plaintiffs, vs. Republic Services, Inc., et al., Defendants
Case No. 2008 CT 10 0741 (Cons. w/ 2009 CV 10 0987)
Rosenfeld Deposition October 2012

In the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division
James K. Benefield, et al., Plaintiffs, vs. International Paper Company, Defendant.
Civil Action No. 2:09-cv-232-WHA-TFM
Rosenfeld Deposition July 2010, June 2011

In the Circuit Court of Jefferson County Alabama
Jaeanette Moss Anthony, et al., Plaintiffs, vs. Drummond Company Inc., et al., Defendants
Civil Action No. CV 2008-2076
Rosenfeld Deposition September 2010

In the United States District Court, Western District Lafayette Division
Ackle et al., Plaintiffs, vs. Citgo Petroleum Corporation, et al., Defendants.
Case No. 2:07CV1052
Rosenfeld Deposition July 2009

From: Albert Casares
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: southeast Fresno's proposed mega-development comment
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 2:38:31 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello I'm Albert casares I have lived in southeast Fresno all my life and I have some comments about the current controversial mega project that I hope will happen soon because I think it's a great project because there is many pros that many would have not think of such economic gain for the surrounding area from businesses to housing availability which benefits pretty much all of Fresno due to the lack of housing which would accommodate our growing population and demand of housing that we lack, even accessing more green spaces which is great for quality of life and I know things come into play such as concerns for the environment from water to our air quality which we can find a solution through grants to funding from the state and the tax revenue that we would gain from this development and I'm all for it I just don't understand why others are against it how do they expect our city to grow and be more productive and have more job opportunities and all it takes is a well planned development that can optimize resources usage promote sustainable practices like public transportation and that would reduce per capita environmental impact alone and Fresno lacks infrastructure and I feel this project would improve that also, and a dense urban population has better access to public services from healthcare to educational institutions and more transportation options which all around is great which also a larger population base in a city would attract businesses leading to the job opportunities which creates higher income levels which is great because southeast Fresno is underprivileged than most of Fresno and has been for decades

From: Susie Rodriguez
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Re: fresno annexation of existing propeties
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 8:08:05 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

On Feb 24, 2025, at 8:27 PM, Susie Rodriguez [redacted] wrote:

i'm a homeowner at 7827 E. Floradora Ave., Fresno, CA 93737. My husband and i moved here in 2015 and not one word mentioned regarding annexation, So we were shocked to hear about this horrible plan for annexation and very unfair. We are both retired and in no way able to afford the outrages mentioned cost to hook up to the city. if Fresno City wants established homeowners to belong to the City, i feel Fresno City needs to pay for all expenses. i understand new development needing to be hooked up to the City, but very unfair for established homeowners to be forced to hook up to the City, we already paid for our water pump and septic tank and having to pay to remove is unfair!!! We chose to live here with our acreage and beautiful trees, now our trees will all die due to lack of water because we will be metered and can't afford to pay outrages prices. Please leave existing properties owners alone, people are going to be forced out of Fresno and less property taxes will be collected. A better solution would be to improve existing unoccupied properties in the City and make Fresno a better place to live!!! it makes sense to leave existing homeowners alone.

March 18, 2025
i'm resending this e-mail again, because i was told previous letters and e-mails were discarded, not a good idea, property owners concerns should be valid any time. By water being metered with this annexation, property owners could lose all their trees and bushes, etc. with lack of water which will be metered, who can afford to water 2 or more acres and think of the fire hazard it will create. Our beautiful properties will look like abandoned land, we could not even sell our properties and property taxes will go down, not good for Fresno!!! Who would want to buy dried up properties, an eye soar!!! Common sense will tell you this is wrong, wrong, wrong!!! More police and firefighters will be needed to police and put out fires and will probably need a new hospital, we are miles away to the closest hospital. Making a walkway next to the canal is a horrible idea, an accident waiting to happen!!! Fresno should concentrate on abandoned properties in the city limits, townhomes, condos, and houses could be built, water and sewer are already there!!! Make Fresno a beautiful city, not getting rid of historical sites, like the Fresno Courthouse, a huge misstate, lets improve not get rid of!!! There are a lot of abandoned businesses (buildings) in Fresno, why not put the new stores you are talking about so we could shop with more stores to choose from!!! Thank you for your time!!! Pease leave existing homeowners alone!!!

Attn: Andrew Janz

Teresa Pineda Ávila
[redacted]

NO TO- SEDA
SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

I often wonder how much love there is for Fresno...and...what of respect for her? What is loved, is not abandoned nor neglected.

It's been said, anything worth having, is worth fighting for. Sometimes the fighting becomes a battle comparable to that of, David and Goliath....mortals vs presumed gods...citizens vs city council vs supervisors vs developers...as appears to be the case with SEDA.

SEDA- who is pushing this plan? Appearances and numerous, past city council votes would indicate that developers build and expand when and where THEY choose...too often given free reign by local government.Tell the developers something they don't hear very often- NO! Ignorance of city government is not to be confused with stupidity. I, and others, have lived long enough, have seen enough, to know what many times drives decisions proposed by those who know that- MONEY TALKS. Yes, when there is the need for growth and development, call in the cavalry of developers. However, now is not the time to develop outward when the interior is bleeding, and crying out to be tended to.

Fresno...at 74 years of age, I have infinite memories of my beloved place of birth. I am a lifelong resident, born in the GOLDEN WEST SIDE- borrowing a phrase from, HAPPY HAROLD (local rhythm and blues radio DJ).

At the age of 12, our family moved to the EASTSIDE of town- bordered by streets: BELMONT & OLIVE, CEDAR & ROWELL. I was 43 years of age when I became a first-time homeowner of a house that I had "eye-balled" since 6th grade! Living in my once dream house (streets:TULARE & VENTURA, CEDAR & FIRST) has given me an education that neither Roosevelt High School nor Fresno State could have. I have lived and worked (Rowell School) in this area, and the historic Huntington Boulevard region, the major portion of my life. I cannot fathom, nor entertain the thought of living ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD!!!

What of these lessons learned? That despite the present and past mayor(s) wishing aloud of a...ONE FRESNO...the opposite is true. As I see, as I have experienced, there are 2 Fresnos: the NORTH and the SOUTH...much like the CIVIL WAR. One Fresno? Certainly...one divided and fractured. The Fresno City Council demonstrates this with it's shenanigans and clear, full display of whom they are beholden to...very recent example- the city council vote regarding smoke shops. Despite the sinful amounts of money spent on
TV & radio ads, print, etc. promising voters the Sun, Moon and Stars, we voters are often left with a, "bag of chips, no soda"!!! You will,(most candidates) (pinky finger promise) "work for us, your constituents"...a time-worn and laughable utterance. There's a saying in Spanish: "Con

dinero baila el perro". Literally: "With money, the dog dances". Figuratively: "Money talks". To win an election, money must be spent. Small sums donated by the average citizen pale, seem paltry, in comparison to...say...a developer with deep pockets and fatter wallets...and influence. THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: it's a part of life in politics...like taxes and death. We mere mortals cannot compete monetarily with the developers who dictate votes...and policy. Without developer money, how else to pad the ladder to higher office? I'M GENERALIZING. Feel offended ONLY if the shoe fits.

Sorrowfully, the center of Fresno is being neglected, parts left to deteriorate and die. Will prayers and a miracle resurrect our city? I've heard many a city leader, council member and supervisor invoke the name of God. Heaven has yet to rain money down on us. But we humans are blessed with a heart, a brain, common sense, and judgement to guide us in making sound, ethical and moral decisions.

Southeast Fresno is a great and grand lady. From time to time she receives a manicure, a pedicure, a little lipstick now and then. And IF she should be sooo lucky...have her hair done! Bandaids. Her knees cry out for a replacement, her arthritic limbs struggle to keep her upright. Do we watch, do we stare, do we lament her forthcoming demise? She fights a gallant battle to survive, to stay standing. Her eyes still luster; they sparkle with hope. Her heart is broken...but still beats with blood infused with love and respect from those loyal to her.

Our STREETS are at the worst that they have EVER been. Riding down these streets rattles cars and nerves. CRACKED SIDEWALKS with tree roots raising walkways ...with many a person tripping and/or falling. TREES DYING, or dead. Their withered limbs a ghostly reminder of neglect and abandonment. Infrastructure...LACK of BUS BENCHES with SHELTER to shield waiting bus patrons (MANY ELDERLY) from the winter cold and rain. I've helped a few seniors who fell and slipped in the mud as they exited a bus stop...a stop where dirt awaited the disembarking... dirt-unleveled and full of weeds. Our famous/infamous summer heat bakes into the skin of those waiting for city transportation. I CHALLENGE, I DARE, EVERY city council member to shop and wait with several, filled shopping bags (standing- and in the open) for an entire month to personally experience what is expected of us who rely on the bus system for transportation...I suggest the southeast corner of Tulare Street. For the adventurous, there are many more locations to consider...no seating, no shelter and a frustrating and disrespectful situation. With our air pollution, the investment in promoting clean air (via public transport) is a given.

Our weather. Our fickle rainy season. Where is the SERIOUS plan to deal with energy costs and water usage? To many, Fresno is a laughingstock to those living in or out of the city...the joke is that Fresno doesn't know what it wants to be. We can...,we should be...
a MODEL of how to remedy, INTELLIGENTLY, a better way of life for it's citizens.
AFFORDABLE drough-tolerant trees and landscaping...aggressively advocated, financed and implemented. There are households, parts of SE Fresno where income makes these improvements impossible to adopt. Our weather, our limited water resources, expensive energy

costs- glaringly cry out for sane and effective remedies...want to spend money? HERE'S THE SPOT...ONE OF MANY!!!

Our homes, located in the older part of Fresno makes them aged...many not so gracefully. A developer's dream, I imagine, is to develop and build. Start here. Our homes, this area is a majestic and beautiful blend of styles and architecture not to be replicated anywhere in Fresno...much like Southwest Fresno and the Tower District. It's people proud and welcoming...be it with small talk, conversation, community involvement and sharing of food...all are welcome to our table. Yes, crime exists... as it does in ALL parts of Fresno. Security is welcomed, for our homes and neighborhood. Invest in us, our young and our old ...those working...those retired...those struggling...those homeless. Our schools and churches and organizations welcome the investment...does the city council welcome and embrace them? Don't TELL US- SHOW US!!! "Las palabras se las lleva el viento...Words are gone with the wind...words are hollow".

Fresno has given birth to countless numbers of children, and received many who've chosen to adopt her. Cities- much like mothers... are loved and respected. Others are neglected and abandoned. How we esteem Fresno...or not...is telling of who we are...what example we set for future generations to either emulate... or cringe at the thought of how we chose to take care of this lady named, Fresno. Building outward is akin to leaving this, "Older Woman" for a younger mistress whose "youthful buildings" may console those, " blinded by youth"...offering a false sense of rejuvenation. How is Fresno rejuvenated when internally, central Fresno is left ailing and alone...occasional and spotty "make up/lipstick" won't do...we require more than patchwork and excuses.

There are BILLIONS of dollars to be spent. SE Fresno has MILLIONS of projects yet to be addressed...

No apologies for this lengthy and perhaps rambling rant. I LOVE FRESNO!!!!! With all her, pimples, warts and scars (which ALL cities bear) she remains a beautiful place to live. Fresno- a region that feeds much of the country and world- should be held in high esteem...more so those parts of her- older and historic... alive and fighting a valiant battle to be appreciated and valued. We don't want nor (in the future) wait to be razed. We want to rise and prosper. What cannot be saved, what is burned or thoroughly destroyed, can be replaced with what fits our character and spirit. Too costly?! But to expand outside of our area is rarely a financial burden...excuses are infinite.

We are SOUTHEAST FRESNO...
WE MATTER

Teresa Pineda Avila

From:	Heather Balcom
To:	LongRangePlanning
Subject:	SEDA Public Comment from District 3 resident Heather Balcom
Date:	Saturday, March 22, 2025 8:27:50 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno Long Range Planning Team,

I am a resident of the City of Fresno District 3. I am writing in response to the new proposed SEDA Environmental Impact Report draft.

The SEDA plan as currently described will harm the city of Fresno. SEDA is expensive and the plan does not explain how the city proposes to pay for it while meeting its existing obligations. Population growth has slowed, but Fresno will be responsible for paying for the development, regardless of if lots sell.

The good ideas from SEDA, such as increased green space and new affordable housing, can be implemented within current city limits at much lower cost. These are improvements that existing residents and businesses have been asking for and which the communities of county residents in the area that would be transformed by SEDA have clearly indicated that they do not want.

I submitted a public records request for the city's assessment of infrastructure repair and improvement needs in my neighborhood on February 23rd and have yet to receive the response. The city should identify and meet its existing obligations before considering taking on new ones.

Please reject SEDA and protect the City of Fresno from the long term negative impacts it would bring.

Sincerely,
Heather Balcom
[redacted]

From:	William Beekman
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Jerry Dyer; Todd Stermer; Nelson Esparza; Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nick Richardson
Subject:	SEDA EIR Comment Response Ref.3436, [redacted]
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 3:48:35 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager, City of Fresno, Planning and Development Dept

3.2 Ag Resources
William Beekman, resident 7791 E. Carmen Ave. 2.5 Acres Property. Presently grows 2 Acres of producing Oranges. With a dense population around we can no longer function as an income (approx. $ 8000 to 12000 wholesale yearly) producing farm. Spraying of Insecticides & Herbicides, Beehive Honey gathering, gifting oranges to neighbors, loss of labor income (approx. $3000) for local HighSchool Children and Farm Laborers,
3.3 Air Quality
With the more dense population air quality will suffer tremendously! This is evidenced by the already heavy population increase north of us. We are experiencing smog now that prevents us from seeing the mountains. I can even smell the food being cooked 1/2 mile away from us. Coming in via air you can really notice the smog emitting from the new more dense population areas near us! I am sure this affects our health.
3.6 Energy, Need study to determine what Electrical Resources are needed? Would there be enough?
3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions,
Unable to to plant enough trees to offset the Greenhouse gas emissions
3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Garbage disposal increase would be tremendous. We do not have appropriate locations to dump this stuff.
3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality.
Probably the most difficult impact caused by a large increase in population would be the shortage of water!! We are already overdrafted with ground water levels. There is not enough water to be transported from the already river water shortage!!
Where will all the sewage be disposed of? Present facilities already at Max.
3.11 Land Use and Planning
Many hundreds of acres of valuable agricultural land will be gone! Believe there is a law preventing this!!
3.13 Noise
Already with population increase north of us, we have a high increase in sirens from police and fire departments and general traffic noise. WHERE IS OUR OLD SILENT COMMUNITY!! I must close our bedroom window about 6-7 AM to keep out the noise so I can sleep.Will have much more noise with population increase.
3.14 Population and Housing
This is Rural suburban farmland and not meant to be a heavily populated area. An increase in crime is already happening here in our community. It will only increase with a greater population.

3.15 Public Services,
In our location Taxation costs for these services have risen tremendously. We are paying about $260 per year increase in school taxes from year 2008 for more schools that new people's children need, Sure to be more with population increase. Too bad the Housing Developers are not paying for this!
3.17 Transportation and Traffic
Road Transportation Conveyance increase in our area is TERRIBLE! It will become worse with more housing. Presently we avoid the rush hour traffic due to long waits at our stop signs and lights. It now takes us 10-15 minutes longer to get into town in non rush hour traffic due to the many new stop signs and traffic lights. Roads here are continually torn up with new utilities being buried. Traffic must be rerouted. Something drastic needs to be done to solve this problem. Contractors make millions from new home building and we suffer!!
3.18 Utilities and Service Systems.
We already have our own 3 HP well pump for water service. Also have our own sewage disposal system. Mandatory connecting fees for the City of Fresno estimated to be as high as $30K for each service and in addition to Monthly usage charges is not acceptable. We have a Solar Array size large enough to omit electric power costs. We are retired and need to have reduced living costs.

William(89) & Marjory(83) Beekman, [redacted] - Built home 1977 on 2.5 acres. Raised family here in Clovis School District.

SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

DRAFT EIR COMENT LETTER

The proposed EIR for the Southeast Development Project addresses the loss of farmland (AG1 and AG2) by delaying any mitigation plan and handing off that responsibility to the developers of individual projects within the area. Delaying any attention to mitigation is inappropriate given that the entire area is specifically being planned and organized as a conversion of ag land into housing. This plan requires some mitigation for the loss of that land in this EIR.

There seems to be inconsistencies in the document. On ES -5 where it lists significant and unavoidable impacts, in reference to Williamson Act lands (but also relevant to other adjacent ag land), that the conversion of land to non-agricultural uses does not have any available mitigation. While saying this, it lists possible mitigation approaches that might be taken by individual project developers. Again, the effort here is to avoid the clear responsibility for enunciating a plan for this development area.

Richard and Kay Bertken

From:	Deborah Bigham
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; miguel.arias@fresno.com; Tyler Maxwell; Nick Richardson; Nelson Esparza; Todd Stermer
Subject:	Comment onEIR
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 3:39:10 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.14 Population and Housing

SEDA's original estimated annual population growth through 2050
was 1.5%. The revised population growth estimate is only .18%. Bigger than necessary for population growth is 8.3 X.
This alone undermines the entire basis of the SEDA project. How do you propose to make this feasible.

Section 3.14 Population and Housing

SEDA has planned for 44,000 units when
based on the latest population projections. The unit's actually needed is 5,300. There is plenty of land within the City of Fresno. Why can't these units be built on empty acres within city limits and save our farmland?

Section 3.15 Public Services

Who will be paying for the massive bill to build schools to accommodate the high density population located in the Sanger School District? Since Sanger Unified has replied to this Project in writing with great concern, please document the projected costs involved with the School district and the plan to fund these schools. Why have no estimated cost been revealed? Are you concerned that the truth would be detrimental to the project? Going forward with no plan to implement school growth is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. Asking taxpayers to fund a "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Section 3.17 Transportation and Traffic

After close to 20 years, there is no City Infrastructure cost estimate, Financial feasibility study or Financing strategy. Why is that. There needs to be a cost estimate for accountability before moving forward.

Section 3.17 Transportation and Traffic

The potential SEDA Infrastructure Cost is $1,000,000,000 plus and some are guessing it will run as high as 2 billion. But we don't know because no one seems to know. So, where is the money coming from? The Fresno
City budget Deficit for 2025 is $20,000,000. Fresno is struggling with potential budget cuts to balance the budget. So how is it feasible we can afford OVER 1 BILLION DOLLARS for

SEDA infrastructure. It's been reported that this will be ironed out after the council approves the massive project. Where's the accountability? What is the infrastructure cost? The budget needs to be disclosed before the EIR is accepted. This needs to happen before prior approval. This blank check is unacceptable.

Section 3.11 Land use and Planning

Fresno (City Limits) has 8,200 vacant Acres which = 134,000 Units. This vacant land already exists within the city limits and can accommodate all the growth anticipated through 2050 and beyond, without the billion plus infrastructure costs of SEDA. Why not start there then move out as needed. It doesn't make sense unless you're a home builder looking for cheap land and a City with taxpayers happy to provide a billion extra dollars to subsidize "your" dream development.

Section 3.18 Utilities and Services Systems

What will the long term impact on the environment be when expanding or relocating electric, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities for a project of this magnitude? Can you and will you site your studies? Not having this information is unacceptable and needs addressed.

Section3.19 Wildfire

Because of the close proximity of the high density housing, and therefore, the high wildfire risks of rapid spreading, what is your plan to protect the occupants from feared disasters such as the fires in Los Angeles this year. With no plan in place this
is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Section 5.2 Project Objectives

On 3-7-25 A Public Records request was made for information on the SB2 Grant that funded the SEDA EIR. As of 3-23-25 documents have not been released. In an article in Fresnoland March 3, 2025 by reporter Gregory Weaver said, "Officials have yet to publicly disclose a cost estimate, despite consultants delivering one to City Manager Georgeanne White last December. Where is the fiscal responsibility in this. Until the cost estimate is released and the public is able to make comments the comment period for the RDEIR should be extended 30 days from the release of the cost estimate to the public.

3.3 Air Quality

On August 28, 2024 a publication authored by Gregory Weaver of FresnoLand titled "Development projects suddenly in limbo as Fresno scrambles in wake of court ruling" "City officials estimate that the 9,000-acre SEDA project will increase Fresno's annual carbon emissions by 500,000 tons, effectively wiping out the city's progress on climate goals for the next two decades." According to city documents this project is estimated to triple air pollution levels in Southeast Fresno." So why is this quantification of information published prior to the recirculated draft deliberately excluded from the EIR? There is currently not enough information to quantify emissions of specific project development that may occur under the proposed project.

From:	Whitney Wall Bortz
To:	LongRangePlanning; Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miquel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nelson Esparza; Nick Richardson; Jerry Dyer; Sarah Boren; Georgeanne White; Jennifer Clark; Andrew Janz; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District6; District7
Cc:	Rhonda Dueck
Subject:	Concerned about the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan (SEDA)
Date:	Saturday, March 22, 2025 9:36:16 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to you as a resident, employee, parent and tax payer in District 5. I live on Huntington Blvd. between 3rd and 4th with my husband and 3 kids who all attend Fresno Unified Schools.

We are very concerned about SEDA. We already notice that there is significant neglect in this neighborhood and those surrounding us with much need for infrastructure, repairs and the availability of law enforcement. We fear that this development will remove further attention from these neighborhoods in which many families live, and neglect of these areas may drive families out of this region. Please let me know what you are doing to ensure that this development does not lead to negative consequences for others in this area.

Best,

Whitney Bortz

[redacted]

To: longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

With copy to:

Annalisa Perea: annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
Mike Karbassi: mike.karbassi@fresno.gov
Miguel Arias: miguel.arias@fresno.gov
Tyler Maxwell: tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
Nick Richardson: nick.richardson@fresno.gov
Nelson Esparza: nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
Todd Stermer: todd.stermer@fresno.gov

Date: March 23, 2025

Re: Draft Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California (the "EIR") and SEDA Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Draft (the "SEDA Plan")

Dear Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager, Planning and Development Department, City of Fresno:

I am writing this letter in reference to the EIR and SEDA Plan and have the following questions regarding the proposed implementation of the SEDA Plan and the EIR:

1. On ES-2 under Quantified Objectives, the EIR states that its objectives are to accommodate 40,000 - 45,000 dwelling units with only 30,000 - 37,000 jobs as per Chapters 3.14 and 2.3 respectively. What is the rationale on building more houses than actual jobs for people? How will future residents be able to buy a home here without enough jobs to accommodate the same number of dwelling units?
2. On ES-2 under Fiscal Responsibility, the EIR states that the SEDA Plan will provide self-financing for the development and ongoing maintenance while not reducing the City of Fresno's resources already dedicated to the City while not burdening residents outside of the SEDA however the cost of the SEDA Plan and the self-financing thereof is not listed anywhere with the EIR nor the SEDA Plan. How much is the SEDA Plan expected to cost and what is the cost of self-financing? If the cost of the SEDA Plan will not burden residents outside of the SEDA, how does the City of Fresno plan on burdening the residents inside the SEDA and at what costs? How much will SEDA residents' taxes increase?
3. Under the same page and section (ES-2, Fiscal Responsibility) and in regards to Chapters 3.11 and 3.18, why isn't the City of Fresno considering the renovation and adaptive reuse of existing structures since this is typically much less expensive than large-scale new construction. The City of Fresno could prioritize retrofitting underutilized spaces instead of

spending millions, if not billions, on new infrastructure, utilities (including water, sewer and power), and roads.

4. On ES-2 under Social Equity, the EIR states that the SEDA Plan will promote health by reducing harmful emissions from cars and industry in Chapter 3.8 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions), but how can the SEDA Plan accomplish this during the building phase with all of the emissions from building equipment, subsequent air pollution, hazardous materials, etc.? What steps will be taken and upheld to ensure the safety of residents, workers and wildlife? Prolonged exposure to fine particulate matter and diesel exhaust has been linked to an increase in heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular conditions. What is the City of Fresno going to do to mitigate this exposure?
5. On ES-5 under Impact AG-2 which refers to Chapter 3.2 (Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources) of the EIR, it states that the SEDA Plan includes land under the Williamson Act and convert it to non-agricultural uses without any mitigation to reduce it to less than significant which contradicts the purpose of this program. Please provide details on how the City of Fresno plans to pay for the monetary penalties of up to 25% of the market value of the land plus 25% of the value of any incompatible improvements? Will SEDA residents' taxes be used to pay for these penalties?
6. In reference to Chapter 3.10 (Hydrology and Water Quality), what is the budget for the stormwater systems, water supply, altering the existing drainage patterns, capturing the substantial increase in runoff and building additional areas/sources for capturing additional flood water?
7. Where is the City of Fresno planning on getting the millions of gallons of water required to build 40,000-45,000 dwelling units as per Chapter 3.10 (Hydrology and Water)?
8. On page 2-18 and in reference to Chapter 3.17 (Transportation and Traffic), the EIR states that the City of Fresno will provide "high quality transit service" without any information on how this will be accomplished. What the budget is for such high quality transit service? Please provide the environmental impact report for such transit service? A blank check is unacceptable and such questions must be addressed prior to approval.
9. How does the City of Fresno plan on acquiring and funding the necessary resources of adding additional police, fire, ambulatory and other emergency and protective services to accommodate the additional population and increase of businesses and other infrastructure to not only maintain, but reduce both crime and response time to emergencies based on the proposed SEDA Plan (referencing Chapter 3.15 (Public Services))?
10. How much money or other financial and non-financial kickbacks are you, all those copied herein and other city officials receiving from land developers, builders, contractors, corporations, etc. to get the SEDA Plan approved?
11. With reference to Chapter 3.9 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials), what is the City of Fresno's plan to prevent public and environmental hazards caused by accidents involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment both in the air and water? What is the City of Fresno's plan to mitigate the increase in construction waste in our landfills?
12. Referencing Chapter 3.2 (Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources), the proposed plan will permanently convert thousands of acres of Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance into non-agricultural uses, with no feasible mitigation to preserve this essential resource. What is the City of Fresno doing to preserve this fundamental resource and at the very least mitigate this issue? Why isn't the City of Fresno considering focusing on urban infill development, instead of destroying farmland, in an effort to preserve Fresno's farmland and agricultural economy and maintain food production stability?
13. Referencing Chapter 3.3 (Air Quality), the SEDA Plan will generate significant criteria air pollutants during construction and operation, exceeding San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) thresholds. Mitigation measures cannot fully reduce these

emissions and this needs to be addressed by the City of Fresno since we have been working to reduce the pollution for the last twenty years and just within the last decade we have finally seen an improvement where we can actually see the surrounding mountains. The SEDA Plan could reverse all those efforts. Please detail how the City of Fresno would address the following in regards to air quality:

- air pollution and respiratory issues due to the increase emissions of particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and diesel particulate matter, all of which are linked to asthma, bronchitis and lung cancer.

- exposure to Toxic Air Contaminants that have been linked to severe illnesses including leukemia

14. One of the SEDA Plan's goals is to reduce vehicle miles traveled (see pages 6, 12, 25, 33, 64, 78 and 110 in accordance with Chapters 3.14 and 3.17). However, per the SEDA plan, only 37,000 jobs are estimated to be created with 40,000-45,000 dwelling units to be built. How can the SEDA Plan accomplish a reduction in vehicle miles travelled when (at the absolute least, assuming 1 person per household) a minimum of 8,000 people (difference between 45,000 dwelling units and 37,000 jobs created) will have to travel outside of the plan area to commute to their jobs when more and more companies are implementing a return to office policy? Additionally if people must travel outside of the plan area, this leads to increased vehicle emissions and traffic resulting in higher rates of health issues (respiratory and cardiovascular diseases) due to prolonged exposure to vehicle exhaust.

The above questions barely scratch the surface in the number of holes and inconsistencies when trying to understand why the SEDA Plan is still trying to get approved after all these years. The City of Fresno continually attempts to make it make sense, but it never does. There are other alternatives that would benefit all residents, not just the sub-mediocre elected officials, land developers, builders and contractors. It is clear that the best interests of the community have not been considered.

Regards,
Stephanie Brimmer

From:	Cheryl Smith
To:	LongRangePlanning; Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nelson Esparza; Nick Richardson; Jerry Dyer; Sarah Boren; Georgeanne White; Jennifer Clark; Andrew Janz; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District6; District7
Subject:	Opposition to SEDA
Date:	Sunday, March 23, 2025 4:24:58 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern about SEDA. City money should e going toward existing neighborhoods, not new developments where the developers make a huge profit at the expense of those in the city that need attention and ongoing services. I live in the hIstoric Huntington area and Jackson Neighborhood. We need ongoing maintenance for our sidewalks, streets, lights, police presence, funding for school, etc. The city owes established neighborhoods their money and attention.

Thank you,

Cheryl Dueck Smith
[redacted]

From:	Cheyenne J.
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; District5; Nick Richardson; Nelson Esparza; Todd Stermer
Subject:	Concerns About the SEDA Recirculated EIR
Date:	Thursday, March 20, 2025 8:52:05 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Council Member & City Clerk,

I am writing to express my concerns about the SEDA Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Below are the key areas that I find alarming and we Fresnonians, WANT ANSWERS:

#1: Section 4-2 Growth-Induced Impacts: The SEDA plan relies on outdated population growth projections to justify its development. The report claims Fresno will grow by 226,000 people by 2035, but the new data from the California Department of Finance shows a much smaller growth of just 72,000 and only 19,000 more by 2070. There is NO NEED to expand as suggested in the SEDA plan when Fresno's population is growing much slower than originally predicted. This projection does NOT support the representation of people in Fresno who need affordable housing! Stop building & take care of existing communities & buildings that are the history of Fresno. **NO to "Fresnoland" and MORE FARMLAND!!! Revitalize Fresno! NO to "Fresnoland", NO to SEDA!**

#2: Section 3.3.4 Air Quality: Fresno ALREADY has some of the worst air quality in the nation, and the SEDA plan admits it will create high levels of pollution. Why worsen our air when the project isn't even necessary? Many already have health issues and struggle in Fresno due to the air quality. Asthma, allergies and smog are among the many critical issues affecting Fresno citizens who did NOT VOTE for this nor approve of this! SEDA will make these issues worse, thus, lessening the quality of life for those living in Fresno. **NO to "Fresnoland" and MORE FARMLAND!!! Revitalize Fresno! NO to "Fresnoland", NO to SEDA!**

#3: Section 4-1 Impact AG-1 (Farmland Loss): The project will destroy 6,700 acres of farmland - land that helps clean our air and supports local agriculture. Replacing it with development will increase pollution and hurt our local economy. Again, stop building & take care of existing communities & buildings that are the history of Fresno. Not only will this save money but it will improve Fresno as a whole! **NO to "Fresnoland" and MORE FARMLAND!!! Revitalize Fresno! NO to "Fresnoland", NO to SEDA!**

#4: Section 3.17 Transportation & Traffic: The report claims that by 2025, people in SEDA will drive only 5 miles per day -- 80% less than what experts predict. This assumption is unrealistic and ignores Fresno's existing car-dependent infrastructure. This is beyond the allocated $1-$4 billion SEDA plans to divert from resources of critical needs such as our broken roads, sidewalks and neighborhoods. Stop building & take care of existing communities & buildings that are the history of Fresno. **NO to "Fresnoland" and MORE FARMLAND!!! Revitalize Fresno! NO to "Fresnoland", NO to SEDA!**

This SEDA project is wrong on SO many levels in my personal opinion. Having lived here all my 47 years of life, I have watched my hometown, which I love, turn into the "next LA" **which I HATE and many DO NOT WANT!!!** Fresno is an agriculture town. Fresno is rich in its history. Fresno has many depleted areas of which the money proposed to SEDA could almost 'reinvent' Fresno in a MUCH BETTER way as the "next LA" than SEDA could ever do! What you are doing is completely wrong and this project will break Fresno entirely. This project will push out our farmers and force them elsewhere to farm. This project will NOT support the existing homeless issues and only increase the lack of affordable housing to the existing citizens of Fresno. Who are you building this for? Not those in the valley! SEDA is ONLY for outsiders, who will not spend & consume here but just sleep here and travel outside Fresno to work and consume elsewhere. SEDA plans need to be stopped and those in charge must look at the amazing opportunity right under your noses here in beautiful Fresno. **Revitalize Fresno! NO to "Fresnoland", NO to SEDA!**

If you need to contact me, feel free. [redacted]. Thank you for your time!

~Live Vertically~
Cheyenne Jenvey

From:	connie young
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	District1
Subject:	Concerns about the SEDA recirculated EIR
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 4:48:19 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

I'm writing to express my concern about the following aspects of the SEDA Recirculated EIR:

4-2 Growth-ilduced Impacts
New data from the California Department of Finance shows much slower growth projections for the Fresno area than the EIR predicts. Let's not contribute to urban sprawl by building homes that will not be needed. Furthermore, let's prioritize increasing affordable housing and complete neighborhoods within existing city limits.

3.3.4 Air Quality
By increasing urban sprawl, this project will increase air pollution. Considering that our air basin already fails attainment standards for several criteria air pollutants, we must not increase the vehicular pollution in our air basin. Air pollution diminishes the quality and longevity of Fresno residents.

Fresno has many blighted areas. Sadly, it is known in other parts of the state as "the armpit of California". We can do better! Let's stop urban sprawl and inner city blight by focusing our resources on what we already have.

Sincerely,

Connie Young, RN (retired)
[redacted]

City of Fresno
City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721
longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Re: "Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486"

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

I contest Section 3.2 Agricultural Resources and Forest Resources for the following reasons:

1. Under the mitigation plan, MM AG-1, Fresno City has no plan to preserve farm land at a 1:1 ratio, so how will this mitigation be implemented and enforced? The alternative in MM AG-1 is unacceptable because it relies on the City to develop a Farmland Preservation Program by 2025. Since the plan is not in place, the environmental impact cannot be determined. Therefore, this plan must not be accepted until a plan is in place and can be adequately evaluated. Having the plan in place with clear requirements provides predictability of the environmental impact.

2. In reference to MM AG-1, the City's General Plan Policy RC-9-c does not provide the sole legal basis for mitigation for the loss of farmland to urban development. As you are aware, the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Pub. Res. Code 221000 et seq., requires agencies to analyze the significant environmental impacts of projects that they approve or carry out, and *to mitigate those impacts,* where feasible, to a less than significant level. The Legislature has declared that CEQA "plays an important role" in effectuating the important public policy of preserving agricultural lands within the state. Stats. 1993, ch. 812, 1, p. 4428. Accordingly, CEQA's environmental analysis and mitigation requirements extend to farmland conversion. *See San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center v. County of Stanislaus* (1994) 27 Cal. App. 4th 713,ll 733 (EIR deficient due to an inaccurate assessment o the amount of prime farmland to be converted as a direct result of the development project); *Citizens for Open Government v City of Lodi* (2012) 205 Cal. App. 4th 296, p. 320-322 (EIR found conversion of 40 acres of farmland a significant impact even after purchase of conservation easements at a 1;1 ratio). Impact AG-1 states that there is "significant and unavoidable impact." This is not acceptable under CEQA mandates and must be corrected.

3. The EIR summarized the total of farmland that would be lost in this plan at 6,661 acres. The SEDA plan states that the Level of Significance After Mitigation (MM AG-1) is Significant and unavoidable. The plan does not conserve any farmland. Alternative 3 would

conserve only 648.61 acres. This is not acceptable. Farmland conservation at a 1:1 ratio does not save farm land from destruction in the SEDA area. This destruction reduces food production for feeding people as well as loss of income for families that farm in the area. Alternative 1 (No project alternative) would have the least impact on conversion of farmland to housing. The SEDA plan, plans for 45,000 homes compared to the 17,900 on the existing plan (Alternate 1). Therefore, a large amount of farmland would not be converted to houses under the existing plan and the SEDA plan should be rejected. With the increase in this number of homes and residents, the number of jobs would only be increased from 29,600 to 37,000 jobs. This is unacceptable and will have an adverse on the environment of the planned area.

4. The City of Fresno's General Plan conceived of the development of SEDA in Growth Area II to occur after other infill initiatives, to give those time to gain momentum. The Project History in Appendix A of the EIR states "there is still ample residential capacity within the current city limits and in Growth Area I (which Southwest Fresno and the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan areas)." Also refer to 2013-2031 Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element Appendix 1-E Fresno. This mitigation measure has been completely ignored in the EIR and has not been addressed as a reasonable option. Therefore the SEDA plan must not be developed until the space within the current city limits and Growth Area I are utilized.

5. The plan has made no consideration at all for the social and economic impact on minority groups. A large number of Hmong and Southeast Asia descendants that farm in this area will lose their income and livelihood as their farms are converted to houses and non-agricultural industries. This is a social injustice and has to be addressed before this EIR can move forward.

6. There are no mitigation measures to conserve over 900 acres of agriculture land that is already within the Williamson Act. This is totally unacceptable under CEQA guidelines. This EIR cannot move forward until these lands are secured as agriculture land.

7. The public comment received during the EIR scoping period asking for an assessment of the impacts that the plan will have on current and future agricultural operations has not been adequately addressed. Housing, especially high density houses, is incompatible with farming. Mitigation measures in these situations have not been adequately described so a full environmental impact cannot be made. Planning for only organic farming in the area is not adequate as organic sprays are governed at the same level as conventional pesticides and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Therefore, to plan only for the use of organic pesticides will not provide home owners with peace of mind of safety.

8. Policy RC-5.2 Hazardous Materials. Prevent contamination of the ground water table and surface water resources and discourage all pesticide use for agricultural and landscaping uses

within the SEDA area. This policy is outside the jurisdiction of the City of Fresno. The use of all pesticides for agricultural and landscaping is under the jurisdiction of the Federal EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulation. This policy is just another way to reduce the feasibility to farm in the SEDA plan area, forcing agriculture out so housing can be built without regard to preserving agriculture land. This policy is not consistent with CEQA's mandate to preserve agriculture land and reasonable measures must be shown how to mitigate hazardous materials in groundwater and surface water and still preserve agriculture land.

9. The measure to mitigate agricultural conversion, page 3.2-15 is stated as "To counter the effects of agricultural conversion, The Specific Plan includes a policy framework to support the integration of agriculture within the urban sphere. Programs that would be integrated into the Specific Plan may include school and neighborhood gardens, community orchards, agricultural education centers." This does not mitigate in any way the loss of agricultural land for production that feeds Fresno, California, and the United States. Community gardens are very limited in their production as well as their use. Limited plantings of nut and fruit trees are susceptible to pests, disease and bird damage without adequate pest control measures and will be a liability. These plantings will become reservoirs for pests and invasive species that could destroy all commercial agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Therefore, these measures are inadequate to satisfy CEQA mandates for preservation of farmland.

Based on these reasons, the Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 should not be accepted.

Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project.

Very truly yours,

Dr. David Ramming
Retired Research Horticulturist, USDA/ARS
SEDA area property owner
Member Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

Please send CC to all City Council Members as they will be voting on this.
cc: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager: Sophia.pagoulatos@fresno.gov
District 1: Annalisa Pera: annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
District 2: Mike Karbassi: mike.karbassi@fresno.gov

District 3: Miguel Arias: miguel.arias@fresno.gov
District 4: Tyler Maxwell: tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
District 5: Special Election on March 18th
District 6: Nick Richardson: nick.richardson@fresno.gov
District 7 Nelson Esparza: nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
City Clerk: Todd Stermer: todd.stermer@fresno.gov
Mayor Jerry Dyer: jerry.dyer@fresno.gov

City of Fresno
City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721
longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Re: "Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486"

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

I contest Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality for the following reasons:

1. Impact HYD-2: States "The proposed project could substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin." The mitigation measure MM HYD-2d has not been adequately demonstrated in showing that the existing groundwater recharge facilities have produced adequate infiltration into the underground aquifers. Gallons of water input is shown but the real results would be revealed by the change in groundwater table near the basins. There is a large amount of water lost due to evaporation that has not been accounted for. Therefore, inadequate information is available to adequately assess the impact these basins are having. In addition, no studies are provided that show what the infiltration rate of proposed groundwater facilities in the SEDA area would be. The Fresno Irrigation District is building all its groundwater recharge facilities on the west side of its district as they feel the east side is less effective for groundwater recharge facilities. The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Stainable Agricultural Water Systems Research Laboratory at Davis, CA should be contacted and methodology they have developed be used to verify that the proposed sites for groundwater recharge facilities are indeed adequate to mitigate the overdraft of the North Kings Groundwater Basin. Even with the infiltration rate determined, theses recharge facilities are only functional when adequate water is available in "wet" rainfall years. Therefore, they are only adequate part of the time. Data is lacking needs to be developed to show how many recharge facilities would be needed on an average during wet and dry rainfall years to have no significant impact on the groundwater levels.

2. The hydrology and Water Quality Section 3.10 now completely ignores developing a plan, prior to exceeding existing water demands, and that the City shall pursue provision of adequate water supplies by securing additional water sources and shall not approve development per the Specific Plan for the Plan Area until additional water supply is provided. The city of Fresno is already using nearly all its allocation of surface water from the Fresno Irrigation

District (FID). The only way the city of Fresno can obtain additional water is by taking it away from other recipients. Agriculture is the main recipient of water from FID and reducing its water would have serious environmental impact. Important impacts would be: 1. Removal of agricultural land from production. 2. Reduction in the amount of food that could be produced. 3. Less water available for groundwater recharge basins in agricultural areas to replenish North Kings Groundwater basin that extends beyond Fresno City limits and sphere of influence.

3. Public comments received during the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report identified that groundwater overdraft is an issue in the City and requires that the Draft PEIR evaluates the SEDA Specific Plan's impact on groundwater resources. The recirculated EIR states in Impact HYD-2: The proposed project could substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. MM HYD-2d states the City shall develop new and expand existing groundwater recharge facilities to balance increased water demands resulting from the Project Area. The City's plan of reducing its reliance on wells and relying more on surface water, using more surface water to recharge the groundwater through recharge basins sounds great. However, the City of Fresno is already using the majority of its surface water allocation from FID. MM HYD-2c says the City of Fresno will seek additional water sources. No potential additional water resources are identified, therefore this EIR cannot be adequately evaluated based on unknown water sources.

4. Under Objective RC-6: Ensure that Fresno has a reliable, long-range source of drinkable , Policy RC-6-1, Natural Recharge. Support removal of concrete from existing canals and change the practice of lining new and existing canals with concrete to allow for natural recharge is unacceptable and is under the control of FID, not the City. Without concrete lining of canals: 1. Delivery of water to the city of Fresno and agriculture would be less efficient, meaning less water for both consumers at the city level and in agriculture. 2. The maintenance costs of the canals would be higher due to erosion of the banks and for weed control. There would be an increase in the soil particulates and contaminants in the water from the soil banks of the canal. 4. There will be damage to the canal banks by rodents and other animals, causing the loss of water from leaks and flooding. This policy and mitigation measure should not be implemented until the EIR is amended with a full report of impact on the environment and water quality.

5. Objective RC-6 "Ensure that Fresno has a reliable long-range source of drinkable water" is based on plans to be developed. Example: Policy RC-6-p Water plans. Adopt and implement ordinances, standards and policies to achieve... The effect of building in the SEDA area on the long range sources of drinkable water cannot be determined on plans that have yet to be developed.

6. Impact HYD-5 The proposed project will impact the sustainable groundwater management plan by requiring more water for the increased population in the plan area. If increased surface water is used directly through water treatment facilities, it is not available for groundwater recharge, i.e. directly negatively affecting groundwater sustainability. Therefore mitigation measures are required.

7. Impact HYD-1. No support is given for the statement that "the proposed project would not ... degrade surface or groundwater quality." Industrial areas are incorporated in this plan and what they produce needs to be evaluated. What studies have been done that the oils in the asphalt roads will not be leached into the surface and groundwater?

Based on these reasons, the recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 should not be accepted.

Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project.

Very truly yours,

Dr. David Ramming
Retired Research Horticulturist, USDA/ARS
SEDA area property owner
Member Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

Please send CC to all City Council Members as they will be voting on this.
cc: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager: Sophia.pagoulatos@fresno.gov
District 1: Annalisa Pera: annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
District 2: Mike Karbassi: mike.karbassi@fresno.gov
District 3: Miguel Arias: miguel.arias@fresno.gov
District 4: Tyler Maxwell: tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
District 5: Special Election on March 18th
District 6: Nick Richardson: nick.richardson@fresno.gov
District 7 Nelson Esparza: nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
City Clerk: Todd Stermer: todd.stermer@fresno.gov
Mayor Jerry Dyer: jerry.dyer@fresno.gov

From:	beatrice deleon
To:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nick Richardson; Nelson Esparza; Todd Stermer; LongRangePlanning
Subject:	EIR
Date:	Wednesday, March 19, 2025 8:17:24 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section3.15 Public Service
Question: Who will pay for the massive bill to build schools to accomodate the high density population located in the Sanger Unified School District?
Since Sanger Unified has replied to this project in writing with great concern, please document the projects costs involved with the school district and the plan to fund these schools. Why have no estimated costs been given? Are you concerned that that truth would be detrimental to the project? Going forward with no plan to implement school growth is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. Asking taxpayers to fund a “blank check” is unacceptable and needs to be corrected also.

Section3.17 Transportation and Traffic
Question: How is the City of Fresno planning to pay for the infrastructure cost?
It has been reported that this will be ironed out after the council approves the massive project. What is the proposed infrastructure cost? The budget needs to be disclosed before the EIR is accepted. This “blank check” is unacceptable and needs to be addressed prior to any approval.

Section 3.18 Utilities and Service Systems
Question: What will the long term impact on the environment be when expanding or relocating electrical, natural gas, or telecommunication facilites for a project of this magnitude? Please site your studies. No information concerning this is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Section 3.19 Wildfire
Question: Due to the close proximity of the high density, and therefore, the high wildfire risk of rapid spreading, please state your plan to protect the occupancy from disasters like what happened in Los Angeles this year. Without a plan in place, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Rhonda Dueck
To:	LongRangePlanning; Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nelson Esparza; Nick Richardson; Jerry Dyer; Sarah Boren; Georgeanne White; Jennifer Clark; Andrew Janz; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District6; District7
Subject:	VOTE NO on SEDA!!
Date:	Sunday, March 23, 2025 10:26:46 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Leaders,

As Fresno city leaders you are called to make decisions that are for the common good of our One Fresno.
The city of Fresno has a history or poor planning and poor decision making for development often due to significant pressure and promises from developers who often contribute towards election campaigns. This might seem like it is hidden, but the truth is that we can see this happening. It is obvious. This can stop now. Poor choices in the past do not need to continue. Please be people of integrity who make decisions that are best for Fresno - for now and into the future.
The SEDA project does not make good sense for our city as a whole for many reasons and I will highlight just a few here.

1. The research and investigation into the environmental impacts is insufficient and incomplete. This study needs to be expanded and completed so the implications are clear. The results need to be made public and easily accessible and written to make sense to the common citizen.

2. The actual cost for infrastructure including sidewalks, sewers, lights, roads, fire station, police patrols, etc. needs to be accounted for in extensive and detailed lists and given real numbers. My understanding is that some estimates only included some of the services required in order to make the numbers more acceptable. Deceiving the public is not acceptable!

3. There is only so much money for the city to spend to keep infrastructure working and appropriately repaired. If a new housing development is going to be developed where the infrastructure does not currently exist, it means there will not be as much, if any, money available for the areas of the city where there are already homes, businesses, and schools in existence. Our current neighborhoods are desperate for upgrads and repairs. The number of reports the GOFresno receives everyday is plenty to keep our city workers busy and budget used.

4. We are lacking in efficient and sufficient public transit in the city of Fresno and expanding the city bounds will require expanding this route without significant funding available which will only make the system worse. We need to rather spend money to expand the current routes to run more often and to more places within the city limits already developed.

5. We can all agree that additional housing is needed in Fresno, but the estimates that are being used to justify this development are out of sync with estimates from those who are

studying these trends closely. Also, we need affordable housing that are going to help people be closer to shopping, school, and jobs. Increasing city sprawl will not help this. Let's rather give incentives for contractors to build in the infill spaces available so that we can use the space available that already have the existing infrastructure attached to it.

6. The downtown of a city is a reflection of the priorities and vitality of the city. The further from downtown we build and develop, the less focus and resources we will have for downtown. It seems often when there are resources reserved to focus on downtown, they get reallocated to another project further out, thus increasing the decline of our city center. Energy and resources must be focused on downtown for revitalization for the good of our city.

I am passionate about Fresno and take great pride in living here. The decisions that you make about SEDA will impact Fresno for many years to come. Please do not make this decision lightly and do not be influenced by your political ambitions that allow people to negotiate with you in ways that benefit them, rather than our city. Rather, make the right decision that is best for Fresno. Our future is depending on you to lead well!!

Thank you for your time,
Rhonda Dueck

photo

photo

Rhonda Dueck
Executive Director
Jackson Community Development Corporation

[redacted]
[redacted]
jacksoncdc.org

EMPOWERED RESIDENTS = THRIVING COMMUNITY

From: Kevin Dueck
To: LongRangePlanning; Annalisa Jaquez; Mike Karbassi; Miguel
Subject: I oppose SEDA!
Date: Sunday, March 23, 2025 9:03:20 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Arias <miguel.arias@fresno.gov>,
Tyler Maxwell <tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov>,
Nelson Esparza <Nelson.Esparza@fresno.gov>,
"Nick.Richardson@fresno.gov" <Nick.Richardson@fresno.gov>,
Jerry.dyer@fresno.gov,
Sarah.Boren@fresno.gov,
Georgeanne White <Georgeanne.White@fresno.gov>,
Jennifer Clark <Jennifer.Clark@fresno.gov>,
"andrew.janz@fresno.gov" <andrew.janz@fresno.gov>,
District1 <District1@fresno.gov>,
"district2@fresno.gov" <district2@fresno.gov>,
District3 <DISTRICT3@fresno.gov>,
District4 <DISTRICT4@fresno.gov>,
District5 <DISTRICT5@fresno.gov>,
District6 <District6@fresno.gov>,
DISTRICT7@fresno.gov
X-Mailer: Apple Mail (2.3826.400.131.1.6)

City council and City government

I am very concerned about SEDA! I am concerned about how the city thinks it will be able to afford this. I am concerned that the infrastructure needs of my neighbohood will be met if all these funds are going to this new development. I am concerned that this is being done instead of infill. I am concerned because there are many neighborhoods in Fresno that have been neglected and this action would further enhance the problem.

Please vote to end SEDA!

Kevin Dueck
[redacted]

March 24, 2025

City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065, Fresno California 93721
Email: longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Re: Comments on Revised Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan Project City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 dated February 7, 2025

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

I am submitting the following comments on the Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan project Recirculated Draft EIR (RDEIR).

Comments on Recirculated Draft EIR (RDEIR)

3.2 - Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources

Policy CF-3.1 Organic and Pesticide-Free Farming. Promote ecologically sensitive farming methods that are safe for farm workers, consumers, and residents by restricting pesticide use and promoting integrated pest management practices within the SEDA.

Comments**:**

Pesticide Use and Regulation is regulated and monitored by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

What law and regulation gives the City of Fresno the authority to restrict pesticide use within SEDA?

California Pesticide Law-
Pesticide products include insecticides, herbicides, algicides (such as swimming pool products like chlorine), disinfectants and sanitizers, repellants, rodenticides, and fungicides.

The use of pool chlorine is quite extensive considering the number of pools in the City of Fresno.

Toilet bowl cleaners that claim to sanitize or disinfect are also classified as pesticides.

Pool chlorine for swimming pools and toilet bowl cleaner both have the signal word DANGER.

Signal words are found on pesticide product labels, and they describe the acute (short-term) toxicity of the formulated pesticide product. The signal word can be either: DANGER, WARNING or CAUTION. Products with the DANGER signal word are the most toxic.

If SEDA is planning on restricting pesticide use for farming does SEDA also plan to restrict pesticide use for home owners, renters, or any other persons residing or working in SEDA?

What will SEDA say is organic farming as it may mean different things to different people.

This is the USDA definition of organic:
Produce can be called organic if it's certified to have grown on soil that had no prohibited substances applied for three years prior to harvest. Prohibited substances include most synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

If the soil history is not known for the last three years the soil will need to be free of prohibited substances before it can be called organic by the USDA definition.

Policy CF-4.4 Strategic Plan for Agriculture. Encourage the long-term economic viability of Fresno County agriculture by creating a strategic plan that comprehensively addresses the needs of farmers and farmworkers. The plan should be developed in partnership with the County and private agricultural institutions. The plan should focus on, but is not limited to:

- Develop a pathway for protection of agricultural land at risk of conversion to nonagricultural uses through a review of why and to what extent agricultural land is being converted to other uses.
- Identify how to support agricultural land conservation and what economic, environmental, and public health co-benefits arise from conservation.
- Analyze the existing agricultural land base and its function in the regional food system.

- Recognize and protect environmental co-benefits of conserving agricultural lands and analyze how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Identify the benefit of agricultural land for priority populations such as beginning or Veteran farmers and ranchers; residents of disadvantaged or low-income communities; or California Native American Tribes.

Comments:

This Strategic Plan for Agriculture needs to be created and applied to SEDA before SEDA is approved and 6,741 acres of farmland are destroyed in SEDA. According to the Plan Area in the RDEIR there is approximately 2,475 acres of Prime Farmland, approximately 1,352 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, approximately 1,189 acres of Farmland of Local Importance, and approximately 1,725 ares of Unique Farmland. Further, the majority of land under Williamson Act Contract in the City and SOI is located in the Plan Area.

The destruction of farmland in SEDA would be significant and non reversible once it occurs. Agricultural Resources Impacts are Not Sufficiently Mitigated. Farmland must be protected and SEDA must account for farmland preservation.

The West Neighborhoods Specific Plan is to be considered for adoption by the Fresno City Council in Summer 2025. The West Neighborhoods Specific Plan encompasses approximately 7,077 acres in the City of Fresno city limits and unincorporated Fresno County. 62.7% of the plan area is already in City of Fresno city limits. Only 37.3% is in unincorporated Fresno County. Acreage of land zoned AL20: Limited Agriculture is 226.26 acres, acreage of land zoned AE20: Exclusive Agriculture is 66.68 acres, for a total of 292.94 acres. 9.96% of the 2,940 acres that is in the unincorporated area of Fresno County and only 4.17% of the total plan acreage of 7,077 acres. Contrast that to SEDA's 6,741 acres of farmland which is 76.60% of SEDA's total plan acreage of 8,800 acres.

The City of Fresno would be better served and farmland preserved by prioritizing the development of the West Neighborhoods Specific Plan. As stated earlier 62.7% of the plan area is already in the City of Fresno city limits and it also has City of Fresno infrastructure already in place.

3.3 Air Quality

Impact AIR-1: The proposed project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

Significant and unavoidable impact.

Impact AIR-2: The proposed project would 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.

Significant and unavoidable impact.
Impact AIR-3: The proposed project would expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Significant and unavoidable impact.
Impact AIR-4: The proposed project could result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

Cumulative Impact: The proposed project would have significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts to air quality.

Significant and unavoidable impact.

Comments:

Rankings by American Lung Association rank the air of Fresno-Madera-Hanford area as follows:

Ranked 4th worst for high ozone days out of 228 metropolitan areas.
Ranked 2nd worst for 24-hour particle pollution out of 223 metropolitan areas.
Ranked 3rd worst for annual particle pollution out of 204 metropolitan areas.

The metropolitan areas are from across the United States.

Air quality is a major problem and concern in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley.

There are serious health and environmental consequences that are not being addressed and need to be addressed in the RDEIR.

3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

From Recirculated Draft EIR Executive Summary Matrix:

Impact GHG-1: The proposed project would not generate direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions, **and these emissions would result in a significant impact on the environment.**

Impact GHG-2: The proposed project **would not conflict** with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Mitigation Measures:
None Required

Level of Significance After Mitigation:
N/A

Cumulative Impact: The proposed project **would have a less than significant cumulative impact on greenhouse gas emissions.**
Mitigation Measures:
None required

Level of Significance after Mitigation:
N/A

From Recirculated Draft Program EIR: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Page 3.8-41
3.8.5 - Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact GHG-1: The proposed project could generate direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions, **and these emissions would result in a significant impact on the environment.**

Impact GHG-2: The proposed project **could conflict** with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Page 3.8-57
3.8.6 - Cumulative Impacts

The geographic scope of the cumulative impact analysis for energy use is the Plan Area and portions of the City of Fresno, City of Clovis, and unincorporated Fresno County adjacent to the Plan Area. This analysis evaluates whether impacts of the proposed project, together with impacts of cumulative development, would result in a cumulatively significant impact with respect to GHG emissions. This analysis then considers whether incremental contribution of the impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project would be significant. Both conditions must apply for cumulative effects to rise to the level of significance. **Based on this analysis, there is a potentially significant cumulative effect resulting from the proposed project.**

As previously discussed, no single land use project could generate enough GHG emissions to noticeably change the global average temperature. **Cumulative GHG emissions, however, contribute to global climate change and its significant adverse environmental impacts.**

The proposed project would be consistent with relevant plans, policies, and regulations associated with GHGs, notably the most recent version 2022 version of ARB's Scoping Plan, as well as the SJCOG's 2022 RTP/SCS and the City's General Plan. The proposed project would not impede upon the State's ability to reach mandated GHG reduction targets in the future and will support State-level efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Therefore, development of the proposed project would have a less than significant cumulative impact relative to this environmental topic. In addition, the implementation of MM AIR-1b, MM AIR-1c, and MM AIR-1d would serve to further reduce GHG emissions along with criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants. **Accordingly, impacts related to GHG emissions would result in a less than cumulatively considerable contribution.**

Level of Cumulative Significance Before Mitigation:
Less than significant impact.

Cumulative Mitigation Measures:

None required.

From the 2023 Draft EIR Executive Summary Matrix:

Impact GHG-1: The proposed project would generate direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions, **and these emissions would result in a significant impact on the environment.**

Mitigation Measures:
No feasible mitigation available.

Level of Significance After Mitigation:
Significant and unavoidable impact.

Impact GHG-2: The proposed project would conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Mitigation Measures:
No feasible mitigation available.

Level of Significance After Mitigation:
Significant and unavoidable impact.

Cumulative Impact: The project would have a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

Mitigation Measures:
None available.

Level of Significance After Mitigation:
Significant and unavoidable impact.

Comments:

The RDEIR seems to be inconsistent regarding the findings of **Impact GHG-1** and **Impact GHG-2.** Seems to be differing conclusions between the Recirculated Draft EIR Executive Summary Matrix and the Recirculated Draft Program EIR.

The 2023 Draft EIR concluded the level of significance was significant and unavoidable with no feasible mitigation available.

Was the data altered or different standards used for the 2023 Draft EIR and the 2025 Recirculated Draft EIR?

Common sense says the Level of Significance of Greenhouse Gas Emissions didn't go away since the 2023 Draft EIR and are still significant and have an unavoidable impact and need to be addressed.

3.14 Population and Housing

Page 1E-2-11 of the Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element / December 2024:

Sites Inventory

State law requires that jurisdictions demonstrate in the Housing Element that the land inventory is adequate □□to accommodate that jurisdiction's share of the region's projected growth□□□□□□□□□□□ (RHNA).

Fresno has many vacant residential development opportunities along with underutilized non-vacant sites with redevelopment potential with sufficient capacity to meet and exceed the identified housing need for 2023- 2031**.** The detailed sites inventory is contained in Section 1E-7 (Detailed Sites Inventory Tables), **Table 1E- 7.1** and **Table 1E-7.2**. The opportunities shown in this inventory consist of vacant and non-vacant land in residential, mixed-use sites, and commercial districts that allow residential development. No identified constraints on these sites would prevent development or reuse during the Housing Element period.

Page 1E-2-70 of the Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element / December 2024:

RHNA Summary

Table 1E-2.15 provides a summary of Fresno'□□□□□□s ability to meet the 2023-2031 RHNA of 36,866 housing units. Within the city limits, available vacant and underutilized sites are adequate to accommodate the RHNA for all income categories. The city has capacity for 18,783 lower-income units, which is 3,459 lower-income units in excess of the lower-income RHNA.

Comments:

The Sites Inventory states Fresno has sufficient capacity to meet and exceed the identified housing need for 2023-203. The RHNA Summary shows there is a surplus of 6,834 units for all income levels.

In 2023 the City of Fresno announced the state's $250 million state fund to upgrade the city's downtown. In a Fresnoland article dated May 12, 2023, Mayor Jerry Dyer announced the funding would include $80 million for infrastructure investments that promote building more housing and revitalizing neighborhoods. Mayor Dyer was quoted saying, "The city's goal is to accelerate the building of 10,000 new homes downtown. Great cities, have great downtowns. We can't be a great city, without a great downtown."

Resolution No 2023-292 was passed on November 16, 2023 by the Fresno CIty Council accepting the State funding of $250 million to the City of Fresno

The West Neighborhoods Specific Plan is to be considered for adoption by the Fresno City Council in Summer 2025. The plan has estimated 50,800 new housing units consisting of 28,700 mixed use dwelling units and 22,100 residential dwelling units. The West Neighborhoods Specific Plan encompasses approximately 7,077 acres in the City of Fresno city limits and unincorporated Fresno County. 62.7% of the plan area is already in City of Fresno city limits. Only 37.3% is in unincorporated Fresno County.

The citizens of Fresno and Fresno County would be better served by investing in the city limits of Fresno before they look to annexing 8,800 acres of land in unincorporated Fresno County into the City of Fresno.

5.2 - Project Objectives

Fiscal Responsibility

- Provide self-financing for the development and on going maintenance of the SEDA that does not reduce City of Fresno resources dedicated to other areas of the City or burden Fresno residents outside of the SEDA.

Comments:

Until the analysis of infrastructure costs and funding are released to the public, the RDEIR is not complete. Public officials are unable to make an informed decision on the economic costs of the SEDA and the public is unable to comment before the close of the comment period. Estimates for infrastructure costs are upwards of $3-$4 billion dollars.

A public records request was made for the infrastructure costs on March 4, 2025. As of March 21, 2025 the documents have not been released. Fresnoland reporter Gregory Weaver in a March 3, 2025 article reported “Officials have yet to publicly disclose a cost estimate, despite consultants delivering one to City Manager Georgeanne White last December.”

Until the cost estimate is released and the public is able to make comments the comment period for the RDEIR should be extended 30 days from the release of the cost estimate of infrastructure to the public.

As reported in a Fresnoland article dated February 21, 2025, the City of Fresno is facing a projected budget deficit of at least $20 million. One potential strategy could be raising taxes on Fresno residents.

Officials with the Sanger School District have estimated Sanger would need to add 16 schools to handle the anticipated school age population. Money that they say they don’t have.

SEDA will also put an enormous financial burden on property owners of parcels zoned Rural Residential or Rural Cluster Residential for mandatory sewer and water connections required by the City of Fresno. Minimum estimates are $50,000 for sewer connection and $50,000 for water connection.
Fiscal responsibility of SEDA cannot be determined until the costs and funding of SEDA is released. Without that information the RDEIR is incomplete and the City of Fresno approval of the RDEIR should not even be considered.

Your consideration of the comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sandberg
SEDA area property owner
Member Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

cc:
District 1: Annalisa Perea: annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
District 2: Mike Karbassi: mike.karbassi@fresno.gov
District 3: Miguel Arias: miguel.arias@fresno.gov
District 4: Tyler Maxwell: tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
District 5: Special Election on March 18th
District 6: Nick Richardson: nick.richardson@fresno.gov
District 7: Nelson Esparza: nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
City Clerk: Todd Stermer: todd.stermer@fresno.gov
Mayor Jerry Dyer: jerry.dyer@fresno.gov

From: Connie Enns-Rempel
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: SEDA
Date: Saturday, March 22, 2025 9:19:39 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello! My name is Connie Enns-Rempel, and I have lived in the downtown Fresno area for over 50 years. I live in this area by choice, as I love the community, and I also love the larger city of Fresno. I am concerned that once again the city is spending its focus on expansion through housing developments rather than tending to the areas that are already established. We need our resources to go toward the care of the areas that already exist, to repair roads and sidewalks, tend to the street and freeway medians that are often neglected and littered up, clean up graffiti, repair lights, pay for fire and police. There are empty lots that could be filled in. There is much to be done to care for what we have. Please invest resources into tending to the wonderful but neglected areas of our beloved city, rather than once again add to the sprawl.
Thank you for your consideration.
My business phone number is [redacted]
Sincerely,
Connie Enns-Rempel

SEDA states that the plan intends to incorporate small scale agricultural operations to honor the heritage of the area. The plan neglects to mention the degradation of already existing agricultural land. SEDA's proposed project area crosses both North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Central Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) boundaries. (SEDA Draft Specific Plan & CA.Gov, 2025) Both of these GSAs are required by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) to implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs). The potential projects included in these plans are: incentivizing lower water use, constructing groundwater recharge facilities, improving pre-existing irrigation infrastructure, fallowing agricultural land for reduced water use, constructing habitat, etc. In order to fund these projects, DWR has awarded 139.5 million dollars to GSP development, implementation, modification, etc. The DWR has also allotted 176.5 million dollars to critically overdrafted basins specifically, which require a great deal more planning and work to reach groundwater sustainability goals, also for GSP implementation (CA.GOV, 2025) . This may sound like a large sum of money awarded to GSAs, but with over 260 GSAs (CA.GOV, 2025), this money disappears quickly.

In order to cover costs for GSP implementation, GSAs have the authority to hold Proposition 218 votes. These votes are usually based on acreage ownership and result in an increase in the local tax to be invested in the GSPs planned projects (lao.ca.gov, 1996). While Proposition 218 fees are required to be charged proportionally to the cost of services provided, this still goes against the benefits listed in the SEDA plan. New, lower-income residents would be required to contribute to the City of Fresno GSA assessment fees, with this being added as a property tax (if they own the property). If they do not, the owner of said property must cover the fees and will most likely charge the residents a higher rent in order to cover the disparity. Despite SEDA proposing that the new developments are intended to help new owners move into their own spaces, it does not seem that the negative effects SGMA requirements have on lower income/younger families has been discussed.

The SEDA plan also lists that the preservation of agriculture and farms is a high priority of theirs. However, the plan removes large swaths of land that would be contributing to both Central Kings and North Kings GSA Proposition 218 fees as well as irrigation fees (which do not require a Proposition 218 vote to be implemented). This increases the associated costs for all farms in their respective GSAs, but the smaller family farms suffer severely. An example of a sudden fee increase is Chowchilla Water District's recent fee increase to cover expenses related to the GSP projects they are responsible for in their section of the Chowchilla Subbasin. The district went from charging water users $110 an acre-foot to $165 an acre-foot for irrigation water. This means a small operation could have a sudden 1.5x increase in their payments for water services alone, with a much

larger potential for a higher fee if there is less farmland to account for the charge. This does not account for the potential increase resulting from a Proposition 218 vote, which could be held in an attempt to raise funds for projects and potential result in farmers paying two “separate” entities at the same time for the same service.

I highly discourage the development of a new part of Fresno, specifically one that removes farmland from operation and puts unnecessary financial strain on residential areas intended to benefit from it.

Thank you, and I urge a reconsideration of how to best manage Fresno’s need for integrated/affordable housing.

Erik Rodriguez

Citation:

California, S. of. (n.d.-a). *Groundwater Sustainability Agencies*. Department of Water Resources. https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainable-Agencies#:~:text=SGMA%20required%20Groundwater%20Sustainability%20Agencies,by%20SGMA’s%20initial%20planning%20milestone

California, S. of. (n.d.-b). *Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program*. Department of Water Resources. https://water.ca.gov/work-with-us/grants-and-loans/sustainable-groundwater

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) portal - Department of Water Resources. (n.d.). https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gasmaster&rz=true

Understanding proposition 218. (n.d.). https://lao.ca.gov/1996/120196_prop_218/understanding_prop218_1296.html

From:	Linda Foster
To:	LongRangePlanning
Subject:	Concerns About the SEDA Recirculated EIR
Date:	Sunday, March 23, 2025 11:59:55 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos.

Subject: I am Concerned about SEDA.

I do not believe that Fresno needs to rip up farmland in the southeast Fresno area to build more expensive, single family homes.

FRESNO'S REAL NEEDS

Invest in Fresno's Existing Communities.

What Fresno severely needs, is for truly affordable housing to be developed in already existing neighborhoods. Not more huge, single family houses built in the boondocks.

AFFORDABILITY

$400,000.00 is not affordable to people making $15.00 an hour. We need housing for waiters, care providers, shop clerks, and other regular people living here. Housing for the people who keep things running and working.

3.17 - TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

What we really need is housing that is small, centrally located, easy to maintain, and located on bus routes. We need single and multi-family housing that is reasonably priced, safe, well built, environmentally conscious, near shopping, jobs, and other services.

IDEAS

Convert older homes, vacant big box stores, Manchester Center, vacant lots, and go up, not out to the farmland. Small to moderate multiple unit, multiple story buildings. Tuck them in everywhere . Convert, repurpose, rethink, reuse, reinvent.

3.3.4 - AIR QUALITY ISSUES

Our air quality will suffer from all the extra miles driven by residents commuting from this former farmland. On top of the effects of destroying the farmland and losing the cleaner air from that area.

This is not a viable idea. It does not solve the actual housing issues we have here in Fresno. It will just add even worse issues and ramp up inequality.

Submitted by:

Linda Foster
[redacted]

City of Fresno District 2

[redacted]

From: Bette.francis41@gmail.com
To: LongRangePlanning
Cc: Nick Richardson
Subject: Concerns about the SEDA Recirculated EIR
Date: Friday, March 21, 2025 7:07:22 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Friday, March 21, 2025

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos:

I am writing to express my concerns about the SEDA Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (EIR). These are some of the areas that alarm me:

Section 4-2: Growth-Induced Impacts
While the SEDA plan estimates that the population of Fresno will increase by 226,000 people by 2035, the most recent data from the State of California Department of Finance estimates a much smaller growth, 72,000 by 2035 and an additional 19,000 by 2070! The commitment to transform this agricultural land to an entirely new suburb could be a financial disaster for the City.

Section 3.3.4 Air Quality
Fresno already has some of the worst air quality in the U.S. The SEDA plan admits it will increase the levels of pollution. Knowing that, why would you pursue this development?

Section 3.17 Transportation and Traffic
The report claims that the residents of this new suburb of Fresno, larger than the current population of Clovis, will drive only 5 miles per day. Experts estimate that is 80% less than what they will drive. It is inconceivable that the adult residents of this new suburb, possibly 70,000 people, will find employment within a 2-1/2 mile radius of their new home. And that does not even account for travel for shopping and leisure activities!

I live near the Herndon/Cedar intersection. There are cars zooming everywhere, nearly 24 hours a day, in this Northeast quadrant of Fresno. I can't believe your EIR is correct about how those new homeowners will hunker down in their new community. Fresno would be much better positioned as a desirable place to live if the City Council would energize itself around creating a 21st-century downtown. I cannot think of a major city in California that makes a worse impression than Fresno's downtown does. That is the heart of the City. There are so many things the City Council can do to make Fresnoans proud. SEDA will take money from all those necessary investments.

Sincerely,
Bette Blythe Francis
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

To: longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

With copy to:

Annalisa Perea: annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
Mike Karbassi: mike.karbassi@fresno.gov
Miguel Arias: miguel.arias@fresno.gov
Tyler Maxwell: tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
Nick Richardson: nick.richardson@fresno.gov
Nelson Esparza: nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
Todd Stermer: todd.stermer@fresno.gov

Date: March 24, 2025

Re: Draft Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California (the "EIR") and SEDA Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Draft (the "SEDA Plan")

Dear Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager, Planning and Development Department, City of Fresno:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in reference to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the proposed implementation of the South East Development Area (SEDA) Plan. After a thorough review of the documentation, I have several concerns and questions regarding the rationale, feasibility, financial implications, environmental impact, and long-term effects on both the residents within the proposed development area and the broader Fresno community.

Housing vs. Employment Disparity

According to the EIR (Section ES-2, Quantified Objectives), the SEDA Plan intends to accommodate between 40,000 to 45,000 new dwelling units while only planning for the creation of approximately 30,000 to 37,000 jobs (Chapters 3.14 and 2.3, respectively). This raises a serious concern: What is the justification for building significantly more housing units than there are jobs to support future residents? Without adequate local employment opportunities, how are prospective homeowners expected to afford living in the area? What mechanisms will the City of Fresno implement to ensure this imbalance does not lead to increased economic instability, traffic congestion, or further strain on regional resources?

Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency

The EIR claims that the SEDA Plan will be self-financing and will not detract from existing citywide resources, nor place a financial burden on residents outside the project area (Section ES-2, Fiscal Responsibility). However, the actual cost of the SEDA Plan and details surrounding its financing structure are conspicuously absent from both the EIR and the Plan itself. What is the projected total cost of the SEDA Plan? What mechanisms constitute this "self-financing," and how reliable are they? If outside residents are not expected to shoulder the financial burden, does this mean those within the SEDA area will? If so, how much will taxes increase for SEDA residents? Without full transparency, the claim of fiscal responsibility remains unsubstantiated.

Neglected Alternatives: Adaptive Reuse of Existing Infrastructure

Chapters 3.11 and 3.18, and again on ES-2, fail to consider the potential cost savings and sustainability benefits of adaptive reuse and renovation of existing structures. Adaptive reuse is widely known to be more cost-effective than large-scale new developments and would reduce the need for expensive new infrastructure such as roads, water, sewer, and power lines. Why has the City of Fresno not prioritized this option as a viable alternative?

Contradictory Emissions Claims and Health Risks

The EIR (Section ES-2, Social Equity; Chapter 3.8) claims that the SEDA Plan will promote health by reducing harmful emissions. However, this fails to address the substantial environmental and health impacts during the construction phase. The use of heavy machinery and diesel-powered equipment will release hazardous pollutants into the air and soil. What specific steps will be taken to mitigate this impact during construction? How will the city protect the health of current and future residents, workers, and wildlife from prolonged exposure to fine particulate matter, diesel exhaust, and other toxic emissions known to increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness, and cancer?

Loss of Agricultural Resources and Williamson Act Violations

Section ES-5 (Impact AG-2; Chapter 3.2) outlines that the SEDA Plan will convert land currently under the Williamson Act into non-agricultural uses without any mitigation measures. This directly contradicts the Act's intended purpose. Has the City calculated the monetary penalties—potentially up to 25% of the market value of the land and 25% of the value of incompatible improvements? How will these penalties be paid, and will they fall on SEDA residents in the form of higher taxes? Why does the plan ignore the irreversible damage caused by eliminating thousands of acres of prime farmland when more sustainable, infill development options are available?

Water Resources and Infrastructure Concerns

Chapter 3.10 (Hydrology and Water Quality) presents no clear financial plan or resource management strategy for the enormous water requirements this project will demand. What is the projected budget for developing adequate stormwater systems, adjusting drainage patterns, and capturing runoff? Most importantly, where will the City of Fresno source the millions of gallons

of water needed to build and maintain 40,000–45,000 homes in a region already experiencing water scarcity?

Transportation and Transit Infrastructure

On page 2-18 and within Chapter 3.17 (Transportation and Traffic), the EIR mentions plans for "high-quality transit service," yet there are no specifics on implementation, budget, timeline, or environmental impact. How will such transit systems be funded? Where is the corresponding environmental review? Without concrete details, these claims appear speculative and do not justify proceeding with such a large-scale development.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Chapter 3.15 (Public Services) does not adequately address how the city plans to expand and fund critical emergency services—including police, fire, and medical response—to meet the demands of a significantly larger population and expanded infrastructure. How will Fresno ensure not just the maintenance but the improvement of emergency response times and safety outcomes? What is the budget, hiring plan, and timeline for scaling up these essential services?

Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability

Given the scale and stakes of the SEDA Plan, transparency is non-negotiable. I ask directly: how much money or other benefits—financial or otherwise—are City of Fresno officials, developers, contractors, or consultants receiving in connection to this project? Taxpayers deserve to know whether public decisions are being influenced by private gain.

Environmental and Health Impacts from Hazardous Materials

Chapter 3.9 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) raises yet another serious concern. What measures will be taken to prevent accidental releases of toxic substances during construction and operation phases? What is the City's mitigation plan to address the increased burden on landfills due to construction waste?

Permanent Loss of Prime Farmland

As stated in Chapter 3.2, the proposed development will irreversibly convert essential farmland into non-agricultural uses. No meaningful mitigation efforts are outlined. Why is Fresno choosing to sacrifice its agricultural heritage and economic base rather than explore higher-density urban infill options? How does the city reconcile this with its commitment to sustainability and food security?

Air Quality Degradation

According to Chapter 3.3, the SEDA Plan will generate pollutant levels that exceed the thresholds established by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. This is particularly troubling considering the region's long history of fighting air pollution. After

decades of progress, we now enjoy improved visibility and cleaner air—yet this plan threatens to undo all of that. What is the City's plan to mitigate the increase in particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and diesel exhaust—pollutants known to cause asthma, lung disease, and cancer?

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Commuting Realities

While the SEDA Plan emphasizes its goal to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), it paradoxically proposes 40,000–45,000 housing units but only 37,000 local jobs (referencing Chapters 3.14 and 3.17). This means thousands of residents will be forced to commute outside the area for work—driving more, not less. With companies increasingly requiring employees to return to the office, this discrepancy will likely increase VMT, vehicle emissions, and health issues tied to prolonged traffic exposure. How does the City intend to square this contradiction?

Conclusion

These questions and concerns merely scratch the surface of the numerous inconsistencies, oversights, and gaps in the SEDA Plan and EIR. Despite years of planning, it remains unclear how this project serves the best interest of the community at large. There are more equitable, sustainable, and fiscally responsible alternatives that would benefit all residents—not just elected officials, developers, and contractors. It is imperative that the City of Fresno halt approval of the SEDA Plan until it can offer clear, transparent, and comprehensive answers to these concerns.

Sincerely,

Joe Gamradt

[redacted]

[redacted]

From:	Gerry Bill
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Nelson Esparza
Subject:	SEDA Recirculated EIR
Date:	Sunday, March 23, 2025 7:43:30 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

March 23, 2025

From:

Gerald Bill
[redacted]

To:

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Attn: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

Subject: SEDA Recirculated EIR

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

I am deeply troubled by the way the recirculated EIR for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) is being handled, and specifically with some of the provisions contained within it.

Section 3.17 Transportation & Traffic

There is a claim in EIR Section 3.17 that by 2035, people living in SEDA would, on average, drive only five miles per day. That seems way off base, and is clearly an overly-optimistic projection. The SEDA development will not resemble a place like New York City, with an extensive subway system connecting all parts of the city. Realistically, in the SEDA, people are going to drive, not walk, and go to various locations in the city proper, not limited to the development area. The wildly exaggerated claim about how few miles people are likely to drive undermines the credibility of the report, which appears to be based on excessively rosy assumptions designed to hide the true negative impacts of the SEDA project.

Section 3.3.4 Air Quality

The huge increase in miles driven will further pollute the air. We live in one of the three worst areas of the state for dirty air, and the SEDA project is going to make our air even worse. There is no way around that if such a large number of households is added to our city in outlying areas. This sort of urban sprawl development will produce far more air pollution than would alternatives based on infill, rather than sprawl. Worsening our air in this way will be harmful to people's health, and it is not necessary.

Section 4-2 Growth-Induced Impacts

One reason the SEDA project is not necessary is that it is based on false assumptions about the likely population growth. The growth projection it uses, 226,000 population growth by 2035, is roughly three times higher than the newest projections from the California Department of Finance. Again, the SEDA

project is trying to cherry-pick its numbers to try to justify the plan, even if better population projections are now available. Again, this undermines the credibility of the plan, and puts misleading figures into the EIR.

There are Better Ways to Use City Resources to Plan for the Future

I have many other objections to the Draft Recirculated EIR for the SEDA project, including its failure to adequately address its impact on existing Fresno neighborhoods. The SEDA plan fails to address the financing of the infrastructure for the SEDA. With no financing plan in place, the massive cost of infrastructure for SEDA is likely to drain resources from existing neighborhoods in the City that will be needed for infrastructure maintenance, repair and improvements in those neighborhoods. I live in the area sometimes described as the Greater Tower District, bordering on Old Fig Garden. Public transit in my area is poor. I need to walk approximately half a mile to the closest bus stop. There are many streets in the area without curbs and gutters, leaving storm water to collect and partially cover some of the streets near me. Just two blocks from me, within the City Limits, there is a street that floods after every heavy rainstorm, and it is not possible to walk down that street without walking through water and getting one's feet wet (there are no curbs, gutters or sidewalks on that street). There are many other places in the City where this is going on. If SEDA is adopted, it is likely that City money will go there, instead of to improvements in City infrastructure in existing neighborhoods. It would be much better to improve infrastructure in existing neighborhoods and create more infill housing than to divert our precious resources to SEDA.

Sincerely,

Gerald Bill



March 23, 2025

City of Fresno
Long Range Planning
longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Re: Southeast Development Area Specific Plan

Dear City of Fresno Planning,

My name is Rebecca Gottselig and I am a resident of Fresno District 5. I am writing to you rather than my council member as my district does not currently have a representative. I would appreciate your time in answering some questions I have pertaining to the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan ("SEDA"). While I, like most people, am concerned with how SEDA while impact the quality of life in my own neighborhood, I also am writing with concern for the long-term health of Fresno as a whole. I have lived, worked, and been educated in many parts of Fresno and am hopeful none of our city will be negatively impacted by SEDA.

The main question I hope can be answered: **Is SEDA an economically viable plan for the City of Fresno ("COF")?**

For the developers, SEDA will undoubtedly be profitable. But what will SEDA cost COF, and can it be afforded without diminishing current services or raising taxes? If so, what information can be provided in support of that assertion?

There are established neighborhoods throughout Fresno with existing infrastructure needs. Will COF be able to address the present and forthcoming needs of existing infrastructure while also funding the infrastructure needed for SEDA? For example, in my own neighborhood, we have huge trees that provide beauty and shade for residents and visitors alike. The majority of these trees are in COF easements and ultimately the responsibility of COF. Many of the trees are aging and in need of regular maintenance or replacement that they don't receive. Multiple of these trees are in front of my own property. The loss of these trees would be a huge detriment to my own longstanding neighborhood in Fresno if infrastructure funds are diverted from current projects, or currently needed projects, to SEDA. These trees are lush, shade-giving, air-cleaning beauties – which are a huge asset COF possesses. These assets should be properly stewarded. If that can be done while also adding new infrastructure with SEDA – wonderful! But it would be a shame to have these assets deteriorate because COF can't fund both existing infrastructure and new, SEDA infrastructure. The same should be considered for all neighborhoods in Fresno: will SEDA financially require COF to neglect current assets in favor of newer prospects?

Apart from physical infrastructure, will COF be able to afford the cost SEDA requires for first responders without loss of services to existing COF residents? I am so grateful for the Fresno Police Department ("FPD") and all they do to serve our community. I regularly call FPD to report non-emergency issues. Last year I called FPD with concern of someone who rang my doorbell at 4:00am. It quickly became apparent the individual was on drugs or mentally unstable.

While the issue didn't present immediate threat to my life, it could have quickly turned unsafe. I waited for over an hour to have an officer dispatched to my home to address the situation. All the while my children were asleep inside with a potentially harmful stranger on my property. Thankfully this issue was resolved by FPD without harm to any party. However, I don't desire to live through the stress of that situation again, potentially for an even greater period of time, should the addition of SEDA overextend FPD resources.

Ultimately, I support growing our city if warranted, providing infrastructure to allow for that growth, and seeing economic returns for all involved in the process. However, I don't think that should be done at the expense of already existing neighborhoods and residents. If SEDA is not economically viable for COF, what alternatives can be proposed? For example, are SEDA developers open to discuss cost sharing with COF for the infrastructure needed that is above and beyond the capital deposit already being required?

I hope this question has already been thoroughly researched and thought through for those considering approving SEDA. And truly, I hope the answer is a clear "Yes, COF can afford SEDA without deferring funds from existing neighborhoods." With that, I will look forward to an exciting, profitable, new development that can create interest, health, and prosperity for our city. However, if answers are not available or clear, please consider postponing approval of SEDA until adequate answers can be available for all those affected by this huge decision.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Gottselig
[redacted]

From:	service@grossmayer.net
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Luis Chavez; Garry Bredefeld; Nelson Esparza; todd.stermer@freno.gov; district1@fresnocountyca.gov; district2@fresnocountyca.gov; salquinterro@frresnocountyca.gov; district3@fresnocountyca.gov; district5@fresnocountyca.gov; clerkbos@fresnocountyca.gov; aolivas@fresnocountyca.gov; Mayor; Adrienne Asadoorian
Subject:	In opposition to SEDA. EIR comments.
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 12:01:57 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I. Quantified Objectives es-2.

A. The first objective documented by the SEDA-EIR is to **"accommodate between 40,000 and 45,000 dwelling units".** Between 2021 and 2023 he population of the State of California declined by close to 1 million people. Although California's population grew slightly in 2024, the overall trend since 2019 has been downward. The slight increase in 2024 was attributed to "increased international immigration" which may not continue. The downward population decline was not forecasted. According to a June 2023 LA Times survey, 40% of the people in California are seriously considering leaving. While SEDA's plans assumed 1.5% annual population growth, the California Department of Finance now projects Fresno County will grow by just 0.18% annually over the next 50 years — a difference that fundamentally erodes the project's key assumption. The EIR and SEDA plan have failed to recognize the quickly changing current population statistics and need to be reconsidered in light of the potential for this trend to continue.

1. Have you accounted for an un-forecasted decline or flat population for Fresno per recent California Department of Finance projections?
2. What are the taxpayer and environmental costs of annexation on the key elements of the SEDA plan if Fresno's population declines or stays flat along with current California trend?
3. If Fresno's population does decline or stays flat, would this annexation still make sense?
    a. Would you allow massive housing development without the new people to fill it?
    b. Would it result in people abandoning city apartments for new housing?
    c. Might this cause Fresno home resale values to plummet and the inner city to crumble?
    d. Could it result in abandoned housing projects spoiling our prime agricultural land....Like the old Running Horse project?
4. What alternatives like city infill have you considered should the population trend continue?
5. Would it be wiser to invest Fresno's limited resources to improve infrastructure inside the current city limits instead of promoting this urban sprawl; potentially without the

population to support it?

6. Would it make better sense to postpone this plan for a few years to understand if the current population trends will continue?

Given the uncertainty about California's declining population trend, a massive city expansion via annexation is too risky. Ignoring this possibility and continuing with outdated population assumptions is simply irresponsible. It has the potential for a huge wasted investment that only benefits a few real estate developers at the expense of prime agricultural land, county property owners and residents, and the people of the City Fresno.

B. A second objective noted in the EIR and the SEDA Plan is also under the Quantified Objectives section. It is to **"Accommodate between 30,000 and 37,000 jobs".** There are currently 643 properties including offices, retail, and industrial spaces available for sale or lease in Fresno County. There are 8,400 available, vacant acres within the Fresno City limits. The Caesar Chavez corridor features vacancy rates of 25 to 30% while Downtown Fresno is becoming a Ghost Town.

   1. What is the actual plan to create these alleged new jobs?
   2. If the city believes that simply annexing land and expanding Fresno's boundaries can attract new businesses that employ tens of thousands of people, why can't they wave that same magic wand and provide the incentives to bring businesses to areas of Fresno where there are vacant business properties and unemployed city residents who can immediately begin work….without any new infrastructure or land. Why not focus on fixing Fresno's declining downtown and corridors of vacant businesses?
   3. Noted economist Tim Bartik, a senior economist and researcher at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research points out that "few Americans work in the neighborhood they live in". **Yet the SEDA EIR (3.3.4 - Impact Analysis, Mitigation Measures, and Level of Significance)** assumes "policies that promote active transit, clean air measures, and support the reduction in average vehicle trip distances, which contribute to reducing overall per capita VMT in the region". Isn't it equally likely that the businesses that locate in the SEDA area will cause longer 'average vehicle trip distances? Many would move to the SEDA area for low-cost housing and have to drive further to work in the city. Many others would live in the city and be forced to drive longer distances to work in the SEDA area. Assumptions made in terms of reduction of 'average vehicle trip distance' are clearly wrong.

Given the wild assumption of the ability to create tens of thousands of new jobs, the City of Fresno and its residents would be better served simply creating those jobs within the current confines of the city limits. Clean up downtown and declining business corridors and incentivize businesses to locate there instead of trying to expand and ignore the blight. Urban sprawl is not the solution to urban decay.

II. Fiscal Responsibility:es-2.

C. A third objective noted in the EIR and SEDA plan is to make the SEDA project "self-financed for the development and ongoing maintenance of the SEDA that does not reduce City of Fresno resources dedicated to other areas of the City or burden Fresno residents outside of the SEDA". It is important to note that After close to 20 years the City of Fresno has looked at growing to the South East, there is still no published City Infrastructure Cost Estimate, Financial Feasibility Study or Financing Strategy.

1. Fiscal Responsibility is touted as a key objective of the SEDA plan and is included as a part of the EIR. It has been reported that much of the infrastructure cost information was available in December 2024, yet it has been withheld from public view. FOIA requests have been made regarding the cost estimates yet they are delayed until after the comment period on the EIR. How can concerned citizens comment on the 'fiscal responsibility' of the SEDA plan if the costs have been hidden from public view?
2. Once the costs and financing strategy are officially published by the City of Fresno, will that information be included in the SEDA plan and the EIR comments re-opened to allow citizen comments?
3. How is it fiscally responsible to require current county residents to connect to city water and sewer at a potential cost of over $100,000? Shouldn't the City or the developers pay for that?
4. As the City of Fresno struggles to find cuts for their 20-million-dollar budget deficit, why continue this project that some estimate will require investments of 1-2 billion dollars… but we really don't know what it will cost.

Given the fact that cost estimates have been kept from public view, it's not only irresponsible but just wrong to proceed with approval of the EIN that touts Fiscal Responsibility as a key objective.

Summary

Any plan is only as good as the assumptions that underpin its objectives. The objectives for SEDA as stated in the revised EIR are based on faulty or unproven assumptions such as:

1. Target housing levels of 40000-45000 units is based on incorrect estimates of population growth.
2. Adding 30,000 to 37,000 jobs is unrealistic and locating those jobs far from the current city limits will not reduce average vehicle trip distances.
3. The project cannot be considered fiscally responsible without actually providing any cost estimates, financial feasibility study or financing strategy.

Therefore, the SEDA plan and EIR are based on assumptions that are wrong or unproven and that undermine the viability of the project. Instead of spending more money on the dreams of local home builders, it's time to reject the EIR, stop the SEDA project, focus on infilling within

the current city boundaries and fix the real problems of the city.

Virtually every resident and property owner in the SEDA area is against the plan. Maybe it's time to put the SEDA plan to a county-wide vote to see what the voters really think.

Alan Cederquist
[redacted]

From:	service@grossmayer.net
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Luis Chavez; Garry Bredefeld; Nelson Esparza; todd.stermer@freno.gov; district1@fresnocountyca.gov; district2@fresnocountyca.gov; salquinterro@frresnocountyca.gov; district3@fresnocountyca.gov; district5@fresnocountyca.gov; clerkbos@fresnocountyca.gov; aolivas@fresnocountyca.gov; Mayor; Adrienne Asadoorian
Subject:	Comment on the EIR Report of the SEDA (South East Development Area) Plan Comments
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 11:45:31 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

1. **Groundwater Supplies**

The majority of residents of the defined 9,000+ acres have their own sufficient water access via personal pumps: both residential and agricultural

--The EIR suggests that it will not approve any development plans until additional water capacity is provided through "…improvements…" in accordance with the City. I need to know who is going to pay for these improvements, what they may entail, if present residents can maintain their current water access and if not, who will subsidize the ENTIRE costs of upgrading or changing to city requirements.

2. **Light, Glare, Noise, Fire**

Presently, the proposed areas enjoy a less blatant exposure to the negative city atmosphere of street lights that permeate homes, glare that obliterates the evening skies, and incredible noise from hundreds and hundreds of homes, vehicles and properties that inevitably create excessive incursion into others private properties that will create disputes, hostilities and eventually complaints to law enforcement. Increased police and fire requirements will be vital for any area expecting this huge increase of population. Regulations and laws will have to be strictly enforced or it may be "handled" by established residents who find their lifestyles invaded and violated.

3. **Agriculture requirements of crop fertilizers/pesticides/soil enhancements**

Will there be new restrictions on presently used *and accepted* crop airborne soil and crop solutions? Will there be controls/limitations tomorrow what is perfectly fine today?

4. **Large and small animal ownership**

Will there be new restrictions on the animals that many residents typically own but are not customary or approved to city residences, such as cows, sheep, goats, horses, chickens, pigs, etc.

5. Increase on present residential costs, such as sewer and water hook up? Agricultural pumps for water access? Any fencing changes for utility access? The present access to FID (Fresno Irrigation District) water canals? Fireplace usage for properties without access to natural gas hookup?

a. Who will cover the costs for these immense changes in utilities?
b. Will there be property tax increases for the changes forced on the residents?
c. Will there be increased costs for the access for police, fire, and emergency services?

d. What about the insurance cost increases create

d by companies who see fire dangers with so many homes so close together that can cause immediate need of emergency services?

e. Will the city still provide ditch tenderers, canal management and repair, weed abatement?

It seems like the City of Fresno already has a lot on it's plate without this land grab. Who is this for… developers and political donors?

Property owners and residents in this area don't want to be annexed into the City of Fresno.

We don't want Fresno to become another LA with this urban sprawl. If you care about the people who live here now, **put it to a vote** and let their voices be heard!

Elizabeth J Grossmayer
[redacted]

From:	Jeff Grunau
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	District5; Nelson Esparza; Jerry Dyer; Launa Grunau; Adrienne Asadoorian; Rhonda Dueck
Subject:	SEDA Project Concerns
Date:	Sunday, March 23, 2025 1:46:55 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Good morning,

As I attended the Jackson Neighborhood Association meeting on Thursday night, we were informed of the SEDA project in District 5. I understand the push for more housing. Low inventory for rentals and houses for sale is pushing pricing up, making it difficult for many to afford to live without some major sacrifices.

First off, thank you for the Tulare Street project approval. It finishes the 109-year-old neighborhood where I live, and we finally have sidewalks surrounding the entire area! I also thank you for the progress toward the plans for the new park on Verrue between the 10th and 11th. I can't wait to see the plans after all of the neighbor's input. This leads me to believe the city council can listen to constituents when we bring concerns and ideas to the table.

I have some major concerns about the SEDA project.

Fresno is not known as a well-planned city. It has been developer-driven from day one. We are a case study on how ***not*** to plan a city. Our downtown has been struggling for decades now because our city government has followed the money rather than good long-term city planning. A friend of mine, Guido Periscone, the city planner for the City of Marina, is an AICP city planner with over 20 years of urban planning experience with a specialty in complex urban infill development that requires advanced knowledge of CEQA, and the Subdivision Map Act. He has said that Fresno does not do urban infill development well. We do urban sprawl that guts the older parts of the city in favor of chasing the developer's dollar. That is not a good way to be known around the state.

I also know there is a larger profit made for investors when developing new virgin acreage versus infill projects. My question to you is why is the profit for investors the highest priority? Why not put the existing constituents that live in Fresno above their profit margin?

We all see it. City Council is a stepping stone to higher government positions and in order to fund those campaigns, there needs to be big donors. Many of those

donors are developers, and the majority of the constituents in Fresno get left in the dust, because we don't have the ability to lift you to the next level monetarily. It would be nice to lift you up with votes because of your integrity and knowing you fought for us. In this last D5 election, I had to choose between the outgoing D5 council member's wife (odd to keep politics in the same house), a person on the Sanger Unified School Board, and a person with low integrity who has fought for SE Fresno for decades. They were not great choices but they had to have money from somewhere to run their campaigns.

The SEDA project is porjected to cost between $1.2 and $4.2 billion dollars to extend the City's sphere of influence. Streets, storm drains, city water and swere lines all have to run out to the 9,000 acres waiting to be developed.

If you need places to spend $1-4 billion dollars in infrastructure, I can find a few places in Districts 5 and 7 that need help before spending that much extending the sphere of influence .

1. First Street from McKinley to Clinton got a wonderful repaving a few years ago! First and Fresno Street south of McKinley through Parallel could use repaving.

2. Huntington Blvd from 6th to Cedar has a few flooding spots and the roots from the Camphors have caused the road to buckle. I hear the trailers of different vendors rattle between 5:00-6:00 most weekday mornings over the raised parts of the street.

3. Speaking of camphors, the one in my front yard has pushed the curb out 4-5 inches into the road as it has grown. The asphalt is buckling from the root growth causing a small speed bump on the right shoulder. That could use a repair.

3. There are SEVEN undeveloped commercial lots on Cesar Chavez between First and Cedar that need businesses. One lot is an entire block between 7th and 8th Street. The new Farber Center between 9th and 10th is amazing! Keep the progress rolling! Incentivize businesses looking for infill spaces.

4. Using Google Maps I found 6 vacant lots in the Jackson neighborhood where houses have burned down and the house has not been rebuilt. The Jackson neighborhood is in an area of about 320 acres. How many infill projects are there in the city limits now that could alleviate the problem of the housing shortage without having to extend out to SEDA? The water and sewer, storm drains, and electrical grid are already in place. No need to spend $1 billion to get the services to these lots.

5. If affordable housing is the goal, is the city aggressively making ADUs

accessible? That is a much cheaper option for the taxpayer. If 10,000 ADUs can be subsidized in the city limits it helps the housing crisis with very affordable options. There are $7200-$8400 in fees that can be waived. It would take 119,047 ADUs with fees waived to be equal to the initial cost required for the SEDA project. That is a ton of affordable housing! Even the largest ADU is under $200,000 with building costs, permits and fees. Avalon Commins, the latest affodable housing project by the city was $42 million for 105 units (The Business Journal) That is $400,000 per unit. Again, why are we not pushing ADUs as in infill alternative for housing at half the cost. If the City is willing to spend $400,000 per unit, we could get TWICE to FOUR TIMES as many people into housing using ADUs on existing empty lots!

6. If you need more places to spend $1-4 billion dollars on existing residents, Mono, Balch, Platt, and Verrue all have poor street lighting in contrast to Huntington and Kerckhoff. The City could install the historic street lamps at 5 per block (vs the 2 per block currently in place) on the streets listed. We are the current taxpayers in an old neighborhood that could use the added historic feel for the entire neighborhood.

Page 12: "Regional Town Center The Regional Town Center is at the top of the mixed-use center hierarchy in the Plan Area, serving 40,000 to 60,000 households across the site and within the surrounding communities." This is not sustainable with the water and energy shortage in the state.

Where are the projections coming from for the need to build 60,000 households to make an area in SE Fresno the size of Clovis and attend CUSD schools? Have the projections changed since COVID? The news keeps telling us that people are leaving CA at a rapid pace, not moving to the Central Valley. It does not make sense for the City of Fresno to extend out and add 120,000+ residents if the demand from people moving here is not materializing. I have proposed other, cheaper options with much less risk.

Another reason to stop the SEDA project: In 2025 we had a $15 million budget deficit. The entire city budget is $2 billion and the SEDA project is projected to cost between $1.2 and $4.2 billion over the next 20 years. I do a monthly budget for my household and can see this is not wise management of funds. Especially since the city is taking a huge risk if the city builds it and they do not come.

Please STOP the SEDA project. Developers have hedged a bet on you to continue to poorly plan the city and follow them around waiving their money. There are enough blight and infill projects within the current city limits that need to be addressed before adding 9,000 more acres and 120,000+ people when it is proven the city can not manage what it already has.

Contact information:

Jeff Grunau
[redacted]

--
Thank you,

Jeff Grunau

From: docandblondie
To: LongRangePlanning
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 10:06:53 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Attn: Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

Please read our concerns about the SEDA project.

EIR PLAN FOR SEDA
3:15 Public Service
Who is going to pay for the massive Bill to build schools to accommodate the high density population located in the Sanger School district? Please document the projected costs involved with the School Project and the plan to fund these schools.
Why no cost have been given? Going forward with no plan for school growth and cost is unacceptable and to be corrected. Asking taxpayers to fund a blank check is unacceptable also and needs to be corrected.

EIR Plan 3:17 Transportation and Traffic
How is the City of Fresno planning to pay for the infrastructure cost? It has been reported that this will be ironed out after the council approves the massive project. What is the proposed infrastructure cost? The budget needs to be disclosed before the EIR is accepted. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed prior to any approval.

There are many other areas of concern and we would appreciate hearing back from you.
Thank you

Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Hampson

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Andy Hansen-Smith
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Concerns about SEDA Recirculated EIR
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 12:43:09 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

[redacted]
March 24, 2025

4-2 Growth-Induced Impacts
The SEDA plan relies on outdated population growth projections to justify its development. The report claims Fresno will grow by 226,000 people by 2035, but new data from the California Department of Finance shows a much smaller growth of just 72,000 and only 19,000 more by 2070! There is no need to expand as suggested in the SEDA Plan when Fresno's population is
growing much slower than originally predicted.

Fresno needs to continue to increase density along our major corridors to induce more public transit opportunities and reduce our car-dependent infrastructure. SEDA will do very little for affordable housing, increase the use of vehicles for transportation as well as leave the current city's needs underfunded.

Thank you for you time,

Andy Hansen-Smith

March 23, 2025

Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
Ms. Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: "Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486.

Dear Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos,
Ms. Adrienne Asadoorian,

Comment in General: This plan is basically a "blank check" plan. No mitigation is allowed in the controversial areas. Also, over and over again, it is stated that once the plan is adopted, the various areas of contention would then be worked out. This reminds me what has happened at the Federal level when Congressmen stated we must pass the legislation and afterwards analyze it to see what it says. THIS IS WRONG and so very unfair to property owners as well as tax payers who will have to cover the expenses of a blank check! I find it very hard to understand how your department can endorse something that is so blatantly wrong.

I also find it difficult to understand why you promote a plan that you do not have concrete answers for. At the Town Hall meetings we were given answers that were vague, indirect, seemingly deceptive, or contradictory. Considering how massive this plan is, how disruptive this is to hundreds of lives, how intrusive this is, and how it will ultimately change the dynamics of Fresno, residents should be entitled to clear answers from those who want to implement this plan. To be so unprepared with a project of this magnitude is inexcusable and offensive.

The first three words of the Constitution are "We the People". The way your organization is handling this portrays an abusive City Government with the "Almighty Dollar" taking priority. It is very disheartening, especially knowing that there are options besides taking the most fertile farmland.

The EIR is inadequate as it is based on ad hoc decisions to be made in the future and not on a set plan. Therefore, it cannot be properly evaluated and should be abandoned.

I contest the following areas of the EIR for the following reasons:

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

ES-2 Fiscal Responsibility

Since you state that the goal of SEDA is *to "Provide self-financing for the development and ongoing maintenance of the SEDA that does not reduce City of Fresno resources, dedicated to other areas of the City or burden Fresno residents outside of the SEDA*". then please answer the following question.

Question: What is the budget that shows you are implementing this policy? To date you are not transparent with the cost and implementation of this SEDA project. Please give concrete data -- not a blank check policy.

ES-2 Fiscal Responsibility

Since you state you are planning "*Holistically coordinate infrastructure to integrate efficiencies"*
Question: What is the estimated cost of the infrastructure since you are taking pride in fiscal responsibility? Do you have this information, and if so, why is it not made public? If not, you are asking us to approve of the costs with a blank check. The information costs need to be documented and made public.

ES-2 Fiscal Responsibility

Since you state the plan is to *"Invest in resource conserving techniques for storm water systems, water supply, etc"*
Question: What conserving techniques are you planning to implement and what is the estimated cost? Please document your information.

Cost Factors

Comment: The City of Fresno has not addressed the taxpayer's cost to implement this development. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Climate Factors

Comment: The City of Fresno has not addressed the climate goals. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Aesthetics, Light and Glare

Impact AES-4 (Project-level Light and Glare)

Comment: The Proposed Project states that there will be significant impact concerning the Light and Glare with lighting increased from streetlights etc. What are the significant impacts you are referring to? Please document them. What percentage of this proposed annexation will have streetlights? What is the estimated cost for implementing and maintaining this lighting system?

Section 3.2 Agriculture Resources and Forestry Resources

Impact AG -1

Question: With the loss of the Ag land, please site the studies done to accommodate the loss of income for the Hmong Farmers. Hurting a minority is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and must be corrected.

MM AG-1

Question: Since the City of Fresno has documented their intent on preserving Prime Farmland, how can this plan be acceptable under the city's goals? Over riding signed documents of preserving Prime Farmland is unacceptable and must be corrected. **Please site documentation**

showing that Prime Farmland is being preserved with the equivalent type and quantity of land at a 1:1 ration.

Section 3.3 Air Quality

MM AIR 1b

Question: How will there be enforcement of these ideas be handled - especially over the long term?

MM AIR 1c

Question: How is the increase in the electrical grid going to affect Fresno? Not knowing the impact is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Question: The document states that air pollution emissions will increase substantially in Southeast Fresno (possibly by 600% in some areas). The public health impacts of this pollution on local residents has not been analyzed in the EIR. Apparently the City wants to deal with this after the Project's approval. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and documented prior to approval.

Question: How will there be enforcement of these ideas be handled - especially over the long term?

Question: What is the cost of implementing the plan stated in MM AIR 1c?

Section 3.5 Cultural Resources

Question: How will the loss of the Hmong revenue impact the Hmong culture? Please site studies that support no consideration for the Hmong farmers. Hurting a minority is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and must be corrected.

Section 3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Question: It is our understanding that the Greenhouse Gas Footprint will increase by 25% with this mega development. This plan is inconsistent with Fresno's climate change progress. What is the Greenhouse Gas Emissions goal of the City in this area and how will it be implemented in the SEDA development? The current plan is a "blank check" concerning climate change and is unacceptable until this is addressed in detail

Question: Fresno's goal was to reduce CO_2 emissions by 559,000 tons a year by 2035. With SEDA, the emissions will increase by 510,000 tons a year. How do you account for this discrepancy and how do you plan to remedy this problem? Without this information, this plan is unacceptable and this "blank check" needs to be addressed and corrected.

Impact GHG-1 It is stated "The proposed project would <u>not generate</u> direct and indirect gas emissions and <u>these emissions</u>....." How can any statement be more contradictory? Please explain the contradiction.

Section 3.11 Land Use and Planning

Impact LAND-2

Question: This plan contradicts Fresno's written policy of preserving prime farm land. Please explain how this plan is not in conflict with the preservation of prime farm land. Over riding signed documents of preserving Prime Farmland is unacceptable and must be corrected.

Section 3.14 Housing

Question: How much of the 45,000 homes will be affordable housing? Jennifer Clark has been reported as saying this detail would be worked out after the City Council approves the project. This is a "blank check" and is unacceptable. This should be corrected and addressed prior to approval.

Section 3.15 Public Services

Question: In the high density areas, how are firefighters, police and first responders going to be able to help people without roads within the areas? Public safety is the number one concern. This plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Question: Who is going to pay for the massive bill to build schools to accommodate the high density population located in the Sanger School District? Since Sanger Unified has replied to this Project with great concern, please document the projected costs involved with the School district and the plan to fund these schools. Why have no estimated costs been given? Are you concerned that that truth would be detrimental to the Project? Going forward with no plan to implement school growth is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. Asking taxpayers to fund a "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Section 3.16 Recreation

Question: We have been told at the Town Hall Meetings that Eminent Domain is not involved with the Project Plan. Please clarify. Does Eminent Domain occur only after the area is rezoned? Please state facts concerning the plans for Eminent Domain and Rezoning. The indirect answers we have been given are unacceptable. If Eminent Domain and rezoning will not occur, please give us a signed document stating such information.

Section 3.17 Transportation and Traffic

Question: What transportation will be available for the residents in the high density areas to obtain high paying jobs in other areas of town? If the 15 minute cities are designed to confine residents to the area without opportunities to pursue jobs on the North side of town, this is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Question: How is the City of Fresno planning to pay for the infrastructure cost? It has been reported that this will be ironed out after the council approves the massive project. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed prior to any approval.

Section 3.18 Utilities and Service Systems

Impact UTIL – 1

Question 1: What are the significant environmental effects of constructing new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities? Please site the studies made and the data concerning the results of the studies. To accept this Plan without detailed information is endorsing a "blank check". This is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. Information and projected costs need to be published.

MMUTIL-1a

Question: What is the plan for additional water capacity? In the Town Hall Meetings we have not received any definite answers.

Comment: A definite plan should be in place prior to adopting the EIR as the water issue will be huge with the mega increase in the amount of people. The water issue will have a major impact on the city as a whole. To adopt the EIR without any plan in place is like giving someone a blank check to do whatever they want even if it was detrimental to the environment. The plan is unacceptable as is and needs to be corrected.

MMUTIL – 1b

Comment: The water supply system needs to be evaluated prior to the adoption of the plan. There is enough information in the plan to be able to be able to evaluate proposed water supply improvements as well as evaluate the environmental impact. To move forward without this information is unacceptable and needs to be addressed. Tax payers should not be endorsing a "blank check".

MMUTIL – 1d

Question: When you expand the wastewater system, are current property owners paying for hooking up to City Sewer? What will be the cost?

Comment: We have not received a clear answer at the Town Hall Meetings. However, we were told that the property owners were to pay for sewer hookup, the cost is around $30,000, a loan would be available, and if the owner were to sell a lien would be placed on the home to cover the costs. Please give us exact information as to what it will mean for connecting to the City Sewer System and site your source of information. Keeping information from the property owners is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

MMUTIL – 1f

Question: What will the long term impact on the environment be when expanding or relocating electric, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities for a project of this magnitude. Please site your studies. No information concerning this is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Impact UTIL – 2

Question: The EIR states there are sufficient water supplies for this project and foreseeable future development. Please state your source and details to support this statement. Considering the water levels, the years of drought and the projected number of people you plan to accommodate, this is one of the most important issues that needs to be addressed. Stating that there are "sufficient water supplies" is totally unacceptable. This needs to be corrected and

addressed in detail as the ramifications of a limited water supply are huge! Allowing the Plan to address this after the Plan is adopted is endorsing a "blank check" for major problems ahead.

Questions:

1. Where are you drawing your water source from?
2. Is the Kings River considered a source even though it is already low?

This project is huge and the lack of information is unacceptable.

Questions:

1. Once our wells run dry, we are not allowed to drill lower. How can you tell us that this will not impact our wells?
2. We have been told that if we are annexed into the City we have 5 years to hook up to City Water.

Our questions have been evaded and the answers given have been contradictory. This is unacceptable! This needs to be addressed and corrected!

Questions:

1. Is the property owner responsible for the cost of connecting to City water? If so, is the cost between $30,000 - $50,000? If the property owner doesn't have the money, is a loan required and is a lien put on the house if the owner intends to sell?

We have not been given definite answers. This is unacceptable. A plan of this magnitude should have answers for the property owners.

2. We have also been told that if a property is on a corner, the owner is responsible for hooking up to water in two directions. Please clarify. If this is the case, this is unacceptable! Since when should the property owners be penalized for the developers' benefit?

MM UTIL-2a

Question: The summary refers to the refined measures and standards that the city plans to use to reduce the per capita water use and implement water saving and conservation standards. What are they? Please give details. Without details this plan is unacceptable. Again, this is endorsing a "blank check". Please address and correct.

MM HYD -2C

Question: It is stated that "*if it is determined that the development exceeds the water supply, the City will pursue the provision of adequate water supplies by securing additional water sources."* What are the additional water sources you are referring to? How can you guarantee water when the water tables continue to drop?

Section 3.19 Wildfire

Impact WILD-1

Question 1: With the proposed high density housing plan, what is the emergency response plan? If there is no plan, there needs to be one prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life. Without an emergency response plan in place, this plan is unacceptable. This needs to be corrected.

Question 2: What is the emergency evacuation plan in the high density housing area?

Comment: If there is no plan, there needs to be one prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life. Without an emergency evacuation plan in the high density housing area, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Impact WILD 2

Question: Due to the close proximity of the high density housing, and therefore, the high wildfire risks of rapid spreading, what is the plan to protect the occupants from pollutant concentrations? Without a plan in place, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Question: Due to the close proximity of the high density housing, and therefore, the high wildfire risks of rapid spreading, what is the plan to prevent rapid spreading? Without a plan in place preventing rapid spreading of fire, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Impact – WILD 3

Question 1: Without the infrastructure of roads, fuel breaks, etc., what plans will be implemented to protect the safety of occupants in the high density areas during an emergency?
Comment: If there is no plan, this is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. There needs to be a plan in place prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life.

Question 2: Without the infrastructure of roads, fuel breaks, etc. how will firefighters and rescue personnel be able to access various locations in the high density areas during an emergency? This needs to be addressed and corrected in the EIR or the plan is unacceptable.

Impact – WILD 4

Question 1: Should an unexpected potential threat develop from flooding, landslides, etc., what is the plan of evacuating people?
Comment: If there is no plan, this is unacceptable and needs to be corrected There needs to be one prior to the development of the project for the safety of human life.

Based on the above reasons, the EIR for the Fresno Southeast Development Area, Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 should not be accepted.

Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as updates concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Helen Ramming
SEDA area property owner
Member of Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

cc: City Council Members
Annalisa Pera
Mike Karbassi
Miguel Arias

Tyler Maxwell
Nick Richardson
Mayor Jerry Dyer

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Sec. 3.3 AIR QUALITY

1) Site the studies done that show how air quality will change with reference to time.

Sec. 3.17

2) How will the influx of trucks impact the residents. Site data.

Sec. 3.17

3) What information do you have that supports the project is consistent with state and local plans and policies? Site data.

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Sec. 3.8

1) How is this project consistent with Assembly Emissions Bill 32's statewide goal of 29% reduction of emissions from business as usual?

Sec. 3.8

2) How frequently and for what length of time will the level of particulate air pollution in the area surrounding the Project exceed the Threshold of Significance as outlined by CEQA?

SEDA
SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Section 3.8 and 3.3
1) How will a potential cumulative expansion project affect pollutant concentrations? Please site studies.

Sec. 3.3 and 3.8
2) What were the studies and results that showed the effects of energy usage with respect to the projects potential impacts on air quality and GHG?

Sec 3.8
3) How does this project affect Global Warming. ~~the~~ site statistics site studies

SEDA
SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA

COMMENT CARD

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address and Nearest Cross Streets:

For more information
(559) 621-8339
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Please tell us your comments on the SEDA Draft EIR and Specific Plan

Sec. 3.17
1) What is the data concening calculating the energy impacts of the project relating to vehicle trips?

Sec. 3.8
2) In 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger promoted AB 32 to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Give data to support that this Project will comply with these standards.

Sec. 3.8
3) What is the maximum single event noise level allowed by the City of Fresno and how would this project affect this level?

From:	[redacted]
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nick Richardson; neslon.esparza@fresno.gov; Todd Stermer
Subject:	[Possible Scam Fraud]Recirculated EIR for SEDA
Date:	Friday, March 21, 2025 5:20:35 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

WARNING: Your email security system has determined the message below may be a potential threat.

The sender may trick victims into passing bad checks on their behalf.

If you do not know the sender or cannot verify the integrity of the message, please do not respond or click on links in the message. Depending on the security settings, clickable URLs may have been modified to provide additional security.

---------- Suspicious threat disclaimer ends here ----------

To: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager of Planning and Development
From: Paulette Hiraoka, SEDA resident
Re: Recirculated EIR

Below you will find some selected aspects of the Recirculated EIR that are disturbing and will change my life. I wish I had the time and knowledge to address each and every section since the City Council wants to "take away" the rural way of life in southeast Fresno and make it an imaginary perfect future Fresno.

Since the city councils over the years have been unable to do it within the city limits, they want to take over southeast Fresno and try again when they have no pattern of success to prove that it is a wise decision and they are capable of succeeding. Urban sprawl is not the answer.

Section 3.1 Aesthetics, Light, and Glare

How can the City of Fresno expect that their plan for Southeast Fresno can be filled with "scenic" resources and landscaped "spaces?"

Currently, areas that were already planned and approved by the city are run down and eye sores. City parks and play areas are neglected and in need of repair. The money has not been in the budget to maintain what has already been built throughout Fresno.

Section 3.2 Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources

How will taking 3,000 acres of farm land out of production for Regional Town Centers, residential structures (both mixed and neighborhood), and offices benefit Fresno's Way of Life?

It impacts Fresno County, small farmers, air quality, noise pollution, and increases crime. It brings all of the negative aspects of city life to our rural community upon which Fresno County was built. Small farmers will lose their livelihood

Fresno County had their sneaky and quick meeting to approve the

agreement with Fresno City to receive a bigger share of the taxes from SEDA but that, too, was purely money making based. The only negative vote was from our area representative.

Section 3.3 Air Quality

How will the city justify the "urban heat island" effect created by the SEDA plan?

The EPA states that there is up to a 7-degree temperature difference between urban and rural temperatures. European studies cite up to a 10-degree difference. Living in the valley, this will affect the air quality which the city is already penalized for not meeting federal goals.

Section 3.7 Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Who will pay for the existing home owners' connection to city sewer and water lines and the disposal of existing septic tanks and condemning our wells?

We have already paid to meet the requirements to build our homes. Now, we are to carry the burden of a decision made by the City of Fresno to give them a larger tax base.

We built our home with land so my husband could have a small orchard with trees from his family ranch. I have fruit trees that his father had developed and are now found only on my property. Without my well, I would not be able to keep those trees alive and his father's legacy would be gone forever.

Section 3.13 Noise

How will the increase in noise level from traffic created by the hundreds of new residential homes/apartments and Town Centers/offices be measured?

It cannot because currently the area is rural. Our homes are surrounded by open areas where wildlife are the only sounds one hears. The people who live in Southeast Fresno would have stayed in the city if we enjoyed the sounds of cars driving through our neighborhoods. Adding 45,000 housing units, offices, and a shopping center will bring thousands of cars at all hours of the day.

Section 3.14 Population and Housing

How will existing homeowners afford to connect to city water and sewage?

There have been estimates of $10,000-50,000 for each hook up depending upon the distance and the obstacles in our already established yards. Home owners must pay to connect from the street to the dwelling which can be hundreds of feet under concrete driveways, landscaping, and the required drainage ponds we have on our properties. Septic tanks would have to be dug up and wells condemned. We have already paid thousands of dollars to have both installed so we could live in our dream home and area. Of course, that price will inflate by the time the city gets anything done. I am sorry but the city's track record for getting things accomplished in a timely manner is poor.

I am a widowed retired person living on my pension. My husband and I planned to live out our lives here. We paid off our mortgage! I maintain my home and myself off of one pension. To force me to take out a loan to pay for water and sewage connections to satisfy this imagined "Fresno future" is shameful.

Even trying to sell my home in the future would have the negative of having to disclose the added cost of a future connection cost. I

would be paying the cost regardless which would result in a significant loss to me.

Section 3.14 Population and Housing

Why build 45,000 additional housing units when there are vacant areas in the City of Fresno?

The concept of "if you build it, they will come" will only empty more Fresno areas and make more eye sores. Property values will decline in Fresno and Fresno will have to deal with more vacant homes and break ins.

Section 3.15 Public Services

How will Fresno City protect an additional 9,000 acres of land?

Currently, the Fresno County Sheriff's Department protects this area. The Fresno City Police Department currently has a shortage of police officers. Three firehouses are being closed because of the over 15 million dollar deficit. Fresno City is having a challenging time protecting and serving the current city limits.

The EIR reads that additional police and fire stations could be built and maintained. What monies will you use to fund that? Why would you hope an additional city budget burden would be offset by earning some tax dollars with the SEDA project?

Section 3.16 Recreation

How will you be able to fund and maintain any regional/pocket parks?

My husband and I had homes in Fresno. Over the years, I have taken children to Woodward Park and small area playgrounds and have watched them deteriorate. Presently, such expenses have to be put further down list of priorities as the city faces a 15 million dollar deficit. I travel roads to get to some of these places that are in need of repair. The city does not even have the money to maintain what already exists.

Leave Southeast Fresno alone and do not destroy the beauty of blossoming fruit trees and the beauty of Fresno County.

Sincerely,
Paulette Hiraoka
[redacted]

Cc: District 1: Annalisa Perea
District 2: Mike Karbassi
District 3: Miguel Arias
District 4: Tyler Maxwell
District 5:
District 6: Nick Richardson
District 7: Nelson Esparza
City Clerk: Todd Stermer

From: Bruce Jewell
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: SEDA Proposal
Date: Friday, March 21, 2025 1:03:28 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Bruce Jewell
[redacted]

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Attn: Sophia Pagoulatos Planning Manager

As a third generation Fresno resident who has seen the effects of poor planning erode the possibilities of creating a truly beautiful city, I am writing to express my concerns about the SEDA Recirculated Environmental Impact Report which I believe fails to present a realistic picture of the impact of the SEDA project. Among my many concerns the following stand out.

1. 4-2 Growth-Induced Impacts
The SEDA plan relies on outdated population growth projections to justify its. development. The report claims Fresno will grow by 226,000 people by 2035, but new data from the California Department of Finance shows a much smaller growth of 72,000 and 19,000 more by 2070. Thus there is no need to expand as suggested in the SEDA Plan when Fresno's population is growing much slower than originally predicted.

2. 3.3.4 Air Quality
Fresno already has some of the worst air quality in the nation. The SEDA plan admits it create high levels of pollution. Why worsen our air quality for a project that isn't necessary. The air quality is already so poor that we have the highest asthma rates in the nation. One might consider whether potential new residents will wish to expose themselves and their children to an already unhealthy climate.

3. 4-1 Impact AG-1 (Farmland Loss)
The SEDA Project will destroy 6,700 acres of farmland. This farmland helps clean are already dirty air and is foundational to the local economy. Replacing the farmland with a development that damages our health and economy cannot be called a rational decision.

4. 3.17 Transportation and Traffic
The report claims that by 2025 people in SEDA will drive only 5 miles per day—80% less than what experts predict. This is unrealistic and ignore Fresno's car dependent infrastructure.

Speaking of our car dependency, the streets in my area of town, and I assume others, are full of potholes.which I try to dodge every day.
If we are going to float huge bonds to build roads for SEDA which taxpayers like myself will pay for should we not instead pay to have existing roads repaired and maintained instead? The City of Fresno should prioritize the current need of our city rather than moving forward with SEDA.

Sincerely,

Bruce Jewell

From: Nancy Klassen
To: LongRangePlanning; Rhonda Dueck
Subject: SEDA
Date: Sunday, March 23, 2025 7:40:44 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I have just learned about a plan to build a huge new housing development in southeast Fresno. This is an old area of Fresno with lots of history and character. I don't want it to be indiscriminately cleared for new construction.

We DO need new housing nestled into available spaces in south Fresno - housing that could help alleviate stress on people who are paying such high rent prices now - and very low cost housing for people who are homeless and living in south Fresno.

Please use available funds to improve existing streets, sidewalks, bicycle pedestrian walk/exercise paths, improve and create parks, affordable homes integrated into our currently existing neighborhoods.

Please spend the available funding to improve the lives of southeast Fresno's current residents.

Earnestly and sincerely,

Nancy Klassen

[redacted]

From: Tim Kutzmark
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Concerns About the SEDA Recirculated EIR
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 3:06:20 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

March 24, 2025

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos -

I have grave concerns about the SEDA Recirculated Environmental Impact Report, and I will highlight 2 (although I have many more concerns):

3.3.4 AIR QUALITY
Fresno has some of the most polluted air in the country, with great impact on the health of those who live in the city and county and beyond. The SEDA plan acknowledges that it will add even more pollution into the air we breathe, but says nothing about measures taken to mitigate that additional pollution. That is irresponsible and incomplete planning.

4-1 IMPACT AG-1 (Farmland Loss)
Agriculture provides employment and income for residents of the city and county. It also helps feed people in the city and county and far beyond. SEDA will destroy 6,700 acres of farmland that is currently serving the city and county, providing employment but also income.

Thank you.

Tim Kutzmark
[redacted]

Rev. Tim Kutzmark
Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno

"May the longtime sun shine upon you,
all love surround you,
and the pure light within you
guide your way on."

From: Paul Lake
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Concerns about SEDA
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 3:51:29 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

Yes… we need more AFFORDABLE housing, not more urban sprawl. SEDA will cause more pollution and cost local gov'ts too much money for new infrastructure to support this housing development that will come from diverting funds from fixing current infrastructure. This is not NIMBYism. We need the right kind of new housing.

No on SEDA.

Respectfully,

Paul Lake
[redacted]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

From: Kathryn Lemon
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Annexing SouthEast area.
Date: Friday, March 21, 2025 3:24:15 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

3.3 Air Quality
How will the concern about increasingly poor air quality be addressed?
Adding another 200,000 people without any plan of improving the areas air quality will increase health issue for the population.
As a retired school nurse, the increase in students needing inhalers for asthma was great. Sports were limited due to very significant bad air quality days.
We cannot ignore the fact that the health of our community now & in the future depends on clean air.
Kathy LeMon, RN
Sent from my iPhone

Dear Councilmember Arias,

Fresno City's Southeast Development Area Specific Plan raises multiple red flags that alarm me as a voter and taxpaying resident.

1. Your document presents a dreamscape of parks, trails, senior centers, libraries, recreation facilities, as well as new schools and medical facilities. There will also be sidewalks unbuckled by tree roots, tree-lined roads without potholes, and well-lighted neighborhoods.

Who will provide the infrastructure for all of these wonderful amenities?

The city's existing infrastructure is in serious decay. While E Floradora recently received much needed speed bumps, (thank you!) the bumps were installed over a crumbing street. Each time I look at the deep cracks, I cringe thinking of the hapless bicyclist whose wheel gets caught in one of the deep crevices and goes headfirst over the handlebars. A lawsuit is waiting to happen, a life potentially ruined or lost. While the sidewalk in front of my house is perfect, the route I take to my daughter's home a few blocks away is fraught with tripping hazards, it's sidewalks buckled by tree roots. I'm 83 and I fear a fall that could permanently disable me — or kill me.

The City of Fresno, which is currently wrestling with a $20 million budget shortfall, appears to be in no position to assume such a *speculative* debt, especially in view of its inability to adequately maintain its existing infrastructure.

2. SEDA will use city money on 9,000 acres of new infrastructure outside city limits.

California's current population growth statistics indicate that it is questionable that enough people will want to move here to make this a viable investment. Furthermore Fresno already has enough vacant land *within* the city limits to accommodate nearly three times the population for SEDA. Downtown Fresno is dead. West Fresno is in desperate need of sidewalks and other infrastructure repairs and upgrades.

Fresno should focus on the needs of its current neighborhoods. Existing neighborhoods need safe sidewalks, adequately maintained streets, parks, libraries, bike paths, and well-lighted streets. Fresno can't afford to fantasize about a dreamscape; it needs to focus on the real citizens living here now, trying to make good homes for their families, not imaginary people who might live here five years from now.

3. The SEDA plan says that water infrastructure planning tasks will happen after SEDA is adopted.

The San Joaquin Valley is sinking because too much groundwater is being pumped. The state is cutting back on water supplied to farmers. Drinking water for people is a priority, but we also eat and farmers need water for their crops. We have good snow years and bad ones — we never know what next year will provide. The Colorado River is drying up, which affects Southern California, which then affects us. The weather is getting hotter and the hot weather is lasting longer.

Fresno MUST consider water BEFORE it adopts any plan for development. I hate to think how much money the city has spent to craft SEDA, but it's time to scrap SEDA and focus all efforts on making the existing City of Fresno the very best it can be. This city is rich in talented, creative people. Let's fix up what we have while making it a showplace. We can do that!

Sincerely,

Lynda E Leonard
[redacted]

From: John Minkler
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: no SEDA
Date: Sunday, March 23, 2025 3:33:58 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am a Fresno resident and I oppose the SEDA project because of urban sprawl, pollution, and traffic problems.

John Minkler

--



John Minkler
Civic Education Center, Co-Founder/COO
[redacted]
www.civicedcenter.org



Youth Service Council motto: ***We're creating our future!***

From: Ruben Nieves
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: SEDA
Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 9:34:31 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom it may concern:

I would like to add my comment here to the opposition being felt and expressed by residents throughout our city regarding Fresno's Southeast Development Area Specific Plan. I hope the city will not move forward with SEDA because of the concerns below.

The taxpayers of Fresno have not been informed how the infrastructure for this development will be paid for. It is not clear to us whether we will be stuck with the bill. If the city has a plan for how these significant infrastructure costs will be paid for, then the public should be made aware. If the city does not yet have a plan for how the costs will be paid for, then it would be irresponsible to move the plan forward.

So many of our neighborhoods need to have streets, sidewalks, storm drains, and lighting repaired. In the heart of the Tower District, where I am a homeowner, some streets were repaved in the past two years (such as Lucerne and Hedges), while others that were in equally poor condition (such as Echo and Floradora) were not repaved, and they remain unrepaired today.

Throughout my neighborhood, sidewalks are cracked, unlevel, and even crumbling in spots. Some blocks do not have sidewalks even though sidewalks exist on the blocks on either side.

And I know that other neighborhoods in Fresno have even greater needs of infrastructure repair and updating than my own.

With a shortfall of $20 million in the city budget, it is difficult to see how the city will be able to catch up on the needed repairs and updates. I am opposed to development plans that may very well exacerbate this problem. We can't afford for new development to suck taxpayer money away from existing Fresno neighborhoods. And I do not like the idea of taxpayers being stuck with a SEDA development bill in the near or long term.

I urge the city to say NO to SEDA.

Thank you for your consideration,

--Ruben Nieves

Ruben Nieves
[redacted]



From: Paola Rodriguez
To: LongRangePlanning
Cc: Miguel Arias
Subject: Concerns About the SEDA Recirculated EIR 4-2
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 5:00:39 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Paola Rodriguez, Humanics [redacted]
[redacted]
03/24/25

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Attn: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

Dear Mr. Pagoulatos,
I am writing to express my concern about the SEDA Recirculated Environmental Impact Report, more specifically 4-2 Growth-Induced Impacts. If I am not mistaken this SEDA project exceeds our cities budget and our outstanding bond debt does not help our financial situation. SEDA relies on Fresno's rapid population growth without considering the community already inhabiting Fresno. The Department of Finance has shown Fresno will grow to just about 72,000 residents by 2035 not 226,000 residents like SEDA predicts. My main concern is who will pay for these homes?What will the city's Plan B be if bonds are granted and the project fails to make the bonds amount back?. Why has the council approved a new community in Fresno instead of working in our Downtown district and Tower area?.I say we can start to smooth roads and local grocery stores with fresh vegetables and fruits available for everyone in Fresno.

Sincerely,
Paola Rodriguez
--
[redacted]



From:	Annette Paxton
To:	LongRangePlanning; Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; brandon.vang@fresno.gov; Nick Richardson; Nelson Esparza; Todd Stermer
Subject:	[SUSPECTED SPAM] SEDA EIR Draft (Feb 7, 2025) Concerns
Date:	Friday, March 21, 2025 9:42:17 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Council Members Perea, Karbassi, Arias, Maxwell, Vang, Richardson and Esparza
City of Fresno Clerk Stermer
and Planning Manager Sophia Pagoulatos

The purpose of this letter is to address my concerns of the proposed SEDA project and its affect on my home since 1988. I am rather disappointed that the City of Fresno continues to spend money to coerce its residents to believe that annexation of the surrounding rural landscape is responsible land management. I wrote in opposition to the EIR Draft dated July 14, 2023. The letter was emailed and USPS mailed to all city council and county supervisor members as well as the City of Fresno's clerk, planner and planning manager. Please note: I received only two responses to my letter. Both responses were personal telephone calls from gentlemen who respectively do not even represent my area: then Supervisor Sal Quintero and Council Member Garry Bredefeld.

I am a lifetime Fresnan. I have chosen to be educated in Fresno (Class of 1981 CSUFresno). I chose to stay in Fresno and to establish my career. I chose to raise my family in Fresno; I believe my children are "Fresno Proud." I have always thought that I am a part of the fabric that makes Fresno special.

Below are several issues from the February 7, 2025, EIR that I believe need to be resolved:

1) **Aesthetics, Light, and Glare** (AES 3-4) -- Level of significance after mitigation **remains significant and unavoidable impact** -- please address how the mitigation measures will be enforced. As the crow flies, my home is 3-1/2 miles from Lamonica Stadium. Right now, I see "Friday night" lights from my backyard. How will the light pollution generated by the SEDA project will not be enforced when it's not enforced now?

2) **Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources** (AG 1-2; AG 5) -- Level of significance after mitigation **remains significant and unavoidable impact** -- please address why the agricultural soil in Fresno County is not valuable enough to be protected? Seventy-five percent of the SEDA project's acreage involves destruction of prime farmland that is either of statewide or local importance. The soil in this particular region of Fresno County is the richest soil in the world -- the SEDA project paves right over it. These acres can not be recreated somewhere else. This soil

produces food for millions of people worldwide. Much like California's coastline protections, this soil should be protected as well. Current growers are already pushed out and ag workers are displaced. Has the EIR calculated the loss of agricultural revenue and livelihood income? Please save our agricultural jewel. Don't violate the Williamson Act.

3) **Air Quality** (AIR 1-3) -- Level of significance after mitigation **remains significant and unavoidable impact** -- please advise why every mitigation effort listed requires a multitude of bulleted items to enforce one area.There are no reliable measures other than the Valley Air District to monitor the expansion. I think it is silly to recommend that signage to monitor idling vehicles and hand brushing or a low pressure paint sprayer will maintain air quality -- how would this even be enforced? This entire mitigation section is a game of "smoke and mirrors." Bottom line: the SEDA project will irreversibly affect air quality.

4) **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** (GHG 1-2) -- **Level of significance after mitigation is now "N/A"** -- please address the contradiction in the July 14, 2023, EIR Draft, which stated GHG 1-2 created significant and unavoidable impact, while the February 7, 2025 EIR Draft now states the level of significance is "N/A". How can greenhouse gas emissions from a project that adds 45,000 homes on 9,000 acres while removing 75% of farmland (the "green belt" is farmland) not address greenhouse gas emissions? I consider this a severe oversight of the EIR and should be re-evaluated.

5) **Hydrology and Water Quality** (HYD 1-5) – **Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated** -- please address why the mitigation measures can state "less than significant impact" to the current water quality and quantity issues in the central valley. Currently, there are huge water issues without the SEDA project. This expansion will only increase an already overtaxed system. Water regulations are constantly changing. The SEDA project's expansion does not take into consideration next year's water availability. Additionally, the EIR Draft does not address any changes to water delivery to current residents' using well water. I consider this a severe oversight of the EIR and the city and county of Fresno. Any changes to my current water supply created by SEDA greatly changes the property value and my ability to live in my home.

6) **Land Use and Planning** (Cumulative Impact) -- **The project would have a less than significant cumulative impact on land use and planning**) -- I can not believe that there is "no significant cumulative impact on land use." I do my best to be a steward of this land and air. I plant a small garden and share the fruit from my trees with my neighbors. I couldn't do this type of living within the city's limits, which is why I chose to live in a rural setting in the County of Fresno. The SEDA project will take away my privilege of living where I chose to live 35 years ago. I will no longer be able to afford to live in my home. This cost to be annexed will force me to leave. SEDA changes my property's land use.

7) **Wildfire** (WILD 1-4) -- **No mitigation measures offered** -- please advise how SEDA's mitigation measures would need to be altered when California has just experienced wildfires burning through communities like Pacific Palisades and

Altadena, CA. The SEDA project encourages new neighborhoods to be built similar to what was so easily destroyed by wildfire this January 2025. There needs to be a plan in place prior to approving any annexation.

I would like to close by asking why the City of Fresno chooses not to infill within its boundaries where infrastructure already exists? There are so many blighted areas in Fresno that are at risk of vagrancy, burning and vandalism. What is the cost of infrastructure for an annexation this large? Where does the City of Fresno intend to get the money? I haven't seen any financial reports for the cost of this project or the revenue stream to create the project. I recommend that the City of Fresno do something bold and unconventional: rebuilt from within. I would think there are grant dollars available – specifically for rebuilding from within. Clean blighted areas. Stop city sprawl. Decrease the sphere of influence boundaries. Give all residents a reason to be Fresno Proud!

To City of Fresno officials: **Stop the SEDA project**.
To Fresno County Supervisors: **Stand up and protect the citizens who elected you**.
To everyone: **Stop the unrelenting land grab and protect California's unique central valley**.

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY.

Sincerely,
Annette Paxton


From:	Peter Smith
To:	LongRangePlanning; Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nelson Esparza; Nick Richardson; Sarah Boren; Georgeanne White; Jennifer Clark; Andrew Janz; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District6; District7; Jerry Dyer
Subject:	City plan for SE Fresno
Date:	Sunday, March 23, 2025 4:40:02 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

City Officials,

As a resident and citizen, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to further sprawl Fresno via the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan. I thought it was agreed years ago that sprawl is not helpful. It diminishes air quality, uses more energy, and creates a bigger, more intense heat footprint in our sweltering Valley. The only people I can think of who sprawl serves is developers (seeking max profits) and the politicians who receive developer donations for granting favors like sprawl. Let's not do this. It is morally suspect and environmentally irresponsible.

Further concerns are raised when I contemplate that if city money is going to new development sprawl, it will not be available for the neighborhoods that already exist. I drive up and down main thoroughfares in SE Fresno most days of the week and all roads are in need of repair. Is it a win that Chestnut between Cesar Chavez and Butler was resurfaced? Yes. Is it enough? Certainly not! Drive down Tulare, Maple, Chestnut, Cedar, First streets. All are plagued with rough roads and burgeoning potholes. Since new sprawl would entail new roads, that means funding for road repair in current SE Fresno will not happen. Unacceptable.

Current fire and police services are barely adequate for SE Fresno and sprawl will only add more burden to first responder resources. Fresno is not ready for more sprawl until it can show and sustain a healthy, vibrant, in-filled city where quality of life is excellent for all citizens on all sides of town. Once we have achieved that goal, then it might be possible to consider replicating that in expansion beyond the city limits. Put the SEDA plan on ice and prioritize the initiatives that make for good governance, not profit-chasing.

Thank you for taking these concerns seriously,

Peter Smith

[redacted]

From:	Jerry Prieto
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nick Richardson; Nelson Esparza; Todd Stermer; Jerry Dyer
Subject:	AMENDED Comments On the City of Fresno-Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project Recirculated Draft Program EIR
Date:	Friday, March 21, 2025 3:22:48 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello, my name is Jerry Prieto Jr. My wife Cynthia and I own and operate [redacted], a small family cattle ranch consisting of 8.9 acres. In addition, we lease 4 additional acres from our neighbors. Our address is [redacted]. The following are our amended comments on the subject EIR. Original comments were submitted 3/20/25 at 10:34 P.M.

Section 3.2 Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources

Question: Why is the EIR excluding the use of pesticides in farming practices? Organic farming does not mean that pesticides are not used. There are many pesticides that are registered for use on organic crops. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation has the sole authority to regulate both the registration and use of pesticides. This is accomplished at the local level through the County Agricultural Commissioner.

Section 3.4 Biological Resources

Question: How will the Red Bank Slough be protected from development or encroachment including the establishment of trails? This slough is one of the last remaining riparian creeks in close proximity to Fresno City. It is home to Redtail hawk, Cotton Tail rabbit, Grey Fox, California Kingsnake, Coyote, Gopher Snake, Red Wing blackbird, Blacked Backed woodpecker, Flicker woodpecker, Gilbert's skink, Opossum, Raccoon, Valley Elderberry, Western Pond turtle and numerous bird species. Theses are species that I have observed in the sough over the last 23 years.

Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Question: Why is the City of Fresno proposing to charge farmers and ranchers a recharge fee for well water that is extracted to irrigate their crops and for domestic use? The Fresno Irrigation District supplies surface water to these farmers and ranchers that is appplied to crops. Some of this water finds its way to the aquafer which becomes a benefit to the City. In addition, the farmers and ranchers have an overlying right to the groundwater beneath their property and Fresno City may not have the authority to assess the recharge fee. It may be appropriate to restrict the amount of extracted water should the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency establish extraction allotment restrictions.

Section 3.18

Question: Will there be any exception for existing rural residential properties to the sewer connection mandate? I have been informed that the cost for the connection must be borne by the property owner and that the cost is estimated to be $50,000 for homes located near the street. The homes on some of these properties are located at the back of their property which can make the connection cost prohibitive. Our home is 954 feet from the street and if a sewer line is within 300 feet of my property line I will be required to connect to that point! This seems very unreasonable.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIR.

Jerry Prieto Jr.
[redacted]

From:	Jerry Prieto
To:	LongRangePlanning
Subject:	Fw: Comments On the City of Fresno-Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project Recirculated Draft Program EIR
Date:	Thursday, March 20, 2025 10:34:18 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

From: Jerry Prieto
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 10:27 PM
To: longrangeplannining@fresno.gov
Cc: annalisa.perea@fresno.gov; mike.karbassi@fresno.gov; miguel.arias@fresno.gov; tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov; nick.richardson@feresno.gov; nelson.esparza@fresno.gov; todd.stermer@fresno.gov
Subject: Comments On the City of Fresno-Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project Recirculated Draft Program EIR

Hello, my name is Jerry Prieto Jr. My wife Cynthia and I own and operate [redacted], a small family farm consisting of 8.9 acres. In addition, we lease 4 additional acres from our neighbors. Our address is [redacted]. The following are our comments on the subject EIR.

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Question: Why is the City of Fresno proposing to charge farmers and ranchers a recharge fee for well water that is extracted to irrigate their crops and domestic use? The Fresno Irrigation

District supplies surface water to these farmers and ranchers that is applied to crops. Some of this water finds its way to the aquafer which becomes a benefit to the City. In addition, the farmers and ranchers have an overlying right to the groundwater beneath their property and Fresno City may not have the authority to assess the recharge fee. It may be appropriate to restrict the amount of extracted water should the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency establish extraction allotment restrictions.

Section 3.18

Question: Will there be any exception for existing rural residential properties to the sewer connection mandate? I have been informed that the cost for the connection must be borne by the property owner and that the cost is estimated to be $50,000 for homes located near the street. The homes on some of these properties are located at the back of their property which can make the connection cost prohibitive. My home is 700 feet from the street and if a sewer line is within 300 feet of my property line I will be required to connect to that point! This seems very unreasonable.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIR.

Jerry Prieto Jr.
[redacted]

From:	Tim Pritchard
To:	LongRangePlanning; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nick Richardson; Nelson Esparza; Todd Stermer; Annalisa Perea
Subject:	[WARNING: UNSCANNABLE EXTRACTION FAILED]South East Property Owners
Date:	Wednesday, March 19, 2025 5:53:57 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Anaxation is not what tax payers in this area want. The people in this area want to reside in the county. We don't want to be part of home congestion, crime heavy, city traffic, homeless camps. We are still in a drought and increasing the population will severely affect the water supply.

TO THE SOUTHEAST PROPERTY OWNERS AND FRIENDS

Reference Material for Submitting EIR Comments

After having received some feedback from a neighbor in the area, we felt more clarity was needed concerning the EIR comments.

If you submitted comments when the EIR was first released, **please RESUBMIT those comments.**

Please note: **When commenting on the EIR, a reference number from the EIR must be included with your comment or your comment will be discarded**.

The following are the reference numbers as well as the title of the category:

3.1 Aesthetics, Light, and Glare
3.2 Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources
3.3 Air Quality
3.4 Biological Resources
3.5 Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources
3.6 Energy
3.7 Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials
3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality
3.11 Land Use and Planning
3.12 Mineral Resources
3.13 Noise
3.14 Population and Housing
3.15 Public Services
3.16 Recreation
3.17 Transportation and Traffic
3.18 Utilities and Service Systems
3.19 Wildfire

Mandatory Finds of Significance

The link to the Recirculated EIR is
Link *https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Draft-SEDA-Specific-Plan.pdf*

Link *https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/31680037-Fresno-SEDA-Specific-Plan-Project-Recirculated-Draft-EIR.pdf*

The summary of the EIR is recorded in the "Executive Summary" which is pages ES - 1 to ES -11 of the Recirculated EIR. It gives a condensed version of the 842 page document. The Table ES - 1 Executive Summary Matrix is next, ES - 13 to ES - 55. This matrix shows the Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and the Level of Significance after mitigation. These are the areas that can easily be seen and questioned.

The following are some examples of comments that would be accepted verses those discarded. Please note that the reference number is sited with the Accepted Comments. It is also good to state expectation such as stating their findings, stating their resources, and/or documenting the answer to the question

Example #1

Discarded:
I disapprove of annexing farm land and hurting the Hmong community.
Accepted:
Section 3.5 Tribal Cultural Resources
Question: How will the loss of the Hmong revenue impact the Hmong culture? Please site studies that support consideration for the Hmong farmers. Hurting a minority is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and must be corrected.

Example #2

Discarded
It is wrong to develop this area with no projected budget costs for building the needed schools to accommodate such a huge increase in population.
Accepted:
Section 3.15 Public Services
Question: Who is going to pay for the massive bill to build schools to accommodate the high density population located in the Sanger School District? Since Sanger Unified has replied to this Project in writing with great concern, please document the projected costs involved with the School district and the plan to fund these schools. Why have no estimated costs been given? Are you concerned that that truth would be detrimental to the Project? Going forward with no plan to implement school growth is unacceptable and needs to be corrected. Asking taxpayers to fund a "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

Example #3

Discarded:

How is the City of Fresno planning to pay for the infrastructure cost?

Accepted:

Section 3.17 Transportation and Traffic

Question: How is the City of Fresno planning to pay for the infrastructure cost? It has been reported that this will be ironed out after the council approves the massive project. What is the proposed infrastructure cost? The budget needs to be disclosed before the EIR is accepted. This "blank check" is unacceptable and needs to be addressed prior to any approval.

Example #4

Discarded:

I disapprove of your not projecting any long term impact on the environment with the expansion of electric, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities.

Accepted:

Section 3.18 Utilities and Service Systems

Question: What will the long term impact on the environment be when expanding or relocating electric, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities for a project of this magnitude. Please site your studies. No information concerning this is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Example #5

Discarded

I disapprove of the close proximity of buildings in the high density 15 minute cities. If there was a fire, it would be difficult to contain.

Accepted

Section 3.19 Wildfire

Question: Due to the close proximity of the high density housing, and therefore, the high wildfire risks of rapid spreading, please state your plan to protect the occupants from disasters like what happened in Los Angeles this year. Without a plan in place, this plan is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

From:	Cindy Ramsey
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Nelson Esparza; Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nick Richardson; Todd Stermer
Subject:	Recirculated SEDA EIR 2025
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 8:42:59 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To: longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

With copy to:

Annalisa Perea: annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
Mike Karbassi: mike.karbassi@fresno.gov
Miguel Arias: miguel.arias@fresno.gov
Tyler Maxwell: tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
Nick Richardson: nick.richardson@fresno.gov
Nelson Esparza: nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
Todd Stermer: todd.stermer@fresno.gov

Date: March 24, 2025

Re: Draft Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California (the "EIR") and SEDA Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Draft (the "SEDA Plan")

Dear Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager, Planning and Development Department, City of Fresno:

I am writing this letter in reference to the EIR and SEDA Plan. After reviewing all of this information for quite some time now, it is clear that the best interest of the citizens of Fresno is not in mind. It clearly leans towards unethical expansion and not logical in fill and revitalization of a city that could use support in neglected areas. Instead valuable farmland and generationally owned land parcels are being stripped away little by little to create cheap and fast new builds by greedy developers. It would be good to know that our politicians and city officials have our backs on this disaster of a plan and are willing to respond to us with logical and intelligent solutions that support the growth of the city without annialating the last of our rural residential farmland. I humbly ask that all of you reply to the below question and concerns:

1. On ES-2 under Quantified Objectives, the EIR states that its objectives are to accommodate 40,000 - 45,000 dwelling units with only 30,000 - 37,000 jobs as per Chapters 3.14 and 2.3 respectively. What is the rationale on building more houses than actual jobs for people? How will future residents be able to buy a home here without enough jobs to accommodate the same number of dwelling units?
2. On ES-2 under Fiscal Responsibility, the EIR states that the SEDA Plan will provide self-financing for the development and ongoing maintenance while not reducing the City of Fresno's resources already dedicated to the City while not burdening residents outside of the SEDA however the cost of the SEDA Plan and the self-financing thereof is not listed anywhere with the EIR nor the SEDA Plan. How much is the SEDA Plan expected to cost and what is the cost of self-financing? If the cost of the SEDA Plan will not burden residents outside of the SEDA, how does the City of Fresno plan on burdening the residents inside the SEDA and at what costs? How much will SEDA residents' taxes increase?
3. Under the same page and section (ES-2, Fiscal Responsibility) and in regards to Chapters 3.11 and 3.18, why isn't the City of

Fresno considering the renovation and adaptive reuse of existing structures since this is typically much less expensive than large-scale new construction. The City of Fresno could prioritize retrofitting underutilized spaces instead of spending millions, if not billions, on new infrastructure, utilities (including water, sewer and power), and roads.

4. On ES-2 under Social Equity, the EIR states that the SEDA Plan will promote health by reducing harmful emissions from cars and industry in Chapter 3.8 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions), but how can the SEDA Plan accomplish this during the building phase with all of the emissions from building equipment, subsequent air pollution, hazardous materials, etc.? What steps will be taken and upheld to ensure the safety of residents, workers and wildlife? Prolonged exposure to fine particulate matter and diesel exhaust has been linked to an increase in heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular conditions. What is the City of Fresno going to do to mitigate this exposure?
5. On ES-5 under Impact AG-2 which refers to Chapter 3.2 (Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources) of the EIR, it states that the SEDA Plan includes land under the Williamson Act and convert it to non-agricultural uses without any mitigation to reduce it to less than significant which contradicts the purpose of this program. Please provide details on how the City of Fresno plans to pay for the monetary penalties of up to 25% of the market value of the land plus 25% of the value of any incompatible improvements? Will SEDA residents' taxes be used to pay for these penalties?
6. In reference to Chapter 3.10 (Hydrology and Water Quality), what is the budget for the stormwater systems, water supply, altering the existing drainage patterns, capturing the substantial increase in runoff and building additional areas/sources for capturing additional flood water?
7. Where is the City of Fresno planning on getting the millions of gallons of water required to build 40,000-45,000 dwelling units as per Chapter 3.10 (Hydrology and Water)?
8. On page 2-18 and in reference to Chapter 3.17 (Transportation and Traffic), the EIR states that the City of Fresno will provide "high quality transit service" without any information on how this will be accomplished. What the budget is for such high quality transit service? Please provide the environmental impact report for such transit service? A blank check is unacceptable and such questions must be addressed prior to approval.
9. How does the City of Fresno plan on acquiring and funding the necessary resources of adding additional police, fire, ambulatory and other emergency and protective services to accommodate the additional population and increase of businesses and other infrastructure to not only maintain, but reduce both crime and response time to emergencies based on the proposed SEDA Plan (referencing Chapter 3.15 (Public Services))?
10. How much money or other financial and non-financial kickbacks are you, all those copied herein and other city officials receiving from land developers, builders, contractors, corporations, etc. to get the SEDA Plan approved?
11. With reference to Chapter 3.9 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials), what is the City of Fresno's plan to prevent public and environmental hazards caused by accidents involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment both in the air and water? What is the City of Fresno's plan to mitigate the increase in construction waste in our landfills?
12. Referencing Chapter 3.2 (Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources), the proposed plan will permanently convert thousands of acres of Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance into non-agricultural uses, with no feasible mitigation to preserve this essential resource. What is the City of Fresno doing to preserve this fundamental resource and at the very least mitigate this issue? Why isn't the City of Fresno considering focusing on urban infill development, instead of destroying farmland, in an effort to preserve Fresno's farmland and agricultural economy and maintain food production stability?
13. Referencing Chapter 3.3 (Air Quality), the SEDA Plan will generate significant criteria air pollutants during construction and operation, exceeding San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) thresholds. Mitigation measures cannot fully reduce these emissions and this needs to be addressed by the City of Fresno since we have been working to reduce the pollution for the last twenty years and just within the last decade we have finally seen an improvement where we can actually see the surrounding mountains. The SEDA Plan could reverse all those efforts. Please detail how the City of Fresno would address the following in regards to air quality:

- air pollution and respiratory issues due to the increase emissions of particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and diesel particulate matter, all of which are linked to asthma, bronchitis and lung cancer.
- exposure to Toxic Air Contaminants that have been linked to severe illnesses including leukemia

14. One of the SEDA Plan's goals is to reduce vehicle miles traveled (see pages 6, 12, 25, 33, 64, 78 and 110 in accordance with Chapters 3.14 and 3.17). However, per the SEDA plan, only 37,000 jobs are estimated to be created with 40,000-45,000 dwelling units to be built. How can the SEDA Plan accomplish a reduction in vehicle miles travelled when (at the absolute least, assuming 1 person per household) a minimum of 8,000 people (difference between 45,000 dwelling units and 37,000 jobs created) will have to travel outside of the plan area to commute to their jobs when more and more companies are implementing a return to office policy? Additionally if people must travel outside of the plan area, this leads to increased vehicle emissions and traffic resulting in higher rates of health issues (respiratory and cardiovascular diseases) due to prolonged exposure to vehicle exhaust.

A very concerned SE property owner,
Cindy Ramsey

SEDA OBJECTIONS LETTER

Our names are Gregory J. Renna and Abbe J. Renna, we live within the City of Fresno's proposed Southeast Development Area. We are writing to voice our objections to this plan for several reasons covered herein.

Section 3.2- Agricultural Resources and Forest Resources

If approved, The SEDA plan could convert 9,000 acres of rural Fresno County Prime farmland into as many as 45,000 housing units. We have neighbors who are currently farming a variety of produce including fruits and vegetables. Our area includes the beauty of the blossom trail and views of our mountains, which we hope to preserve for generations to come.
The city plans to enforce restrictions on farmers outside their authority. As farmers in the Westlands Water District for a number of years, we learned first hand how government control of water can destroy farming. We were forced to sell our farm property in 2002, due to the environmental and governmental restrictions placed on us as farmers. The property on which we currently reside is excellent farmland and its loss would be devastating to the community as a whole. Once this land is taken over by homes there will be no turning back, this precious farmland will be gone for good. There are several areas in Fresno, where homes have been built near established orchards, and even though the home buyers knew they would be living in an agricultural area, they complained, and restrictions were put on the farmers. We do not believe this is the best use of our valuable rural farmland. The SEDA plan does not value the cultural role of agriculture in our valley.
With regard to forest resources, the SEDA plan does not account for the timber products that would be needed to build these new homes and facilities.

3.10 - Hydrology and Water Quality

California has already overtaxed its water systems. As was recently evidenced in the horrific wildfires in Southern California, water storage is well below what is needed to support our population, existing homes, schools, and farming. With no new dams or reservoirs under construction, how can the City of Fresno allow for more people, homes, and facilities to be built in our area.
As rural residents, we have to monitor the depth of our wells and be concerned with ground water recharge. We are the best stewards of our land and water resources. If the SEDA plan passes, we will have to condemn our wells and connect to city water at an exorbitant cost to each homeowner. Many of us have lived on our properties for decades, and have worked hard to pay off our mortgages. Now the City will require us to go into debt during our retirement years.
As the population grows, the use of pesticides, paint, oil, and other dangerous chemicals will grow exponentially. Scientists have found that many of the medications we take such as hormones and statins do not break down and therefore percolate into our water systems. Does the city have a plan to mitigate these pollutants?

Section 3.8 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Section 3.17 - Transportation and Traffic

The addition of up to 45,000 homes and the population increase which will accompany these homes will undoubtedly add to Greenhouse gas emissions in our area. In fact, the project is estimated to triple air pollution levels in Southeast Fresno, according to city documents.There is not currently any means of mitigation proposed. The SEDA plan does not show a budget or environmental impact report for “high quality transit.”
In California, most homes house at least 2 adults. Many families require both adults to work. Given this data, up to 90,000 jobs will be needed to support the influx of people to our area. Obviously, many of the required jobs will be outside of our area, and will demand the use of cars, undoubtedly raising air and water pollution levels in the form of greenhouse gasses.

Section 3.15 - Public Services

We do not see any proposal for a budget to meet the increased need for public services. How can the city guarantee our safety while walking, biking, or driving in these newly developed areas? With more residents, more walking trails, and open areas planned for recreation, we know there will be a greater need for firefighters as well as police. We do not feel that we have enough public servants in our area currently. We have already seen an influx of homeless people in nearby neighborhoods, freeway on ramps, and empty lots. The City of Fresno has not been able to prevent these encampments from springing up. Our belief is that the City of Fresno is not prepared to add enough additional personnel to serve this expansion of homes and people.

From: Christopher Rocha
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: SEDA EIR
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 9:49:35 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Approving SEDA would have long-term fiscal impacts on City services, diverting investments from existing neighborhoods already struggling with urban decay, missing infrastructure, and underfunded public services.

We must prioritize infill development, economic growth in Central and South Fresno, and equitable investments for all communities - not just new suburban expansions.

Thank you,

Chris Rocha
[redacted]
District 2

From:	Martha Rodriguez-Torres
To:	LongRangePlanning
Subject:	Concerns regarding the SEDA Recirculated EIR
Date:	Saturday, March 22, 2025 10:42:47 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To:
Sophia Pagoulatos, City of Fresno Planning Manager

I am writing to you in regard to the recirculated EIR for the expansion of SEDA. I am not in agreement with this plan which will further create unwanted growth, noise and air pollution and reduction of farmland.

Why are you trying to annex 9000 acres to the city of Fresno when there are so many needs within the existing city boundaries?

3.3.4 Our air quality is one of the worst in the nation. We continue to suffer health problems (asthma, sinus infections, etc.) and limited days of activity because of the poor air quality. This will only exacerbate the situation.
3. 17 I currently live off Temperance and Lowe. The amount of traffic and noise has really made it difficult to sit and enjoy the outdoors. I do not like to stand in the way of progress, but no consideration was taken for the existing homeowners already dealing with the high speed of traffic heading towards the 180 Fwy. This was all farmland when I purchased my home, now it's a noise haven because of the people traveling to and from the freeway off ramp on Temperance.
4.1 The 9000 acres of farmland will be lost to the developers and contractors working to make a fast buck off of the land that feeds this country. How much of your plan will protect the people in our midst that can't afford homes? How will schools be built and funded? Where are the jobs coming from? All we will have are people interested in investing and making this area another Southern California and don't even live here or will come with their attitudes of big city living. This EIR was not updated. Please stop selling us out.

I oppose this plan.

Concerned citizen and homeowner,

Martha Rodriguez Torres
[redacted]

SANGER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1905 SEVENTH STREET • SANGER, CA 93657
(559) 524-6521 FAX (559) 875-0311

DENNIS WIECHMANN, ED.D
SUPERINTENDENT

March 24, 2025

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Subject: Recirculated Draft Program EIR for SEDA Specific Plan (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 2022020486)

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos:

This letter includes the comments of the Sanger Unified School District on the Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (RDPEIR) for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan. The Sanger Unified School District (District) encompasses most of the territory within SEDA (all land south of Tulare Avenue) and approximately 30,000 of the potential 45,000 new housing units.

The proposed plan shows 16 neighborhood centers within the Sanger Unified portion of SEDA, each of which would include an elementary school integrated with a park and other neighborhood center functions. High school and middle school facilities would also be needed.

On page 3.15-31 under the Impact Analysis heading, the RDPEIR cites a statewide K-12 student generation rate (0.7 students per housing unit) and multiplies it by the total number of units anticipated in the SEDA Specific Plan area (45,000) to estimate the number of students generated at buildout of the plan (31,500 students). Since about two-thirds of the 45,000 new housing units (30,000) would be within Sanger Unified, approximately 21,000 students could potentially be generated in Sanger Unified.

Although student generation rates for individual school districts can vary greatly, the student generation rate in Sanger Unified currently approximates the 0.7 average for grades TK-12. Breaking this down further, the average generation rate for grade groupings is approximately 0.4 student per unit for grades TK-6, 0.1 student per unit for grades 7-8, and 0.2 student per unit for grades 9-12. Thus, under this student generation rate assumption, approximately 12,000 students would be generated in grades TK-12 in Sanger Unified, 3,000 students in grades 7-8 and 6,000 students in grades 9-12.

A new elementary school in Sanger Unified would serve approximately 700 students, thus there would potentially be a need for an additional 17 elementary schools assuming the

average generation rate is appropriate. However, it is important to note that student generation rates can vary greatly depending on the type of units constructed. The 0.7 generation rate in Sanger Unified is based on existing development, which is heavily weighted toward single family units. The SEDA plan provides for a large number of multiple family units to be built in the various Town Centers and in the extensive Mixed Residential and Neighborhood Residential areas. Multiple family units generally generate a lower number of students than single family units. Therefore, the estimated number of students resulting from development of the plan area could be substantially lower than stated previously and the number of planned schools would be lower than that shown in the proposed land use plan. In any event, the 16 elementary schools shown in the plan would in all likelihood provide an adequate number of schools for plan buildout as a worst case.

With regard to middle school and high school facilities, the new middle school and high school facilities at the District's educational center at Jensen and Fowler Avenues should be able to provide capacity for some of the future SEDA students in the area south of Jensen Avenue, depending on the level of development that occurs in the District's growth areas outside of SEDA. If buildout of SEDA results in 3,000 students in grades 7-8, as previously indicated, there would theoretically be a need for two new middle schools, assuming a capacity of 1,500 students per middle school. If SEDA buildout generated 6,000 high school students, this would create a need for slightly more than two new high schools, assuming a capacity of about 2,800 students per high school. As mentioned previously, however, the large number of multiple family units planned would likely result in lower student generation rates and reduce the number of students generated and the need for facilities as compared to the maximums above. As indicated in the RDPEIR, Policy OS-7.1 indicates the City will work with the District to establish specific locations for high schools and middle schools.

On page 3.15-11, under the heading of California Government Code, Section 65995(b) and Education Code, Section 17620, the development fee information provided is substantially out of date. It mentions the statutory fees approved by the State as of January 24, 2014 ($3.36 per square foot for residential development and $0.54 per square foot for commercial/industrial development). The current fees as of the last time they were adjusted by the State allocation Board in January 2024, are $5.17 per square foot for residential development and $0.84 per square foot for commercial/industrial development.

The various objectives and policies related to schools in the document appear to be appropriate, as well-designed and located schools are essential to the fabric and success of neighborhoods. The District has the primary legal responsibility for the location, design and operation of schools; however, the District looks forward to working collaboratively with the City so that the objectives and policies of the plan can be realized to the extent possible.

On page 3.15-31, the second paragraph (Impact Analysis under Impact PUB-3), states the following:

> Additionally, future development within the Plan Area would be required to comply with applicable school development fees in order to mitigate the impacts on school facilities caused by future development within the City. Payment of applicable development fees

would offset the construction and acquisition costs of required school facility improvements and additional staff to meet acceptable service levels.

Regarding the above statement, the key to mitigating the impacts on school facilities caused by future development within the City and keeping pace with new development is having adequate financing to build the schools and to build them in a timely manner. Schools are funded by a combination of statewide bond measures, local bond measures and developer fees. State bond measures require voter approval and are anything but certain. When they are approved, the funds are often depleted quickly due to a backlog of unfunded projects in the state. To get state funding, school districts must match with a local funding contribution that mostly comes from local bond measures which must be approved by local voters. The amount of the bond measures are based on assessed valuation, and the measures require a supermajority vote of either a 55% or 66.6% vote depending on the amount requested. Developer fees are an important school funding component, but they are substantially inadequate for funding schools unless state and local bond measures are approved. And if needed schools cannot be built or built in a timely manner to keep up with new development, schools will end up being left out of the planned neighborhood centers and residents will need to travel much further to attend school, thereby increasing air pollutants, greenhouse gases and vehicle miles travelled and hindering the desired accessibility, walkability and the basic functions of the planned neighborhood centers.

Obtaining the funding necessary for up to 16 new elementary schools and at least another high school and middle school will be a substantial challenge if left to the current funding methods for financing schools. As stated in the original EIR Notice of Preparation, implementation of the Specific Plan would require a comprehensive infrastructure plan that "must be accompanied by a comprehensive and detailed financing and implementation strategy that includes the phasing and financing of development and all major infrastructure." We believe it will be very important for the District to engage with the City in the infrastructure planning process to determine how best to fund the school facilities needed and provide them in a manner to keep pace with new development. We recognize that development of the Sanger Unified portion of SEDA is not anticipated to occur until about 2035, but it will be essential to set up an infrastructure financing plan that includes schools well in advance.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Recirculated Draft Program EIR. We look forward to collaborating with the City of Fresno in the implementation of the SEDA Specific Plan to ensure that well-located and designed school facilities can be financed and constructed when needed to serve future new development in the Sanger Unified portion of the SEDA Specific Plan. Please let me know if you have any questions on this letter.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Robles
Chief Operations Officer

From: Sarah Valentine
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Protect Fresno's Future: Stop SEDA Now
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 4:43:56 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To Whom It May Concern,

I hope this email finds you well. Today, I come to you wearing many hats—those of a wife, a mother, a nonprofit worker in my neighborhood, and a parent advocate for my children's elementary school. These roles allow me to see Fresno through many lenses, and I am compelled to speak out because I am tired of seeing the challenges we face every day.

The Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan proposes adding 9,000 acres of urban sprawl to Fresno, a move that will have long-lasting consequences for our community. This plan will divert resources away from existing neighborhoods that desperately need attention, such as the Jackson and Historic Huntington neighborhoods.

These areas are already grappling with significant challenges, including high crime rates that threaten the safety and well-being of residents. Reports of property crimes, vandalism, and even violent incidents are far too common. Families in these neighborhoods live with the daily reality of unsafe streets, inadequate lighting, and a lack of resources to address these issues. Expanding into new areas while neglecting these pressing concerns is not only irresponsible but also unjust.

Instead of expanding, Fresno should prioritize fixing the problems in the areas we have already developed. Our community deserves better. Generations are depending on us to address the pressing needs in established neighborhoods before considering expansion.

We cannot afford to let this plan move forward while our existing neighborhoods remain neglected. It's time to put voters first and prioritize the needs of our community. Let's work together to ensure a better future for Fresno.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Please feel free to reach out if

you have any questions or would like to get involved further.

Best regards,
Sarah Valentine
Mom, Wife, Program Manager (Jackson CDC) & Jackson Elementary parent advocate


Hello Fresno City officials,

I am a homeowner in Fresno's Historic Huntington District. My kids go to school at [redacted]. I am an associate professor of biology at [redacted]. Every day, I bike 3 miles to work through south Fresno.

I, along with the Jackson Neighborhood Association, oppose SEDA (Southeast Development Area Specific Plan) because it would take money away from maintenance of our existing streets and facilities, and instead SEDA would cause urban sprawl. I want Fresno to move toward healthier and less carbon intensive living, and restricting sprawl is an important way to lower the average fuel burn of residents of our city. We need to improve our existing business districts, parks, and roads rather than build sprawling new ones.

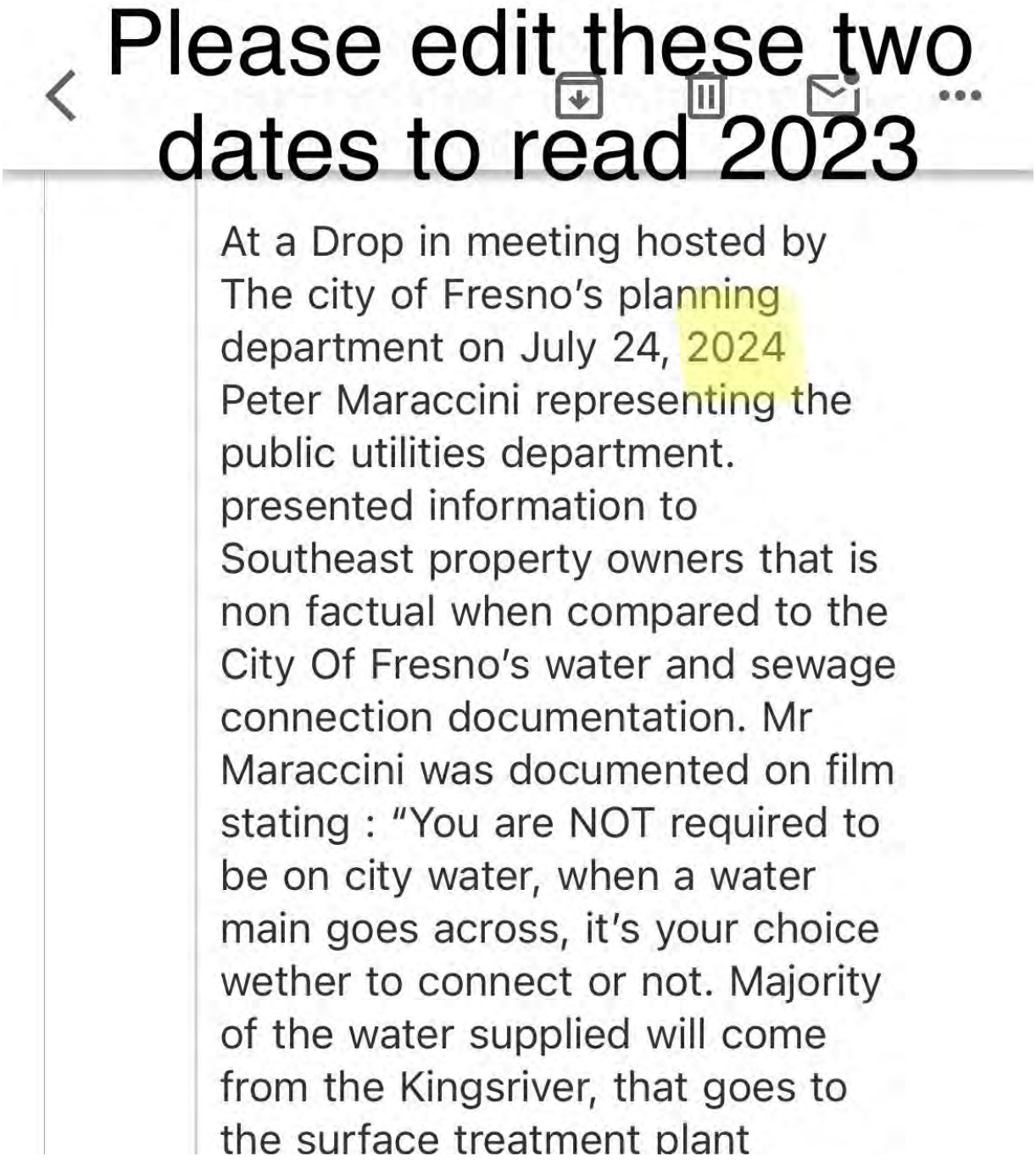
Respectfully, Dr. Andrew Sensenig, [redacted]

Date: March 23, 2025.

From: Brett Thompson
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Edit to public comment provided by Brett Thompson and SEPO
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 10:25:48 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Please edit 2 dates included in the comment letter submitted against the Recirculated Draft EIR on March 24th, 2025 these dates should be changed from 2024 to 2023. My apologies for the errors. See attachment for the location of the Errors in question.



located on Armstrong" if you have an existing well we cannot impose a meter on you, but if you drill a new well, they will be metered."

This statement by Mr. Maraccini (recorded on video)
directly contradicts information emailed to a resident of Southeast Fresno prior to the "drop in meeting" on July 24, 2024. We suggest Mr. Maraccini deliberately provided false information to residents at the "drop in meeting" to falsely ease our concerns of required hook up to City of Fresno utilities. Below you'll find the email sent on 8-2-2023 by Mr. [redacted]

From:	Brett Thompson
To:	Brett Thompson; LongRangePlanning; Sophia Pagoulatos; Patience Milrod; Jerry Dyer; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Luis Chavez; Garry Bredefeld; Nelson Esparza; Thomas Esqueda; TJ Miller; Jeff Wabbit; helen ramming; Wes Bigham; Moses Deleon; Sandi Sandberg; Carol Bloesser; Daniel O"Connell; Marilyn Mathew; Jerry Prieto; Gene Branch; Lyle Nelson; Betty Cederquist; Deborah Bigham
Subject:	[WARNING: UNSCANNABLE EXTRACTION FAILED]SEPO Letter of Opposition to proposed SEDA plan
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 4:38:45 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street Room 3065
Fresno, Ca 93721
Longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

We the People of Southeast Fresno, specifically the Southeast Property Owners (SEPO) thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Southeast Development Area (SEDA) plan's Recirculated Environmental Impact Report.

We are writing to express our opposition to the City of Fresno's Southeast Development Area (SEDA) plan, particularly due to the significant adverse environmental impacts it could have on our county and surrounding ecosystems. While the objectives of the plan to

promote energy sustainability are commendable, we believe the implementation as currently outlined may lead to unintended consequences that would negatively affect our environment, wildlife, and quality of life.

The City of Fresno proposed the SEDA plan to residents as:

Can Fresno grow in ways that equitably expand our economy and housing stock while protecting public health? Can “greenfield” growth occur that pays its own way and does not negatively affect existing neighborhoods? Can we build communities where schools, shopping, and parks are within walking distance of every student, worker, and resident? Can we attract and keep highly educated workers and raise collective potential of our diverse population? The City of Fresno Suggests “YES” while the Environmental Impact Report says “No” to most of these questions!

1. The proposed plan to expand our economy and housing stock would generate an estimated 500,000 TONS of Carbon Emissions subjecting residents to unhealthy breathing conditions.

2. Without an attached budget for the SEDA plan the City’s suggestion that this plan can pay it’s own way is a lie! Listed below are some of the many negative affects incited on existing neighborhoods through buildout of the SEDA plan:

following topical areas of concern:

Aesthetics, Light, and Glare

Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources Air Quality

Biological Resources

Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources Energy

Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Hydrology and Water Quality

Land Use and Planning Mineral Resources

Noise

Population and Housing Public Services

Recreation

Transportation and Traffic Utilities and Service Systems Wildfire

Mandatory Findings of Significance

3. The plan proposes building 45,000 housing units and providing 37,000 jobs. This calculation equals .822 jobs per household, this is without job competition from residents living outside the SEDA. How can residents walk to work if the plan doesn't even propose enough jobs for a 1:1 (house to job) ratio?

A public trails plan has not been released to the public for the SEDA plan, how does the City propose a plan reliant on reducing vehicle miles traveled through citizens accessing jobs, school, shopping, and parks without proposing a plan for a trails system?

First and foremost, the potential for increased urban sprawl is a major concern. As Fresno expands to accommodate new energy infrastructure, public utilities, and residential developments, this may result in the encroachment of your city into valuable natural habitats. These habitats are vital to preserving biodiversity, and further urbanization will fragment ecosystems, placing pressure on wildlife populations and reducing critical open spaces. The loss of these areas, particularly agricultural lands, could also diminish local food production, which is an already precarious issue given the state's water and regulatory challenges.

To show the City of Fresno's planning department lacks the ability to plan city expansion in a safe manner, we present to you the City of Fresno willful disregard to Southeast property owners health. The City of Fresno's planning staff scheduled an informative event on July 24th 2023 at 5pm at the Hmong Alliance Church located at 8234 E. Belmont Fresno, Ca 93727. This event was part of a required 4 part seminar to present and educate residents of the City's proposed SEDA Development Plan. City planning staff obtained a conference room to host their meeting at 5pm with weather conditions of extreme heat advisory (108degrees) without a working air conditioner to cool the room to safe standards, fans or air circulation devices were not available to comfort attendees. Doors were propped open to hopefully catch a draft. Residents who remained at the meeting used pamphlets and educational printouts as cooing aids by way of fanning our faces, many residents couldn't bare the heat and were forced to leave the seminar due to health concerns of overheating, food was provided by City Planning staff and left exposed to unhealthy storage temperatures. Many of our residents are elderly and cannot sand for long periods of time. Prior to the start of the event, Sophia was overheard instructing planning staff members to "stack chars behind information boards to prevent them from sitting and to keep them moving"

At two "drop in" events the grassroots group (SEPO), a group of homeowners currently living within the proposed SEDA, was told their educational literature could not be distributed on the grounds the meetings were hosted on: this was seen as an attempt to limit free speech. These events were hosted on publicly funded school sites further worsening City Planning Staff's attempt of silencing opposition.

At "drop in" meetings hosted at Sequoia Elementary on July 27th 2023 and "drop in" meeting hosted at Young Elementary on August 12, 2023 City planning staff requested Fresno Police Department officers presence. These officers positioned their patrol car, with engine running at the entrance gate. Multiple Armed officers were positioned near the

entrance of the auditorium as a show of force by City of Fresno Planing Staff. Many residents were uncomfortable with armed personnel watching over the meeting some were observed entering the parking lot and leaving once they saw police presence.

***The City planning staff lacks the ability to plan a “healthy, safe and comfortable” informational meeting, while at the same time asking residents to trust City Planning Staff to develop a plan to expand their city limits with citizens health a priority?

Budget,Budget Budget! We demand an estimated Budget and an extension to the public comment period for the Recirculated EIR a minimum of 30days past the release of the estimated Budget!

Dear Public Records Officer,

I am writing to formally request the release of documents related to the estimated budget for the SEDA plan that was delivered to City Manager Georgeanne White in December 2024. This request is made under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.), which grants public access to government records in the interest of transparency and accountability.

According to a March 3, 2025, FresnoLand publication by Gregory Weaver, officials have yet to publicly disclose a cost estimate, despite consultants providing one in December 2024. Additionally, during a December 13, 2024, meeting, Councilmember Arias referenced an estimated range between $500 million and $4 billion for the SEDA plan. City Manager Georgeanne White stated that a more specific figure would be released to the public within 90 days. As that timeframe has now passed, we request the immediate release of this financial estimate, as previously promised.

We acknowledge the City’s previous response citing the deliberative process privilege as a basis for withholding the requested records. However, we respectfully challenge this exemption as applied in this case. The budget estimate in question is a factual financial document rather than a pre-decisional deliberative record. The California Supreme Court has recognized that factual information contained within deliberative materials is not necessarily exempt from disclosure. In Times Mirror Co. v. Superior Court (1991) 53 Cal.3d 1325, 1338, the court ruled that the deliberative process privilege applies when disclosure would expose the decision-making process in such a way as to discourage candid discussion within an agency. However, it does not categorically shield all financial records or estimates from public scrutiny.

Furthermore, under Evid. Code § 1040, the public interest in non-disclosure must clearly outweigh the public interest in disclosure. Given that public funds were used to generate this budget estimate, and considering the importance of transparency in government spending, we argue that the public interest in disclosure outweighs any speculative harm from release.

If certain portions of the requested records are deemed exempt, I request that any reasonably segregable portions be provided. If this request is denied in whole or in part, please provide a written explanation citing the specific legal basis for withholding the records, as required under the Public Records Act. We would appreciate a response within the statutory timeframe. You may reach us via the contact information provided.

A citizen has, through submission of a Public Records Request reference #R074276-030425 requested the release of the SEDA plan estimated budget as presented to City Manager Georgeanne White in December of 2024. The City of Fresno has delayed and refused release of this pertinent information.

***How can citizens reply with comment in full detail to the EIR "Fiscal Impact" section if the City is deliberately withhold the budget information?

The City planning Department is proposing a massive development plan without releasing the estimated budget to citizens prior to the closure of the public comment period of the recirculated EIR. Taxpayer money was spent by government officials to hire an independent firm to quantify the estimated expense of this proposed project. We the People of Southeast Fresno demand the City extend the public comment period on the proposed Southeast Development Area EIR, a minimum of 30days past the release of the budget by city officials. We also demand all comment letters submitted against the Draft EIR along with comment letters submitted against the Recirculated EIR be included on any future revisions or releases to EIR documents. Silencing community input due to recirculation is unacceptable. Withholding important decision making information is not acceptable and inappropriate.

As proposed in the Recirculated EIR: Executive Summary-2
Fiscal Responsibility:
• Provide self financing for the development and ongoing maintenance of the SEDA that does not reduce City of Fresno resources dedicated to other areas of the City or burden Fresno residents outside of the SEDA.
• Holistically coordinate infrastructure to integrate efficiencies that piecemeal planning cannot.
• Invest in resource conserving techniques for stormwater systems, water supply, and trail and open space networks to save on infrastructure and mitigation costs.

This plan does not provide self financing as existing citizens within the SEDA have been told we would be required and responsible to hook to city water infrastructure at our expense, potentially costing in excess of $50,000. for city water hook up along with $50,000 or more to hook to city sewer infrastructure. These costs could also inflate due to demands to condemn our existing private utilities infrastructure.

Found on the Fresno.gov website under Frequent Asked Question:

What causes sand in my water?
“Although not harmful to your health, sand in the water can be a nuisance for customers, as well as City staff responsible for maintaining the water system. The geologic formations from which we pump our groundwater include layers of sand, gravel, and clay particles. Older wells constructed without modern gravel filters and screens can periodically pump sand out from the formation.
Fresno has about 100 such wells, which we plan to replace as funds allow. Each new municipal well costs more than
$400,000.”

Through these statements the City OF Fresno acknowledges its infrastructure to supply current residents with potable water is failing and in need of repair. The statement “as funds allow” provides information that the City of Fresno does not have funds to maintain their existing infrastructure.
Repairs costing an estimated $40,000,000.00 “as funds allow” should be the city’s priority, rather than expanding the City’s footprint and taking on more citizens needs. Of the City’s existing 271 water wells, over 1/3 of the Citywide water wells need to be replaced to provide clean drinking water to existing City of Fresno residents. The City of Fresno shall fulfill its duty to provide services to existing residents before implementing expansion plans into Fresno County. The statement that sand is “not harmful to your health” is simply not true. Sand, along with sediment, and heavy metals can indeed cause heath effects to residents and their livestock who drink water contaminated water provided by the City. Sand and sediment in water supply can also cause damage to homeowner’s plumbing systems, appliances, and can stain clothes or dishes.

***If the SEDA plan is passed, how does the City of Fresno propose to fund and maintain new residents and existing residents within the SEDA with clean potable water, while postponing replacement of existing infrastructure?

City of Fresno Public Utilities representative - False information provided to citizens.

At a Drop in meeting hosted by The city of Fresno’s planning department on July 24, 2024 Peter Maraccini representing the public utilities department. presented information to Southeast property owners that is non factual when compared to the City Of Fresno’s water and sewage connection documentation. Mr Maraccini was documented on film stating :
“You are NOT required to be on city water, when a water main goes across, it’s your choice wether to connect or not. Majority of the water supplied will come from the Kingsriver, that goes to the surface treatment plant located on Armstrong” if you have an existing well we cannot impose a meter on you, but if you drill a new well, they will be metered.”

This statement by Mr. Maraccini (recorded on video)
directly contradicts information emailed to a resident of Southeast Fresno prior to the “drop in meeting” on July 24, 2024. We suggest Mr. Maraccini deliberately provided false information to residents at the “drop in meeting” to falsely ease our concerns of required hook up to City of Fresno utilities. Below you’ll find the email sent on 8-2-2023 by Mr. Maraccini of the City of Fresno’s Public Utilities Department:

From Peter Maraccini <Peter. Maraccini@fresno.gov>

Date Wed 8/2/2023 11:52 AM

To Jerry Prieto <jerryncindy@hotmail.com>

Cc Adrienne Asadoorian <Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov>

Hi Jerry,

My apologies for the delayed response. The first part of the long email helps explain the timing of the connection. I then provide current rates at the end of the email.

Sewer Connection: Connection to a sewer once available is mandatory per Fresno Municipal Code and per Fresno County Ordinance Code, meaning annexation would not need to occur for the connection to be mandatory. Here are some excerpts for clarification:

• (If annexed) Fresno Municipal Code, Section 6-303: "If a sewer main has been constructed and is available for use in any public street, alley or right-of-way within 100feet for the first unit plus 50 feet for each additional unit, to be measured along such public street, alley or right-of-way from the nearest property line to the sewer main... buildings or structures connected to a septic tank.

shall be connected to the regional sewer system within three years after the regional sewer system becomes available"

• Exception: "In the R-A, AE-5, and AE-20 zone districts (County Designated Zones), on a lot at least two net acres in size, and provided the lot, if not served by a community water system, contains one dwelling unit or septic system per 2.0 acres, such connection may be deferred until the use of the land changes either through district amendment or special permit."

• (If not annexed) Fresno County Ordinance Code 14.12.030: "Buildings or structures connected to a septic tank or cesspool, at the time a public sewer becomes available, shall be connected to the public sewer within three years after the sewer becomes available and written notice thereof given by the county...Availability of a public sewer means a public sewer which has been constructed and is available for use in any public street, alley or right-of-way within one hundred feet of the first unit, plus fifty feet for each additional unit, to be measured along such public street, alley or right-of-way from the nearest point on the premises to the sewer."

• Exception: "The building official shall grant an administrative exception to the requirement of a public sewer connection if he determines that any one of the following conditions exist... Physical conditionsbetween the public sewer and the premises make it impractical to connect to the public

sewer" (only listed most likely of all reasons)

Water Connection: Unlike sewer, there are no City or County ordinances regarding mandatory connection. However, upon annexation, the Department of Public Utilities typically mandates thefollowing via the Extraterritorial Agreement and/or Annexation Agreement:

• Upon annexation, the domestic water must be supplied by the City when the water main becomes available.

• For larger lots (2 acres or more) zoned for agricultural purposes, the City may allow the property owners to retain a well exclusively to be used for irrigation. In that case, the property owner will be required to install a meter on their well and pay a recharge rate as dictated by the Master Fee Schedule. The property owner will also have to install a backflow prevention device, which has its own associated fee and requires yearly checks by the City of Fresno Water Division. Should the land use change to something other than agricultural, the City would revisit this requirement.

• In all other cases where the property is not zone for agricultural purposes, the well must be properly destroyed.

• Property owners may protest the terms of the Annexation Agreement to the Director of Public Utilities.

• Note: The above stated requirements are internal policy set by the Department of Public Utilities and may change. Until the requirements are included in the Extraterritorial Agreement and/or Annexation

Agreement, nothing is final.

Who pays fort h e cost of the water and sewer connection?

• The cost for connection is to be paid by the property owner. The City does offer loan programs to allow

repayment for the connection be included in monthly sewer and/or water statements over the course of several years (max 15-year term).

• Cost based on Master Fee Schedule: https://www.fresno.gov/w-content/uploads/2023/06/MFS- Public-Utilities5 7 55 7 7CPI-UGM-ED-2023.07.01.pdf

• The City cannot pay or provide loans for any private side improvements. This includes costs to build sewer or water lines from the home to the property line as well as destruction of the private well.

Current Rates for Water, Sewer, and Recharge:

• All rates are found in the Master Fee Schedule and my be updated periodically: https://www.fresno.gov/w-content/uploads/2023/06/MFS-Public-Utilities_575_577_CPI-UGM-ED-2023.07.01.pdf

• For a single-family residence, the rates are:

• Sewer: $25.75 (Sewer Service) + $0.06 (Pretreatment) = $25.81

• Water (City service):

• Metered Service Rate is dependent on meter size- Typical for a single family residence would

be S13.50 (3/4-inch service to $20.80 (1 1⁄2-inch service) • Quantity Charge = $2.33 per 1,000gallons

of Wa t e r (private irrigation well):

• Quantity Charge = $0.29 per 1,000 gallons

• Backflow Prevention Program Fee= $2 per month (if you have a private well and receive separate City service, a backflow prevention device will be needed)

• Rates apply upon connection to the City's water or sewer system.

Please let me know should you have any other questions.

Best Regards, Peter

Due to the many contradictory statements made by Public Utilities representative Mr. Maraccini, both in person and via Email, we request the City correctly identify proposed costs and regulations to be placed on existing neighborhoods prior to moving forward with the SEDA plan.

Expanding City boundaries comes with property owners loss of rights not mentions in the EIR:

Through city boundary changes, citizens will loose the right to discharge firearms on their property. “No shoot zones” are established within certain distances of City boundaries. Changes of boundaries will also affect territory that citizens can currently legally take wildlife utilizing firearms. Studies of how restrictive hunting rights will affect wildlife populations have not been completed.

Through zoning and boundary changes, Existing citizens will have limitations laced upon their properties which will limit animal husbandry rights. Loss of these rights will subject property owner to not only change how property owners keep animals, the loss of rights will affect future property values upon resale by existing homeowners .

While Fresno County lays out guidelines for “Rural Residential Zoning” the City of Fresno included a light green section of their proposed SEDA map identifying properties within their SEDA plan as “Rural Residential”. The City of Fresno Planing website does not currently identify “Rural Residential” as a Zoning section or give specific guidelines for “Rural Residential”. Many lots of property within the proposed SEDA map are located within the “Rural Residential” designation. Some of these lots are less than 2 acres, supplied with FID services and / or currently use existing private water wells for irrigation. In communications from City of Fresno’s Public Utilities Department lots less than 2 acres would loose their right to continue use of private water wells for irrigation purposes and be forced to irrigate using water provided by City of Fresno water connections. These loss of rights are unacceptable and costly to residents needing to irrigate their small farms.

Stated in the recirculated Draft in the executive summary section Impact Land-2

“The proposed project would not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding mitigating an environmental effect”.

Many properties within the SEDA are under contract with the Williamson Act. Changing these properties would absolutely have an adverse effect on the environment when these properties are changed from Restricted to Ag use to develop of homes, industrial, parks, trail, or green space.

Stated in the recirculated Draft EIR Executive Summary - Impact GHG-1

“The proposed project project would NOT generate direct and indirect Greenhouse Gas emissions with NONE mitigation required”

Level of significance after mitigation N/A

This statement is simply not true when compared to information contained in the draft EIR:

Impact GHG-1

“The proposed project WOULD generate direct and indirect Greenhouse Gas emissions” with no feasible mitigation : significant and unavoidable impact”

In section cumulative impact within the executive summary of the recirculated draft : The proposed project would have a less than significant cumulative impact on Greenhouse Gas emissions with no required mitigation

While the draft EIR cumulative impact states:

“The project would have a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact on Greenhouse Gas emissions: no mitigation avoidable with a significant and unavoidable impact.”

Subjecting residents of the Central Valley to an additional 500,000 TONS of carbon emissions annually due to the buildout of the SEDA plan is unhealthy.

Air pollution fines from these increased carbon emissions estimated at $25,500,000.00 annually puts an undue financial responsibility on a City with an estimated $20,000,000.00 budget deficit. These fines, when coupled with infrastructure costs for upgrades to the city’s current infrastructure, make the SEDA plan an unviable option to move forward with.

Power Grid demands: With PG&E as the primary source for Fresno county residents to receive electrical utilities, their power grids are already stressed and often not in working condition during extreme weather including hot months in the summer and cold months in the winter. The proposed SEDA plan will subject existing power grid infrastructure to additional stressors potentially causing more power outages: leaving residents in vulnerable and unhealthy situations. How does the City propose to protect new and existing neighborhoods from power grid overloads? The SEDA plan and EIR fail to answer this question.

Water / hydrology Impacts:

Existing residents within the City of Fresno are to follow mandatory watering schedules to conserve water. Subjecting existing neighbors to these regulations
whom currently provide themselves with water through private wells takes away our rights and places a financial burden on existing residents.

We The people of Southeast Fresno determine the SEDA plan and EIR to be a failure by the planning department, this plan only benefits the builders and investors of income properties. This plan fails to protect public health and resources. We urge City Council Members, The County Board of Supervisors, Mayor Jerry Dyer and Planning Staff to HAULT this plan before any more pubic funds and public resources are spent on continued planning of SEDA!

Signed,

The Southeast Property Owners (SEPO)

Brett Thompson - Communications Officer of SEPO

From: Sheila Otteson
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Subject: Email with previous version of letter re: SEDA EIR as requested
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 4:25:40 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

From:
Sheila Otteson
[redacted]

Date: March 23, 2025

To:
City of Fresno
Planning and Development Planning
Attn: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno St
Fresno CA 93721

Subject:
Concerns About the SEDA Recirculated EIR

Dear Ms Pagoulatos,

I have several concerns about three SEDA EIR sections related to air quality.

EIR 3.3.4 Air Quality - air quality in Fresno and it's surrounding areas is poor and often very bad. Moving in 45,000 homes, industry, business and vehicles will only worsen the air quality. Since moving to Fresno I experience the effects of poor air quality whenever quality measurements move into moderate and beyond by difficulty in breathing.

EIR 4-1 Impact AG-1 Farmland loss - Removing thousands of acres of farm land will reduce air quality. I suspect loss of sight lines to the beauty of the mountains has limited economic value to the members of the proposed community and its developers, I would miss then terribly. The views are good for the soul.

EIR 3.17 Transportation and Traffic— Vast increases in traffic, even bus traffic, will hugely impact air quality adversely. It is laughable that someone thinks That people will only drive 5 miles a day. Just look at Hwy 180 with cars packed in all lanes and slowing below 50 mph last week. the hwy and the extension of Kings Canyon Rd go through the middle of the town-let.

I hope the city planners will produce a more reasonable plan and correct the deficiencies in the EIR. As many urge, the city should look to improve existing open spaces and improve local areas so that people can live and work in a lovely Fresno and not pillage existing farmlands and seemingly open spaces in the country side.

Sincerely,

Sheila Otteson

From:	Shelly Spencer
To:	LongRangePlanning; District5
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miquel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nelson Esparza; Nick Richardson; Sarah Boren; Georgeanne White; Jennifer Clark; Andrew Janz; District1; District2; District3; District7; District6; District4; Jerry Dyer
Subject:	Concerns about SEDA Southeast Area Specific Plan
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 4:32:24 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing with concerns about the Southeast development Area Specific Plan. Although the City is doing its best to maintain and improve Southeast Fresno, sprawling out further will just stretch budgets & staff time too thin to be able to give attention to what already needs to be done!

Just a quick assessment of my neighborhood - within half of a mile of my house - shows:
Road and sidewalk repairs needed (photos)
Stoplight still not finished by Farber (photo)
Empty Lots / Unused buildings to be developed / cleaned / followed up on (multiple photos)
Likely Lead pipes in city water supply in our neighborhood (a letter from the city said this is TBA???)
More police staffing to prevent / follow up on property damage (photo)

I also work in southeast Fresno. There have been numerous HVAC thefts at businesses and churches. The officer who followed up on my report - two months later - said that their backlog of reports is MONTHS long. They can't follow up on crime reports or connect possible evidence quickly enough to prevent recurring thefts! The budget doesn't enough staffing focused on this; they are dependent on the rotation of the officers on injury though this department.

The bottom line: if a new development goes in, it will reduce city funds for existing neighborhoods that need attention. A new development might seem attractive initially but the problems that are happening will just sprawl there and then there will be an even larger problem to tackle than we have now!

Again, I appreciate the efforts the city makes to respond to Fresno GO reports and to respond to police reports, but the backlog of work still needing attention, and delays in some services seem that CEDA as it currently is envisioned is not good for southeast Fresno.

Thank you.

Shelly Spencer
District 5 resident
[redacted]

Stoplight still not finished by Farber



Police staffing needed - we've had 3 broken windows within a year...one was on Easter morning and one on Christmas morning. Arg!









FAST AUTO LOANS

Endorsed by Fresno Police Officers & Firefighters

ELIZABETH

JONASSON ROSAS

for FRESNO CITY COUNCIL

Proven Leadership For Southeast Fresno

Paul W. Condon

NO TRESPASSING

CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE

AVAILABLE
559.432.6200
Daniel Simon


Sixth St


FOR SALE
3630

From: Cheryl Smith
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Opposition to SEDA
Date: Saturday, March 22, 2025 8:30:16 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern about SEDA. City money should e going toward existing neighborhoods, not new developments where the developers make a huge profit at the expense of those in the city that need attention and ongoing services. I live in the hIstoric Huntington area and Jackson Neighborhood. We need ongoing maintenance for our sidewalks, streets, lights, police presence, funding for school, etc. The city owes established neighborhoods their money and attention.

Thank you,

Cheryl Dueck Smith
[redacted]

March 15, 2025

City of Fresno

This letter is in opposition to Fresno Cities plan to annex and convert 9,000 acres of Fresno County farm land (SEDA) into approximately 45,000 housing units, many proposed for low income, Section 8 style developments.

This land is some of Fresno Counties finest and arable farmland, being the livelihood of many multigenerational farmers, both American born and Southeast Asian operated. This rural way of life is their only income, the only way they know! What will happen to them, how will they survive? What about the plant and animal life living within this area? This will destroy the beauty in the native plant life and the native wildlife. The animals indigenous to this area will have no other choice but to move somewhere else. What will happen to our famous "Blossom Trail"? Besides the air and noise, the pollution of our water will also be impacted.

We will speak for and defend those who can't and voice a loud "No!".

Fresno City Planners and Developers don't care about how this would change the way we live. They don't care about the burden of responsibility this will have on the families that live within the SEDA boundaries. The City of Fresno wants to "butcher" this land and they're so far in the hole financially, how could they possibly think this is a beneficial idea and where would the money come from to complete this project? There are thousands of acres of vacant areas within the city that need development, why not use the land already available? That would be the wise decision.

In the **Fresnoland** Magazine March of 2025, Fresno public officials want to "keep-up with the Jone's", wanting to race Clovis and Madera County for new suburbs. Because of the proposed "population increase" caused by SEDA, the project would add $25.5 million to the millions already spent to "clean-up" Fresno area emissions consequently "wiping out" any progress in this area alone and asked the city to transfer location of SEDA to another place.
We, as a large group of southeast Fresno County residents have to protect our land from this proposed encroachment and defend its beauty, people's livelihoods and our homes.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Souza

From: Steven Bruce
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Concerns about SEDA Recirculated EIR
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 2:00:36 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

[redacted]
3/24/25

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that the City of Fresno is planning development in the southeast area of the city. This replacement of farmland with housing is very concerning to me. It is a lot of homes rapidly being built with the expectation that they will be quickly filled. However, with recent data from the California Department of Finance suggests that Fresno is growing at a much slower pace than these houses would accommodate.

In my lifetime I have already seen this sort of excitement building back in the 2008 recession. In which cities like Fresno and Sanger quickly built houses in a similar economic climate. Only for them to have to be abandoned, leaving homes half-built and unoccupied.

Being the center of the county, Fresno has an obligation to stand as an example to the surrounding cities. This will have an effect, as it has in the past, of encouraging the same behavior in our smaller cities. Building 45,000 homes without any consideration for affordable housing is how the City of Fresno continuously keeps individuals like myself out who are both outgrowing our small towns as well as already commuting to Fresno for work and spending most of our money in Fresno. One day I would like to be able to afford housing in Fresno but developments like this keep on pricing me out.

It's also my understanding that there will be no affordable housing available. I am already a citizen of Fresno in everything but my home address. I work in Fresno, I shop in Fresno, and I spend my disposable income going to the theaters, bars, and other establishments. It is frustrating consistently being priced out of actually living in Fresno so I do not need to spend extra gas, which causes extra pollution, driving to Fresno daily.

--
Steven Bruce
Community Organizer
[redacted]
He/Him/His

From:	Sharon Bell Stevens
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nick Richardson; Nelson Esparza; Todd Stermer
Subject:	Concerns About the SEDA Recirculated EIR
Date:	Friday, March 21, 2025 6:48:00 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

David C. Stevens and
Sharon Bell Stevens
[redacted]
March 21,2025

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Attn.: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

I'm writing to express my concerns about the SEDA Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Below are just a few of the key areas that I find alarming:

3.17 Transportation & Traffic
"Per the Recirculated EIR" recommends that a peak -hour ramp queue be completed at each of the recommended SR 180 intersections and that all future development under the proposed project should conduct a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis. Recommends that the City establish policies for the installation of Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging for single- and multi-family residential units as well as DC Fast Charging EV charging stations for retail, commercial, park, and public facilities. • Support of active transportation plans and smart growth efforts that aid the State's 2050 Climate goals. • Requests early engagement on all future development under the proposed project that could affect the State right-of-way. • Recommends that a Traffic Impact Study be prepared. •

Until the recommendations are complied with the cost of the proposed infrastructure cannot be determined. Before I buy anything, I know the price of the item being purchased. I expect the City of Fresno to know the price tag before agreeing to indebting the citizens of Fresno to this unnecessary project.

How is the proposed infrastructure to be paid for when the city is already facing a deficit budget?

3.15 Public Services
Schools. The project area will be served by Sanger Unified School District and Clovis Unified

School District. Sanger Unified has already publicly declared they have no financial ability to build the schools for the projections for substantial student population growth by 2035. Development impact fees will be insufficient to fund new or expanded school facilities. Each section of 3.15 Public Services (Fire Protection, Law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Parks) emphasizes the importance of development impact fees to address the growing demand for municipal services and infrastructure in the project. These fees are projected to be insufficient to cover the cost of new school facilities in the Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA). Ultimately, the taxpayers of Fresno will be burdened with covering the cost of funding these necessary Public Services due to the lack of careful planning and equitable implementation.

3.3.4 Air Quality
Fresno already has some of the worst air quality in the nation, and the SEDA plan admits it will create high levels of pollution.
My husband and daughter have developed asthma since moving to the Fresno area. We do not need to lead in the category of highest asthma rate in the nation also.

invest in Fresno's Existing Communities.
I volunteer at a food pantry near Fulton and Divisadero Streets where homelessness is evident. I would like to see the city build shelters for the unhoused instead of putting our money at risk for the SEDA Plan.
Updating our city sewer and water system and providing affordable housing in existing neighborhoods should be the priority of the City of Fresno rather than expanding as suggested by the SEDA Plan.

Sincerely,

David C. Stevens
and
Sharon Bell Stevens
[redacted]

From: Susie Rodriguez
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Re: annexation
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 12:04:27 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

On Mar 23, 2025, at 11:52 PM, Susie Rodriguez [redacted] wrote:

3.1 Aesthetics, Light and Glare
Why would we want to look like Los Angeles with the addition of 44,000 new homes, the Valley is known for its beauty

3.2 Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources
We provide the world with our agriculture products, building homes and eliminating precious land will harm the world. Not to mention the mountains and its precious resources

3.3 Air Quality
More housing and businesses will create more air pollution

3.4 Biological Resources
Natural resources will suffer by taking away farmland, animals and water resources

3.5 Cultural Resources and Tribel Cultural Resources
We need to keep our Cultural history resources, this is our past and present

3.6 Energy
Use our energy to improve what we already have, new is not always better

3.7 Geology, Soils and Seismicity
We have natural resources, mountains, rivers, lakes and fertile soil to grow our precious crops

3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
More housing and businesses will contribute to greenhouse gases

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

More construction, bigger chance of more hazardous materials being used and a risk to health, safety and property

3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Water quality in the city is awful, existing home owners who have great tasting well water are being asked to hook up with the city, This doesn't make sense!!!

3.11 Land Use and Planning

Land west of Fresno is a better idea for this horrible plan, east side has more farm land, mountains, rivers and lakes

3.12 Mineral Resources

More housing, less mineral resources

3.13 Noise

More houses, more noise WHY???

3.14 Population and Housing

According to the report from one of our property owners, the findings don't justify the new development of 44,000 homes. Within city limits, there are plenty of abandoned houses empty land where new houses, townhomes and condos could be built, water and sewer hookups are already there.

3.15 Public Services

Emergency services, local and state services will be less available.

3.16 Recreation

Money could be better spent on existing city recreation projects.

3.17 Transportation and Traffic

Fresno already has horrible traffic problems, adding more housing would only create more congestion. Public transportation is not used often.

3.18 Utilities and Service Systems

Would have to build new fire department, hospital and police to accommodate the population growth.

3.19 Wildfires

More population, more fires!!! City wants us to be metered for water, who can afford to water 2 or more acres, we would have to stop watering because of the cost and our properties would look like an abandoned dry land, a huge risk for fire. i feel Fresno city should pay our water bill since they wand us to hook up to meters. I understand new housing being hooked up to the city, but it doesn't make sense to force established retired property owners with acreage to belong to the city. We have wells with great drinking water and our own septic tanks, the city wants us to pay $50,000 to remove our well and $50,000 to remove our septic tanks, city should pay that bill.

From: Tessa Hansen-Smith
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Concerns about SEDA Recirculated EIR
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 4:31:24 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
From: Tessa Hansen-Smith
[redacted]
3/24/2025

4-2 Growth-Induced Impacts:
SEDA is using outdated information to base their need for housing on in order to accommodate for a growing population. The fact they are using old data that supports their desires for wealth shows they are not actually thinking of what's best for the city or the people in it who will not be able to afford their new houses but will have to pay taxes to build it nonetheless.

3.3.4 Air Quality:
The Central Valley is ranked in the top 10 most polluted cities in the entire nation, according to the American Lung Association's 2024 State of the Air report. The SEDA admits their plan for development will increase pollution, but try to soften it by saying everyone who will move there will only drive 5 miles at the most everyday. Meaning they assume everyone will work in that complex, go to school in that complex, and shop in that complex. It's incredibly ridiculous. They assume in this job market people will give up their jobs and pay in hopes of getting a job in this development complex, when someone who is a professor at Fresno State wouldn't feasibly do that. That's just one of many examples of jobs people can't magically relocate or find within this complex.

4-1 Impact AG-1:
The Central Valley and California as a whole are major contributors to produce and agriculture. The SEDA plans to destroy 6,700 acres of farmland. This will take jobs from farm workers, who are the backbone of this State and are already being unjustly targeted by the current Administration. Crops on farmland help to clean our air, feed not only Californians but much of the United States, and help foster certain ecosystems. Space is a finite resource. Natural, in development land is a finite resource. Houses don't need to spread outwards, but instead should go towards and be affordable. Not just another new housing market for the wealthy to buy because their 10 year old house is too old for them.

3.17 Transportation and Traffic:
The SEDA claims the people who live in their complex will only drive 5 miles per day, which is 80% less than what experts predict. This is not due to them creating significantly improved public transport systems in their complex that spread to the rest of Fresno and Clovis, but because they naively think and ignorantly state that the new homeowners will

just never leave. Fixing already established roads is projected to cost $500 million, and even though that never becomes a priority and roads get worse, somehow a $2-4 billion project is doable. Fixing roads will not only help people in Fresno, but people traveling through or to Fresno. It will help cars have less wear and tear, and can prevent accidents caused by potholes and roads being cracked open from roots.

I have lived in Fresno for nearly 2 decades, and see the same trends over and over. Developmental properties continuously move outwards, costing money and adding pollution, taking away farmland and ecosystems for plants and wildlife. The houses created are rarely if ever Affordable Housing. Just new houses built poorly that are designed to last 10-15 years before the next major development starts and builds new houses for those people to flock to yet again. We need to stop creating new hotspots of comfortable living and leaving what proceeded it to become dilapidated. It is absolutely appalling this trend that is purely from a place of greed continues. Houses aren't built to last anymore but to look shiny short-term for those who can afford it. This likely won't even help our local housing market, as many people have been buying second or third homes and renting them out at high prices as a way to pay for their new home's mortgage. Worse, the houses remain empty even though people live on the streets, 5 people will share a 2 bed 1 bath apartment, and young adults are forced to live at home during or after college because they can't afford a house of their own. Fresno needs to do better.

From:	Valerie Johnson
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nick Richardson; Nelson Esparza; Todd Stermer
Subject:	Concerns regarding SEDA
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 4:41:50 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,
I am writing to express my concerns about the SEDA Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Below are key areas that I find alarming:

4-2 Growth-Induced Impacts

The SEDA plan relies on **outdated population growth projections** to justify its development. The report claims Fresno will grow by 226,000 people by 2035, but **new data from the California Department of Finance shows a much smaller growth of just 72,000 and only 19,000 more by 2070!** There is no need to expand as suggested in the SEDA Plan when Fresno's population is growing much slower than originally predicted.

3.3.4 Air Quality

Fresno already has some of the **worst air quality in the nation,** and the SEDA plan admits it will create high levels of pollution. **Why worsen our air when the project isn't even necessary?**

4-1 Impact AG-1 (Farmland Loss)

The project will destroy **6,700 acres of farmland**—land that helps clean our air and supports local agriculture. Replacing it with development will **increase pollution and hurt our local economy.**

3.17 Transportation & Traffic

The report claims that by 2025, people in SEDA will drive only **5 miles per day—80% less than what experts predict.** This assumption is **unrealistic** and ignores Fresno's existing car-dependent infrastructure.

Invest in Fresno's Existing Communities (an example)

I live near [redacted] *and there are terrible streets in that area, particularly on Shaw Ave and terrible sidewalks in disrepair on* [redacted] *where my daughter's family lives. I would like the city to fix the streets and sidewalks instead of putting our money at risk for the SEDA Plan. I urge the City of Fresno to prioritize reinvesting in existing neighborhoods rather than moving forward with SEDA.*

Sincerely,
Valerie Johnson
[redacted]

CC annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
mike.karbassi@fresno.gov
miguel.arias@fresno.gov
tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
nick.richardson@fresno.gov
nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
todd.stermer@fresno.gov

From: Wes Bigham
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: SEDA EIR
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 4:36:56 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

EIR 3.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES : FARMLAND IS THE BACKBONE OF FRESNO,CO. THE SOUTHEAST AREA IS PRIME LAND. HOW DOES THE CITY PLAN TO REPLACE THIS LAND.

EIR 3.3 AIR QUALITY:HOW WILL THE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC AND CONSTRUCTION IMPACT THE AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC

EIR 3.10 WATER QUALITY: WATER IS A COMMODITY IN THIS VALLEY. THIS PROJECT WILL CAUSE THE WATER TO DROP IN THE SEDA AREA.WHAT IS THE CITIES PLAN FOR THIS PROBLEM.

From:	Randy White
To:	LongRangePlanning
Subject:	We oppose SEDA
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 8:46:34 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To Whom it may concern,

My wife and I are retired and live in the Jackson Neighborhood (near Jackson Elementary). We are invested in our community and local school. We are deeply concerned about the proposed SEDA development. Here are our concerns:

1. This massive investment in housing is based on old city growth data. Current growth is far below the growth of 15 years ago, the data of which is being used in the justification of SEDA. A development of this size is not necessary.
2. It will further sprawl in our city, which not only eats up more land, but over-taxes our city resources for water, fire, police, recreation, etc.
3. It reduces the incentive to do in-fill housing, which we need in the core of our city.
4. And just as important, it reduces the financial resources available for the maintenance and repair of our current neighborhoods, including the Jackson Neighborhood where we live. This neighborhood, like many others in our urban core, has been neglected. The streets and alleys need repair, the trees trimmed, the local greenspace needs development, and better maintenance.

We urge the city to reconsider this massive development.

Sincerely,

Randall & Tina White
[redacted]

From: Jeannine Raymond
To: LongRangePlanning
Cc: Joanne Clark; [redacted] Robert Boro; [redacted] Wendy Carroll; Daniel & Karen Zack; Aaron Kelley
Subject: SEDA needs to stop!!!!
Date: Friday, March 14, 2025 9:19:34 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno Long Range Planning,

The message below was also sent to the City Council Members representing our neighborhood and areas around it. We are eager to see that you take our concerns seriously and that you will reconsider the effort to expand Fresno beyond what our resources can sustain. Instead, you will come up with a long-range plan to redirect resources to support the infrastructure of existing neighborhoods.

Respectfully,

Jeannine Raymond
Wilson Island Neighborhood Group (WING), Chair
Members of the WING are copied here

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Jeannine Raymond [redacted]
To: 'Miguel Arias' <Miguel.Arias@fresno.gov>, 'Annalisa Perea' <Annalisa.Perea@fresno.gov>
Cc: Joanne Clark <[redacted]>, [redacted] Robert Boro [redacted], [redacted] Wendy Carroll [redacted] Daniel & Karen Zack [redacted], Aaron [redacted]
Date: 03/13/2025 12:24 PM PDT
Subject: SEDA needs to stop!!!!

Council Members,
After reading the SEDA plan, I have a question and a comment...

What is the wisdom behind expanding the footprint of Fresno by investing in SEDA when...

the Fresno budget is in the tank,
our water supply is limited by ongoing droughts,
and the infrastructure of numerous residential areas is in need of repair?

To the latter point, the Wilson Island has been waiting for a year for the City's response to our traffic calming issues. We have recently been told street enhancements and repairs have been delayed, again, until summer. Late spring if we're lucky. Potholes in our streets, insufficient lighting, and an influx of the homeless are current issues. Need I mention the recent activities that have attracted a noticeable police presence.

Is it asking too much for you to turn your attention to existing issues rather than creating new ones???

Respectfully,

Jeannine Raymond
Wilson Island Neighborhood Group, Chair

CBM
Carstens, Black & Minteer LLP
[redacted]
www.cbcearthlaw.com

Main Office Phone:
[redacted]
Direct Dial:
[redacted]

Douglas P. Carstens
Email Address:
[redacted]

March 24, 2025

City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065, Fresno California 93721
Email: longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Re: Comments on Revised Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan Project City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 dated February 7, 2025

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

On behalf of the Sierra Club, Central Valley Partnership, and League of Women Voters we submit the following comments on the Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan project Recirculated Draft EIR (RDEIR)[1]. We previously submitted comments on the Draft EIR (DEIR)[2] on August 28, 2023, which we incorporate by reference.

We understand that the City is not planning to respond to earlier comments on the DEIR or any other letters submitted at that time. If the City's view is that it does not have to respond to earlier comments, it is mistaken. However, we must proceed on the possibility the City might only respond to this letter. Therefore, we are repeating our previous points in this letter and making new ones because all of the substance of these points are still relevant and apply. We also incorporate by reference all comment letters that were previously submitted on the DEIR and specifically ask that you respond to all

[1] The February 7, 2025 RDEIR is available at this link: https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/31680037-Fresno-SEDA-Specific-Plan-Project-Recirculated-Draft-EIR.pdf

[2] The July 2023 DEIR is available at this link: https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Draft-SEDA-Environmental-Impact-Report.pdf

points made in each of those letters as well. The RDEIR should disclose and respond to all previously submitted comment letters on the DEIR.

The SEDA project would be a massive development project with extensive impacts that must be carefully planned and mitigated. It has been accurately described as follows:

> [the project will] transform nearly 9,000 acres southeast of Fresno into a new Clovis on Fancher Creek.
>
> The project up for the city council's vote will be one of the biggest suburban sprawl projects in Fresno's history. The Dyer administration's plan includes 45,000 homes and up to 150,000 people, on a stretch of land that is currently a patchwork stretch of farmland, rural homesteads, two-lane country roads, and stop-signs.
>
> Known as the Southeast Development Area (SEDA), the transformed community would rival the size of Clovis – 16 times the size of the Copper River project in northeast Fresno, and seven times as large as Riverstone and Tesoro Viejo, the major new communities across the San Joaquin River in Madera.

(Weaver, Fresnoland, August 25, 2023, "Another Clovis, but in southeast Fresno? City moves forward on mega-development plans" , available at https://fresnoland.org/2023/08/25/city-of-fresno-eyes-seda/.)

Our understanding of tax sharing agreements that were reached between the City of Fresno and County of Fresno at the end of 2024[3] is that there would now be economic incentives to the City to encourage growth in the Southeast area of the City rather than in other areas where growth should be incentivized. The existence and effect of these tax sharing agreements should be disclosed and analyzed in the EIR. It has been reported in Fresnoland that "The agreement represents a sea change in city development policy, shifting financial incentives towards growth in the city's southeast development area, called SEDA, with nominal changes to incentives to annex areas west of 99, formerly the city's top growth priority." (https://fresnoland.org/2024/12/20/fresno-county-supervisors-approve-tax-sharing-deal-as-southeast-rural-residents-questions-remain/.)

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Fresno (City) must address the impacts of this massive project, along with its cumulative

[3] https://www.fresnocountyca.gov/files/sharedassets/county/v/1/resources/press-release-documents/2024-press-releases/2024-12-20-county-city-tax-sharing-agreement-announcement.pdf

impacts with other similar developments in the region. CEQA has been described as a bill of rights for an environmental democracy. It is intended to provide a "road map" and a "price tag" for proposed projects:

> The CEQA process is intended to be a careful examination, fully open to the public, of the environmental consequences of a given project, covering the entire project, from start to finish. This examination is intended to provide the fullest information reasonably available upon which the decision makers and the public they serve can rely in determining whether or not to start the project at all, not merely to decide whether to finish it. The EIR is intended to furnish both the road map and the environmental price tag for a project, so that the decision maker and the public both know, before the journey begins, just where the journey will lead, and how much they-and the environment-will have to give up in order to take that journey.

(NRDC v. City of Los Angeles (2002) 103 Cal.App.4th 268, 271.)

Unfortunately, the SEDA EIR falls woefully short of providing the public and decisionmakers with sufficient information to evaluate and mitigate the project's impacts. These deficiencies must be rectified and a legally adequate EIR recirculated for public review and comment.

A. Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources Impacts are Not Sufficiently Mitigated.

The SEDA DEIR, in its Agricultural Resource and Forestry Resources section, identifies the amount of farmland threatened with conversion to urban uses. The Plan's proposed development will effectively eliminate approximately 6,741 acres in agricultural production, which are specified as 2,475 acres of Prime Farmland, and approximately 1,352 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, 1,189 acres of Farmland of local importance, and approximately 1,725 acres of Unique Farmland. (DEIR p. 3.2-16.)

The prominent problem of the SEDA DEIR pertaining to agricultural resources is that its proposed farmland mitigation measures for these thousands of acres of farmland rely upon inadequate policies that have not been adequately implemented. When Fresno's General Plan was adopted, farmland mitigation was perhaps the most contested and difficult policy of the entire document. Inevitably, after intense debate, the final 2014 Fresno General Plan contained key values and provisions that were structural in nature, including no sphere of influence extension, a prioritization of infill over greenfield development, and defining an easily implementable farmland mitigation policy.

Specific to the structural land use policies promoting farmland conservation, the 2014 Fresno General Plan stated, "Policies in the Plan will help preserve farmland by incentivizing new development within and adjacent to already-urbanized land, only extending public utilities to new development that adheres to the Plan, and not expanding the City's SOI."[4] So, the proposed development of the Southeast Development Area effectively punctures the previously agreed upon sphere of influence boundary and violates the integrity of the city's hoped for revitalization as it re-initiates a historic pattern of sprawl development and proposes new annexation (RDEIR, p. 2-3 [project "requires" annexation]). LAFCO should have been notified and consulted about this proposal.[5]

The achievement of a farmland mitigation policy was another important outcome of the 2014 Fresno General Plan. Originally, this General Plan specified under policy RC-9-c that when farmland was converted to urban uses, the City of Fresno would "permanently protect an equal amount of similar farmland elsewhere through easement." This simple, straightforward and implementable policy was consistent with other farmland mitigation programs that typically require mitigation at a 1:1 ratio on soils of similar quality under a conservation easement, however RC-9-c was later amended in ways that made it more muddled, less definitive and more difficult to implement.[6]

The Fresno General Plan policy RC-9-c (the amended portion in italics) states:

> **"Farmland Preservation Program**. In coordination with regional partners or independently, establish a Farmland Preservation Program. When Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is converted to urban uses outside City limits, this program would require that the developer of such a project mitigate the loss of such farmland consistent with the requirements of CEQA. The Farmland Preservation Program shall *provide several mitigation options that may include but are not limited to the following: Restrictive Covenants or Deeds, In Lieu Fees, Mitigation*

[4] Fresno General Plan Adopted: December 18, 2014, Resource Conservation and Resilience Chapter, Farmland Section 7.6, pg. 7-42.
[5] On March 9, 2022, LAFCO considered SEDA.

[6] The hearing to consider General Plan Amendment Application No. P18-03553 and related Environmental Finding was initiated by the Fresno City Council on March 3, 2017 through Council Resolution No. 2017-61. The final resolution approved the General Plan Text Amendment No. P18-03553 amending Farmland Preservation Program RC-9-c.

> *Banks, Fee Title Acquisitions, Conservation Easements, Land Use Regulations, or any other mitigation method that is in compliance with the requirements of CEQA*. The Farmland Preservation Program may be modeled after some of all of the programs described by the California Council of Land Trusts."[7]

After a decade, the 2014 General Plan's originally clear farmland mitigation policy has been amended, diluted, and as yet remains unimplemented. Even worse, its explicit direction to establish a "Farmland Preservation Program" remains incomplete. This reticence toward implementation erodes confidence that such measures will now be taken up within the Southeast Development Area's Specific Plan.

Given the lack of compliance with earlier planning policy plans and directives related to farmland conservation, it is recommended that the City of Fresno institute a SEDA-specific urban growth boundary requiring fifty percent vote of city residents to all future proposed greenfield developments in the Plan Area. This would raise the level of planning diligence, democratic participation, and environment promoting policies as each future development project is considered. In addition, each future development proposal in the area should be authorized under a similarly constituted initiative process in authorizing community benefit agreements on each proposed development project to ensure its equity values can be programmatically achieved, such as in future apprenticeship programs and local hire mandates. Environmentally, community benefit agreements would better ensure that proposed "school and neighborhood gardens, community orchards, agricultural education centers and small farming operations in green belts and on the buffer edge" will be realized. (DEIR p. 3.2-17.) Both urban growth boundaries and community benefit agreements ensure resident-involved planning and democratic, participatory involvement through voter initiatives on each proposed future development projects within the Specific Plan area.

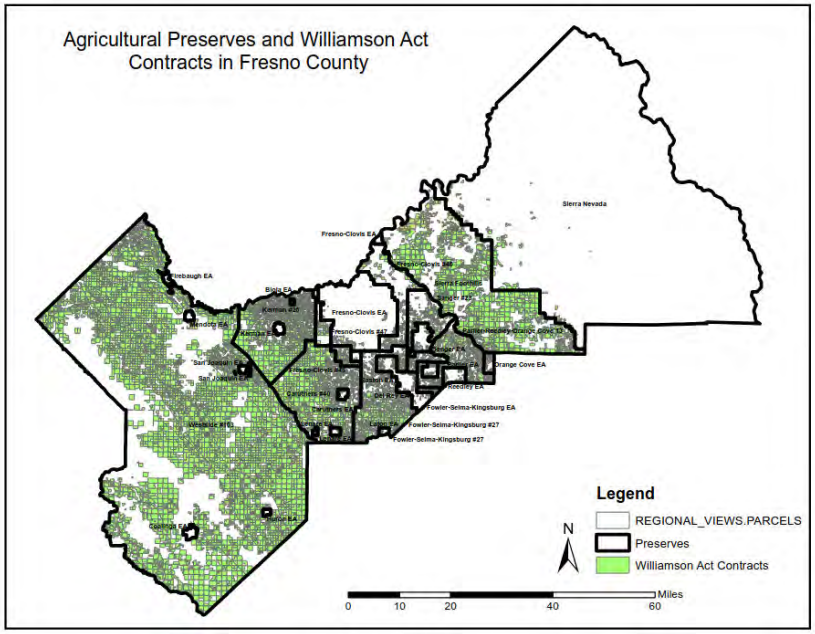
Specific to farmland mitigation, the SEDA DEIR inadequately identifies mitigation that can be expected to be meaningfully implemented. A proposed "Buffer District" is a much lesser threshold to breach in the future than an existing sphere of influence boundary in a general plan. Yet this is just the mitigation policy remedy being suggested in SEDA's DEIR policy framework. (DEIR p. 3.2-17.) The proposed Buffer District is purely aspirational without explicit mechanisms to hold the line on future greenfield development and residential sprawl. Most troubling is that the SEDA EIR's primary farmland mitigation policy proposal yet again relies upon the dormant 2014

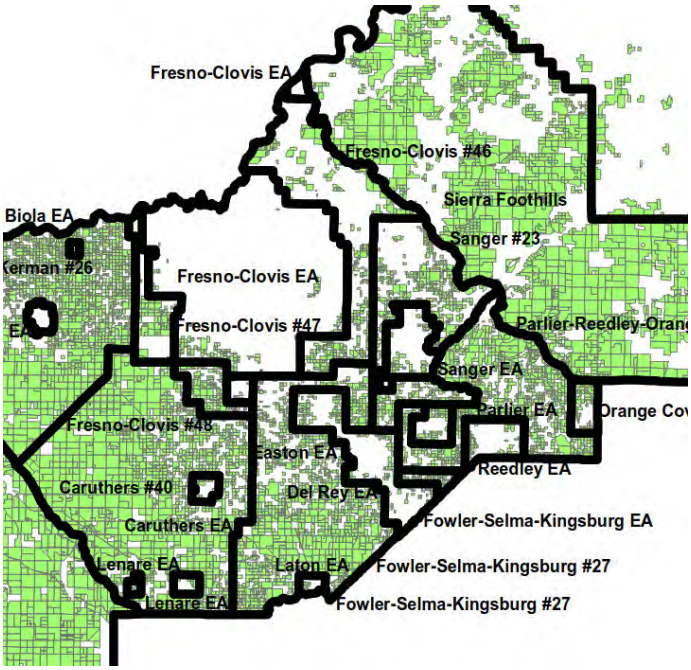
[7] Fresno General Plan Adopted: December 18, 2014, Resource Conservation and Resilience Chapter, Farmland Section 7.6, pg. 7-43.

Fresno General Plan policy RC-9-c guiding farmland mitigation, and MM AG-1.1 that was supposed to establish a Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), now planned to be initiated by 2025. (DEIR p. 3.2-15.)

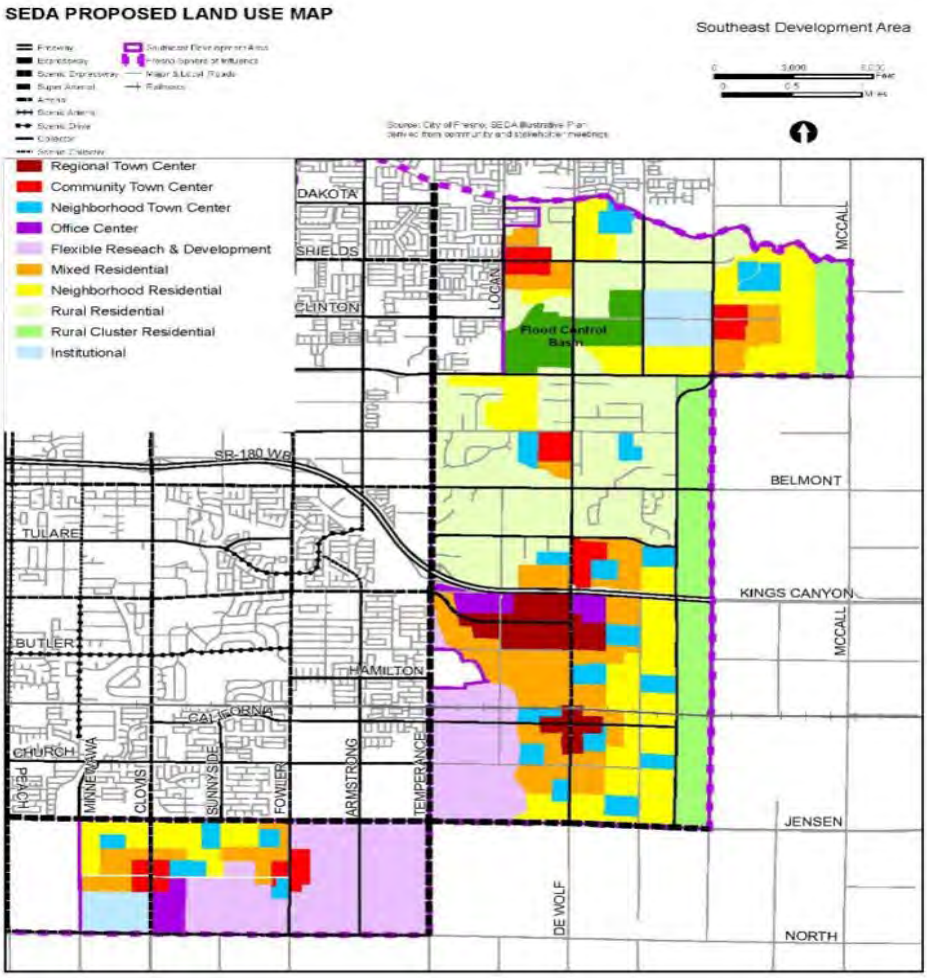
Given the past lack of planning policy follow through, the SEDA EIR makes contingencies, "because the FPP has not yet been developed, the proposed project would implement project-specific MM AG-2, which requires all future development to mitigate the loss of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, on a project-by-project basis before the initiation of construction or ground-disturbing activities." (DEIR p. 3.2-17.) A project-by-project policy makes oversight of mitigation policy unworkable though it becomes necessary given the City of Fresno's past reticence and resistance to mitigate for the loss of farmland.

Farmlands must be protected, including those that are contracted and uncontracted under the Willamson Act. The following maps are prepared by Greg Weaver. All parcels on this map must be accounted for in terms of how their protections will be maintained. In order for the Williamson Act to succeed as a long term conservation tool, regulation of noncontracted lands cannot be overlooked. SEDA must account for their preservation.





The status and restrictions of the Williamson Act contracted lands must be considered and protected, as must the status of uncontracted lands. (See RDEIR, p. 3.2-16.)



B. Air Quality Impacts Would be Significant And are Insufficiently Mitigated

1. Fresno's Current Air Quality Situation is Dire and Would be Worsened By the Project.

There is no dispute that the air quality in Fresno is abysmal. The prestigious American Lung Association's annual report State of the Air 2023 lists Fresno as the fourth-most polluted city in the country for ozone[8], and the second most polluted for short-term particulate pollution, and the third-most polluted city for year-round particle

[8] The listing is for Fresno-Madera-Hanford, at https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities; last visited 8/24/23.

pollution[9]. The federal EPA classifies the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, of which Fresno is a part, as in "extreme" nonattainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone, and in "serious" nonattainment for fine particulates (PM2.5). The San Joaquin Valley is one of only two air basins in the entire country classified as in "Extreme" nonattainment for ozone. (EPA Green Book, at https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/jnc.html, last visited 8/24/23. Classification of the San Joaquin Valley as in "Serious" nonattainment of the federal standard for PM2.5 is at https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/rnc.html, last visited 8/24/23.)) Fresno is an unhealthy place to breathe, and especially so for sensitive groups, including children, the elderly, and the sick.

Both state and federal law require air basins to comply with the health-based state and federal Air Quality Standards. [E.g., 42 USCA §7401, et seq.).] The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control Agency (APCD) has devised an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) to reduce the levels of health-damaging pollution in the air and make the air healthier to breathe. According to the DEIR, a new AQMP for ozone was due for submission to the EPA by August of 2022. There is no information in the DEIR as whether it was submitted or when an evaluation of the new AQMP by EPA might be expected; the fact remains that the Valley is in extreme nonattainment. A new plan for PM2.5 was submitted in June of 2020. (DEIR p. 3.3-25.) EPA has postponed the deadline for the Valley to meet the PM2.5 standard until 2024, but has not yet approved or disapproved the APCD's new plan to meet the federal standard. The Valley remains in serious nonattainment for PM2.5. However, these facts appear to matter little, since the DEIR clearly and unequivocally states that carrying out the SEDA plan is **not** consistent with the Air Quality Management Plan now in operation to meet health-based federal and state Air Quality Standards, and would conflict with that Plan and with project significance thresholds established by APCD to prevent increases in ozone. (DEIR, pp. ES-6, ES-14, 3.3-45.) The DEIR states at page 3.3-45:

> [T]he proposed Specific Plan would generate long-term emissions of criteria air pollutants that would exceed the Valley Air District's regional operation-phase significance thresholds, which were established to determine whether a project has the potential to cumulatively contribute to the [San Joaquin Valley Air Basin]'s nonattainment designations. Thus, ***implementation of the proposed Specific Plan would result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing***

[9] The listing is for Fresno-Madera-Hanford, at https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities; last visited 8/24/23.

> ***air quality violations; cause or contribute to new violations; or delay timely attainment of the AAQS***.

(DEIR, p. 3.3-45, emphasis added.)

The DEIR also states, at page 3.3-51, that the Project will cumulatively increase the airborne pollution to which Fresno residents are exposed daily:

> The proposed project would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.

(DEIR, p. 3.3-51.)

2. Project Construction Emissions Would Be Significant For Every Pollutant Category.

The DEIR explains that, by itself, construction of the Project will cause emissions of every pollutant for which the Valley is in nonattainment in amounts that exceed APCD significance thresholds during each and every year of Project construction, 2023-2043, except the very last year. (DEIR, Table 3.3-8, p. 3.3-53.[10]) The DEIR makes no comparison between the emissions that Project construction will cause to the emissions provided for in the AQMP, a critical failure to provide the information that should be in the DEIR.[11] It also asserts that it is "unavoidable" - if the SEDA plan is carried out – that "sensitive receptors" (e.g., children, the elderly, and people who already have respiratory illnesses) will be exposed not only to air that far exceeds the health-based state and federal Air Quality Standards, but they may also be exposed to toxic pollutant emissions, including carcinogens, during construction of the Project. Such carcinogens and other toxic chemicals are contained in diesel particulate emissions (commonly referred to as "DPM," for diesel particulate matter"), an airborne soup of chemicals and small particles,

[10] We note that, while the DEIR states that "[b]uildout of the proposed project would occur over approximately 25 years, or longer," the Table showing pollutant emissions from construction goes out only 19 years. There will, apparently, be even more pollutant emissions than the Table shows.

[11] Nor is Appendix B, the Air Quality Appendix, much help. It contains only the same Table (in a slightly different format) and the outputs of the computer model used to predict Project emissions (these cannot easily be read by laypersons). It does not compare Project construction emissions with the AQMP.

many of which either are carcinogenic, or have carcinogens adhered to them, that are emitted by diesel trucks and diesel-powered construction equipment.[12]

The potential health impacts from diesel particulate emissions are quite significant, as the DEIR shows at page 3.3-17. The DEIR, at page 3.3-59, tersely acknowledges that "Project construction would involve the use of diesel-fueled vehicles and equipment that emit DPM, which is considered a [Toxic Air Contaminant]."[13] The DEIR disclaims the ability to estimate DPM emissions from the Project, but it admits that, as to toxic emissions, especially DPM:

> [I]t is possible that the proposed project would result in cumulatively significant impacts to sensitive receptors, even if individual projects were each less than significant.

(DEIR, pp. 3.3-60 to 61.). The DEIR's inability to estimate the amount of DPM emissions the Project would cause is severely undercut by the DEIR's ability to calculate the particulate emissions of the Project, both gross particulates and fine particulates, which should include many components of diesel particulate emissions. Some reasonable estimate should be possible, and it is a failure of information required by CEQA for the DEIR not to make a good-faith attempt to provide this information.

Overall, the DEIR concludes that air pollutant emissions attributable to the Project, even after all feasible mitigation is applied, would have a "significant and unavoidable" impact, including on sensitive receptors. (DEIR, p. 3.3-61.) In short, the DEIR demonstrates that carrying out the SEDA Project is a recipe for Fresno to continue having some of the very dirtiest, unhealthful air in the nation for decades into the future, and a blueprint for allowing the Project to dump *more* ozone-causing emissions and particulate matter into the air Fresno residents breathe every day. It is a plan for forcing another generation of Fresno's children to grow up breathing air that compromises their lungs and may permanently harm their health. (See State of the Air 2023 Report, pp. 24-25 [health effects of particulates] and 26—27 [health effects of ozone].))

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[12] For context, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) estimates that 50% of the risk of cancer from airborne carcinogens in the greater Los Angeles comes from exposure to DPM. (Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study V, SCAQMD, 2021, page ES-7. (Available at https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/mates-v/mates-v-final-report-9-24-21.pdf; last visited 8/24/23.)

[13] Diesel exhaust has been formally designated a Toxic Air Contaminant by the California Air Resources Board. (Cal. Code of Regs., title 17, section 19000.)

3. The DEIR Does Not Show That it has Applied All Feasible Mitigation.

As set out above, the DEIR thus acknowledges that the Project would make Fresno's already abominable air even worse, which creates significant impacts on the environment. It then asserts that:

> No further measures to reduce operation-phase criteria air pollutant emissions are available beyond the applicable Valley Air District rules and regulations in addition to the proposed project's policies and design46.) guidelines [as set out in the DEIR].

(DEIR, p. 3.3-46.) The DEIR asserts that there are no further feasible mitigation measures. In fact, the DEIR implies that the Project is too big for its air quality impacts to be feasibly mitigated (DEIR p. 3.3-46), a concept that is antithetical to CEQA's purposes and requirements. Instead, the City should consider making the Project smaller, so that mitigation is feasible. CEQA requires that once significant impacts from a Project have been identified, the project should not be approved if there are feasible mitigation measures that would lessen or prevent such impacts. (Public Res. Code § 21002.)

The City must re-think mitigation. The SEDA is a major project, one that will greatly expand the City's population and infrastructure, and one whose construction will stretch out for a quarter-century, up to the time when California is committed to being carbon-neutral. (AB 1279; EO B-30-15.) Its operation will last much longer. The City is approving a Project that will define Fresno and its legacy for the rest of this century. If aggressive and effective mitigation for air pollutant emissions is not enacted now, when it will be most effective because it acts on a relatively blank slate, when will it be enacted? To avoid a future of decades of continued air that sickens Fresno's residents, we urge the City to adopt additional mitigation measures now that are specific and effective, and not just aspirational. We believe that there are many mitigation measures set out in the DEIR that could be made more effective, that would reduce the pollutant emissions of the Project, and that are feasible. Below is a summary of the more prominent ones.

4. Mitigation Measures Already in the DEIR Must be Strengthened.

The DEIR lists policies in the Fresno City General Plan and the SEDA plan as potentially lessening the air quality impacts of the Project. Many, if not most, of these policies are so conditional and aspirational as to be unenforceable. Examples include policies that include wording such as "support," "promote," "incentivize," or "pursue."

(E.g.: Land Use Policies LU-2(b), LU 3(c;, HC 3.d; MT-2(c), (g) and m; Open Space Policy OS-10.5; Conservation Policies RC1.1, RC 1.3 (a) and (b), RC 1.4.)

Particularly important are those mitigation measures listed as "Municipal," which are under the City's direct control and discretion (e.g., Conservation Policies RC 4 (f) and (j), and 8(j).) Where a mitigation measure is within the City's direct control (such as setting energy efficiency standards for municipal buildings), and where the environmental impacts to be mitigated are as dire as violating the AQMP, the City *must* enact mitigation measures that are fully enforceable. (CEQA Guidelines §15126.4(a)(1) and (2).)

DEIR mitigation measures specific to the Project must also be made mandatory. Specifically, MM AIR 2.1's full list of controls for diesel-powered construction equipment should be made mandatory unless individual measures are proven infeasible under clearly defined standards, and MM AIR-3.1's measures to control emissions of Toxic Air Contaminants should be mandated for *use*, not merely for identification.

In addition, many measures in the DEIR could be made enforceable by defining terms in the measures (such as "feasible" in MM AIR-2.1) or by setting schedules and enforceable deadlines for measures calling for the adoption of controls or plans, or for the setting of standards. (E.g., Resource Conservation Policies RC-4(b), 4(g), and 4(k), RC-8(j), and others.)

We also note that several mitigation measures that should be made mandatory for individual developers for projects within SEDA could also be used to provide offsets for their projects' pollutant emissions, if also carried out outside SEDA. These include creation of off-site renewable energy projects, such as installation of solar panels on rooftops in existing Fresno neighborhoods, tree planting, and replacement of inefficient appliances in homes in existing neighborhoods, and installation and maintenance of electric vehicle charging stations in Fresno neighborhoods or at facilities like shopping centers and sports facilities.

5. Because The DEIR is Inadequate as an Informational Document, Vital Information Must be Added, and the DEIR Recirculated.

The CEQA Guidelines require an agency to "use its best efforts to find out and disclose all that it reasonably can" in an EIR. (Guidelines § 15144.) The City has failed to do so here. Table 3.3-9, at page 3.3-55, which is the only table showing operational pollutant emissions from the Project, is an example of how uninformative the EIR is. It

shows only a single year's emissions total: 2050, the year of full build-out of the Project, and seven years after the last year (2043) for which construction emissions are projected.

Presumably, many individual SEDA projects, from housing developments to transportation facilities, will be completed in the years prior to 2050 but their emissions are undisclosed. This is a critical failure of the DEIR to provide full disclosure of environmental impacts from the Project; the public has no clue about operational emissions from the Project for 46 years prior to 2050. There is not even information as to when the first individual SEDA projects will begin to operate and will have operational emissions.

The SEDA projects' expected operational emissions appear for the first and only time as they are expected to be in 2050. It is beyond credulity to assume to none of the SEDA component projects will emit any conventional pollutants until 2050, and that all of the individual SEDA projects will begin emitting at once, several years after construction emissions end. The DEIR states that "[r]egional construction and operational emissions reported in this analysis were modeled using CalEEMod using version 2020.4.0" (DEIR, p. 3.3-40), so the City presumably has at least some of this information. If it does not have it, the City must have, or must generate, this information to the extent it is feasible to do so, and the DEIR must provide it. The DEIR does state that, if climate change causes temperatures to rise, the number of days when ozone will form in the Valley will also rise:

> If temperatures rise to the medium warming range, there could be 75 to 85 percent more days with weather conducive to ozone formation in Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley, relative to today's conditions. This is more than twice the increase expected if rising temperatures remain in the lower warming range. This increase in air quality problems could result in an increase in asthma and other health-related problems.

(DEIR, pp. 3.8-9 to 10.) Further, the DEIR states:

> [Fresno] temperatures are predicted to increase by 4.5°F (degrees Fahrenheit) under the medium emission scenario and 8.5°F under the high emissions scenario.

DEIR, p. 3.8-10.)

The increase in pollutant emissions and the increase in temperatures and number of days when ozone is likely to form add up to a potential public health crisis, necessitating the fullest information that can be provided. Further, since this information is essential to any understanding of the health impacts of the Project, the DEIR must be

recirculated with that information prior to certification. (CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5.) It is imperative that the decision makers and the public have this information.

Further, Table 3.3-8, at DEIR page 3.3-53 shows projected unmitigated yearly emissions of conventional pollutants from construction over the life of the Project. In the first year, 2024, the Table shows 1770.60 tons of volatile organic compounds VOC), a precursor of ozone, projected to be emitted. In the second year, 2025, the figure drops by more than half, showing 668.30 tons of VOC projected to be emitted. After those two years, projected VOC emissions plummet, with the 2026 VOC emissions projected to be 30.45 tons. No reason is given for this remarkably high VOC emissions level and the subsequent drop-off and extreme drop-off, respectively, of the next two years' VOC emissions. Clearly, there must be a reason for this weird pattern of VOC emissions that must be disclosed by the EIR.

The emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from construction listed in the Table show a steady decline over the years, as do other pollutants. Notably, PM2.5, which almost certainly contains carcinogenic DPM from construction equipment and diesel trucks, remain fairly steady throughout the years, with 2024's emissions and 2043's emissions being within 6 tons per year of each other.

Possible explanations for the high early VOC numbers are that the City knows of specific projects planned for construction in 2024 and 2035 that emit high levels of VOC, or that the emissions modeling failed to accurately predict or report VOC emissions in the first two years of the Project. However, the City is not sharing those- or any - explanations with the public. This is a further failure of the DEIR to provide full information to the public.

Finally, the DEIR does not predict pollutant concentrations in the ambient air that will result from both construction and operation of the Project.

6. The DEIR does not Correlate Pollutant Emissions From the Project with Resulting Health Impacts.

The California Supreme Court, in *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018) 6 Cal.5th 502 ("Friant Ranch"), held that that the EIR on the Friant Ranch Project approved by the County of Fresno "fail[ed] to provide an adequate discussion of health and safety problems that will be caused by the rise in various pollutants resulting from the Project's development." (6 Cal.5th 502, at 527.) The DEIR here also fails to comply with the requirements of the *Friant Ranch* decision.

We first note that the DEIR does describe some health effects of ozone and PM2.5. (DEIR, pp. 3.3-12 to 3.3-12.) However, its description of the health impacts of

PM10 and PM2.5 fails to point out the disproportionate impact of airborne particulate matter on disadvantaged communities. The APCD stated in a 2021 letter to the California Air Resources Board:

> "As recent research indicates, there is a disproportionate health impact of PM2.5 exposure to people of color, and the burden of mobile sources to the Valley contribute significantly to these health effects. The State's CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool indicates that a significant number of communities in the Valley are among the most disadvantaged in California for a number of indicators, including overall pollution burden, and diesel PM exposure (Figure 1). In fact, 20 of the top 30 most disadvantaged communities in California are within the San Joaquin Valley. As emissions from mobile sources contribute a significant portion to the overall pollution burden in these disadvantaged communities, achieving emissions reductions from mobile sources is paramount to improving the health of the most impacted residents in the State."

(APCD Comment Letter on Revised Draft 2020 Mobile Source Strategy, May 14, 2021, footnotes omitted. [https; ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/8-SJVAPCD_Comment_RevisedDraft2020MobileSourceStrategy.pdf; last accessed 4/6/23.]) Here, the DEIR does not discuss the disparate effects air pollutant emissions increases may have on the disadvantaged communities within SEDA and elsewhere within the City.

In fact, the DEIR does not predict the impacts of its pollutant emissions on the ambient air at all, except to say that those emission will not be consistent with the AQMP. (DEIR, p. 3.3-45 ["implementation of the proposed Specific Plan would result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations; cause or contribute to new violations; or delay timely attainment of the AAQS."]) Beyond that, the DEIR says nothing about the magnitude of the increase in frequency and/or severity its new emissions will cause. Instead, it says tersely: "Air dispersion modeling is not applicable at a program level." (DEIR, p. 3.3-42.) No further explanation is provided. However, the California Supreme Court in *Friant Ranch* was presented with a similar claim, and held that "if it is not scientifically possible to do more than has already been done to connect air quality effects with potential human health impacts, the EIR itself must explain why, in a manner reasonably calculated to inform the public of the scope of what is and is not yet known about the Project's impacts." (*Friant Ranch*, *supra,* 6 Cal.5th at p. 520.) Here, the DEIR has not done the analysis of the impact on human health of the Project's new emissions (or even shown what all emissions are projected to be). Nor has the public been given an explanation of why it cannot provide that impact analysis, other

than one short sentence saying it can't be done. As the Supreme Court in *Friant Ranch* made clear, more explanation is required.

Further, such an analysis *can* be done. When Cal State San Diego proposed a master plan to develop a new community, it eventually certified an EIR that did perform a *Friant Ranch* analysis, correlating the project's emissions with impacts on human health (although it acknowledged that the analysis was not perfect). That analysis is available at https://missionvalley.sdsu.edu/pdfs/feir/appendices/4-2-3-sdsu-mv-health-effects-memo.pdf, and is hereby incorporated into this letter by reference. We also formally submit it into the administrative record for this Project by reference, as demonstrating that an analysis correlating emissions from a major project with impacts on human health is feasible.

The City has proposed a huge, multi-year Project that will transform Fresno. It must perform an analysis of the effects on human health of that Project's pollutant emissions, with the degree of precision that is currently possible and has been demonstrated in practice. The DEIR must be recirculated with the analysis when it is completed. CEQA and the public health demand no less.

7. Project Construction Emissions Of GHG Are Underreported.

The RDEIR is extremely deficient in its analysis of SEDA's potential greenhouse gas emissions. It states that construction emissions of greenhouse gases ("GHG") are a one-time event, and as such, will not cause significant impacts. (EIR, p.3.8-42.) However, the RDEIR also acknowledges that GHGs stay in the atmosphere for very long periods of time, carbon dioxide ("CO") emissions remaining for 50 to 200 years (RDEIR p. 3.8-4); hardly a one-and-done event. The EIR states at page 3.8-6 that "GHGs have long atmospheric lifetimes, several years to several thousand years. GHGs persist in the atmosphere for a long enough time to be dispersed around the globe."

Further, the RDEIR admits that certain Project construction emissions *can* cause significant impacts, saying of water supply and wastewater treatment:

> GHG Emissions–Construction of utility facilities and treatment plants would result in the generation of GHG emissions. Construction emissions would occur only in the short-term; however, since the timing of the construction of the expanded and new facilities is not known, there could be more than one facility under construction at one time. Therefore, there is a possibility that a substantial amount of GHG emissions could occur. In addition, the operation of treatment plants and construction of other utility infrastructure (pipes, basins, etc.) could contribute to

> emissions associated with the buildout of the proposed Specific Plan. These emissions *would be potentially significant*.

(RDEIR, p. 3.8-55, emphasis added.) This is only one component of the Project; presumably, the whole will be greater than the sum of its parts, meaning that the GHG emissions from the construction of the entire project may be significant.

What is certain is that emissions from Project construction are not only ***not*** one-time events – construction would extend over nearly a decade (RDEIR, p.,3.3-48) – such emissions would be huge, totaling a whopping 2,316,578 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions ("MTC02e"). For perspective, the *total* carbon dioxide emissions estimated in the City of Fresno's Greenhouse Reduction Plan as being emitted by motor vehicles in the *entire City* under Business as Usual conditions in 2020 is 2,383,023 MTC02e. (City of Fresno –Fresno General Plan Update Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, p. 29, available at https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/F-2-Greenhouse-Gas-Reduction-Plan.pdf.) Construction of this single Project will cause the emission of nearly as much climate-changing pollution as all the cars and trucks in the entire City of Fresno. The EIR has presented no substantial evidence to support its conclusion that Project construction emissions of GHGs would not be significant.

8. Operational Emissions Will Be Significant.

Nor will the Project's operational emissions be less than significant. The EIR presents information as to the Project's operational emissions solely for its Buildout Year, at least a decade after construction begins, and after various measures will have been taken at the federal and state level to reduce GHG emissions from various sources, notably from motor vehicles. (RDEIR, pp. 3.8-47 to 48.) Even with such reductions, total operational GHG emissions from the Project are estimated by the EIR as 601,912 MTC02e per year, with transportation emissions accounting for over two-thirds of that total, at 432,219 MTC02e per year. (RDEIR, p. 3.8-43.)[14]

The total GHG emissions from the Project are not estimated in the body of the EIR; indeed, the lifespan of the Project is not estimated. However, the lifespan of a house extends over several decades, perhaps even as long as a century. (https://www.bankrate.com/real-estate/whats-the-life-span-of-a-house/#:~:text=You%20can%20count%20on%20a,endure%20the%20test%20of%20time

[14] The RDEIR makes an adjustment to the total of the GHG emissions by subtracting existing emissions, but since the RDEIR only does this for the total amount of Project operational emissions, not broken down by sector, we were unable to make such an adjustment for transportation emissions.

.) However, multiplying the estimated annual GHG emissions of the Project, viz., 510,791 MTC02e per year, by ten, the Project can be estimated to emit over *five million* metric tons of C02e during each decade of its useful life. Once again, the RDEIR presents no substantial evidence that emissions of such magnitude will have less-than-significant impacts. In fact, the RDEIR makes no effort to provide substantial evidence as to the total time that the Project can be expected to be occupied and useful. CEQA Guidelines section 15144 mandates that an agency preparing an EIR "must use its best efforts to find out and disclose all that it reasonably can."[15] The RDEIR has failed to do so in estimating the total GHG emissions that can reasonably be expected from this Project.

9. FAX Transit Service Levels Are Not Substantiated.

The RDEIR's vehicle miles traveled ("VMT"), air quality, and GHG calculations are based, at least in part, on the assumption that Fresno Area Express ("FAX") will provide high-quality transit services to the SEDA as it develops. (See RDEIR Policy R-1.2(a) at p.3.3-34 and 3.8-36.[16]) However, no bus lines currently serve the area (RDEIR, p. 3.17-6), and no portion of the RDEIR provides information on when bus transit services will be provided, the extent (e.g., hours, headway, or capacity of the services) or how they will be funded, despite the fact that FAX is a City agency and under City

[15] CEQA Guidelines section 15145 provides that "[i]f, after thorough investigation, a lead agency finds that a particular impact is too speculative for evaluation, the agency should not its conclusion and terminate discussion of the impact." However, the City does not present evidence that it made any attempt to estimate the useful life of the Project.
[16] See, the generalized, non-specific assertion at RDEIR p. 3.17-7:

Transit Facilities
Fresno Area Express (FAX) is the local bus system for the City. Currently, there are no bus lines that run through the Plan Area. Bus Routes 1, 22, and 35 run on Clovis Street near the Plan Area but do not directly serve the Plan Area. There are plans to extend the Fresno bus rapid transit line (Route 1) into the Plan Area in the future and to add local transit routes to significant origins and destinations with the project area.

See, also, the generalized description of future FAX transit service in Appendix H, at page 16:
3.4 EXISTING TRANSIT FACILITIES
Fresno Area Express (FAX) is the local bus system for the City of Fresno. Currently, there are no bus lines that run through the Plan Area. Bus routes 1, 22, and 35 runs on Clovis Street near the Plan Area, but do not directly serve the Plan Area. There are plans to extend the Fresno bus rapid transit line (Route 1) into the Plan Area in the future and to add local transit routes to significant origins and destinations with the project area

control. (https://www.fresno.gov/transportation.fax.history.)[17] While the RDEIR depends on FAX services as mitigation for potential transportation impacts, no details whatsoever as to service timing or extent is provided (see, MMTRANS 1-d, RDEIR p. ES-50 [the entire text of this so-called Mitigation Measure is "MM TRANS-1d: Collaborate with Fresno Transit (FAX) to provide new transit services to the proposed project and within the proposed project area."]) Without details of how the high-quality transit service upon which the EIR relies to reach various conclusions as to lack of significant impacts from the Project on air quality, climate change, and VMT will be provided – or funded - the conclusions reached by the EIR that rely on FAX's future transit service to the SEDA area are speculative and unsupported by substantial evidence.[18]

9. No Substantial, Quantified Evidence Supports The RDEIR**'s Conclusion That No Mitigation Is Required.**

The RDEIR states that Legislature and the California Air Resources Board ("CARB") have determined that local areas must reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT") by prescribed amounts; this will reduce GHG emissions. The RDEIR reports that:

> Fresno County targets for SB 375 are a 5 percent per capita reduction by 2020 and a 10 percent per capita reduction by 2035 relative to 2005 levels. (SB 375 is implemented with the Fresno COG RTP/SCS).

(RDEIR, p.3.8-44.) The RDEIR goes on to assert:

> The strategies included in the proposed Fresno SEDA Specific Plan are consistent with the measures included in the RTP/SCS [the transportation and sustainable community plan required by SB 375] and would serve to support a per capita reduction in VMT in the Plan Area after the implementation of the proposed project.

(*Ibid.*) This is a wholly qualitative analysis, providing no quantitative proof that the mandated VMT reductions will be met, either by the Fresno area as a whole or the

[17] The EIR itself points out the importance of City control of polluting facilities. See EIR, p. 3.6-14, regarding municipal facilities: "It is important to include greenhouse gas reductions and energy conservation at City facilities, over which the City has direct control and can allocate resources for this purpose." Surely this control and ability to allocate resources is also true of City agencies like FAX, and can be used to devise and carry out mitigation.

[18] CEQA Guidelines section15150 provides that references to material outside the EIR are permitted, but mandates that they do have to be locatable through citations or other means of identifying and finding the material. There are no such guideposts in the EIR to FAX's future plans.

Project. No calculation of the per capita reduction in VMT that the SEDA strategies would "support" is made.

Instead, the RDEIR takes the position that if SEDA does not openly and specifically contradict CARB's Scoping Plan to meet the statutory GHG emissions reduction goals and the SB 375-mandated VMT reduction targets, that the Project will not have any significant adverse impacts on the State's climate goals or the SB 375-required reductions, even as it will cause millions of metric tons of GHGs to be added to the atmosphere. (RDEIR, p. 3.8-44.) So long as Fresno does its unquantified "fair share" to not obstruct to the Scoping Plan through approving the SEDA Project, the RDEIR concludes that the Project will have no significant impact on the environment or the State's attempts to meet its climate goals. (RDEIR, p.3.8-56.) No mitigation measures are proposed or adopted.

This analysis and the RDEIR's conclusions of no significant impact and no significant cumulative impact are not supported by quantified analysis or specific, substantial evidence. They are invalid.

C. GHG/Climate Change Impacts Are Not Adequately Analyzed or Mitigated.

As with its analysis for conventional air pollutants, the DEIR's analysis for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions fails to provide the most basic information to the decision makers and the public. It also fails to adopt all feasible mitigation measures for the impacts of its emissions of climate-forcing gases, and it appears to be self-contradictory as to what the standard is as to the significance of those emissions.

1. The GHG Analysis Fails as an Informational Document

While the DEIR bestows considerable attention on the existing legal framework of the federal and state laws and regulations applicable to GHG emissions, it is remarkably short on information as to the GHG emissions to be expected from the Project. Like its description of SEDA emissions of conventional and toxic pollutants, described above, the DEIR provides only very limited information on the GHG emissions to be expected from the Project, and downplays the significance of those it does acknowledge.

In Table 3.8-2, at page 3.8-44, the DEIR sets out the Project's expected GHG emissions from construction. These are reported year by year for the years 2024 to 2043 (only 19 years from now, despite the DEIR's statement that "[b]uildout of the proposed project would occur over approximately 25 years, or longer" at page 3.3-57).

The emissions expected from construction total 2,316,578 tons of carbon-dioxide equivalent GHGs.[19] The DEIR downplays the potential significance of this emission of over two million tons of GHGs by saying that "[s]hort-term construction GHG emissions are a one-time release of GHGs and are not expected to significantly contribute to global climate change." (DEIR, p. 3.8-44.) This is nonsensical, since the fact that construction emissions are "one-time" for each individual project is somewhat meaningless, given that the DEIR has already shown that GHGs can remain in the atmosphere for decades or even centuries; carbon monoxide itself has a residency time of 50 to 200 years. (DEIR, p. 3.8-4.) It is their long period of residence in the atmosphere that enables GHGs emitted anywhere in the world able to affect the entire planet, as the DEIR observes at page 3.3-6 ("GHGs have long atmospheric lifetimes, several years to several thousand years. GHGs persist in the atmosphere for a long enough time to be dispersed around the globe.")

The DEIR itself states that "although it is unlikely that a single project will contribute significantly to climate change, cumulative emissions from many projects affect global GHG concentrations and the climate system." (DEIR p.3.8-7.) The Project's construction emissions cannot be made less than significant by calling them "one-time," since their effects will last for many decades or even for centuries.

As it does with the Project's expected emissions of conventional pollutants, the DEIR provides the Project's expected operational GHG emissions for only one year: 2050. (DEIR, Table 3.8-3, at p. 3.8-45.) The DEIR reports a surprisingly low total: 515,791 tons of GHGs. (*Id.*) We note that 2050 is the time by which the state is expected to carry out its many programs to reduce GHG emissions, including mandating zero-emission cars, setting low carbon fuels, reducing the carbon footprint of transporting water, and mandating electricity that is mostly or exclusively produced by non-carbon, renewable sources. (DEIR, p. 3.8-49.) Therefore, the 2050 GHG figure is almost certainly not representative of the Project's GHG emissions in all, or even most, of the years of its operation, before all the state programs have had full effect.

The DEIR is required to make a good-faith effort to discover and provide all the information it can. (CEQA Guidelines §§ 15003(i), 15144.) Here, the City had enough information to provide the expected total 2050 GHG emissions from operations. It also had enough information to provide the expected the GHG emissions from construction for each year between 2024 and 2043, showing that it has data on the expected year-by-

[19] Because of the widely divergent longevity in the atmosphere of various GHGs, they are usually described in terms of the amount of their climate-forcing ability when compared with a single GHG, viz., carbon monoxide. This is called carbon monoxide equivalence. (DEIR, p. 3.8-3.)

year pace of construction and, by extension, on the pace at which SEDA projects would begin to operate. The DEIR used a widely accepted computer modeling system to predict the GHG emissions from the Project.

> The short-term construction-related *and long-term operational GHG emissions* associated with future buildout of the Plan Area allowed under the proposed Specific Plan were estimated using California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) Version 2020.4.0. CalEEMod is a Statewide model designed to provide a uniform platform for government agencies, land use planners, and environmental professionals to quantify GHG emissions from land use projects. The model quantifies direct GHG emissions from construction and operation (including vehicle use), as well as indirect GHG emissions, such as GHG emissions from electricity use, solid waste disposal, vegetation planting and/or removal, and water use. Emissions are expressed in annual metric tons of CO2 equivalent units of measure (i.e., MT CO2e), based on the GWP of the individual pollutants.

(DEIR, p. 3.8-43, italics added.) CalEEMod would have given the City information on the operational GHG emissions from the Project. With all this information, the DEIR could -and should- have provided approximate figures on the Project's operational GHG emissions year by year, giving the decision makers and the public a much better understanding of the amount of GHGs that would be emitted by SEDA. As it is, the DEIR has not performed a good-faith analysis and has not provided all the information it can. It does not comply with CEQA and cannot support the approval of the Project.

D. The EIR Fails to Address the Consequences of the City's General Plan Deficiencies.

1. The City General Plan is Inadequate and its Deficiencies Preclude Approval of SEDA, Since Such Approval Relates to the General Plan's Deficiencies.

The general plan is the "constitution for future development ... located at the top of the hierarchy of local government law regulating land use .... " (*DeVita v. Napa* (1995) 9 Cal. 4th 763, 773, internal citations omitted.) Government Code section 65300.5 requires that all general plan elements be consistent with one another. County and city zoning ordinances also must be "consistent with the general plan." (Gov. Code § 65860(a); *San Francisco Tomorrow v. City and County of San Francisco* (2014) 229 Cal.App.4th 498, 508-509.) If a city or county's general plan is inadequate, it cannot support project approvals. (*Camp v. Board of Supervisors* (1981) 123 Cal. App. 3d 334, 352 [County could not approve subdivisions because some of its general plan elements were

inadequate].) A permit may be challenged due to general plan inadequacy where the inadequacy is factually related to the characteristics or implications of the permit. (*Garat v. City of Riverside* (1991) 2 Cal.App.4th 259, 293.)

2. The General Plan Does Not Comply With AB 170.

AB 170, passed in 2003, enacted as Government Code section 65302.1 subdivision (b), requires that all cities and counties in the San Joaquin Valley amend their General Plans to add specific information on air pollution in their jurisdictions. This information must include "(1) A report describing local air quality conditions including air quality monitoring data, emission inventories, lists of significant source categories, attainment status and designations, and applicable state and federal air quality plans and transportation plans. (2) A summary of local, district, state, and federal policies, programs, and regulations that may improve air quality in the city or county. (3) A comprehensive set of goals, policies, and objectives that may improve air quality consistent with the strategies listed in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a). (4) A set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry out those goals, policies, and objectives." (Govt. Code section 65302.1(c).) Government Code section 65302.1, subd. (e), set a deadline for compliance with GC 65302.1 of "no later than one year from the date specified in Section 65588 for the next revisions of its housing element that occurs after January 1, 2004."

A publication by the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District (bearing the revision date of 04/02/09) reads, "AB 170 requires cities and counties to comply no later than one (1) year from the date specified in Government Code Section 6588 for the next revision of the housing element after January 1, 2004 (Section 65302.1.e). *Based upon the schedule outlined in the bill, jurisdictions in Fresno and Kern counties are required to adopt these amendments by June 30, 2009.* Jurisdictions in Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties have until June 30, 2010 to comply."] [Emphasis added.]. It appears the City has adopted no such amendment.

3. The City General Plan Has No Environmental Justice Element, an Element Mandated by SB 1000.

Effective January 1, 2017, SB 1000, codified as Government Code section 65302, subdivision (h)(2), required the adoption into cities' and counties' general plans of an Environmental Justice Element, or adoption of the objectives and policies of an Environmental Justice Element in other General Plan Elements, such Element to be adopted on the first occasion after January 1, 2018, when the city or county adopts or revises two or more general plan Elements. Until it actually adopts an Environmental

Justice Element that fully complies with SB 1000, the City does not have an adequate General Plan, and may not approve development projects, including SEDA. The City claims to have adopted environmental justice policies (https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/upload_temp_Consolidated-GP-10-13-2022_compressed.pdf, p. 1-11) but there is no environmental justice element in the General Plan nor specific identification of which policies the City claims address environmental justice issues.

4. The Project's GHG Emissions Will Undercut the Effectiveness of Fresno's Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Fresno's Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), adopted in 2014 and updated in 2018 and 2022, was "intended to identify integrated land-use and transportation strategies that lower per capita GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions from cars and light-duty trucks, and foster communities that are more equitable, healthy, and sustainable."[20] As required by SB 375, the Fresno RTP/SCS is based on assumptions about future development "that are consistent with adopted local general plans."[21] And the RTP/SCS specifically relies on the City of Fresno's 2014 General Plan as a basis for changes in land use and transportation that will help meet state-mandated GHG reduction targets:

> Scenario B [the basis for the land use projections in the 2022 RTP/SCS] was built primarily from existing local general plans, regional growth projections and insights from the REMI economic forecasting model. . . . *The City of Fresno's updated general plan calls for 50 percent of new growth in designated infill development areas and proposes no sphere of influence expansion through 2035, which will help rein in fringe development in a traditionally sprawling region*.[22]

Construction of thousands of acres of low-density development to the southeast of Fresno would vitiate these benefits, dramatically increase vehicle miles traveled, and make it impossible to meet state-mandated GHG reduction goals as contemplated in the RTP/SCS.

[20] Fresno Council of Governments. 2022. Regional Transportation Plan & Sustainable Communities Strategy. Available at https://www.planfresno.com/sustainable-communities-strategies-fall-outreach/.
[21] Fresno COG, 2022.
[22] Fresno COG, 2022 (Emphasis added).

E. The EIR's Water Supply Analysis Is Inadequate.

The water supply for SEDA is only shown to be adequate up to 2035, and only if groundwater conditions do not change due to climatic changes or regulatory changes due to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

The DEIR does not show that adequate water will be available to meet the anticipated demand from SEDA in addition to the demand from the rest of the City of Fresno past 2035, and not out to the purported build-out date (and the build-out date used in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas sections of the DEIR, as discussed earlier in these comments.)[23]

The City has long relied heavily on pumped groundwater to satisfy its water needs, as set out at DEIR, page 3-18-3. The DEIR states that prior to 2004, the City obtained 100 percent of its water from groundwater, but had reduced that by half in 2019 and 2020. (DEIR, p. 3.18-5.) However, the City is located over, and has been obtaining pumped groundwater from, the Kings River Subbasin, which has been designated as a critically overdrafted (i.e., over-pumped) basin. (DEIR, p. 3.18-4.) The Kings Subbasin is within the jurisdiction of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), which is required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management (AB 1739 [Dickinson], SB 1168 [Pavley], and SB 1319 [Pavley]) to attain sustainability of groundwater basins by 2040. (DEIR, p. 3.18-3 to 4.)

Accordingly, the City has increased its purchases of surface water, obtaining surface water from the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)'s Central Valley Project and the Fresno Irrigation District (FID). The City is now attempting to recharge the Kings Subbasin, but the amount of water it can devote to recharge is less in dry years. (DEIR, p. 3.18-4 to 5.) The DEIR acknowledges that the water from the Central Valley Project is not always available, stating that "there have been extremely dry years in which no water is [sic] supplied"; this previously occurred in 2014 and 2015. (EIR, p. 3.18-6.) In those years, Fresno received only somewhat more than half of its usual Central Valley Project water.

The addition of 45,000 people in the SEDA Project will, of course, increase demand for water in Fresno. (DEIR, p. 3.18-7 ["Water supply for the Specific Plan Area

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[23] The DEIR is riddled with analyses that focuses on 2035 at the expense of analyzing to the 2050 horizon year. For example, see pages 3.14-13 (Land Use), 3.15-8 (Public Services), 3.15-33 (also Public Services), p.3.17-32 (Transportation), and pages 2-5 and 406.

will be met with existing supplies initially but will require additional supplies to meet buildout demands."]) The DEIR acknowledges that additional pipe infrastructure will need to be planned, sited, and laid (DEIR, p. 3.18-10). Plans for doing so are sketchy, at best, and it is not clear that the air quality and GHG impacts of that construction were included in the emissions totals in Tables 3.3-8 and 3.8-2. If they are not so included, those Tables are incomplete and misleading, and must be revised in a recirculated DEIR. The effects of supplying water in future years will impact other water users and must also be analyzed.

However, there is another, fundamental, problem with the DEIR's analysis of water supply for the Project. The DEIR appears to analyze only the impacts of the Project on water supply to Fresno up to 2035 and *not* to 2050, when the full expected buildout and population of SEDA is expected. (Appndx. F, Water Technical Study, p.1.) The Fresno General Plan's Horizon" date is 2035, although full buildout is not expected until 2050 or beyond. (*Id.*).

The DEIR analyzes water demand for SEDA only out to 2035. (Water Technical Study, pp. 24-25.) The analysis makes clear that the DEIR is not exact; many "reasonable assumptions" about demand have been made. (Water Technical Study, p. 19.) Still the most favorable (to the City and future developers) conclusion that the Technical Study can reach is that "existing City of Fresno water supplies *could* be sufficient to supply the future development in SEDA in addition to the existing demands." (Water Technical Study, p. 24, italics added.). However, the Technical Study's estimate of water supply to Fresno, including SEDA, bears the disclaimer that the conclusion is valid only "assuming groundwater characteristics are not altered due to climatic events or regulatory influences from SGMA." (Water Technical Study, p. 24.) That same disclaimer appears in many discussions of groundwater in the main text of the DEIR (see DEIR, pp. 3.18-4, 5, 66, 67 and 68; RDEIR, p. 3.10-8, 9, 38, and 39).

The DEIR appears to base much of its analysis of groundwater availability on the premise that climate conditions will not change, and the North Kings GSA will not impose conditions that change the current situation. Given both the DEIR's Table 3.8-2 (at p.3.8-11) showing the alarmingly high expected temperature increases in the Fresno area and the over-drafted condition of the Kings Subbasin together with the North Kings GSA's legal mandate to restore over-drafted basins by 2040, it seems more than likely that the Kings Subbasin will experience changes that would not be in the DEIR's favor. The DEIR simply has not shown that water supply will be adequate for the Project to the buildout date of 2050, or even to the date most discussed in the Water Technical Study, 2035. The DEIR is both procedurally and substantively deficient as to water supply, and it should be revised and recirculated.

F. The Final EIR Must Respond in Writing to Comments Made on the NOP and Draft EIR.

When the Notice of Preparation (NOP) was circulated for the SEDA project, you received various letter regarding the scope of the EIR. We request that you respond to each of these NOP comment letters as if they were a comment on the Draft EIR and RDEIR, especially the letters of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Conservation.

Additionally, we specifically incorporate by reference the letter of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, CCEJN, Fresno Building Healthy Communities, and Fresno Barrios Unidos dated March 25, 2022. (https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Appendix-A-EIR-Noticing-and-Public-Involvement-COMBINED.pdf, p. 70.) This letter rightfully comments as follows; we request that you respond to each of these points and every other point made in this letter:

> First, given the significance of the SEDA to the future development of Southeast Fresno communities, it is of the utmost importance that the City proactively and meaningfully engage residents within and around the planning area. This means that the City must incorporate residents' input into the SEDA and EIR by revising land use designations to include community-led development like higher density housing, green space, affordable commercial and residential spaces, and so on. It must also have policies and implementation measures for active investment into Southeast Fresno neighborhoods by businesses and the City alike in essential infrastructure, services, amenities, and community greening. To do less is to perpetuate the long-held City practice of denying Southeast Fresno residents their rights to shape the future of their neighborhoods and access to opportunity on the same terms as other Fresno residents.
> Below you will find additional comments in response to the Notice of Preparation:
> I. The Proposed Land Use Map is Inconsistent with Local and State Climate, Housing, and Transportation Goals and Policies to Build Equitable Climate Resilient Communities
>
> As previously noted, it is unclear and of significant concern to what extent authentic public participation took place during this process from over a decade ago. The former process took place at the tail end of the housing bubble when building single-family homes in the outskirts of the city limits was the priority and norm. This type of “leapfrog” development remains reflected in the SEDA land use map as a large portion of the 9,000 acres is zoned for low-density single-family housing. This is inconsistent with the current climate, housing, and transportation goals that aim to build communities with a variety of development

> and density to make them accessible to various incomes and for communities to get around by alternative modes of transportation.
>
> Further, the second-largest land use is zoned for flexible research and development, which leaves space for more light industrial use, further industrializing south Fresno BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, and People of Color] communities. This current process is in stark contrast with other specific plans prepared and adopted by the City in recent years, which have emphasized resident self-determination in shaping their built environment, planning for complete and healthy communities, smart growth-promoting land use compatibility, and investment strategies and implementation measures designed to bring those plans' vision to life. The City must not proceed with its efforts to further cement unjust and exclusive land-use patterns in City planning practices.
>
> Fourteen years later, we have learned that this growth pattern is economically and environmentally unsustainable as the City now struggles to balance the need to build out the infrastructure and maintain public services in these communities while attending to decades of deferred maintenance in established neighborhoods. This is reflected in the 2015 General Plan praised for limiting unsustainable sprawl growth and focusing on efficient infill development.

(Letter of Groups, pp. 1-2, available at https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Appendix-A-EIR-Noticing-and-Public-Involvement-COMBINED.pdf, pp. 70 et seq of PDF.)

G. Affordable Housing Must Be Promoted.

The RDEIR predicts that by 2050, approximately 31% of the City's housing capacity -roughly one-third - will be located in the SEDA area. (RDEIR, p. 3.14-13.) Accordingly, it is vital to ensure that housing is available in the Project that is affordable to households of all income ranges. The Legislature has emphasized the importance of affordable housing in Government Code section 65580(f). While the RDEIR repeatedly states that the three principles around which the Project is organized are "fiscal responsibility, equity, and environmental sustainability" (see,e.g., RDEIR, pp. ES-1, 1-1, 2-7, 3.1-8, and elsewhere), the EIR itself reflects more of a commitment to rhetoric than to actual equity, at least as to affordable housing.

The actual Policies discussed in the RDEIR regarding affordable housing are overwhelmingly phrased as essentially aspirational, not mandatory. For example, Policies LU-2-b (concerning the potential creation of affordable housing incentives in infill areas) and Policy HC-2.2 (concerning the potential to use publicly owned land for affordable

housing through creation of a community trust to own such land for that purpose) both begin with "Consider," making the execution of those policies voluntary and uncertain. This tenuousness is even clearer in Policies UF-1-1 (regarding protection of "unique neighborhoods," including those with affordable housing opportunities [at RDEIR pp. 3.1-4, 3.11-5]); LU-5-f (concerning designation of high-density neighborhoods to support [inter alia] affordable housing [at RDEIR pp. 3.3-28,3.11-8]); HC-2.3 (concerning the spreading of affordable housing throughout SEDA to avoid concentrations in any one area [at EIR, pp. 3.11-15,3.14-10]); and H-1-c (concerning the development of affordable, special-needs housing near transit or smart-growth areas [at RDEIR, p. 3.14-6, 3.14-10]). Each of these Policies begins with the word "Promote," again making their execution difficult to monitor or evaluate.[24]

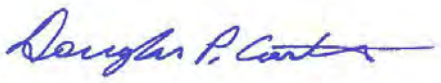
It appears that the City is more of a cheerleader than an actual leader in the effort to create additional affordable housing.

Conclusion.

The RDEIR must be revised and recirculated with proper instructions for commenting to the public and to public agencies.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Douglas P. Carstens
Michelle Black

[24] Nor is this hesitancy to require action, not merely endorse it, limited to affordable housing. A word search showed the word "promote" was used 159 times in the RDEIR.

From: Deborah Bigham
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Comment on EIR
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 5:03:55 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.19 Wildfire

With the easily spread of fires, how do you plan to protect those people in these high density housing areas due to their close proximity? As of the recent Palisades fires what is Fresno City's plan to protect their occupants from this same thing happening here.

From: Deborah Bigham
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Comment to EIR
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 3:41:03 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.17 Transportation and Traffic
What is the proposed infrastructure cost for this project? What is your budget? It needs to be disclosed before the EIR is accepted. It has been reported that it will be figured out after the council approves the massive project. That is unacceptable and needs to be disclosed prior to any approval.

From: Deborah Bigham
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Comment to EIR
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 4:52:36 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.15 Public Services Question

Who's paying for the massive bill to build schools to accommodate high density population located in Sanger district? Sanger Unified has real concerns and has replied in writing. What plan do have for funding the schools in this district. Why have estimated costs not been given? Is the concern that the truth would be detrimental to the project? This needs to be corrected before going forward. Asking tax payers to fund a blank check is wrong and needs to be corrected. How does your conscience not bother you. Are you so deceived that you can't be upfront?

From: Deborah Bigham
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Comment to EIR
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 5:00:38 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.5 Tribal Cultural Resources

How will the loss of the Hmong culture revenue impact the Hmong culture? Please site the studies that support consideration for the Hmong farmers. Hurting a minority is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and must be corrected.

From: Deborah Bigham
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: Comments on EIR
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 3:01:37 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Section 3.19
With the easily spread of fires, how do you plan to protect those people in these high density housing areas due to their close proximity? As of the recent Palisades fires what is Fresno City's plan to protect their occupants from this same thing happening here.

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
Email: longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

March 15, 2025

Comments on Recirculated Draft Program EIR for Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project

State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 – Comments by Mark Reitz and Dale Reitz

We would like to congratulate and thank the city of Fresno for their work in preparing this significant document and moving towards adoption of a Specific Plan for the Southeast Development Area that has been discussed and anticipated since 2007. As long-time property owners of a family home and farm within this area for over 100 years at 1080 S. Temperance (east of Temperance between the Railroad and Church Avenues), we and our neighbors welcome the opportunity to provide input to this Plan and hopefully provide local perspective to responsible growth and for the benefit of the city of Fresno for years to come.

We have watched the city grow to the southeast over the past 50 years, and we are excited for a well-planned and responsible expansion of Fresno. Currently, there are three new major residential subdivisions directly across the street from our farm property on Temperance Ave as well as a new Sanger Unified High School at Jensen and Fowler and a planned new elementary school on the west side of Temperance Avenue just eighth of a mile south of our property.

We and our neighbors have attended numerous planning meetings and public presentations. We have offered our written recommendations and alternative maps regarding land use planning in our area going back to 2007. These documents have been passed on to various members of the Fresno Planning Department staff who have been very gracious in reviewing them and providing further direction for us on how we should submit our recommendations and input. We were essentially told to follow the development of this PEIR and to provide our input to the original land use map that was proposed back in 2006 (almost 20 years ago) and no changes would be made to it during this preparation period and that we need to provide our input to the City Planning Department and to the Planning Commission and City Council during the adoption period.

Below are a few of the justifications we presented in our prior letters and documents for relocating a portion of the Land Use Plan Area bounded by Temperance Ave. to the west,

Church Ave. to the south, the Briggs Canal to the east, and the Railroad to the north, from Flexible Research and Development/Regional Business Park to a mixture of Community Center, Mixed Residential, and Neighborhood Residential. We request this change or some version of it for the reasons outlined in the documents previously submitted and summarized below. Also, considering there is a serious shortage of housing in Fresno and California this change should be desirable.

- The Sanger Unified School District has recently purchased and zoned a 15-acre parcel on the west side of Temperance about midway between the Railroad and Church Ave. This school as well as the new High School at Jensen and Fowler Avenue would benefit by having more residential homes and apartments closer to these schools to reduce car miles driven and allow walking to school.
- A community center, a small commercial center, and similar job-creating uses at this site will serve the proposed residential and mixed residential areas as well as the very large residential areas (4 square miles) to the west of Temperance between Kings Canyon Road and Jensen Avenue. Currently there are no shopping/commercial areas for over 3 driving miles to the Kings Canyon/Clovis Avenue center. Adding a small community center/office/ commercial center and some mixed residential would greatly reduce trip miles, air pollution, and noise. These uses would not conflict with the large community center proposed at DeWolf and California Avenue and would complement it by reducing trip miles between shopping/office space needed in both areas. The proposed four-lane California Avenue would support both developments and conveniently connect the Temperance and DeWolf arterial streets for both bicycle and foot traffic.
- There is significant pressure/demand on this area to develop employing these land uses due to the SR 180 Freeway completion. Temperance Avenue will be a major connector between SR 180 and Jensen Avenue for communities to the south and east such as Sanger, Del Rey, Reedley, Parlier, and Selma. There are no services, such as gas stations, grocery stores, drug stores, restaurants, etc., to serve this traffic volume. The streets and large community centers proposed over a mile to the east will not develop for 20 to 30 years or more and will not be able to serve the immediate needs. This inconvenient situation will create more trip miles, air pollution, and noise.
- More jobs will be created by the uses we proposed compared to the Business Park/Flexible R&D land uses. If these proposed Business Park lands develop in this area in the distant future, it would be primarily warehouses, storage areas, or agricultural-related processing industries. There are already many large industrial areas in the Fresno area along Jensen Avenue to the west, at the Fresno airport only 5 miles away, and in Clovis. There is no demand in this area for such land use, and it would cause this area to develop last, if ever. **By making this area Flexible R&D, it will essentially stop or severely slow development of**

this area and cause development to leapfrog over to areas east of the Briggs Canal. This would cause an expensive and undesirable situation for City services, such as roads, water, sewer, storm drainage, gas, and electrical, to be extended far to the east without development west of the Briggs Canal. Stranded areas of land development are sure to cause unnecessary environmental impacts, future inconvenience, and wasted money.

- The industrial area to the north of the railroad at Temperance up to Butler Avenue is primarily an agricultural/wet industry (La Destria, formerly Bonner Packing). This is a significant industrial development that has existed for over 150 years at this large site. Zoning of Business R&D may not be consistent with this existing use due to significant odors, noise, rail (double rail spur), truck traffic, and similar environmental impacts. We suggest that this entire area north of the railroad up to Butler Avenue be kept as industrial only. The railroad would provide a good buffer and transition to the community center/office/Mixed Residential uses we are proposing.
- If it is necessary to have a certain number of Industrial or Business Park/Flexible R&D acres in the plan, we suggest moving this zoned area to south of Jensen Avenue and west of Temperance Avenue. The present plan shows some residential in these areas, which would be an environmentally unsound choice due to the heavy traffic noise, and air quality impacts created by a future six-lane roadway such as Jensen Avenue. An example of this undesirable situation can now be found on the north side of Jensen between Clovis and Fowler Avenues, where homes are being built adjacent to this busy highway.
- **As evidenced by our previously proposed application in 2008 for this modification, over 70 percent of the property owners (17 parcels) in this area do not want the Industrial/Flex R&D zoning in this area.** These property owners have owned and paid taxes on these properties for many years, in some cases over 75 years. Many of the parcels are small (less than 10 acres) and are not conducive to developing the larger parcels necessary for Business Park/Flexible R&D, which would further hamper the sales and development of the area for these uses. This condition would promote further leapfrogging over this area.
- The Phasing of Development shown as Exhibit 6 provided at the May 3rd 2022, public meeting showed our area to be developed third of four phases. We disagree with this phasing order and feel the area shown as third should be second and the area shown as second moved to third. The area south of Jensen is entirely agricultural now with no major roads completed other than Jensen Ave. There are also no utilities extended near this area. Development of this area would be much more expensive and cause additional deleterious environmental impacts. The State Center Community College is no longer planned for this area, so there is no reason for the land to be developed before the area east of Temperance Avenue between SR 180 south to Jensen Ave. The latter area is already developing due to the new Freeway and the near future extension of Temperance Ave as a super arterial. Also, the new Southeast Fresno regional water treatment plant is just to the northwest and can

be used to bring water to this area more economically. We would appreciate your consideration in this logical and environmentally sound change if phased development of the SEDA area is proposed.

In reading Chapter 5 of the Recirculated Draft Program EIR prepared by the City of Fresno, the city considered various Land Use Alternatives. One of these, listed as **Alternative 2, Consolidated Business Park Alternative**, is described as follows:

*Under the **Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Alternative 2)**, the SEDA Specific Plan would occur as planned, but this alternative maintains the Flexible Research and Development land designations from the General Plan for the area south of Jensen Avenue. It would accommodate approximately 42,900 homes and 36,000 jobs within the 9,000-acre planning area. This is approximately 2,100 fewer homes and 1,000 fewer jobs, when compared with the proposed project. Alternative 2 would have slightly less density of development than the proposed project. The area identified in the SEDA Specific Plan as Flexible Research and Development to the east of Temperance Avenue and north of Jensen Avenue would be developed as Neighborhood Residential and Mixed Residential with two community centers and five neighborhood centers. Additionally, this alternative would change the land use designations for the planned Mixed Residential and Neighborhood Residential, along with the Community and Neighborhood Centers south of Jensen Avenue. Under Alternative 2, that area would be designated as Flexible Research and Development and Offices. **Please refer to Exhibit 5-1 for a visual representation of this alternative.***

The Exhibit 5-1 Land Use Map is enclosed with this letter as well as **Exhibit 1-1 which is the called the "Proposed Project"** in this document. This "Proposed Project" is the same land use document that has been unchanged since the original work on SEGA plan was done in 2007.

The **Alternative 2, Consolidated Business Park Alternative, essentially agrees with what we and our neighbors have been proposing since 2008, and we are extremely pleased that it was analyzed to the same degree as the "Proposed Project" in the Draft EIR.** The results of this analysis, as described in detail in Chapter 5, were determined to be an **environmentally superior alternative** as compared to the "Proposed Project" when all aspects are considered. This determination was illustrated in **Table 5-1** of the Recirculated Draft Program EIR and is enclosed with this letter. Below are excerpts from the Recirculated Draft Program EIR that reflect this determination as well as the project objectives related to new dwelling units and jobs.

5.2 - Project Objectives

As stated in Chapter 2, Project Description, the objectives of the proposed project are to:

Quantified Objectives

• Accommodate between 40,000 and 45,000 dwelling units of varying types, sizes, densities, and affordability levels.

• *Accommodate between 30,000 and 37,000 jobs.*

5.6 - Environmentally Superior Alternative

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(e)(2) requires identification of an environmentally superior alternative. *If the No Project Alternative is environmentally superior, CEQA requires selection of the "environmentally superior alternative other than the No Project Alternative" among the project and the alternatives evaluated.* ***The qualitative environmental effects of each alternative in relation to the proposed project are summarized in Table 5-1.***

Land Use and Planning

Alternative 2 would have slightly less density than the proposed project. ***Alternative 2 would not physically divide an established community****.* ***This alternative would allow for planned development and growth and would increase connectivity and support, strengthen, and connect new communities.*** *However, this alternative might reduce impacts to land use by consolidating Office Center and Flexible Research and Development land uses to the area south of Jensen Avenue.* ***Therefore, impacts to land use would be expected to be less than significant, similar to but slightly less than the proposed project.***

5.6 - Environmentally Superior Alternative

"The Consolidated Business Park Alternative is the environmentally superior alternative because it has similar, but slightly less, impacts as compared to the proposed project and meets the project objectives."

Also enclosed as a separate attachment is a brief executive summary of the relevant discussions in Chapter 5 of the Draft Program EIR that reinforce our conclusions and recommendations.

In summary we wish to thank the city and city staff for allowing us and our neighbors to comment on the Recirculated Draft Program EIR. For the reasons stated above and also as stated in your own Recirculated Draft Program EIR, **we request that the *Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Alternative 2),* be adopted as the preferred land use plan and be adopted as such.** We hope that the City Planning Department and the City Planning Commission will make this recommendation to the City Council for adoption based on the desires of the property owners in this area as well as the analysis performed by their EIR consultant in accordance with the CEQA process. If you have any questions, you may contact me at the address and contact information below.

Sincerely

Mark Reitz PE

[redacted]

[redacted]

Dale T. Reitz

[redacted]

[redacted]

Enclosures

CC:

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Nelson Esparaza District 7 Council Member, District7@fresno.gov

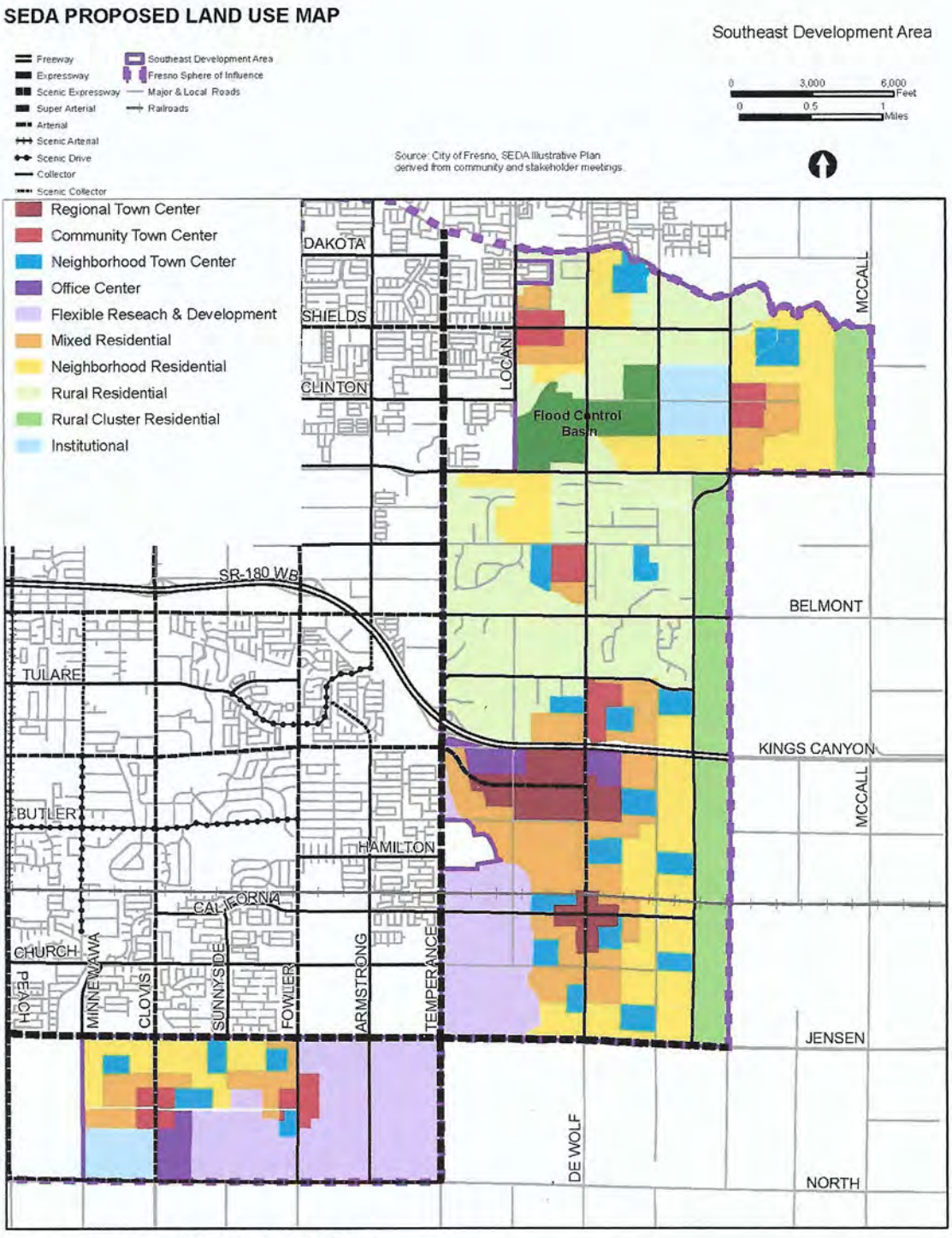
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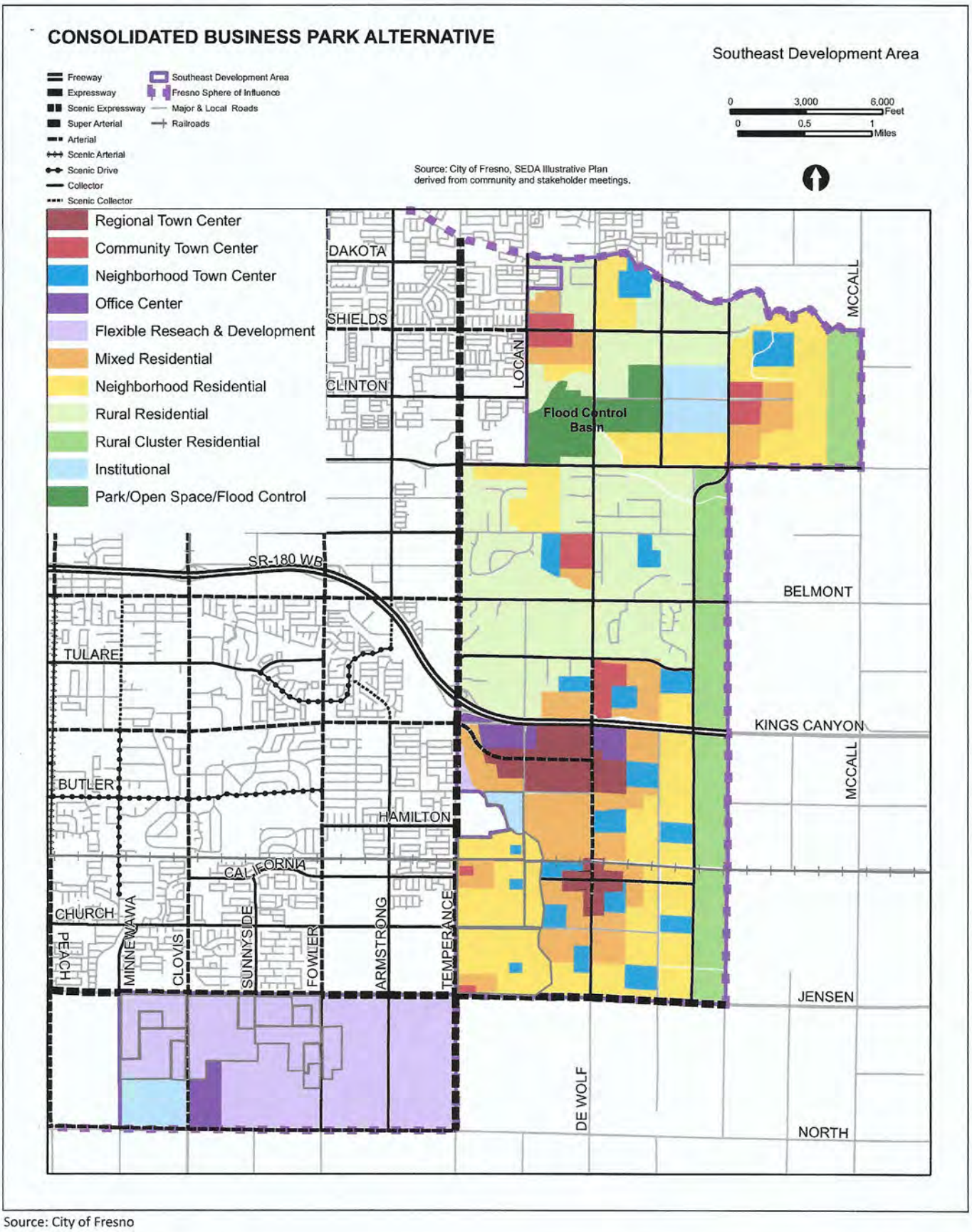
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SEDA PROPOSED LAND USE MAP



Map 2.5 SEDA Proposed Land Use



Source: City of Fresno

FIRSTCARBON SOLUTIONS™

Exhibit 5-1
Consolidated Business Park Alternative

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Comments on Recirculated Draft PEIR, SEDA Specific Plan Project #2022020486

After a review of the SEDA General Plan, Recirculated Draft PEIR Specific Plan, and the three Alternatives in Chapter 5, I believe the Consolidated Business Park Alternative 2 offers the best course of action to satisfy the PEIR Project objectives.

Alt 2 would maintain existing R&D land designations from the General Plan for the area south of Jensen Avenue but allow the area east of Temperance Avenue to be developed at Neighborhood and Mixed Residential with two community centers and five neighborhood centers (p. 5-6). This scenario would permit proper organized and phased development on potentially stranded land east of Temperance and west of the Briggs Canal. Consolidation of Flexible R&D land south of Jensen Avenue would offer the opportunity for synergies of planning and phased development in one contiguous area instead of two separate tracts.

Alt 2 would accommodate 42,900 homes and provide 36,000 jobs within the 9,000 ac planning area (p. 5-14). These estimates are 95% of the maximum in the range outlined in the project objectives of the SEDA Specific Plan (p. 5-7) and 97% of the maximum jobs in the range outlined in the Plan, while offering the benefit of slightly less development density and environmental impact.

Alt 2 would consolidate the proposed Office Center and Flexible R&D land uses to the area south of Jensen Avenue, thus preserving more undeveloped space (p. 5-15). Alt 2 would not physically divide an established community, allow planned development, and increase connectivity to support and strengthen new communities (p. 5-18).

Alt 2 would provide similar development to the proposed project, but with slightly less intense impacts to GHG emissions, agricultural, forestry, and biological resources (p.5-15). In fact, the 2025 Recirculated Draft Plan made no mention of any significant net increase in GHG emissions for Alt 2 (5-21). The previous 2023 Draft Plan had stated that “Alt 2 would still have a significant net increase in GHG emissions and would have a significant GHG impact per the City of Fresno GHG Reduction Plan Update (5-17).”).

Alt 1, No Project Alternative, would use current land use and zoning maps from the General Plan. This alternative would include an estimated 17,900 homes and 29,600 jobs (p. 5-6). These numbers are below the range of homes and jobs identified as “quantified objectives” in the SEDA Specific Plan. Alt 1 would have similar, but slightly less, impacts than the proposed SEDA Specific Plan.

Alt 3, Farmland Conservation Alternative, envisions no future development or ground disturbing activities on specific farmland (648.61 ac) designated for conservation (p. 5-22). In addition, a Rural Cluster Residential Buffer (832 ac) on the east side of the Plan area would be excluded from development. Preserving this buffer farmland would reduce the transitional buffer and cause residential lands to be in closer contact with active agricultural land (p. 5-25). This unavoidable conflict of land use continuity would likely contradict the Specific Plan Policy UF-1.6 and create a significant environmental impact (Table 5-1). This land use conflict creates an incrementally greater environmental impact, rendering it inferior under CEQA Guidelines (p. 5-29).

“Alternative 1, the No Project Alternative, would not meet the project objectives. Alternatives 2 and 3 would meet many of the project objectives. The Consolidated Business Park Alternative is the environmentally superior alternative because it has similar, but slightly less, impacts as compared to the proposed project and meets the project objectives.” (p. 5-29).

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Dale Reitz and Mark Reitz

[redacted]

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FRESNO SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA SPECIFIC PLAN PROJECT
CITY OF FRESNO, FRESNO COUNTY, CA
State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486

AUGUST 27, 2023
Submitted by Email and USPS to
City of Fresno
Jennifer Clark, Director
Planning & Development Dept.
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
Jennifer.Clark@fresno.gov

RESUBMITTED MARCH 19, 2025
by email to longrangeplanning@fresno.gov
c/o Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

Submitted by

VICTORIA Y. YOKOYAMA
[redacted]

History

The author purchased a five-acre parcel in Southeast Fresno in 1994 from a well-known African American farmer, built a home on the lot in 1997, and moved to Southeast Fresno from northern Clovis. The author and family have enjoyed the benefits of a Southeast Fresno rural life style by living in the Rural Residential zone for more than 30 years. The author's land is bordered on the south side by Fancher Creek Canal, and the author has been a conservationist in protecting the wildlife associated with the natural waterway. In 2001, the author objected to the proposed construction of a linear park on the Fancher Creek Canal ditch bank. In 2008, the original SEGA plan included the linear park. The SEGA plan then made an abrupt transition to the SEDA Plan in 2022. The issuance of the SEDA plan EIR was then announced in 2023 without adequate public warning to impacted property owners, and members of the public.

In 2025, the City of Fresno created confusion by resubmitted the 2023 EIR to select individuals as a modified document. Those who responded to the 2023 EIR were not specifically informed by the city that 2023 public comments would be eliminated unless resubmitted by March 24. Thereby, city government has effectively diminished public involvement in the SEDA Plan.

Comments on SEDA EIR:

A. Environmental Setting 3.4.2

Plants and Animals Have No Voice, and Are Heard Through Those Who Know They are There.

The EIR fails to identify the significant negative impact on biological resources in the SEDA specific plan. The EIR fails to identify the ecological damage caused by building a Neighborhood Town Center in the center of a SEDA block of Rural Residential zoned land bordered by E McKinley Ave on the north, N Fancher Ave on the east, E Tulare Ave on the south, and DeWolf Ave on the west. This block of land is now referred to as McKinley x Fancher x Tulare x DeWolf (MFTD), and the biological resources in this area have been documented by the author. The primary features of the MFTD include the natural waterway of Fancher Creek Canal, an established community of homes on small to medium acreage parcels, a horticultural nursery, and a golf course (Exhibits 1-1 and 2-2). The MFTD is only about a tenth of the land that comprises the urban growth area in the SEDA specific plan, and serves as an example of the detrimental effects of urban development on wildlife, species diversity, and environmental habitat. Under the SEDA specific plan, agricultural farmlands and rural residential areas will suffer from unrecoverable losses of biodiversity, and abundance of animal and plant life through habitat destruction. The SEDA plan EIR fails to identify future ecological decline in the region, loss of community, and quality of life.

1. Disagree with Table ES-1: Executive Summary Matrix; Section 3.4 – Biological Resources. No mitigation measures are proposed for Impact BIO-1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. MFTD includes legally protected and sensitive species of environmental concern, riparian habitat, wetlands, native resident species, and tree preservation measures.

2. Disagree with Exhibit 3.4-1. The Fancher Creek Canal lacustrine and riverine land cover types and vegetation communities are omitted in part in the MFTD. Exhibit 3.4-1 shows lacustrine, pasture, and private ponds on the southern border of the Neighborhood Town Center in the middle of the MFTD. The riverine habitat must be included from this location northeast to the eastern boundary of the SEDA.

3. Disagree with Table 3.4-3. Rural and existing urban vegetation provides good habitat for special-status species such as the San Joaquin Kit fox (Cypher and Van Horn Job, 2012) and Monarch butterflies. Pasture provides food for wildlife herbivores including birds and rodents, and prey for carnivores including foxes and raptors. Rural and urban gardens provide habitat for Monarch butterflies (Cutting and Tallamy 2015), bees and other pollinators.

4. Disagree with Table 3.4-5: Special-status Wildlife Species within the Plan Area, and disagree with two text boxes in Exhibit 3.4-2 that reiterate information in Table 3.4-5 and Appendix C. Additional special species with imperiled status known to in occur in MFTD from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (2023) must be added to Table 3.4-5 as follows:

Fisher (Pekania pennanti) Comments – Observed 2013.

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Comments – Observed 2021 and a feature the ecological community (Snell Taylor et al. 2018).

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) Comments – Observed and Resident population (Davis 2021).

Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) Comments – Annual Nesting Pairs Observed.

Gilded flicker (*Colaptes chrysoides*) Comments – Annual Nesting Pairs Observed.

Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*) Comments – Observed egg laying near Fancher Creek Canal in the MFTD.

Great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) Comments – Observed and a feature of the ecological community (Snell Taylor et al. 2018).

Great egret (*Ardea alba*) Comments – Observed and a feature of the ecological community (Snell Taylor et al. 2018).

Snowy egret (*Egretta thula*) Comments – Observed and a feature of the ecological community (Snell Taylor et al. 2018).

5. Disagree with Exhibit 3.4-2. The distribution of the San Joaquin kit fox, *Vulpes macrotis mutica*, is shown in a red circle limited to Sanger. The northern distribution of the San Joaquin kit fox into the MFTD is not addressed in the EIR. Movement of San Joaquin kit foxes into rural and urban populations has helped prevent its extinction (Cypher and Van Horn Job, 2012).

6. Disagree with Exhibit 3.4-2. Swainson's hawk, *Buteo swainsoni*, must be added inside the same red circle around the MFTD as the western yellow-billed cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*. Nesting pairs of Swainson's hawks are found in the MFTD.

7. Disagree with Exhibit 3.4-2. The distribution of least Bell's vireo, *Vireo bellii pusillu*, would not be limited to the red circles around Tarpey Village, and Clovis, but would be found across the SEDA.

8. Disagree with Wetlands and Waters of the U.S. and State. Fancher Creek Canal provides unlimited opportunities for both vegetation and wildlife and is not a limited resource as described. Fancher Creek Canal is a natural waterway originating from the Kings River, and is the dominant natural feature in MFTD.

a. The EIR fails to identify that the SEDA is located near the Kings River. The EIR states that the plan is not located near the San Joaquin River.

b. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact on the fish species that are found in the natural waterway of the Fancher Creek Canal (University California 2014) and the fact that some fish are California native species.

c. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact of developed open space designated for a linear park on the Fancher Creek Canal Bank (Exhibit 3.11-1). The Fresno Irrigation District has stated opposition to using its canals as urban trails (Fresno Irrigation District 2020). Any disturbance or human activity on the Fancher Creek Canal bank will disrupt the fragile environmental habitat which now supports a diversity of animal and plant life including protected species.

9. Disagree with Wildlife Movement Corridor statement that SEDA would not be expected to substantially degrade the existing conditions. The SEDA will substantially degrade existing conditions for native resident and migratory fish, wildlife species, wildlife corridors, and nursery sites in the MFTD. The natural stream bed of the Fancher Creek Canal flows with water throughout the year and is the habitat for fish including trout, ducks, frogs, toads, muskrats, weasels, and many aquatic insects including damselflies, dragonflies, and mayflies. The banks of Fancher Creek Canal are lined with established trees including native oaks that provide habitat for birds including raptors, mammals including foxes, racoons, rodents, amphibians, and reptiles including snakes and lizards.

a. The EIR fails to identify the California Department of Fish and Game agreement with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District in preservation and management of wildlife habitats along Fancher Creek (Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District 2003).

b. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact on birds in the SEDA (Fresno Audubon Society 2019) and those species associated with the Fancher Creek Canal habitat.

i. Raptors found in the MFTD that are protected under the California Department of Fish and Game Code, Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3505 and 3513, and California Code of Regulation, Title 14, Sections 251.1, 652 and 783-786.6 are as follows:

Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) Comments – Annual Nesting Pairs Observed.

Great-horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*) Comments – Observed and Nesting Pairs Highly Likely.

Barn owl (*Tyto alba*) Comments – Observed and Nesting Pairs Highly Likely.

Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*) Comments – Observed and a feature of the ecological community (Snell Taylor et al. 2018).

Red-Shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) Comments – Observed and a feature of the ecological community (Snell Taylor et al. 2018).

ii. Established populations of the California State Bird are found in the MFTD.

California quail (*Callipepla Californica*) Comments – Annual Nesting Pairs Observed.

iii. Species of birds found in the MFTD protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2023) include the following:

Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) Comments – Annual Nesting Pairs Observed.

Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) Comments – Annual Nesting Pairs Observed.

Swift sp. Comments – Annual Nesting Populations under Fancher Creek Canal bridges Observed.

Others species of protected birds observed include, but are not limited to the following:

Canada goose, Common merganser, Double crested cormorant, White tailed kite, Killdeer, California gull, Mourning dove, Bell's Vireo, Black phoebe, American pipet, many Warbler spp., White crowned sparrow, many Sparrow spp., Spotted towhee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bushtit, Dark eyed junco, Brewer's blackbird, American Robin, Northern mockingbird, Woodpecker sp., Sapsucker sp., Magpie sp., Oak titmouse, Blue-gray gnat catcher, Western bluebird, House finch, Lesser goldfinch, Belted kingfisher, Black-headed grosbeak and more.

c. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact on biodiversity in the SEDA. Small diversified farms in the MFTD grow specialty and vegetable crops, and raise farm animals including poultry, swine, sheep, cattle, and horses. Homes adjacent to Fancher Creek Canal have ponds (Exhibit 3.4-1) and others have extensive ornamental gardens. The rural residential area supports a diversity of plant species, some that are native to California and the US. Cultivated and natural vegetation includes established trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers. The rural landscape supports a growing diversity of wildlife including mammals, marsupials, rodents, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

i. Pollinators. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact of removing pollinator habitat from areas in the SEDA that would contribute to an agricultural disaster in the region. Pollinators including hummingbirds, butterflies, bats, and bees are in decline in California (Chrobak 2022), across the U.S., and globally (Rhodes 2018). Plants in agricultural margins have the potential to greatly enhance habitat connectivity for pollinating insects (Wolterbeek 2023; Dilts et al. 2023) and prevent biodiversity collapse while providing natural pollination services. A variety of plant types found in gardens attract a diversity of bees (Frankie 2019). Gardens are larger in the rural residential areas of the MFTD compared to the city helping to support pollinator diversity and survival, and restore habitat for the Monarch butterfly (Cutting and Tallamy 2015).

ii. Horticultural Nursery. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact of replacing a large horticultural plant nursery with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD (Exhibits 1-1, 2-2, 3.11-1, and 5-1). The nursery is classified as unique farmland in the SEDA (Exhibit 3.2-1), conducive to the rural residential landscape, and supports biodiversity (Liquete et al. 2016).

iii. Golf Course. The EIR fails to identify the environmental value of a golf course located in the southern area of the MFTD. Golf courses support biodiversity and provide ecosystem services (Petrosillo et al. 2019). The golf course in Exhibit 5-2, Farmland Conservation Alternative, is replaced by urban development.

10. Disagree with Regulated Trees. The EIR fails to identify the negative impact on California native oaks that are found in the SEDA and along the Fancher Creek Canal banks in the MFTD including valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) and California live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). One hundred-year-old eucalyptus trees grow from the banks of Fancher Creek Canal. Although these extremely tall trees are not protected, they are suitable habitats for nesting birds, especially raptors.

a. EIR fails to identify the Fresno County oak woodland policy (UC Oaks 2022) and impact of the plan on oak trees in the SEDA.

b. EIR fails to identify the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (2001) and impact of the plan on oak trees in the SEDA.

B. Regulatory Framework 3.4.3

1. The EIR fails to identify the significant negative impact of a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD community. The SEDA specific plan does not define the purpose of the MFTD Neighborhood Town Center. Therefore, the land can be used for an elementary school (two schools are already located nearby), a local park (residents already live in open spaces), community gardens (residents have their own gardens) or a range of housing options or retail shopping which is apparently the objective of a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD.

a. The property designated as the Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD is not owned by the current horticultural nursery operators according to Fresno County public records. The motive for Fresno City planners to designate this particular site for development is questionable, especially when a second Neighborhood Town Center is planned about 3000 ft to the west.

b. The EIR fails to address the significant negative environmental impact of the Neighborhood Town Center on the Fancher Creek Canal habitat along the development's southern border (Exhibit 3.4-1).

i. Fresno General Plan PEIR Mitigation Measures BIO-1.1, -1.2, and -1.3 are avoidance measures that justify eliminating the Neighborhood Town Center from the MFTD in the SEDA specific plan (Exhibits 1-1 and 2-2) and in Alternative 2-Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Exhibit 5-1)**.**

C. Thresholds of Significance 3.4.5

1. A Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would be significant because of the substantial adverse effect on the special-status species associated with the Fancher Creek Canal habitat (Impact Bio-1) by disrupting the environment that is currently a favorable habitat for the listed special-status species.

D. Level of Significant After Mitigation 3.4.6

1. Disagree with Impact BIO-1 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on special-status species (Impact BIO-1) with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan.

a. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1.1, -1.2, -1.3 to eliminate a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would result in a level of significance after mitigation of less than significant impact.

2. Disagree with Impact BIO-2 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on the riparian habitat of the Fancher Creek Canal (Impact BIO-2) with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan.

a. Eliminating the Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would result in a level of significance after mitigation of less than significant impact.

3. Disagree with Impact BIO-4 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on fish, established protected species, and wildlife movement through the corridor of the Fancher Creek Canal (Impact BIO-4) with a Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan.

a. Eliminating the Neighborhood Town Center in the MFTD of the SEDA specific plan would result in a level of significance after mitigation of less than significant impact.

4. Disagree with Impact BIO-5 determination that the level of significance before mitigation is less than a significant impact. The impact would be significant before mitigation on California native oak trees within the MFTD and SEDA specific plan.

a. Fresno County has an oak woodland policy (UC Oaks 2022) and the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (2001) applies to oak trees in the SEDA specific plan.

E. Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 to the SEDA

The results of the author's evaluation of the impact of the SEDA on biological resources in the MFTD would apply to the entire SEDA specific plan region. The SEDA specific plan and the adverse effects of a Neighborhood Town Center on biodiversity and environmental habitat in the MFTD would also affect the adjacent areas of Sanger. The SEDA is a plan that supports urban sprawl into established rural residential and agricultural areas, and will destroy biological resources. Environmentally conscious agricultural and rural practices can benefit wildlife, but urban development will cause the greatest threat to all wildlife species and their habitats (Kucera and Barrett 1995).

1. Acceptable: Alternative 1-No Project Alternative is the preferred alternative and would have no significant environmental (Table 5-1) effect on the existing biological resources in the MFTD and within the region of the SEDA boundaries.

2. Not Acceptable: Alternative 2-Consolidated Business Park Alternative (Exhibit 5-1) would have the same unacceptable and significant environmental impact in the MFTD as the SEDA specific plan. In Alternative 2, the Neighborhood Town Center bordered by the Fancher Creek Canal on the south would remain in the MFTD. Alternative 2 will destroy farmland and cause habitat fragmentation and destruction that result in an unrecoverable loss of biological resources within the SEDA.

a. Disagree with Table 5-1 Biological Resources, Alternative 2 quantitative environmental effect is greater than or equal to (≥) in part, and greater than (>) in part.

3. Acceptable: Alternative 3-Farmland Conservation Alternative (Exhibit 5-2) would eliminate the Neighborhood Town Center, and the golf course a source of habit in the MFTD, but the Fancher Creek Canal that supports environmental habitat and species diversity would be preserved. Alternative 3 would implement the MM AG-2 mitigation measure to preserve farmland, and prevent farmland conversion into nonagricultural uses. Alternative 3 limits urban sprawl into farmland and helps preserve biological resources, and conservation of the environmental and ecological integrity of the SEDA.

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Subject: Comments on Recirculated Draft EIR for City of Fresno's Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan (State Clearinghouse # 2021100443)

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

Presented in this letter are comments on the Recirculated Draft EIR for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan. Despite the geography of the plan's name, it has become increasingly clear that SEDA poses multifaceted issues of Citywide concern. Your consideration of these comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Daniel Brannick

1.

The City's primary narrative in pushing for the expeditious approval of SEDA is "to create more housing supply at all income levels" (Specific Plan p. 5), however, the SEDA EIR admits "there is ample residential capacity within the current city limits and in Growth Area 1 (which includes Southwest Fresno and the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan areas)" (RDEIR p. 2-1).

In addition to its own admission that there is ample housing capacity elsewhere, there are additional problems with this would-be justification to move forward with SEDA.

A. *The process clearly conflicts with the Fresno General Plan's framework and policies regarding the sequencing of development in "Growth Areas"*

Permitting the development of SEDA, which is in Growth Area 2, prior to the development of land in Growth Area 1 violates the sequencing of development prescribed by policy and Figure IM-2 of the Fresno General Plan. Furthermore, the City has never established a tracking method to monitor development in infill areas and Growth Area 1 to determine an appropriate time to allow for development in Growth Area 2, as discussed in Chapter 12 of the General Plan and as tied to the requirements of Policies UF-12 and UF-13.

The EIR admits that moving forward with SEDA now is to place the sequencing out of order: "Located in Growth Area II, SEDA was intended to be developed once other infill initiatives were given time to gain momentum." Given that there are multiple projects underway in Growth Area 1 with "ample residential capacity" still undeveloped, there is no basis to state that the City

should open Growth Area 2 to development. Rather, the City should continue to focus development in infill areas and Growth Area 1.

B. *The SEDA Plan as proposed is not consistent with the Housing Crisis Act of 2019*

The lack of housing units to meet demand is not just an issue in Fresno, but in California broadly. However, even the Housing Crisis Act would recognize that SEDA is not the best solution to address the crisis. The Act[1] notes that "(12) The housing crisis also harms the environment by doing both of the following: (a) Increasing pressure to develop the state's farmlands, open space, and rural interface areas to build affordable housing, and increasing fire hazards that generate massive greenhouse gas emissions (B) Increasing greenhouse gas emissions from longer commutes to affordable homes far from growing job centers." (emphasis added).

The Act later states: (c) The Legislature also recognizes that premature and unnecessary development of agricultural lands for urban uses continues to have adverse effects on the availability of those lands for food and fiber production and on the economy of the state. Furthermore, it is the policy of the state that development should be guided away from prime agricultural lands; therefore, in implementing this section, local jurisdictions should encourage, to the maximum extent practicable, in filling existing urban areas. (emphasis added).

As there is "ample residential capacity within the current city limits and in Growth Area 1," allowing development to occur in SEDA - which contains more than 2,475 acres of Prime Farmland, 1,352 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, 1,189 acres of Farmland of Local Importance, and 1,725 acres of Unique Farmland (totaling 6,741 acres) - would be a violation of state policy, as written in the Housing Crisis Act.

C. *Advancing SEDA in the manner and timing proposed undermines the City's obligation to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing*

AB 686 "requires all state and local public agencies to facilitate deliberate action to explicitly address, combat, and relieve disparities resulting from past patterns of segregation to foster more inclusive communities."[2]

Fresno has a documented history linking urban sprawl to inner city decay and the creation of racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty.[3, 4, 5] As the City permits more outward

[1] https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB330

[2] https://www.hcd.ca.gov/planning-and-community-development/affirmatively-furthering-fair-housing

[3] https://www.sutori.com/en/story/fresno-bhc-timeline--wGb27reQQeEt6ZoHv1qgPZfx

[4] https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/eb1233cfb60048df8a02ba8b83998da7

[5] https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article243247596.html#storylink=cpy

expansion, existing neighborhoods are drained of resources and amenities – including access to healthy food, health care providers, etc. Despite this evidence, SEDA would perpetuate the disparities that result from past land use decisions, draining resources from infill areas and Growth Area 1, and potentially exacerbate existing segregation patterns.

2.

At a global level, it is unclear to what degree the EIR accounts for potential adverse environmental impacts that could result from the re-sequencing of development to prioritize development within SEDA over other parts of the City and Plan Area. Notably, the EIR appears to take very limited account of two large planning efforts that were initiated prior to SEDA: the West Area Neighborhood Specific Plan and the Central Southeast Area Specific Plan. Both of these plans were initiated prior to the SEDA plan being resurrected, and both would increase housing and residential capacity in the City's Growth Area 1 and/or infill areas. The West Area is mentioned exactly one time in the aforementioned text from the Executive Summary, and the Central Southeast Specific Plan is mentioned only in footnotes. These projects must be considered in the context of cumulative demands on services and infrastructure to properly disclose how SEDA will impact the environment in the scenario that these plans are also adopted.

3.

The City is not being transparent about the cost to build out public infrastructure and services for SEDA, which may indirectly violate General Plan Policies LU-1-e and ED-5-b that speak to the need for revenue-neutral annexations. While developers (or residents) may pay into a CFD, these do not cover all costs that are associated with new development, such as major roads. The approval of the Specific Plan and EIR would essentially require the City to subsidize development in Growth Area 2. As City resources are scarce and the City faces a budget deficit, this would further the offense to the General Plan by removing resources from infill areas and Growth Area 1.

4.

The EIR quotes a number of policies from the SEDA Specific Plan and states that compliance with the policies will aid in reducing impacts. If the policies are subsequently altered, then the EIR must re-evaluate the effectiveness of the policies to be relied upon for mitigation.

5.

At a broad level, the EIR relies on policies and ideas in the General Plan and SEDA Specific Plan to ostensibly mitigate potential environmental impacts. However, in a number of instances, the EIR does not provide any meaningful evidence to substantiate a) whether or not the General Plan policies have been successfully implemented and thus can be cited as effective for mitigation, or b) whether or not the Specific Plan policies are based in any sense of reality.

For example, the EIR frequently discusses how the Specific Plan will be served with "convenient and frequent transit service" but provides no information to prove that FAX has "major transit lines" planned, funding available, etc. to make this a reality. Similarly, it says that "nearly all homes [are] to be

located within walking distance of a Neighborhood Town Center" but does not show any maps or data that prove or meaningfully substantiate this statement.

6.

The Plan has missing or outdated information. The Urban Form chapter does not include a series of exhibits that showcase the Land Use vision. The Housing Choice and Affordability Chapter does not discuss availability of housing in the City nor the challenges associated with providing housing affordability. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Conservation Chapter references the 2021 GHG Plan. There is no Implementation Chapter.

7.

The EIR says there are additional project components, but they are not available for public review. This includes a Phasing Plan, an Infrastructure Financing Plan, and a General Plan Amendment and Development Code Change. These components must be made available to the public with an appropriate public review period prior to any formal consideration of this project. Failure to do so undermines the informed decision-making and meaningful public participation mandated under CEQA.

8.

The Aesthetics section does not address potential impacts on the Blossom Trail. Segments of the Blossom Trail are located along Clovis Avenue, Jensen Avenue, Armstrong Avenue, and North Avenue, which is located within the Plan Area or immediately adjacent to its boundaries. The Blossom Trail Route is formally designated as a scenic roadway by Fresno County, and it is well recognized in the local public consciousness as an important and significant scenic resource.

The EIR already discloses that significant and unavoidable impacts will result due to the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use and the adverse alteration of visual character by increasing the intensity of development in many areas that are primarily agricultural. However, the potential for particularized impacts to the Blossom Trail segments within or in proximity to SEDA are not addressed. As such, the EIR should include measures to protect the Blossom Trail segments located within the SEDA boundaries and those in close proximity to the Blossom Trail. Protective measures could include heightened review requirements for projects within the Blossom Trail Corridor areas and tree preservation requirements along Blossom Trail Corridor roadway frontage areas. Through such measures, it seems readily apparent that impacts to the Blossom Trail could be avoided or reduced without substantially impeding SEDA's general development framework or its goals and objectives.

9.

Impact ENER-1 should be revisited and updated. Because there is enough housing capacity within infill areas and Growth Area 1 that are already served by infrastructure and services, SEDA would appear to result in inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary use of energy. The energy demands (not to mention dollar costs) associated with constructing and maintaining infrastructure in SEDA's undeveloped greenfield areas are substantially higher than those for infill areas and Growth Area 1. Furthermore, the

added distances and commutes (which are likely to occur unless and until SEDA's optimistic full buildout is achieved) will lead to increased fuel consumption, which is averse to achieving California climate and energy goals.

10.

The EIR's conclusion under Impact LAND-2 disregards that implementation of SEDA as proposed conflicts with policy Figure IM-2 and related policies pertaining to the prioritization of development in infill areas and Growth Area 1. This project cannot be found consistent with UF-12 as it would expand the city by 9,000 acres and include a population equal to neighboring Clovis exclusively to Growth Area 2. In light of the recently updated City-County tax sharing agreement – under which the City will receive a greater share of property taxes for development within SEDA than it will for development happening anywhere else within the City or its SOI – it is reasonably foreseeable that the City will seek to reallocate and direct resources to SEDA in an attempt to realize higher tax revenues (which could foreseeably be wiped out by exorbitant costs associated with serving and maintaining the new development). As such, the Plan is in conflict with LU-4 as it will pull resources away from existing neighborhoods and spread resources thinner across a larger urban footprint. For the same reason, it is in conflict with LU-9 as history does not support the assertion that it will somehow avoid pulling resources away from downtown.

11.

In the EIR's Transportation section, the EIR's evaluative approach to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is misleading, if not flawed. In demonstrating an "80% reduction" in VMT, the EIR utilizes a "VMT per service population" metric which involves a comparison of VMT using the existing population of the SEDA geographic area. Given the rural nature and relatively limited population capacity within the SEDA boundaries, it is not surprising that existing VMT per capita within the SEDA geographic area is relatively high (under both existing conditions and 2035 No Project conditions). However, the problem here is that this limited geographic area is not reflective of Fresno's region-wide VMT conditions (which are much lower per capita), and the VMT effects associated with SEDA will not be isolated to the Specific Plan's geographic boundaries. In order to provide an accurate and meaningful comparison of VMT impacts, the EIR must present the project's VMT in a broader context.

The 2018 OPR SB 743 Technical Advisory provides: "[A]gencies should analyze VMT outcomes of land use plans across the *full area* over which the plan may substantively affect travel patterns, including *beyond the boundary of the plan* or jurisdiction's geography…." (emphasis added) (p. 18). The Fresno County SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines similarly provides: "[T]he recommended methodology for conducting VMT assessments for land use plans is to compare the existing VMT per capita and/or VMT per employee for the region with the expected horizon year VMT per capita and/or VMT per employee for the land use plan of the jurisdiction." (p. 39-40). It is also noted that the Recirculated DEIR for the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan (which was released earlier this month) compares Plan Area VMT to countywide VMT averages as part of its analysis of Transportation impacts.

The SEDA EIR seems to take the approach that future residents of SEDA will live in a bubble in the Specific Plan Area, without traveling frequently to other parts of town or without having people travel into SEDA. Yet, this is contradicted by the description of land uses in the Project Description. The two Regional Town Centers will be able to serve 80,000 to 120,000 households (considerably more than the planned 45,000 homes to be built in the Plan Area). These centers will "host major cultural attractions" in addition to being mixed-use employment centers and retail destinations. There are also other Centers that will influence VMT, i.e., the various Community Town Centers which would purportedly support 30,000 to 60,000 households.

Aside from the VMT per Service Population issue, the EIR's projected "Year 2035 With Project Conditions VMT" is so low that it cannot help but invite skepticism. Local media coverage of SEDA reflects this sentiment, including questions seeking explanation of how SEDA's buildout and policy framework will "somehow" make SEDA's future residents "even less car-dependent than downtown San Franciscans, … and even New Yorkers.[6]" At best, the EIR's analysis appears to only consider the best-case scenario for achieving such a low level of VMT. There are no mechanisms to ensure that the assumptions underpinning the Transportation evaluation will be achieved or implemented; particularly, development of infrastructure is to occur on a per-project basis, so the multimodal circulation system will have gaps.

[6] https://fresnoland.org/2025/03/03/will-southeast-fresnos-proposed-mega-development-be-denser-than-new-york-city/

Juliet Doty
[redacted]
2.24.25

City of Fresno Planning Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno 93721
559.621.8062

Dear Ms Pagoulatos,

I am writing to formally oppose the Revised Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA), particularly concerning the issues raised in Sections 3.2 and 3.3.

Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources (Section 3.2)
The impact of losing agricultural land, especially the income for Hmong farmers, is a significant concern. There is a pressing need for studies that specifically address this loss and offer solutions to mitigate the impact on this minority community. It is unacceptable to neglect the livelihoods of these farmers, and I urge the city to prioritize this issue.

Additionally, the City of Fresno has documented its intent to preserve Prime Farmland. The current plan contradicts these goals, as overriding signed documents dedicated to preserving such land is not only irresponsible but should also be corrected before any further action is taken.

Air Quality (Section 3.3)
The proposed increase in the electrical grid's capacity raises serious questions about its impact on Fresno. It is unacceptable to proceed without a thorough understanding of this effect. Furthermore, the projected substantial increase in air pollution emissions—potentially by 600% in some areas of Southeast Fresno—has not been adequately analyzed regarding its public health implications. The notion of addressing these concerns only after project approval is akin to providing a "blank check," which is wholly unacceptable and must be documented prior to any approvals.

Concerns Regarding Utility Connections and Costs
The responsibility placed upon residents to connect to the city's water and sewer lines, coupled with the associated costs, is troubling. The potential financial burden—estimated to exceed $100,000 for water and sewer connections combined—could severely impact homeowners, particularly those on corner lots who would be liable for both sides of their property. Furthermore, the mandatory nature of these hookups and the imposition of a lien on properties for failure to comply are concerning.

The long-term implications of annexation for the rural lifestyle, including increased taxes to accommodate the projected population growth, are alarming. The transformation of prime agricultural land into high-density housing will negatively impact water supply, air quality, and property values, which cannot be overlooked.

In conclusion, the Revised EIR for the Fresno Southeast Development Area must be reevaluated in light of these critical concerns. I implore the Planning Department to consider the long-term impacts on our community, the environment, and the livelihoods of those affected.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Juliet Doty

From the Desk of Dr. Carol Bloesser	[redacted]

March 19, 2025

These are comments regarding the SEDA EIR along with the marked reference:

	3.1	Aesthetics. Light, and Glare
	3.2	Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources
	3.3	Air Quality
	3.4	Biological Resources
u	3.5	Cultural Resources and Tribal Resources
	3.6	Energy
	3.7	Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
	3.8	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
	3.9	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
X	3.10	Hydrology and Water Quality
	3.11	Land Use and Planning
	3.12	Mineral Resources
	3.13	Noise
	3.14	Population and Housing
	3.15	Public Services
	3.16	Recreation
		Transportation and Traffic
	3.18	Utilities and Service Systems
	3.19	Wildfire
		Mandatory Finds of Significance

The Fresno Irrigation District has written about all the changes that must be made to the canals for water for 45,000 homes. There is not enough water to support all the new homes and their residents even with changes to the canals. Madera is already having to carry in water to a couple of their new developments. Is this what Fresno wants to do? In the EIR water is glossed over as though it is not a problem. That is certainly not true.

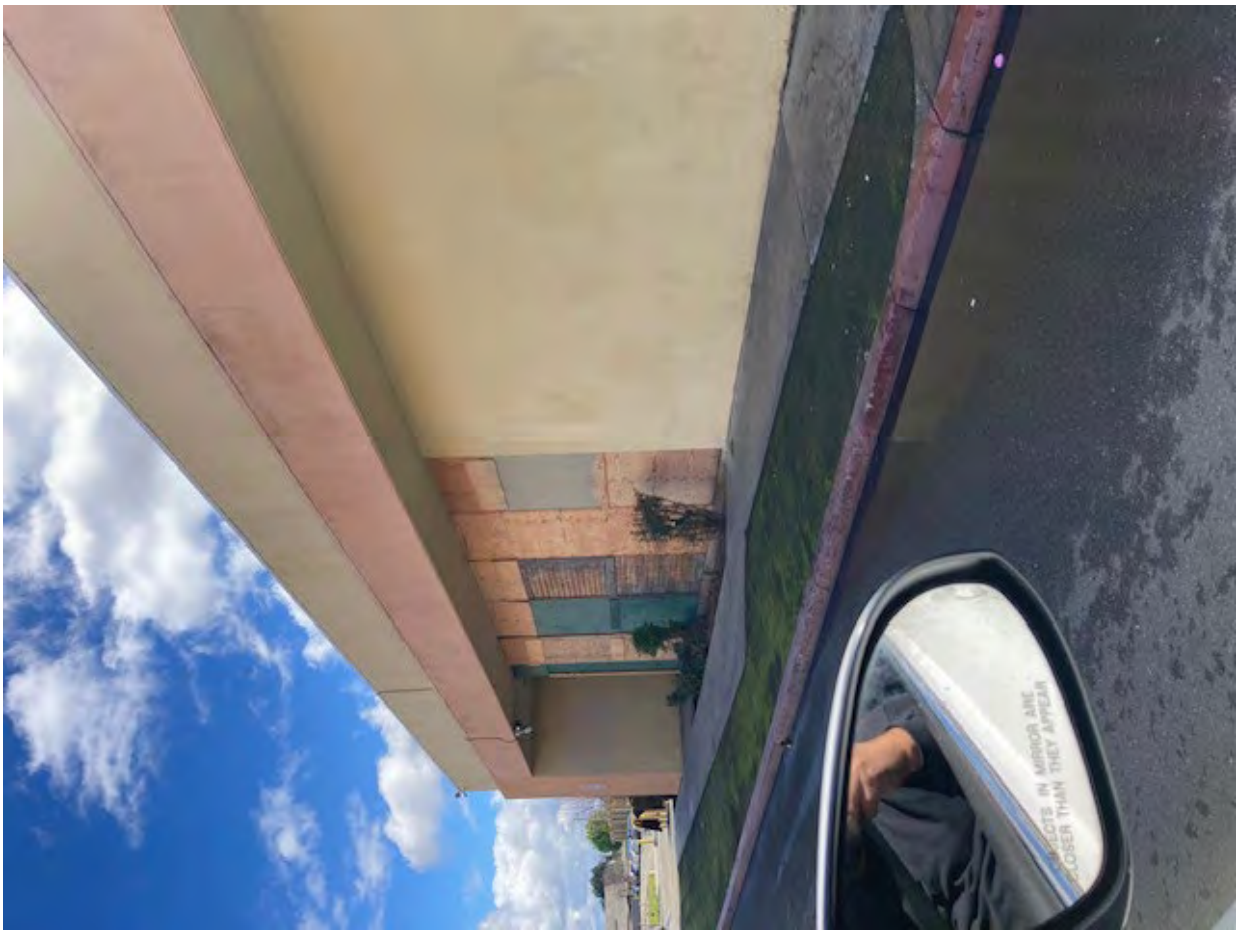
From:	NATALIE ORTIZ
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; Tyler Maxwell; Nick Richardson; Nelson Esparza; Todd Stermer; Jerry Dyer
Subject:	Public Comment - OPPOSE SEDA PEIR
Date:	Thursday, March 20, 2025 8:31:53 PM
Attachments:	Oppose Redraft of PEIR 03.10.2025.pdf

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Attached please find our opposition letter dated 3/19/25 to the recirculated PEIR dated 2/7/25. I'm requesting that the city clerk please forward to the appropriate councilman email address for District 5 since that is not information I have due to special election.

Thank you.

Natalie Ortiz



1510

DRESS
OR LESS





Pharmacy

Sent from my iPhone

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Capturing Stormwater since 1956

File 310. "BG", "BL", "BM",
"BS", "CS", "DS", "DV"
410.214

March 24, 2025

Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street, Rm. 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) Comments on the Notice of Availability of a Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, Fresno, California

**Adopted Drainage Areas "BG", "BL", "BM", "BS", "CS", "DS", "DV"
and Proposed Drainage Areas "DT", "DU", "DW", "DX", "DY", "DZ"**

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) has reviewed the adopted and proposed Master Plan storm drainage systems for the areas located within the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (SEDA Plan). The adopted Master Plan drainage systems were designed using the previously adopted General Plan land uses and the proposed Master Plan drainage systems are based on the SEDA Plan land uses as shown on Exhibits 1-1 and 2-2 of the Recirculated DPEIR. FMFCD shall be notified of any revisions to the SEDA Plan Proposed Land Use as changes may effect the existing and proposed Master Plan drainage systems.

Drainage fees shall be collected pursuant to the Drainage Fee Ordinance prior to approval of final maps and/or issuance of building permits at the rates in effect at the time of such approval. Instances when the proposed density is reduced and the District's Master Plan facilities have been constructed will be subject to the higher rate anticipated to be collected when the facilities were installed. Should land use densities of existing areas be increased, the property would be subject to drainage fees commensurate to the higher density and paid to offset the effects of the increased land use. Please contact the District for a final fee obligation prior to issuance of any construction permits.

5469 E. Olive Avenue • Fresno, CA 93727 • (559) 456-3292 • FAX (559) 456-3194
www.fresnofloodcontrol.org

As noted in FMFCD's prior letters dated March 25, 2022 and August 28, 2023, in Master Plan areas where no drainage facilities have been constructed, the Master Plan can be planned to accommodate the new land uses and pipe alignments within the SEDA Plan. Proposed basin locations, as shown on Exhibits 1-1 and 2-2 of the Recirculated DPEIR, are based on the preliminary Storm Drainage Master Plan and take into consideration topography, land use, existing street and proposed street alignments, pipeline collection system layout, natural and manmade improvements, and other planimetric features. The drainage system and basin location is adopted by the District based upon a cost to benefit study. The proposed basin locations are established using the most current information available in order to site the storm water basin facility in its most likely location for acquisition. As development or District funds become available, the District reviews the proposed basin locations to evaluate the factors previously considered for any new information prior to property acquisition. During the acquisition, circumstances may warrant moving the ponding basin location to an adjacent parcel or to a nearby location, typically the basin location will be within a ½ mile radius of the proposed location and the basin size and/or basin configuration may be changed to better fit the parcel(s) being acquired and/or existing or planned storm water needs. Additional language to provide for an alternate land use designation for the proposed basins should be included in the SEDA Plan. This is an important element that must be addressed in the SEDA Plan.

Upon review of the SEDA Plan land uses for the areas within the adopted Master Plan drainage systems it is determined that the Master Plan can accommodate the new land uses with revisions to the existing drainage system. As shown on the attached Exhibit No. 1, approximately 55 acres located northwest of McKinley and McCall Avenues is located within the SEDA Plan but not within an adopted drainage area. This area currently drains to the FMFCD Fancher Creek Basin. FMFCD has identified 94 acres outside of the SEDA Plan, located southeast of Temperance and Jensen Avenues that is planned to be served by a proposed Master Plan drainage system. This area is bounded by the Briggs Canal and does not have an alternate solution to be served due to the topographic constraints.

Upon adoption of the SEDA Plan and EIR by the City of Fresno, FMFCD will prepare an update to its Municipal Services Review (MSR), for Fresno LAFCO consideration. The MSR is a LAFCO requirement and will demonstrate that FMFCD has the ability to extend flood control and drainage services into the SEDA Plan, as development occurs. Once the District's MSR update (covering all of the SEDA Plan) has been approved by LAFCO, FMFCD can proceed with a Sphere of Influence (SOI) Amendment designed to fold SEDA into the FMFCD SOI.

LAFCO is the CEQA Lead Agency for the Sphere of Influence Amendment, and FMFCD is the CEQA Lead Agency for subsequent annexation into SEDA, which is why it is critical that the SEDA EIR evaluate actions and impacts specific to the extension of flood control and drainage services into the SEDA Plan. Should the EIR fail to address extending FMFCD services into the SEDA Plan and fail to extend tax sharing services to FMFCD, the City/County will be required to fund the design and implementation of the Master Plan storm drainage system. LAFCO and FMFCD will rely on the City's analysis and treatment of environmental impacts in formulating their own CEQA responses to the demands of SEDA.

FMFCD may request that it's progressive annexation into SEDA take the form of LAFCO reorganizations, where our annexations mirror the sequence and configuration of City annexation. In this case, in the course of City pursuit of each annexation into SEDA, the City would present LAFCO with a reorganization proposal, where one LAFCO action simultaneously authorizes the City annexation, the FMFCD annexation, annexation by other urban service providers, and detachment from the County and special districts providing services to the unincorporated area (e.g. rural fire protection districts).

Additional FMFCD General Comments

FMFCD bears responsibility for storm water management within the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area, including portions of the area within the SEDA Plan. Within this area, the community has developed and adopted Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plans as shown in the attached Exhibit No. 1. In general, each property contributes its pro-rata share to the cost of the public drainage system. All properties are required to participate in the community system for everyone. It is this form of participation in the cost and/or construction of the drainage system that will mitigate the impact of development. The subject property shall pay drainage fees pursuant to the Drainage Fee Ordinance prior to approval of any final maps and/or issuance of building permits at the rates in effect at the time of such approval. Please contact FMFCD for a final fee obligation prior to issuance of the construction permits within the Plan Area. For areas located outside a Master Planned area, once these areas are adopted by the FMFCD Board of Directors', drainage fee payment will be required per the criteria listed above.

The grading of proposed development within the SEDA Plan shall be designed such that there are not adverse impacts to the passage of major storm flow through that development. Additionally, the development shall provide any surface flowage easements or covenants for any portions of the developing area that cannot convey storm water to public right of way without crossing private property.

If there are to be storm water discharges from the private facilities to FMFCD's storm drainage system, they shall consist only of storm water runoff and shall be free of solids and debris. Landscape and/or area drains are not allowed to connect directly onto FMFCD's facilities.

FMFCD will need to review and approve the final improvement plans for all development (i.e. grading, street improvement and storm drain facilities) within the boundaries of the proposed project to insure consistency with the future Storm Drainage Master Plan.

Storm drain easement will be required whenever storm drain facilities are located on private property. No encroachments into the easement will be permitted including, but not limited to, foundations, roof overhangs, swimming pools, and trees.

Where permanent drainage service is available the developer shall verify to the satisfaction of the City and FMFCD that runoff can be safely conveyed to existing Master Plan facilities. Permanent drainage service will not be available if the downstream Master Plan facilities are not constructed or operational and in this instance FMFCD recommends the City require temporary drainage facilities until permanent drainage service is available. Prior to submitting any development proposal, it is recommended to contact FMFCD for information regarding the status of the Master Plan drainage facilities and the availability of permanent drainage service.

FMFCD may require the developer to construct certain storm drain facilities as described in the Storm Drain Master Plan. The cost of construction of Master Plan facilities excluding dedication of storm drainage easements is eligible for credit against the drainage fee of the drainage area served by the facilities. A development agreement shall be executed with FMFCD to affect such credit. Reimbursement provisions, in accordance with the Drainage Fee Ordinance, will be included to the extent that developer's Master Plan costs for an individual drainage area exceed the fee of said area. Should the facilities cost for such individual area total less than the fee of said area, the difference shall be paid upon demand to the City or FMFCD.

The individual properties may be located within a flood prone area as designated on the most current official Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The maps are available at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center.

In an effort to improve storm runoff quality, outdoor storage areas shall be constructed and maintained such that material that may generate contaminants will be prevented from contact with rainfall and runoff and thereby prevent the conveyance of contaminants in runoff into the storm drain system.

FMFCD encourages, but does not require that roof drains from non-residential development be constructed such that they are directed onto and through a landscaped grassy swale area to filter out pollutants from roof runoff.

Runoff from areas where industrial activities, product, or merchandise come into contact with and may contaminate storm water must be directed through landscaped areas or otherwise treated before discharging it off-site or into a storm drain. Roofs covering such areas are recommended. Cleaning of such areas by sweeping instead of washing is to be required unless such wash water can be directed to the sanitary sewer system. Storm drains receiving untreated runoff from such areas that directly connect to FMFCD's system will not be permitted. Loading docks, depressed areas, and areas servicing or fueling vehicles are specifically subject to these requirements. FMFCD's policy governing said industrial site NPDES program requirements are available. Contract FMFCD's Environmental Department for further information regarding these policies related to industrial site requirements.

Comments specific to the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project

FMFCD offers the following comments specific to the review of the SEDA Plan (The individual pages are included, and the section or sentence has been highlighted for your reference):

1. Page 3.2-16, Impact AG-2 and Exhibit 3.2-2: Informational purposes only, FMFCD has identified one (1) proposed basin site, Basin "DY" is located on properties within the Williamson Act Contract.
2. Page 3-6.16, Policy EO-5.4: Remove flood basins. FMFCD opposes including flood basins in this policy because they lack sufficient surface area to support a clean energy system.
3. Page 3.10-31, Policy RC-4.4: FMFCD would like to clarify that this policy does not apply to recreational use within FMFCD recharge basin sites. FMFCD suggest removal of the words groundwater recharge areas and recharge.
4. Page 3.10-48, MM HYD-3e: Remove paragraph related to emergency relief pump. FMFCD disposal systems within the SEDA Plan will adhere to FMFCD Basin Operations Guideline policy (see attached).
5. Page 3.10-49, MM HYD-3e and MM HYD-3f: Remove paragraph related to LID measures. LID's typically require monitoring/maintenance by City or property owner and are contrary to FMFCD requirements to grade sites such that there is positive drainage to the street.

6. Page 3.10-49, MM HYD-3g: Remove mitigation measure MM HYD-3g. FMFCD disposal systems within the SEDA Plan will adhere to FMFCD Basin Operations Guideline policy (see attached).
7. Page 3.10-53, Cumulative Mitigation Measures: Remove MM HYD-3g per comment 6 above.
8. Exhibit 3-17.1 Proposed Major Street Circulation: FMFCD's Basin "DS", located at the northwest corner of Clinton and Leonard Avenues, was acquired in anticipation of Clinton Avenue not going through between Leonard and DeWolf Avenues. Based on recorded documents which indicate Clinton Avenue was not dedicated as road right-of-way in this area, FMFCD requests Clinton Avenue not be shown as an existing or as future roadway.
9. ES-41 and ES-42, Executive Summary: Correct typo on page ES-41 from 3d to 3e. Revise sections MM HYD-3e and MM HYD-3g per FMFCD comments 4, 5 and 6 above.
10. Appendix H: Transportation Supporting Information, Page 31, Section 6.1: The findings and recommendations of this report propose widening DeWolf Avenue, a collector street, from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction. FMFCD's Redbank Creek Detention Basin and Basin "DS" are situated along the section of DeWolf Avenue between Shields and McKinley Avenues. The existing fence for the Redbank Creek Detention Basin is located at the existing right-of-way 30 feet west of DeWolf Avenue's centerline. Since the Redbank Creek Detention Basin is part of an Army Civil Works project, any modifications to the existing basin or right-of-way would require approval through the USACE 408 Permission process. FMFCD would be able to provide additional right-of-way along the Basin "DS" frontage on the east side of DeWolf Avenue to accommodate the street widening.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our comments, please feel free to contact the District at (559) 456-3292.

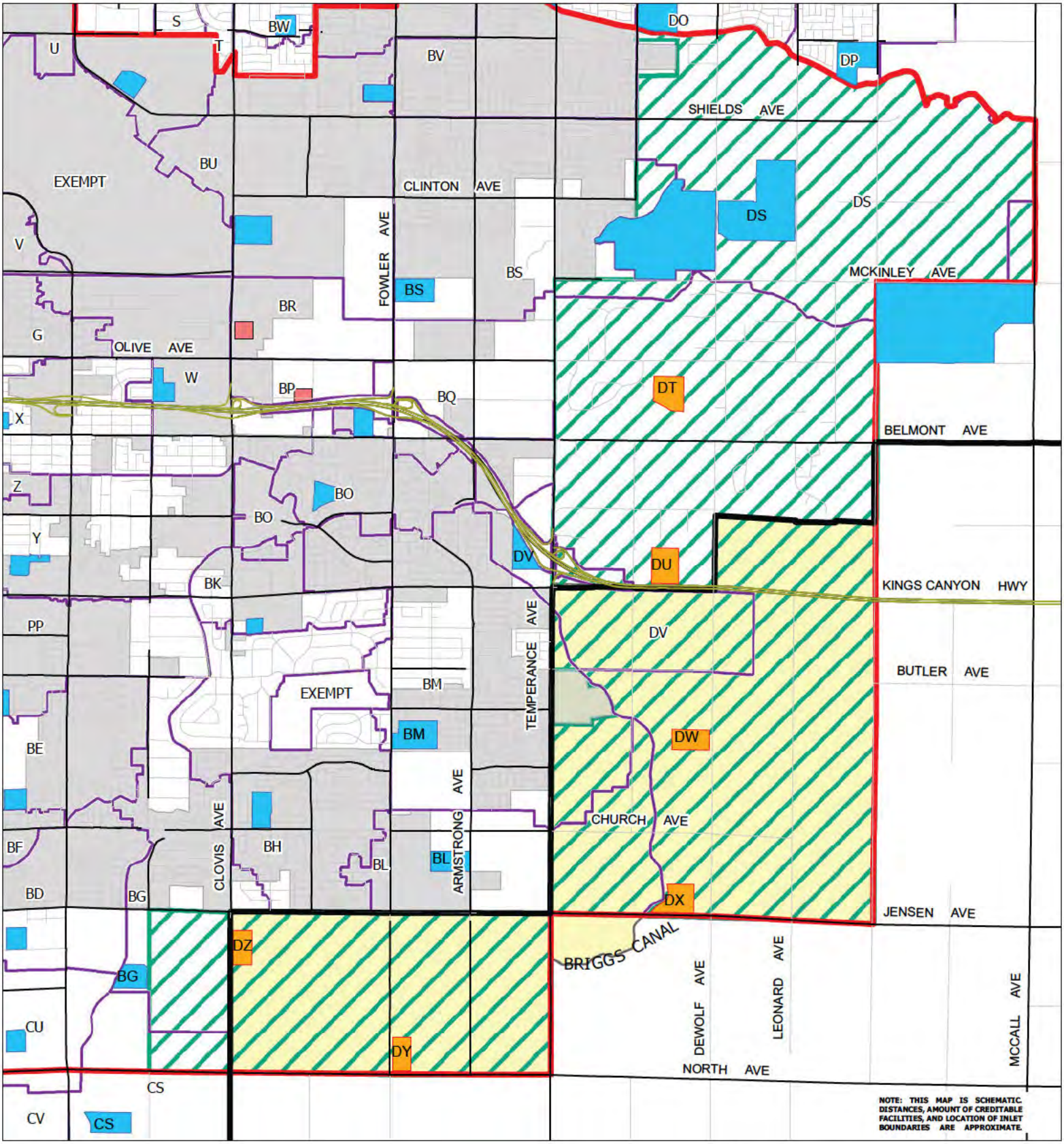
Respectfully,

Denise Wade
Master Plan Special Projects Manager

DW/lrl

Attachment(s)

k:\letters\environmental impact report letters\dpeir recirculated seda specific plan(dw).docx



FMFCD BOUNDARY
CITY OF FRESNO SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
DRAINAGE AREA
CITY LIMITS
SOUTHEAST DEVELOPMENT AREA
FMFCD ANNEXATION AREA

BASINS
EXISTING
PROPOSED
PROPOSED SEDA

Prepared by: rebeccal
Date: 8/22/2023
Path: I:\Projects\Accounting\Maps\SoutheastDevelopment.mxd

FRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

EXHIBIT NO. 1

1 " = 4300 '

RC-9-c, MM AG-1 states that project proponents may compensate for the loss of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland by complying with the adopted Farmland Preservation Program.

However, while implementation of MM AG-1 would reduce the degree of potential impacts associated with future development under the Specific Plan, the conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural uses would still occur. Therefore, this impact would be significant and unavoidable even with implementation of available mitigation.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Potentially significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

MM AG-1 Prior to initiation of grading activities, project proponents shall compensate for the loss of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland within the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Area (Plan Area) by preserving an equivalent type and quantity of land at a 1:1 ratio through recordation of a conservation easement, or other recorded instrument, such as a covenant or deed that restricts the preserved land in perpetuity to agricultural uses.

The acreage and type of land use to compensate for the loss of farmland shall be determined using the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) Model. The LESA Model evaluates measures of soil resource quality, a given project's size, water resource availability, surrounding agricultural lands, and surrounding protected resource lands.

In the alternative, if the City adopts a Farmland Preservation Program pursuant to Fresno General Plan Policy RC-9-c, project proponents may compensate for the loss of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland by complying with the adopted Farmland Preservation Program.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

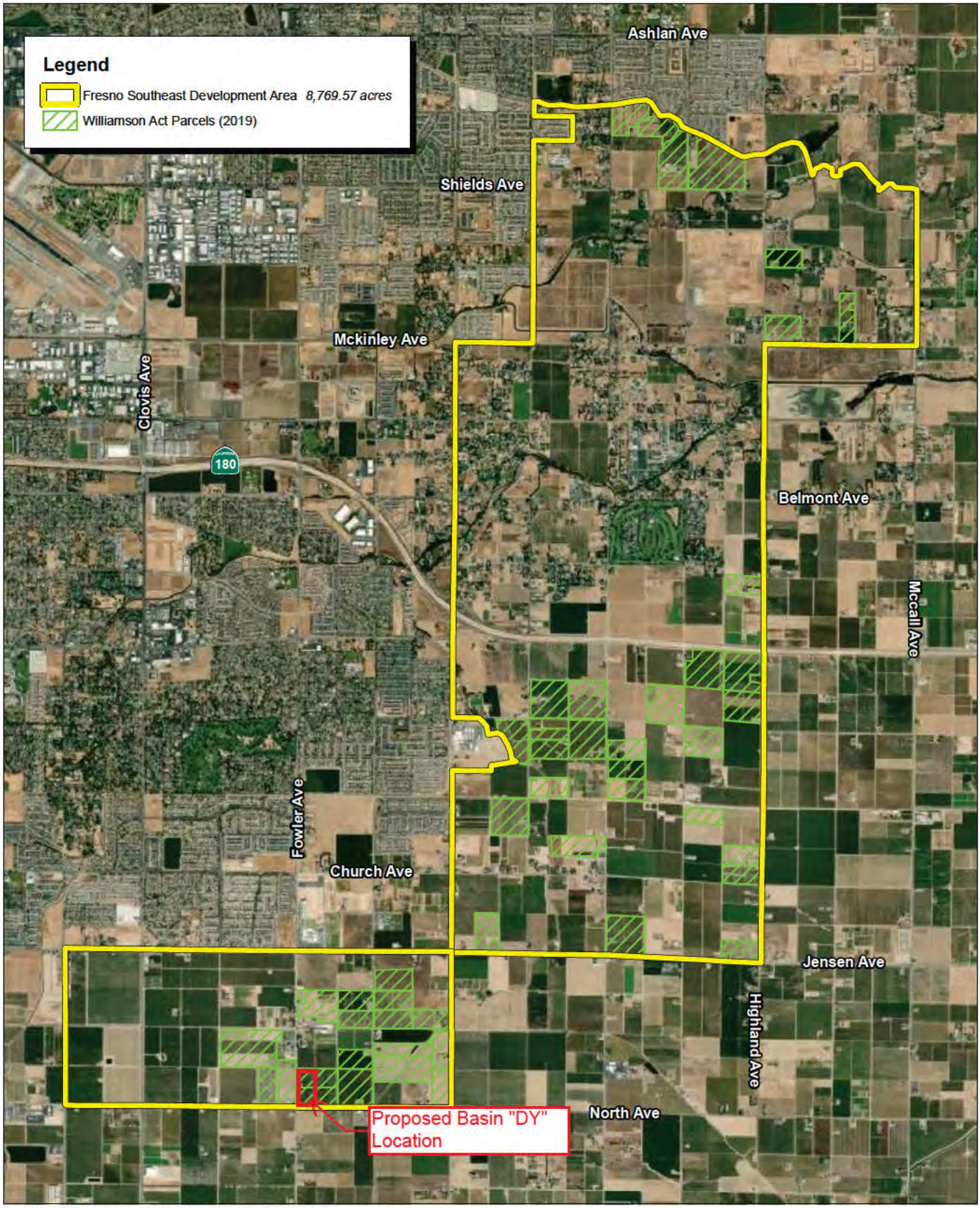
Significant and unavoidable impact.

FMFCD has identified one (1) proposed basin site located on parcels identified within Williamson Act Contract.

Conflict with Existing Zoning or Williamson Act Contract

Impact AG-2: The proposed project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract.

The Plan Area does not contain land designated for agricultural use by the General Plan. However, as shown in Exhibit 3.2-2, there are parcels within the Plan Area that are currently under Williamson Act Contracts. As provided in Exhibit 2-2, the Specific Plan would designate the majority of land within the Plan Area that is under Williamson Act Contract for nonagricultural land uses (such as residential and regional and community center uses). Therefore, implementation of the proposed project could conflict with existing Williamson Act Contracts because non-agricultural uses would be



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery. City of Fresno (2019). LSA

FIRSTCARBON SOLUTIONS™

4,600 2,300 0 4,600 Feet

Exhibit 3.2-2
Williamson Act Contract Parcels

31680037 • 12/2024 | 3.2-2_WA_contract_parcels.mxd

Policy EO-3.2 **Coordination with California State University, Fresno.** Build on partnerships with California State University, Fresno to develop programs and projects to attract funding for research and development in the following areas:

A. Agricultural technology
B. Clean energy technology
C. Green building technology
D. Value-added manufacturing technology
E. Water and wastewater technology
F. City and Regional Planning

Objective EO-5 Expand the economic base and fiscal sustainability of the City by supporting high sales, property values, and employment intensity per acre for economic development in key locations throughout the Southeast Development Area.

Policy EO-5.4 **Employment in Open Space Network.** Develop the open space network to support employment opportunities.

- Support small-scale farms in rural cluster areas.
- Support agricultural research in open space areas.
- Support the development of clean energy systems within the open space network (e.g., solar farms in parks, ~~flood basins~~).

Remove flood basins. FMFCD opposes including flood basins in this policy because they lack sufficient surface area to support a clean energy system.

California Energy Code, 2019 Edition, is adopted by the City of Fresno and incorporated into the Code and shall be referred to as the Fresno Energy Code.

SEC. 11-109 (California Green Building Standards) states that the California Green Building Standards Code, 2022 Edition, which may be referred to in the Code as CALGreen, is adopted by the City of Fresno and incorporated into the Code and shall be referred to as the Fresno CALGreen Code.

Therefore, future developments within the Plan Area would be required to comply with the Fresno Energy Code and Fresno CALGreen Code.

3.6.4 - Methodology

A discussion of the proposed project's energy use is presented below. The proposed project's anticipated energy use was estimated, including natural gas, electricity, and fuel consumption (for vehicles traveling to and from the project), for project construction and operation. Energy calculations are included as Appendix E of this Recirculated Draft PEIR analysis.

3.6.5 - Thresholds of Significance

The Lead Agency utilizes the criteria in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist as thresholds to determine whether impacts related to energy

Objective RC-4 Ensure that there will be no adverse effects on regional groundwater levels by minimizing groundwater extraction and replenishing groundwater used to serve the Southeast Development Area. Maximize multiple uses of open space by encouraging new recharge facilities to be accessible to the public.

Policy RC-4.1 **Minimizing Groundwater Extraction.** Use available surface water supplies to meet as much of the SEDA's potable water demand as possible, limiting groundwater extraction to extreme periods. The pending SEDA Infrastructure Financing Plan shall address this issue in detail.

Policy RC-4.2 **Replacement of Extracted Groundwater.** The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Plan (approved in 2019) illustrates the decrease in groundwater levels in the region as a result of pumping. All groundwater drawn to serve development in the SEDA shall be replaced with at least an equal volume via infiltration, pumping, or other means. Recharge need not necessarily occur the same year as withdrawals, however, over time, total recharge must at least match total withdrawals. Recharge and withdrawals need not occur within the same groundwater aquifer but must be within the same groundwater basin. The pending SEDA Infrastructure Financing Plan shall address this issue in detail.

Policy RC-4.3 **Maximizing Groundwater Recharge.** Establish integrated systems within the SEDA open space network to maximize recharge using stormwater, treated wastewater, and excess surface water supplies. Facilitate increased porosity and stormwater recharge through the use of porous conveyance methods such as bioswales, naturalized channels, and layered basins. Recharge and related systems shall be addressed in the SEDA Infrastructure Financing Plan.

Policy RC-4.4 **Utilization of Recreation and Open Spaces ~~as Groundwater Recharge Areas~~.** Support recreation opportunities with a range of parks and multiuse trails by establishing joint-use agreements with Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District to allow access to storm drainage/~~recharge~~ basins for recreational use, when appropriate (see the Open Space, Schools and Public Facilities Chapter).

FMFCD would like to clarify that this policy does not apply to recreational use within FMFCD recharge basin sites. FMFCD suggests removal of the words groundwater recharge areas and recharge.

es from major sources of pollution.

ater management practices that minimize

e Lake Watershed.

- **Compact Development:** Limit impervious cover by clustering new, higher density development within the SEDA, directing growth away from undeveloped portions of the watershed.
  - **Compact development.** Reduce the building footprint and overall impervious surface in order to minimize lot coverage on a per unit basis.
  - **Parking demand management.** Reduce the demand for parking stalls to lower the amount of impervious surface (and environmental impacts).

MM HYD-3b The City shall support the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) in implementing the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan improvements for the proposed drainage areas within the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Area (Plan Area). Any new proposed development in the Plan Area shall be reviewed by the City and FMFCD to confirm that design and construction documents have incorporated the updated Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan improvements, prior to approving any such development.

MM HYD-3c The City shall support the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) in reevaluating proposed Basins DW and DX for available capacities and shall expand these basins or construct additional basins to accommodate the future stormwater capacities from development in the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan Area (Plan Area) in accordance with the SEDA Specific Plan. The City shall complete these measures prior to approving any new project applications for future development in the Plan Area that require a discretionary approval and shall confirm that each project has incorporated any resulting standards prior to issuing approval.

MM HYD-3d The City shall implement the following measures to reduce the impacts on the capacity of existing or planned storm drainage Master Plan collection systems within the Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan Area (Plan Area) to less than significant:

- Require developments that increase site imperviousness to install, operate, and maintain Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) approved on-site detention systems to reduce the peak runoff rates resulting from the increased imperviousness to the peak runoff rates that will not exceed the capacity of the existing stormwater collection systems.

MM HYD-3e The City shall implement the following measures to reduce the impacts on the capacity of existing or planned storm drainage Master Plan retention basins within the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Area (Plan Area) to less than significant:

- Prior to approval of development projects, support the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) in upda
Master Plan to analyze the impa
within the Plan Area to determin
impact on retention basin capacity to less than significant. Remedial measures would include:
  - Increase the size of the retention basin through the purchase of more land or deepening the basin or a combination for planned retention basins.
  - ~~Increase the size of the emergency relief pump capacity required to pump excess runoff volume out of the basin and into adjacent canals that convey the stormwater to a disposal facility for existing retention basins.~~

Remove paragraph related to emergency relief pump. FMFCD disposal systems within the SEDA Plan will adhere to FMFCD Basin Operations Guideline policy (see attached).

- ~~Require developments that increase runoff volume to install, operate, and maintain Low Impact Development (LID) measures to reduce runoff volume to the runoff volume that will not exceed the capacity of the existing retention basins.~~

MM HYD-3f The City shall implement the following measures to reduce the impacts on the capacity of existing or p
(stormwater quality) ba
Plan Area (Plan Area) to

Remove paragraph related to LID measures. LID's typically require monitoring/maintenance by City or property owner and are contrary to FMFCD requirements to grade sites such that there is positive drainage to the street.

- Prior to approval of development projects, support the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) in updating the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan to determine the impacts to the urban detention weir overflow rates and determine remed
detention basin capac
include:
  - Modify overflow we
by the FMFCD Board of Directors.
  - Increase the size of the urban detention basin to increase residence time by purchasing more land.
  - ~~Require developments that increase runoff volume to install, operate, and maintain Low Impact Development (LID) measures to reduce peak runoff rates and runoff volume to the runoff rates and volumes that will not exceed the weir overflow rates of the existing urban detention basins.~~

Remove paragraph related to LID measures. LID's typically require monitoring/maintenance by City or property owner and are contrary to FMFCD requirements to grade sites such that there is positive drainage to the street.

~~MM HYD-3g~~ ~~The City shall implement the following measures to reduce the impacts on the capacity of existing or planned storm drainage Master Plan pump disposal systems within the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Area (Plan Area) to less than significant:~~

- ~~Prior to approval of development projects, support the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) in updating the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan to determine the extent and degree to which the capacity of the existing pump system will be exceeded.~~
- ~~Require new developments to install, operate, and maintain FMFCD design standard on-site detention facilities to reduce peak stormwater runoff rates to existing planned peak runoff rates.~~
- ~~Provide additional pump system capacity to maximum allowed by existing permitting to increase the capacity to match or exceed the peak runoff rates determined by the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan update.~~

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

Remove MM HYD-3g. FMFCD disposal systems within the SEDA Plan will adhere to FMFCD Basin Operations Guideline policy (see attached).

and 2020. The City is a member of the North Kings GSA; continued participation and compliance with the North Kings GSP and continued development of water conservation policies/programs and water supply infrastructure will reduce the cumulative impacts related to hydrology. This is incorporated as MM HYD-2 and will reduce impacts to a less than significant level with mitigations incorporated.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Buildout of the proposed project would increase the amount of paved impervious surfaces within the Plan Area. This increase in impervious surfaces would increase stormwater runoff rates and volumes over those that occur from development under the General Plan. This increase in runoff would have the potential to increase the amount of polluted runoff. However, as described above, additional stormwater detention basins and expanded capacity for stormwater is planned throughout the Plan Area. This is required by MM HYD-3a, MM HYD-3b, and MM HYD-3c. Furthermore, all development projects within the Fresno-Clovis area would be required to comply with the MS4 Permit that requires the implementation of water quality and watershed protection measures. Compliance with the MS4 Permit would reduce potential impacts from cumulative projects to less than significant. Since the development under the proposed Specific Plan would also need to comply with the MS4 Permit and includes specific policies of the proposed Specific Plan and the approved City General Plan, the proposed project's contribution to potential cumulative impacts would be less than significant with mitigations incorporated.

Level of Cumulative Significance Before Mitigation

Potentially significant impact.

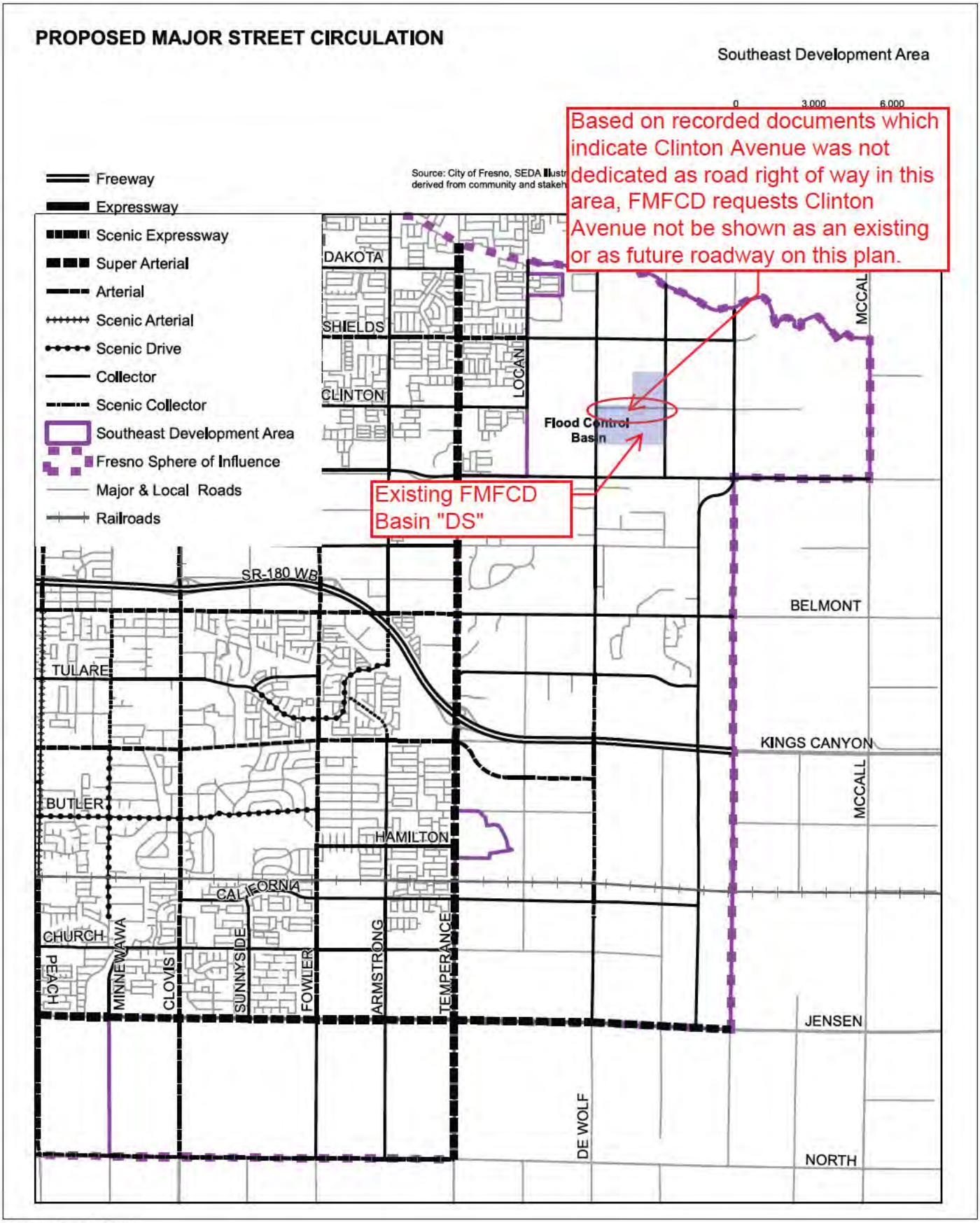
Cumulative Mitigation Measures

Implement MM UTIL-2a, MM UTIL-2b, MM UTIL-2c, MM HYD-2a, MM HYD-2b, MM HYD-2c, MM HYD-2d, MM HYD-2e, MM HYD-3a, MM HYD-3b, MM HYD-3c, MM HYD-3d, MM HYD-3e, MM HYD-3f, ~~and MM HYD-3g~~.

Remove MM HYD-3g.

Level of Cumulative Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.



Source: City of Fresno

FIRSTCARBON SOLUTIONS™

Exhibit 3.17-1
Proposed Major Street Circulation Network

Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
	rates that will no[illegible] existing stormwater collection system[illegible]. Correct to: -3e	
	MM HYD-3d: The City shall implement the following measures to reduce the impacts on the capacity of existing or planned storm drainage Master Plan retention basins within the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Area (Plan Area) to less than significant: • Prior to approval of development projects, support the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) in updating the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan to analyze the impacts to existing and planned retention basins within the Plan Area to determine remedial measures required to reduce the impact on retention basin capacity to less than significant. Remedial measures would include: – Increase the size of the retention basin through the purchase of more land or deepening the basin or a combination for planned retention basins. – ~~Increase the size of the emergency relief pump capacity required to pump excess runoff volume out of the basin and into adjacent canals that convey the stormwater to a disposal facility for existing retention basins.~~ – ~~Require developments that increase runoff volume to install, operate, and maintain Low Impact Development (LID) measures to reduce runoff volume to the runoff volume that will not exceed the capacity of the existing retention basins.~~	
	MM HYD-3f: The City shall implement the following measures to reduce the impacts on the capacity of existing or planned storm drainage Master Plan urban detention (stormwater quality) basins within the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Area (Plan Area) to less than significant: • Prior to approval of development projects, support the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) in updating the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan to determine the impacts to the urban detention weir overflow rates and determine remedial measures required to reduce the impact on the detention basin capacity to less than significant. Remedial measures would include:	

Remove paragraph per FMFCD comments, page 3.10-48

Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
	– Modify overflow weir to maintain the suspended solids removal rates adopted by the FMFCD Board of Directors. – Increase the size of the urban detention basin to increase residence time by purchasing more land. – ~~Require developments that increase runoff volume to install, operate, and maintain Low Impact Development (LID) measures to reduce peak runoff rates and runoff volume to the runoff rates and volumes that will not exceed the weir overflow rates of the existing urban detention basins.~~	Remove paragraph per FMFCD comments, page 3.10-48
	~~**MM HYD-3g:** The City shall implement the following measures to reduce the impacts on the capacity of existing or planned storm drainage Master Plan pump disposal systems within the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Area (Plan Area) to less than significant:~~ • ~~Prior to approval of development projects, support the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) in updating the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan to determine the extent and degree to which the capacity of the existing pump system will be exceeded.~~ • ~~Require new developments to install, operate, and maintain FMFCD design standard on-site detention facilities to reduce peak stormwater runoff rates to existing planned peak runoff rates.~~ • ~~Provide additional pump system capacity to maximum allowed by existing permitting to increase the capacity to match or exceed the peak runoff rates determined by the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan update.~~	Remove MM HYD-3g per FMFCD comments, page 3.10-49
Impact HYD-4: The proposed project would not be located in a flood hazard zone, tsunami, or seiche zone, or risk release of pollutants due to project inundation.	None required.	N/A
Impact HYD-5: The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.	None required	N/A

The existing fence for the Redbank Creek Detention Basin is located at the existing right-of-way 30 feet west of DeWolf Avenue's centerline. Since the Redbank Creek Detention Basin is part of an Army Civil Works project, any modifications to the existing basin or right-of-way would require approval through the USACE 408 Permission process. FMFCD would be able to provide additional right-of-way along the Basin "DS" frontage on the east side of DeWolf Avenue to accommodate the street widening.

6.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMME

The following sections provide additior
site, including:

- Roadway Impact Analysis
- Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Transit

Unlike the LOS impact methodology, the analyses in these sections is based on professional judgment in accordance with the standards and methods employed by traffic engineers. Although operational issues are not considered CEQA impacts, they do describe traffic conditions that are relevant to the project environment.

6.1 Roadway Impact Analysis – Traffic Increase

The SEDA Project would have an impact on the existing roadways within the project area. While the LOS analysis does not show any deficient roadways for the 2035 project condition, De Wolf Avenue and McCall Avenue are most impacted with LOS of D in the project scenario. Widening these two collector streets from 1 lane in each direction to 2 lanes in each direction will better serve the SEDA project and allow for smoother north-south traffic flow within the SEDA project. Likewise, it is recommended that McKinley Avenue be widened from its current configuration of 1 lane in each direction to 2 lanes in each direction for better east west connectivity within the SEDA area.

Other roadways within the SEDA plan should be upgraded into a network of Complete Streets as defined by the Fresno Complete Streets Policy adopted in 2019. A Complete Street is defined as a transportation facility that is planned, designed, operated, and maintained to provide safe mobility for all users – including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit vehicles, trucks, and motorists. In addition to Complete Streets, the safety of the designed roadway network environment shall be implemented such that driver, pedestrian, and bicyclist safety are paramount.

6.2 Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Transit Recommendations

Pedestrian facilities recommended for the SEDA area include sidewalks on all roadways, trails and greenways to connect the regional town center (De Wolf and Kings Canyon Blvd) with the community town centers and should complement the natural landscape of the SEDA plan area. The focus shall be on the identified roadways where fatal and severe injury collisions have occurred, and to achieve the Vision Zero goal of eliminating local traffic fatalities, it is crucial to implement safe practices and programs.

Bicycle facilities within SEDA should be compliant with the latest Fresno Active Transportation Plan guidelines and enhance connectivity between the SEDA mixed use areas to the residential areas.

Transit facilities within SEDA should provide for a safe, integrated, and efficient multimodal transportation system. The regional center of SEDA should be well connected by transit to provide access to and from central Fresno to the SEDA area. Transit stations and stops should be located near major activity centers and mixed use zones. Bus lines should connect public places, schools, medical facilities, concentrations of commercial space, and high density residential and employment areas.

POLICY MANUAL	Date Adopted: January 12, 1999
assification: ENGINEERING OPERATIONS	Date Last Amended:
Subject: Basin Operations Guideline	Approved By:

I. It is the goal of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District to maintain a basin storage capacity reserve which will accommodate an adjusted historical maximum 48-hour rainfall, as shown on the attached curve, assuming a 2-year design event "c" factor and in accordance with the following discretionary operational considerations:

- Priority for dewatering operations should be given to basins that have the least amount of storage relative to rainfall within its respective drainage area; and, shall consider the basin's need to accommodate upstream system dewatering.

- Basin pumping should be consistent with the overall operational priorities and disposal capacities of downstream systems.

- Dewatering of basins to the desired maximum 48-hour rainfall storage reserve is subject to: (1) the availability of a practical point of disposal; and (2) available resources as determined by the General Manager.

- Operational activities should be performed within the hydraulic capacity of the existing storm drainage system. Discharges to storm drains which can only accept such discharge off-peak from storm events can not be made during storm events.

- Nothing contained within these guidelines shall preempt the General Manager or his designated representative from exercising discretionary judgement in operating the system so as to minimize flood damage and maximize the protection of public safety and welfare. At any time the use of discretionary judgement results in a significant variation in practice or procedures otherwise provided for by these guidelines, such variance shall be reported to the Board of Directors.

California Department of Transportation

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November 17, 2023

FRE-180-64.104
Southeast Development Area
Re-circulated Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
SCH #2022020486
GTS #: https://ld-igr-gts.dot.ca.gov/district/6/report/28801

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mx. Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
adrienne.asadoorian@fresno.gov

Dear Mx. Asadoorian:

Caltrans has completed our review of the Re-circulated Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) in the City of Fresno.

The proposed development area covers nearly 9,000 acres. It is bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, on the east by McCall and Highland Avenues, on the south by Jensen and North Avenues, and on the West by Locan, Temperance, and Minnewawa Avenues.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) process reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

All comments from our previous letter dated August 25th, 2023, regarding the VMT Analysis Comments, still apply.

SR 180 Interchange Queuing Analysis

1. This document provided a peak hour ramp queue analysis at the following State Route 180 interchanges: Clovis Avenue, Fowler Avenue, and Temperance Avenue. It also provided a peak hour queue analysis at the De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall Avenue intersections along State Route (SR) 180.

The results of this analysis are listed in Table 3-8: 2035 Project and No Project Queue Analyses Results within the document. A substantial amount of the data in Table 3-8 needs to be more accurate. The following irregularities were observed:

A. Odd lane utilization on adjacent turn lanes (e.g., PM Peak Eastbound Clovis Avenue off-ramp, Left (pocket) versus Left (full lane) and PM Peak Eastbound Temperance Avenue off-ramp, Left (pocket) versus Left (full lane)).

B. Low queue lengths are listed at the Eastbound Fowler Avenue off-ramp left-turn lanes. Given the location of this development area, this off-ramp would be expected to receive many project-generated trips with the resulting vehicle queues.

C. Heavy reductions in queue lengths from "No Project Conditions" to "Proposed Project Conditions" at the Clovis Avenue interchange off-ramps.

D. Change values at the McCall Avenue intersection do not show the correct difference between "No Project Conditions" and "Proposed Project Conditions" queue lengths.

2. Given the irregularities, **it is recommended that the values in Table 3-8 be re-examined and updated where required**. Since the Project Specific Mitigation Measures were primarily based on Table 3-8 data, mitigation measures should also be re-examined.

3. Table 3-8 also utilized the full length of the off-ramp as available vehicle storage. This practice neglects the deceleration length needed by high-speed vehicles to come to a stop. The deceleration length should be accounted for on each off-ramp as provided in the Caltrans Highway Design Manual Figure 504.2B (single-lane exit) and Figure 504.3K (two-lane exit).

4. This document's Project Specific Mitigation Measures MM TRANS-3a and MM TRANS-3c propose the restripe of the eastbound State Route (SR) 180 off-ramp lane configurations at Clovis Avenue and Temperance Avenue. The alteration proposes to replace the existing two left-turn lanes and two right-turn lanes configuration with one left-turn lane and three right-turn lanes. The need for dual left turn lanes at each off-ramp was established during the development of those improvements. The additional capacity needed for right-turns at each ramp should be made through widening, not reducing left-turn capacity.

A cost estimate to be included in a traffic impact fee program should be prepared once the values in Table 3-8 are reevaluated and updated and the mitigation strategies are revised.

<u>Funding for Developer-Driven Impacts to State Facilities</u>

1. The Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan does not designate SR 180 as a High Emphasis Focus Route, so the State's portion of the State Transportation Improvement Program cannot be used to fund improvements to the SR 180 interchanges. Possible funding sources include Measure C, the Traffic Signal Mitigation Impact Fee (TSMIF) of the City of Fresno, the Regional Transportation

Mitigation Fee (RTMF) of Fresno County, the Regional Improvement Program, developer mitigation, etc. To deliver "needed" projects, infrastructure improvements in today's funding environment frequently require a variety of funding sources. The City of Fresno should mitigate since the SEDA creates the need for improvements.

2. Caltrans should be involved in reviewing any proposed new developments within the SEDA that would impact SR 180. **It is recommended that any proposed new developments that would impact SR 180 mitigate their impacts by including them in the next updates to Measure C, Fresno County's RTMF, and the City of Fresno TSMIF.** This would ensure the maintenance and improvement of the State facilities due to the absence of an all-inclusive fee program.

If you have any other questions, please call or email Keyomi Jones, Transportation Planner, at [redacted]

Sincerely,

Mr. Dave Padilla, Branch Chief,
Transportation Planning – North

C: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager, City of Fresno

California Department of Transportation

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August 25, 2023

FRE-180-64.104
Southeast Development Area
Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
SCH #2022020486
GTS #: https://ld-igr-gts.dot.ca.gov/district/6/report/28801

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mx. Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner III
City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mx. Asadoorian:

Caltrans has completed our review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) in the City of Fresno.

The proposed development area covers nearly 9,000 acres. It is bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, on the east by McCall and Highland Avenues, on the south by Jensen and North Avenues, and on the west by Locan, Temperance, and Minnewawa Avenues.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) process reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

DEIR-Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) Comments:

The concerns below should have been adequately addressed in the DEIR or TIA. While the DEIR is a comprehensive planning document, it is recommended that the DEIR endorse procedures that address traffic safety on the State Highway System. Caltrans did provide a comment letter dated March 18, 2022, during the Notice of Preparation with a public comment period from February 22, 2022, to March 25, 2022, which is included in Appendix A of the DEIR. Comments one through eight presented herein are included in the attached letter dated March 18, 2022, and are as follows:

1. This development region will likely add vehicles to the State Road (SR) 180 interchanges at Clovis Avenue, Fowler Avenue, and Temperance Avenue. As a result, there may be significant speed differences between the off-ramp queues and the freeway mainline. Each of these interchanges is recommended for a peak-hour ramp queuing analysis to assess potential impacts. This development area is also expected to add vehicles to the SR 180 intersections at De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall Avenue. The result may be significant speed differentials between the turn lane queues and the through-lane traffic caused by insufficient left-turn lanes or intersection control. **It is recommended that a peak-hour queue analysis be completed at each of these intersections to determine potential impacts**.
2. **It is recommended that the lead agency include a traffic safety review** that examines new pedestrian and bicycling desire lines, multimodal conflict locations, and changes in traffic composition (such as an increase in bicyclists or pedestrians, where features such as shoulders or sidewalks may not exist or are inconsistent with facility design). This analysis should include the SR 180 interchanges at Fowler Avenue and Temperance Avenue and the SR 180 intersections at De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall Avenue. For future residential development, Caltrans recommends that project proponents consider working with the City to convert a portion of the planned residential units to affordable housing.
3. The City should develop policies for installing Level 2 EV charging stations in single- and multi-family residential units and DC Fast Charging EV charging stations in retail, commercial, park, and public facilities.
4. Caltrans recommends that the Project use multimodal methods, such as those derived from transit-oriented development (TOD), to minimize the traffic-related impacts of future developments. Active Transportation Plans and Smart Growth efforts support the state's 2050 Climate goals. Caltrans helps reduce VMT and GHG emissions by increasing people's likelihood of using and benefiting from a multimodal transportation network.
5. Early involvement with Caltrans is strongly encouraged for future projects affecting the state right-of-way.

The Caltrans Traffic Safety Bulletin 20-02-R1: Interim Local Development Intergovernmental Review Safety Review Practitioners Guidance provides direction on analyzing the safety impacts on the State Highway System by proposed land use projects. Subsequent projects included in this development area should incorporate this guidance.

VMT Analysis Comments:

The preparer of the VMT Analysis concluded that the VMT per Service Population in the SEDA project region will fall from 45.72 to 5.07 when the project is completed in 2035. The move from a primarily rural location (as the SEDA project area is now) to a developed urbanized mixed-use site results in a significant drop in VMT. Additionally, the VMT Analysis preparer claims that this is attributable to residents and employees

being better connected to jobs and services within the SEDA project area, reducing travel times on both the production (residential) and attraction (commercial) sides.

Conversely, the Year 2035 No Project Conditions VMT for the SEDA Project Area is 371,397 per Table 7. Table 10 presents the Year 2035 With Project Conditions VMT for the SEDA Project Area is 974,369. This translates to a net VMT increase of 162.35%.

In theory, the relationship between production (residential) and attraction (commercial) may minimize VMT at full buildout; nevertheless, a typical land-use plan buildout begins with the production (residential), followed by the attraction (commercial). The concern is that the attraction (commercial) will develop slowly over time, causing a VMT impact in the SEDA region.

Based on our review of the VMT Analysis, **we recommend that the EIR preparer address the safety concerns by undertaking a peak hour ramp queue analysis at the interchanges/intersections on SR 180 from Clovis to McCall Avenues, as stated previously**.

The SEDA Specific Plan should also explore several possible VMT migration strategies, such as:

1. Creation of regional-level VMT bank or VMT exchange program;
2. Improved Public Transportation: Expanding and enhancing public transit options to encourage more people to use buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation instead of driving individual cars;
3. Enhance parallel routes near SR 180, such as Belmont Avenue or Kings Canyon Road. For example, the plan is to extend the Bus Rapid as cited in Policy UF-5.2. In addition, the City may consider signal synchronization along the corridors, if not already.
4. Active Transportation: Creating infrastructure and promoting walking, biking, and other forms of active transportation, especially for short distance trips;
5. Telecommuting and Flexible Work Arrangements: Encouraging remote work options to reduce the need for daily commuting;
6. Carpooling and Ridesharing: Promoting carpooling and ridesharing initiatives to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the local road system and highways;
7. Transportation Demand Management (TDM): Implementing policies and programs that encourage the use of alternative transportation options and reduce the reliance on single-occupancy vehicles; and,
8. Incentives and Subsidies: Providing incentives, subsidies, or tax breaks for using public transportation or purchasing electric or fuel-efficient vehicles.

The SEDA area may aim to establish more sustainable and efficient transportation systems while addressing environmental and social concerns related to increasing vehicle use by implementing these and other VMT mitigation strategies.

If you have any other questions, please call Keyomi Jones, Transportation Planner, at [redacted]

Sincerely,



David Padilla, Branch Chief,
Transportation Planning – North

Attachment: Caltrans comment letter March 18, 2022

C: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager, City of Fresno
State Clearinghouse

ATTACHMENT
Caltrans comment letter March 18, 2022

California Department of Transportation

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March 18, 2022

FRE-180-R65.1
NOTICE OF PREPARATION, EIR
https://ld-igr-gts.dot.ca.gov/district/6/report/25659

SENT VIA EMAIL
Shawn Monk, Planner
City of Fresno
Long Range Planning Division
Office: 559-621-8031
shawn.monk@fresno.gov

Dear Mx. Monk,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan. The proposed Southeast Development Area covers nearly 9,000 acres and has the potential to accommodate approximately 45,000 homes by the year 2050. The Plan Area is bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, on the east by McCall and Highland Avenues, on the south by Jensen and North Avenues, and on the West by Locan, Temperance, and Minnewawa Avenues.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

1. Caltrans anticipates this development area would add substantial traffic to the State Route 180 interchanges at Clovis Avenue, Fowler Avenue, and Temperance Avenue. The result could be significant speed differentials between the off-ramp queues and the mainline of the freeway. **It is highly recommended that a peak hour ramp queue analysis is completed at each of these interchanges to determine potential impacts.**

2. This development area would also be expected to add traffic to the State Route 180 intersections at De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall Avenue. The result could be significant speed differentials between the turn lane queues and the through lane traffic caused by insufficient left turn lanes or intersection control. **Therefore, it is also recommended that a peak hour queue analysis is completed at each of these intersections to determine potential impacts.**

3. Future development(s) should also consider traffic safety impacts on the State Highway System due to new pedestrian and bicyclist needs based on new origins or destinations that intersect a State Route. Additionally, multimodal conflict points and change in traffic composition (such as an increase in bicyclists or pedestrians, where features such as shoulders or sidewalks may not exist or are inconsistent with facility design) should be included. The State Route 180 interchanges at Fowler Avenue and Temperance Avenue; and the State Route 180 intersections at De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall

Avenue should be included in this analysis.

4. Future development(s) should conduct a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) study for projects that may substantially induce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Pedestrian and bicycle facilities within the project site should be considered in this study. The project proponents should also consider coordinating with nearby planned bike networks for a larger active transportation network. The City should consider creating a VMT Mitigation Impact Fee to help reduce potential impacts on the State Highway System.

5. For future residential development, Caltrans recommends project proponents consider working with the City to convert a portion of the planned residential units to affordable housing units.

6. The City should establish policies for the installation of Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging for single- and multi-family residential units as well as DC Fast Charging EV charging stations for retail, commercial, park and public facilities.

7. Caltrans recommends the Project implement multimodal strategies, such as those that originate from Transit-oriented development (TOD), in an effort to further reduce future projects' traffic related impacts.

8. Active Transportation Plans and Smart Growth efforts support the state's 2050 Climate goals. Caltrans supports reducing VMT and GHG emissions in ways that increase the likelihood people will use and benefit from a multimodal transportation network.

9. Early engagement with Caltrans is highly requested for future projects that would impact state right-of-way. Furthermore, prior to initiating the traffic study, please include Caltrans in the scoping.

If you have any other questions, please call or email Edgar Hernandez at [redacted]

Sincerely,

David Padilla, Branch Chief
Transportation Planning – North

From: Susie Rodriguez
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: fresno annexation of existing propeties
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 8:27:42 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

i/m a homeowner at [redacted] My husband and i moved here in 2015 and not one word mentioned regarding annexation, So we were shocked to hear about this horrible plan for annexation and very unfair. We are both retired and in no way able to afford the outrages mentioned cost to hook up to the city. if Fresno City wants established homeowners to belong to the City, i feel Fresno City needs to pay for all expenses. i understand new development needing to be hooked up to the City, but very unfair for established homeowners to be forced to hook up to the City, we already paid for our water pump and septic tank and having to pay to remove is unfair!!! We chose to live here with our acreage and beautiful trees, now our trees will all die due to lack of water because we will be metered and can't afford to pay outrages prices. Please leave existing properties owners alone, people are going to be forced out of Fresno and less property taxes will be collected. A better solution would be to improve existing unoccupied properties in the City and make Fresno a better place to live!!! it makes sense to leave existing homeowners alone.

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March 20, 2025

Via Email: Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov
Jennifer.Clark@fresno.gov
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City of Fresno
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With a copy to
Jennifer Clark, Director
Planning and Development Department
c/o Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

SUBJECT: Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2022020486)

In accordance with the instructions set forth in the Executive Summary of the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report ("RDEIR") for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, the below comments are being submitted anew based upon the election of the City of Fresno (the "City") to decline to provide responses to the previous comments solicited and provided to it with respect to the relevant Project described below.

This comment letter is being submitted on behalf of our client, the County of Fresno (the "County") Department of Public Works and Planning regarding the RDEIR in support of the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (the "Specific Plan"), which is intended to govern future development of the area commonly referred to as SEDA (the "Project"). Please ensure this letter and its referenced enclosures are included in the Record of Proceedings regarding the consideration of the Project by the City.

A. <u>The Specific Plan Fails to Address the Requirements of LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, and Thereby Omits Discussion of Important Policies Intended to Mitigate the Environmental Consequences of the Project</u>.

Preparation of the Specific Plan for SEDA development is a requirement of the Fresno County LAFCO approval that incorporated SEDA into the City Sphere of Influence, as set forth in LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, a copy of which is attached for convenience of reference. Therefore, the City needs to assure that the Specific Plan incorporates the details intended by Resolution USOI-144. Those elements require a master service delivery plan, and an implementation program for annexing open space

areas and rural residential neighborhoods. These items were highlighted in Resolution USOI-144 because they involve significant environmental impacts of the intended development of SEDA. However, those requirements have not been adequately addressed in the Specific Plan. As a result, its companion RDEIR fails to adequately evaluate how the Specific Plan's implementation will mitigate the environmental impacts that would be addressed by the intended requirements of Resolution USOI-144.

Resolution USOI-144 does not simply require that those intended programs apply to properties within the boundaries of SEDA. Resolution USOI-144 requires development of a program that addresses annexing rural residential neighborhoods within the City's existing sphere of influence in the vicinity of SEDA, as well as within SEDA. That program, as specified in the Resolution, must address "logical and reasonable development, discourage urban sprawl, preserve open-space and prime agricultural lands, and efficiently provide for government services and encourage orderly development."

Additionally, the intended rural residential neighborhood annexation program is required to "emphasize the retention of characteristics that make the neighborhoods desirable places to live, while making provision for appropriate improvement needed to incorporate characteristics into the urban landscape." These are not programs or policies that were to be deferred to some subsequent time, or to some subsequent SEDA Development Code amendments. Resolution USOI-144 specifically requires that they be reflected in the Specific Plan prepared by the City.

Resolution USOI-144 further requires adoption of policies that address the matters concerning lands subject to Williamson Act contracts. Such policies should address the City's intended approaches to any option the City may hold to terminate such contracts under Government Code section 51243.5, and the policy the City intends apply with respect to nonrenewal of such contracts under Government Code section 51246.

The Specific Plan, unfortunately, does not incorporate any such policies. In fact, it makes no reference to Williamson Act Contracts. The RDEIR does make reference to Williamson Act contracts, but simply for the purpose of noting that the Specific Plan is not consistent with existing Williamson Act Contracts, and that it will result in significant impacts on those existing contracts. It further adopts no mitigation measures concerning this impact, and simply confirms this is a significant and unavoidable impact with no available mitigations. It therefore intends to adopt a statement of overriding considerations on such matters.

Regarding the requirements of Resolution USOI-144 that the SEDA Specific Plan incorporate a master service delivery plan, the proposed Plan simply asserts that a "pending SEDA Public Facilities Financing Plan", will address important elements of the Plan. It defers that financing plan, and thereby fails to satisfy the requirement of

Resolution USOI-44 that these arrangements be incorporated into the Specific Plan. (See Specific Plan-Planning Context, Complete A Public Facilities Financing Plan, p.3; Policy RC-3.3, Water Recycling-Residential Landscaping and Small Farms and Community Farming, p.104; Policy RC-4.1, Minimizing Groundwater Extraction, p. 105; Policy RC-4.2, Replacement of Extracted Groundwater, p.105; Policy RC-4.3, Maximizing Groundwater Recharge, p.105; Policy RC-6, Water Supply and Delivery, p. 107; Policy RC-6.1, Site Development-Level Water Supply and Delivery Systems, p. 107; Policy RC-6.3, Flood Control and Stormwater Management-Sub-Area or Development Proposal delivery, p. 108; Policy RC-6.4, Flood Control and Stormwater Management-Shared Resources and Infrastructure, p. 109). The plan to finance these public facilities, which are so important to addressing environmental impacts, were intended to be addressed in the Specific Plan. This has not been done. The RDEIR simply notes that the Financing Plan will be a subsequent element of the Project, and assumes its components will adequately address the Specific Plan's requirements, including intended elements of intended environmental mitigations (See RDEIR Policy RC-3.3, Small Farms and Community Farming, at p. 3.18-48).

Because the Specific Plan does not conform to the express requirements of Resolution USOI-144, which identified important environmental impacts of developing the SEDA lands, the RDEIR violates the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") that the environmental consequences of a government decision on whether to approve a project will be considered before, not after, that decision is made. (*Stanislaus Natural Heritage Project v. County of Stanislaus* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 182, 190). It also violates the requirement that an EIR "should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences." (CEQA Guidelines section 15151)

B. <u>The Project Lacks Sufficient Planning Details to Permit in an Adequate EIR Analysis of Its Potential Environmental Impacts</u>.

A fundamental purpose of CEQA is to "inform the public and responsible officials of the environmental consequences of their decisions before they are made. (*Stanislaus Natural Heritage Project v. County of Stanislaus, supra*, 48 Cal.App.4th at 190). In addition, an EIR "should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences." (CEQA Guidelines section 15151). It is true that the degree of specificity required in an EIR will correspond to the degree of specificity involved in the underlying activity which is described in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines section 15146). In this instance, the project is a specific plan, and the City's Specific Plan fails to provide the information generally

required for specific plans under Government Code section 65451.1 The RDEIR therefore fails to satisfy CEQA's requirements because the Project, which it evaluates, is too vague to permit sufficient environmental impact evaluation. (*County of Inyo v. City of Los Angeles* (1977) 71 Cal.App.3d 185, 192-193, *Save Our Capitol! v. Department of General Services* (2023) 87 Cal.App.5th 655, 674).

Standard provisions of a specific plan should include details for the proposed distribution, location, and extent and intensity of major components of public and private transportation, sewage, water, drainage, solid waste disposal, energy, and other essential facilities needed to support the land uses described in the plan. (Government Code section 65451(a)(2)). In addition, a specific plan generally includes a program of implementation measures including regulations, programs, public works projects, and financing measures necessary to carry out the development of the land uses intended by the plan. (Government Code section 65451(a)(4)). However, the Specific Plan lacks sufficient detail concerning such matters. As noted above and below, the Specific Plan defers preparation of both its intended infrastructure financing plan, and its zoning standards, which will subsequently establish the intended development densities and other regulations for its land use designations.

Where, as here, a specific plan does not incorporate the information, in sufficient detail, generally required for such a plan, and instead defers such matters to future preparation, the CEQA document cannot meaningfully evaluate the environmental impacts of the intended project. An insufficiently detailed project cannot be adequately subjected to appropriate environmental review (*Santiago County Water District v. County of Orange* (1981) 118 Cal.App.3d 818, 829). The RDEIR thereby fails to satisfy its fundamental purpose of CEQA, to "inform the public and responsible officials of the environmental consequences of their decisions before they are made". (*Stanislaus Natural Heritage Project v. County of Stanislaus Court of Appeal*, *supra*, 48 Cal.App.4th at 190).

For example, the Specific Plan attempts to address the qualities of the size, density, composition and building character of its extensive complement of new Mixed-Use Districts, by requiring that they be consistent with new zone district standards to be adopted in the future, as part of a SEDA Development Code update. (Specific Plan, at Policy UF-2.2 Development Code Update, p. 27). Some density

[1] Because the City is a Charter City, the requirements of Government Code Section 65451 do not apply to it unless it has otherwise confirmed, by ordinance or resolution, an intention to comply with such provisions. (Government Code sections 65700 and 65803). However, in this instance the requirement of preparing the Specific Plan is an element of LAFCO Resolution USOI-144. By accepting the benefits of that Resolution, the City has committed to be bound by its requirements. Whether Resolution USOI-144 intended that the Specific Plan satisfy the minimum thresholds established in Government Code Section 65151 is a matter of interpretation for LAFCO to address. However, in addition to not satisfying the minimum statutory requirements of a specific plan, as noted in Section A, the Specific Plan also does not satisfy the express requirements of Resolution USOI-144, resulting in its failure to address important environmental consequences of the Specific Plan.

standards are described for some of the new land use categories. However, the Plan confirms that those density standards, and other aspects of the development standards and regulations, are to be set forth in the presently undefined Development Code update. That updated code will replace all previous zoning designations and will supersede the General Plan and all applicable Specific Plans, including the SEDA Specific Plan. (Specific Plan, page 39). The failure to incorporate meaningful details of those standards in the Specific Plan fails to address these important aspects of the Specific Plan's intended scope of development, and results in an inadequate CEQA evaluation of its environmental impacts.

Public Resources Code section 21155.4 provides that any future project consistent with an adopted specific plan, and which implements certain transit oriented development projects, may obtain exemptions from compliances with CEQA. Here, the Specific Plan lacks appropriate details. As a result, the CEQA evaluations are incomplete. Nevertheless, further CEQA compliances for future projects might not later occur. This adds additional importance to the need to assure that the Specific Plan is sufficiently detailed so its CEQA evaluations are conducted appropriately as part of its adoption.

C. The RDEIR Confusingly Describes Its Level of Analysis as Both a Project Level Analysis and a Programmatic Analysis – Whichever It Is Intended to Be Needs to be Clarified.

Section 1.1.2 (page 1-1) of the RDEIR states that the document provides a "project-level analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed project." However, other provisions of the RDEIR, including at Section 2.5.1, describe the EIR as providing a "program-level analysis". It further states that subsequent project-level environmental review will be conducted if required by CEQA.

The reader is therefore confused as to what extent of analysis the RDEIR is intending to accomplish. This inconsistency in the REDEIR's description of that intended goal must be clarified.

D. The Project Is Inconsistent With Relevant Provisions of the City's General Plan - The Impact of This Inconsistency Was Not Analyzed in the RDEIR.

Government Code section 65454 mandates that a specific plan must be consistent with the relevant general plan. This provision of the State Planning and Zoning Law is applicable to Charter cities. (Government Code section 65700). In addition, CEQA requires that any inconsistency of a Project with relevant land use policies should be evaluated as a potentially significant impact. (Guidelines, appen. G, section XI, subd. (b).

The Specific Plan intends to assure its consistency with the General Plan by the City later adopting amendments to the General Plan to incorporate its new land use

designations. While that is not unusual, what is unusual is that the zoning standards applicable to the implementation of the new land use designations are also being deferred until sometime into the future. As a result, the environmental impacts of the new Specific Plan's land use designations cannot be meaningfully evaluated unless and until those zoning standards are available for public review and comment.

In addition, the City of Fresno General Plan, at Section 1.3 (Development Under the Plan – Dwellings, Population, and Jobs) confirms that the Specific Plan for SEDA is required to include a "comprehensive provision of public infrastructure". However, the Specific Plan does not contain the required comprehensive policies, programs or plans necessary for any comprehensive provision.

Instead, the Specific Plan states that its goal is simply "to set a clear vision for how Southeast Development Area will develop over time". (Specific Plan, page 16, at "Next Steps: Setting the Stage for Implementation"). The Specific Plan's required program for comprehensive provision of public infrastructure is instead deferred by proposing that the City Council will, at some subsequent time, "direct which financing options to pursue", and will then complete a Public Facilities Financing Plan. (Specific Plan, page 17, at "Complete a Public Facilities Financing Plan").

The Specific Plan, while it intends to identify major infrastructure requirements, fails to include the comprehensive provision of public infrastructure required by the terms of the General Plan. Because the Specific plan does not satisfy these requirements of the General Plan, it is inconsistent with the General Plan. The RDEIR, at Table 3.11-1 lists what it perceives to be a Consistency Determination of the various policies of the Specific Plan with the General Plan. However, that listing fails to reference Section 1.3 of the General Plan. The RDEIR therefore fails to identify the impacts of this inconsistency with the General Plan. As a result, it violates the requirements of CEQA that an EIR evaluate the impacts of any inconsistency in the Project and land use policies of the lead agency.

In addition, the General Plan, in its commentary under Implementing Policy UF-13.a, confirms that a Specific Plan is intended to further define the requirements and regulations of the General Plan "to coordinate more discreet land use and transportation design integration and intensity with necessary public facilities, maintenance, and services financing" for the relevant development area. Though the Specific Plan does identify some major infrastructure requirements, it does not indicate how such infrastructure is designed to integrate with the intensity of the intended development, because important facets of that density is deferred to a future SEDA Development Code update.

For example, table 2.1 of the Specific Plan identifies types of streets that will be included in various land use districts. However, there is no discussion about how the delineation of those transportation facilities is intended to accommodate the development and uses reflected in the Specific Plan.

The RDEIR takes the limited information included in the Specific Plan and makes the conclusion that the Project will be consistent with the General Plan policy that calls for planning and design of roadway systems to meet LOS D on major roadways. The sole assurance of this is the statement that "Roadway improvements to increase capacity and maintain LOS standards would be planned and programmed based on the total overall needs of the roadway system, recognizing the priority of maintenance, rehabilitation, and operation of the existing road system." (RDEIR at p. 3.17-32). However, the actual impact on existing roadways is nowhere detailed in either the Specific Plan or its RDEIR. This is presumably because, without any understanding of the density of developments in the land use designations, the projected traffic demands on specific roadways cannot be fairly estimated.

The RDEIR does incorporate the queuing analysis for impacts on the State High system interchanges, requested by Caltrans in its Comment Letter dated August 25, 2023. However, that analysis is based on modeling data that apparently does not incorporate specific densities of specific land areas. This is confirmed by the statement in Section 3.17.6 of the RDEIR, at page 3.17-36, which cautions that "*As previously discussed, the proposed project does not approve or entitle any specific development and specific project design is unknown at this time."* Therefore, the queuing analysis does not address the criticism that the Project lacks sufficient planning details to permit an adequate analysis of the Project's potentially significant environmental impacts.

The intended density of development that the public facilities will be required to support is not included in the Specific Plan. Those important elements of a legally compliant specific plan are simply deferred to a future adoption of a SEDA Development code update. As a result, the RDEIR fails to evaluate the environmental impacts of the Project.

Other more technical inconsistencies between the General Plan and the intended Project are also not evaluated or addressed. For instance, page 3.17-32 of the RDEIR states that the Project will be consistent with the City's General Plan policy of planning and designing roadway systems to meet LOS D on major roadways. However, page 11 of the Traffic Impact Analysis says that SEDA Specific Plan calls for a standard of LOS E or better, which is the standard used in the relevant traffic analysis.

Further, at page 3.17-24 the analysis includes Policy UF-5.7, which states that for arterials, collectors and local streets (both intersections and segments) at peak traffic hours, LOS E applies, but that LOS F would apply in areas with transit, including in an around mixed use districts. This standard is driven by a stated goal of not having more than four through lanes on the roadway facilities (other than portions of Jensen and Temperance).

We understand that the traffic impact analysis indicates that none of the road segments it evaluated would fall below LOS D. However, no analysis was set forth for any relevant intersections other than those requested by Caltrans in the recently distributed queuing analysis.

The analysis intended by the RDEIR is therefore inadequate because of the lack of the intersection LOS analysis.

In addition, based on the above inconsistent statements about the applicable regulatory standard, it is not clear what LOS standard would apply, if and when an appropriate intersection analysis is conducted. Further, it appears that the lack of an intersection analysis of LOS standards is due to the lack of fully determined density standards and land uses applicable to various elements of the Project, which the City intends to defer until the adoption of a future SEGA development code. It is also therefore unclear how the queuing analysis or the road segment analysis that are included have sufficient information to provide an adequate analysis of the impacts, regardless of the uncertainty of the LOS Standards that the RDEIR intends to apply.

E. The Specific Plan Intends for an Undefined SEDA Specific Plan Development Code to Supersede Its Development Standards (Including Relevant Density Standards) - the RDEIR's Analysis of the Environmental Impacts of These Unknown Development Standards Is Therefore Inadequate.

The Specific Plan intends to defer the designation and adoption of density and land use standards until adoption of the SEDA Specific Plan Development Code. (Specific Plan, page 39). This is not simply the deferral of refinements to the Specific Plan's intended policies. These undefined Development Code updates are instead intended to have such importance to the intended development area that they will replace all previous zoning designations and will supersede the General Plan and all applicable Specific Plans, including the SEDA Specific Plan. (Specific Plan, page 39). Where, as here, the most consequential elements the Specific Plan's standards of development are not disclosed to the public or other agencies, no meaningful environmental evaluation of its environmental impacts can be sufficiently conducted.

These deferred Specific Plan elements are not simply limited to the intended density standards of the proposed land use designations. As an example, Section 2.3.2 of the RDEIR discusses locations of open space and institutional features intended by the Specific Plan. However, it states that those locations, as well as roadway configurations and transit alignments, are more closely specified in an Infrastructure Plan. That Infrastructure Plan referenced in the RDEIR is nowhere identified or disclosed in the Specific Plan (or otherwise in the RDEIR).

Deferral of fully binding density standards for the Specific Plan’s land uses, and intended location of key public facilities, significantly diminishes the ability of the RDEIR to evaluate the project's environmental impacts. This causes the RDEIR to fail its obligation to provide information to the public and the elected officials as to the Specific Plan’s potential environmental impacts.

F. The Specific Plan Abolishes the "Permanent Buffer" Along Its Eastern Border Intended to Separate and Preserve Long-Term Agricultural Uses Outside Its Borders – the Consequences of Which Are Nowhere Disclosed in the RDEIR.

An important public policy goal for the Specific Plan is to minimize its impacts on various classes of agricultural lands. (See LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3). In furtherance of this goal, the Specific Plan states that the Plan will create an agricultural buffer between developed areas of SEDA and the agricultural lands to its east. (Specific Plan, p. 60).

However, the existing land uses allocated to SEDA in the General Plan already establishes a buffer. The General Plan states that this is to be a permanent buffer area, designed to separate and preserve long-term agriculture outside of the eastern SOI boundary from urban uses inside the SOI Boundary. (General Plan, p. 3-25). Table 15-802 of the City Development Code sets forth the limited uses that can be conducted within that Buffer zone, with manufactured housing, and secondary units, being the sole housing type permitted.

The Specific Plan proposes to abolish this existing adopted Buffer zone in the SEDA area. It instead intends to allow Rural Cluster Residential uses in the area of lands previously designated with the Buffer Zone. The RDEIR states that this Rural Cluster Residential uses will serve as a transitional buffer, and states that this area will provide average gross density of 0.1 to 0.5 units per acre.[2] This change in the uses permitted in the Buffer can be seen by comparing Map 2.4, SEDA General Plan Land Use (Existing), with Map 2.5, SEDA Proposed Land Use Map, at pages 21 and 22 of the Specific Plan.

The Specific Plan therefore relaxes the existing restrictions that the General Plan established for development within the existing Buffer Zone, and diminishes from permanent to transitional status. The Specific Plan instead intends to allow a greater extent of housing, and potentially other uses. However, this change in the existing Buffer zone is nowhere discussed in the RDEIR, and the impacts of allowing greater development within those areas is therefore nowhere analyzed in the RDEIR. This is a significant change to an existing land use designation that was previously adopted to help diminish in conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses.

The RDEIR asserts that no feasible mitigation measures to address this impact are available. However, the proposed Specific Plan's change in the General Plan's Buffer zone exacerbates the impact. One feasible mitigation measure would therefore be the retention of the General Plan's established Buffer zone. Where, as here, the RDEIR is intending to amend a prior mitigation measure of the existing General Plan, the RDEIR must discuss the reasons that justify any change to the Buffer zone, and the

[2] As noted above, the Specific Plan provides that the densities stated in the Plan can be overridden by whatever standards are set forth in the yet to be developed SEDA Development Code.

potential consequences of allowing new Rural Cluster Residential uses within its environs. That discussion is particularly important where the RDEIR otherwise determines this impact is significant, and unavoidable. The RDEIR should be updated to include this discussion, and should then be recirculated.

G. Rather Than Rely Upon the Undefined Standards of Mitigation Measures MM Ag-1.1 and AG-2, the City Must Defer Adoption of the Specific Plan Until It Adopts the Farmland Preservation Program Intended by General Plan Policy Rc-9-C.

The RDEIR, at p. 3.2-17, details the intention of the General Plan Policy RC-9-b to implement a Farmland Preservation Program. It seeks to assure that such a program, when adopted, will ensure mitigation of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Until the program is adopted, the RDEIR intends to implement, through MM AG-1.1 and MM AG-2, an ad hoc mitigation program whose standards are not fully defined.

The City adopted General Plan Policy RC-9-b over a decade ago, on December 18, 2014. It has had much time to prepare an appropriate program that addresses the intentions of that mitigation standard. Continuing in place an arrangement for ad hoc mitigations, based upon ill-defined standards, is not an acceptable alternative to a defined and adopted uniform program and policy that General Plan Policy RC-9-b intended. (See *Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation v. County of El Dorado* (2012) 202 Cal.App.4th 1156). This is particularly true given the amount of time that has been available to adopt such a program.

Rather than adopting MM AG-1.1 and MM AG-2 as a new mitigation measure, the City must defer finalizing this Specific Plan until after the program intended by General Plan Policy RC-9-b is fully adopted. Only then can both the agricultural community and the development community understand the requirements for development within the Plan where relevant farmland is being impacted. MM AG-1.1 and AG-2, standing alone, have insufficient performance standards to satisfy appropriate standards for deferred mitigation. It does not address potentially appropriate exemptions and exclusions, or the locations of lands covered by conservation easements or mitigation banks. It thereby leaves too many aspects of the arrangement too ill defined to fully assess its efficacy.

The fact that the impacts on relevant farmlands are identified as an unavoidable and mitigatable significant impact is not a permissible basis for the RDEIR to fail to adopt feasible mitigation measures. The adoption of General Plan Policy RC-9-b intended to allow appropriate deliberation of a comprehensive program to address such impacts. That program should be adopted before annexations within SEDA begin and before the Specific Plan is adopted.

H. The Specific Plan and Its RDEIR Should Address Phasing Policies and Assure That Lands in the City's Sphere Adjacent to, but Outside SEDA, Are Prioritized For Development Before SEDA Lands.

The Specific Plan's implementation objectives provides that development of SEDA is to occur in an organized and phased manner. (Specific Plan, p.12, RDEIR p. 2-12). The RDEIR also states that annexations will be "strategic and proactive to facilitate infrastructure development by the City." (RDEIR at p. 2-3). An important value of a phasing plan is that it can help diminish the pressure on early conversion of farmlands and impacts on existing rural residential uses within the Specific Plan boundaries. It may also help extend the period before the development within the Specific Plan pressures conversion of farmlands outside the Specific Plan, or rural residential uses in proximity to the Specific Plan boundaries.

A phasing program is therefore a tool that can help achieve many of the objectives of the Specific Plan's requirements set forth in LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3, regarding the Project's impacts on existing rural residential neighborhoods. It is also an important tool to mitigate the impact on farmland conversions, which is particularly important where, as here, the RDEIR finds that such impacts cannot be mitigated and are otherwise a significant an unavoidable circumstance. Even where that circumstance exists, CEQA nevertheless requires that all feasible mitigation measures are adopted. Yet, in this instance the Phase plan, while promised, is not adopted and is therefore not available as a mitigation tool.

One easy phasing strategy we recommended is a policy of the City to help insure that the unincorporated lands west of Temperance Avenue within the City Sphere of Influence are timely annexed before annexation begins with SEDA. However, an even broader phasing strategy would provide a greater extent of mitigation on the premature conversion of farmlands and impacts of development on existing rural residential uses.

Unfortunately, the Specific Plan does not include any phasing strategies. The accompanying RDEIR therefore does not assess all potential mitigations that can be provided by a thoughtful phasing program. Such a program might include advancing construction of relevant public facilities necessary to support development. It might also include milestones before lands in various phases can have development commence.

The Specific Plan should be updated to incorporate the phasing plan that would allow the RDEIR to assess the extent to which a proposed phasing will help mitigate the impacts of the project on rural residential neighborhoods and the conversion of farmlands. Such an assessment should be included in a recirculated RDEIR.

I. The RDEIR Does Not Assess the Adequacy of Existing City Ordinances to Support the Existing Rural Residential Neighborhoods Within the Plan.

LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3, confirms that the Specific Plan is to, among other aspects, emphasize the retention of characteristics in rural residential neighborhoods within the Plan's environs after their annexation into the City. This policy concerns an important environmental impact of the Specific Plan.

The Plan and the RDEIR simply state that the existing uses on those parcels will remain protected under the Annexation Overlay Ordinance, codified in Section 15-1606 of the Municipal Code. (Specific Plan, p. 29, RDEIR, p. 2-12). Those Municipal Code provisions do protect a range of existing uses. However, it allocates such uses and their structures to legal nonconforming status. That status may create difficulties with lenders and buyers of property, and the imposition of those constraints are not consistent with protecting the maintenance of such rural residential uses. That legal nonconforming status will also hinder appropriate expansion of existing legal nonconforming structures that may be reasonable and desirable to maintain thriving rural residential neighborhoods.

In fact, LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3, intends that the Specific Plan's program for retention of rural residential neighborhoods in annexed lands would allow for appropriate improvements needed to incorporate their characteristics into the urban landscape. While the City's legal nonconforming regulations at Municipal Code sections 15-404 and 15-405 allow some expansion in single family residential structures, similar expansion of other ancillary structures is not permitted except with the attainment of subsequent entitlements. In addition, expansions of single-family residential structures requires that the improvements conform to the standards of the newly allocated Base District. (Municipal Code Section 15-405-E-1).

LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3 has emphasized the importance of a program for annexation that is intended to emphasize the retention of characteristics of rural residential neighborhoods that make them desirable places to live. The Specific Plan does not include such a program. Further, the RDEIR does not evaluate the characteristics of the existing rural residential neighborhoods. Nor does it evaluate the adequacy of the provisions of Municipal Code Section 15-1606, and the associated noncomforming legal use standards of the City, to assess whether those annexed rural neighborhoods will be able to effectively maintain their qualities intended by LAFCO Resolution USOI-144.

The RDEIR must be updated to include an assessment of the existing City ordinances that will govern existing residential neighborhoods within the Plan after annexation, and whether those standards adequately protect their retention. It should also recommend any refinements to the existing City Ordinances where necessary. That information should be included in an updated and recirculated RDEIR.

J. Elements of the RDEIR's Mitigations of Water Supply Impacts Need Clarification.

The Specific Plan, at p. 105, under Policy RC-4.2, states that the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Plan was approved in 2019. The Plan approval was subject to subsequent review and approval by the Department of Water Resources, and that plan was conditionally approved by the Department of Water Resources in 2023. It was subsequently updated by the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency in January 2025 to address corrective actions identified by the Department of Water Resources. The RDEIR does not address any of the elements that were revised in the January 2025 update to that Plan.

More importantly, Policy RC-4.2 states that all groundwater drawn to serve development in the SEDA will be replaced "with at least an equal volume via infiltration, pumping or other means". However, both the Specific Plan and the RDEIR fail to explain how groundwater is to be replaced by pumping, or what the other means are that it intends to reference.

Policy RC-4.2 also states that the necessary recharge may not necessarily occur the same year as withdrawals, but asserts that over time total recharge will match total withdrawals. While all of those goals and intentions are desirable, some maximum period of mismatch between withdrawal and recharge should be identified. Consideration of impacts to sustainable management criteria and to other beneficial uses and users of groundwater, including domestic wells users in proximity to the withdrawal, should also be addressed.

The City is situated on top of a single unconfined aquifer. To offset groundwater pumping, recharge must occur within a reasonable distance that demonstrates effectiveness. We are not opposed to regional recharge provided the groundwater pumping does not cause widespread regional impacts. Recharge outside of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency would not be considered reasonable.

The RDEIR includes, as an appendix, a Water Technical Study prepared by Blair, Church, and Flynn Consulting Engineers in 2023 (the "Water Study"). The Water Study identifies surface water supplied from both the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) through existing agreements for groundwater recharge and potable use after treatment. According to the Water Study, the most recent FID agreement signed in 2016 provided for a maximum of 29% of FID's Kings River water supply to be available to the City. It is unclear per the FID agreement whether the water supply was intended for use within the Specific Plan boundary. The FID agreement, specifically Section 13.(c), states that "City and District mutually agree that the increase in percentages reflected in this Section 13 include allowances for moderate growth in Growth Area 1 of City's Sphere of Influence as shown in Exhibit C (as depicted as Figure IM-2 of the Fresno General Plan)." The RDEIR must be revised to clarify this issue.

Mitigation Measure HYD-2b requires that the City must, prior to approving a development for the Plan Area, determine whether the proposed development would exceed existing water supply capacity, and shall if it does, the City shall provide additional capacity through water system improvements in accordance with the City Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan. We recommend that some threshold be adopted to confirm that there is a trigger, prior to the actual point of exceeding existing water supply capacity, when the evaluations will be performed, and when the improvements will be required.

The RDEIR, at page 3.18-36, advises that the City is in the process of updating its Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan (the "Metro Plan"). Mitigation Measure HYD-2d provides that new and expanded groundwater recharge facilities will be in accordance with that plan, and that those measures will be completed prior to new applications for future development in the Specific Plan. However, because the Metro Plan has not yet been updated, it is unclear how HYD-2d can be an effective mitigation measure when the standards that may be included in that Metro Plan update have not yet been determined. It is also unclear whether full construction of all intended recharge facilities within the Specific Plan, as identified by the Metro Plan, will be completed as part of the requirement that new and expanded recharge facilities will be completed prior to new applications for future development. This element of the Mitigation Measure should be clarified. These requirements could also be better assured if the Specific Plan incorporated a phasing program that focused development of necessary public facilities on the areas intended for priority development.

K. Conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully request that the City not consider the Project RDEIR until after there have been appropriate updates to the Specific Plan and the RDEIR, to address the matters detailed above.

Sincerely,
McCORMICK, BARSTOW, SHEPPARD,
WAYTE & CARRUTH LLP

Jeffrey M. Reid

cc: Bernard Jimenez, Planning & Resource Management Officer
Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning

Enc. LAFCO Resolution USOI-144

RESOLUTION NO. USOI-144

FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

REQUEST FOR REVISION TO THE CITY OF FRESNO SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	)))	ADOPTED FINDINGS AND APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, in order to carry out its purposes and responsibilities for planning and shaping the logical and orderly development and coordination of local governmental agencies so as to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of the County and its communities, this Commission has the authority under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (the "Act") to develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local governmental agency within the County and enact policies designed to promote the logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere (California Government Code Section 56425(a); and

WHEREAS, this Commission has the authority to establish spheres of influence, or to revise or amend adopted spheres of influence of local governmental agencies after a noticed public hearing called and held for that purpose (California Government Code Section 56427); and

WHEREAS, a proposal for a revision to a local government's adopted sphere of influence may be made by the adoption of a resolution of application by the legislative body of an affected local agency (California Government Code Section 56654(a); and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fresno, California, adopted a resolution of application (Resolution No. 2005-507) on the 6th day of December 2005, applying to the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) for consideration of an amendment (hereafter referred to as the "Proposal" or "proposed SOI revision") to the City's Sphere of Influence to include the "Southeast Growth Area", consisting of approximately 8,863 acres, as identified in the Fresno 2025 General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno filed a certified copy of said resolution of application with the Executive Officer pursuant to California Government Code Section 56756; and

WHEREAS, the affected territory is generally described as an area bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, to the east by McCall, Highland and Temperance Avenues, on the south by Jensen, and North Avenues, and on the west by the existing Fresno Sphere of Influence boundary along Minnewawa, Temperance, and Locan Avenues, as depicted in "Exhibit A" attached to this resolution and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, said resolution of application (Resolution No. 2005-507) stated that Article VI of the City / County Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as the "MOU" or "tax sharing agreement") requires the City to meet various conditions before proceeding with development within the Southeast Growth Area; and

WHEREAS, said resolution of application states that the City has met all the conditions identified in Article VI of the MOU with the exception of the preparation and approval of the Southeast Industrial Growth Area Business Park Specific Plan and attainment of the 60% residential development build-out in selected Community Plan Areas, and that provided the SOI amendment is approved, the City will move forward with the preparation and adoption of various Community and Specific Plans; and

WHEREAS, at its March 16, 2005 hearing the Local Agency Formation Commission requested more detailed environmental analysis, especially with respect to issues related to the preservation of agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, in response to the request for more detailed environmental information, the City caused to be prepared a more detailed initial study to support a new Environmental Assessment (No. SOI-05-01, Finding of Conformity to the 2025 Fresno General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR 10130) dated September 29, 2005); and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed the more detailed environmental information and found that the information supports and reaffirms the original finding and made a new finding based on the new information that there is no substantial evidence in the record that the "Southeast Growth Area SOI Amendment" may have an adverse impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, as commended by Section 56425 (b) of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, the City of Fresno presented the proposal to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and requested them to support and concur with the City's request; and

WHEREAS, at its January 31, 2006 hearing, by a vote of three to two, the Board of Supervisors approved its support of a resolution of reapplication to LAFCo for an amendment to the City's SOI to include the Southeast Growth Area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 56425 (b), when there is an agreement between the County and a city seeking an SOI amendment the Commission shall give great weight to the agreement in its final determination of the city's SOI; and

WHEREAS, said application for an SOI revision was deemed complete and accepted for filing by the Interim Executive Officer and a Certificate of Filing was issued pursuant to California Government Code Sections 56651 and 56658(g), and accordingly Commission proceedings were deemed initiated; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer set this matter for hearing on April, 12, 2006, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., and caused notice of said hearing to be published in accordance with California Government Code Section 56153 in a newspaper of general circulation which is circulated within the territory affected by the sphere of influence proposed to be amended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 56665 the Executive Officer reviewed said application and all supporting materials and prepared a report to this Commission, including a recommendation for approval with specified conditions, said report having been mailed to the Commission, the officers or persons designated in the application, each local agency whose boundaries or sphere of influence would be changed by the Proposal, and each affected local

agency that has filed a request for a report with the executive officer, at least five days before said hearing; and

WHEREAS, this Commission reviewed the Executive Officer's report and recommendation and all supporting materials, including Initial Study No. SOI-05-01, Finding of Conformity to the 2025 Fresno General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR 10130) dated September 29, 2005, the Master Environmental Impact Report, and all other documents that were incorporated by reference into said report, pursuant to Government Code Section 56665(d), which report was duly considered by this Commission pursuant to State law; and

WHEREAS, said Proposal was considered by this Commission at said hearing on the 12th day of April, 2006, at which the Executive Officer presented staff's report and recommended approval of the Proposal with specified conditions, and testimony was presented in favor and against the Proposal; and

WHEREAS, this Commission considered all relevant factors and evidence and heard all affected agencies and interested parties wishing to speak on said application; and

WHEREAS, as Responsible Agency, this Commission independently reviewed and considered the information in the Draft and Final MEIR for the Fresno 2025 General Plan and the City's subsequent "Environmental Assessment / Initial Study" and the City's "Finding of Conformity" issued pursuant to Section 21157.1 of the California Public Resources Code (California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA") prior to taking its action, and determined that the City's finding is appropriate, pursuant to State law, and that the Proposal is consistent with these documents and that these documents are sufficient on which to make a determination on the proposed sphere of influence revision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission does HEREBY STATE, FIND, RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER as follows:

SECTION #1 – This Commission hereby adopts the findings required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) listed below:

1. Acting as a Responsible Agency under CEQA Guidelines, the Final Master Environmental Impact Report prepared for the 2025 Fresno General Plan by the Lead Agency, the City of Fresno, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of CEQA Guidelines (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 *et seq.*) and the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines – California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq.*).

2. This Commission considered the information in the Final Master Environmental Impact Report and the Initial Study upon which the Lead Agency determined said project to be within the scope of the "Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) No. 10130" prepared and certified for the 2025 Fresno General Plan, prior to making a determination about the Proposal, together with any and all comments received during the public review process pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and finds on the basis of the whole public record before the Commission, including the Final Master Environmental Impact Report and the Initial Study and any comments received, that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, and that the Lead Agency's determination pursuant to Section 21151.1 of the California Public Resources

Code (California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA") reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis pursuant to CEQA Section 15074, *et seq.* (Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087).

3. Acting as Responsible Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the Commission hereby finds that the Lead Agency's determination is appropriate, pursuant to Section 21151.1 of the California Public Resources Code (California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA"), and finds that that Final Master Environmental Impact Report and the subsequent Initial Study are sufficient on which to make a determination on the proposed change of organization.

SECTION #2 – This Commission hereby finds that the proposed change of organization is consistent with LAFCo Policies, Standards and Procedures Section 330, "Sphere of Influence Updates and Revisions," and the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000.

SECTION #3 – This Commission hereby finds that the April 12, 2006 public hearing and consideration of the proposed SOI revision were legally noticed pursuant to California Government Code sections 56427 and 56153, and that all notices related to this matter were duly given in accordance with State law, including, but not limited to, the Act and CEQA Guidelines and governing laws.

SECTION #4 – This Commission finds that, pursuant to California Government Code section 56426.5(b)(1)(2) the proposed SOI revision will facilitate planned, orderly, and efficient patterns of land use and provision of services. The public interest in the change of organization substantially outweighs the public interest in the continuation of existing Williamson Act Contracts in the affected territory beyond the current expiration date of said Contracts. Additionally, the change of organization is not likely to adversely affect the continuation of said Contracts beyond their current expiration date. In making this determination, the Commission considered all relevant factors pursuant to California Government Code section 56426.5(b)(2)(A-C).

SECTION #5 - This Commission Determines that the MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SERVICES PLAN dated December 2005 prepared by the City of Fresno conforms to the requirements of Section 56430 of the California Government Code, and hereby adopts the proposed Written Determinations contained therein with the following addition:

Government Structure Options (Page 61) – Add: *4. As the provider of a full range of urban services the City is the logical agency to provide these services in the subject area.*

SECTION #6 – This Commission hereby makes the following determinations pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(e):

1. The proposed Sphere of Influence expansion will accommodate anticipated growth needs of the City of Fresno in the affected area, and, with certain recommended conditions for future annexations therein, will provide for all existing and planned uses.

2. The present and probable needs for public facilities and services in the area will be provided for as identified in the MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SERVICES PLAN

prepared by the City of Fresno. The need for additional facilities will be identified and addressed during the preparation and adoption of the Community or Specific plan for the Southeast Growth Area as required in conditions 1 and 2 of Section 8, below.

3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the City provides or is authorized to provide have been adequately identified in the MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SERVICES PLAN prepared by the City of Fresno, and additional facilities needs will be identified and addressed during the preparation and adoption of the Community or Specific Plan for the Southeast Growth Area as required in conditions 1 and 2 of Section 8, below.

4. No social or economic communities of interest have been identified in the subject area that are deemed relevant to the Commission.

SECTION #7 – This Commission hereby approves the proposed revision to the City of Fresno Sphere of Influence to include the "Southeast Growth Area" (approximately 8,863 acres) within the City's adopted sphere of influence (LAFCo File No. USOI -144), as depicted in Exhibit "A".

SECTION #8 – If and when the City submits an application for annexation for any affected parcels within the amended SOI, the City shall complete the following plans and programs prior to the Commission's approval of such an application:

1. Prepare and adopt a Community or Specific Plan for the Southeast Growth Area, including the preparation, public review, and certification of environmental documents and findings pursuant to CEQA. This plan shall include, but not be limited to, policies to address the requirements of Section 56426.5 of the California Government Code for lands subject to Williamson Act contracts.

2. Prepare and adopt a Master Service Delivery Plan for the Southeast Growth Area.

3. Prepare, adopt and begin to implement a program for annexing the designated open space areas in the approach corridor of the Fresno Air Terminal (areas designated with an "R" on the 2025 General Plan map), and for rural residential neighborhoods within the City's existing Sphere of Influence in the vicinity of the Southeast Growth Area. This program shall provide for logical and reasonable development, discourage urban sprawl, preserve open-space and prime agricultural lands, efficiently provide for government services, and encourage orderly development.

   The rural residential neighborhood annexation program should emphasize the retention of characteristics that make the neighborhoods desirable places to live, while making provisions for appropriate improvements needed to incorporate such characteristics into the urban landscape. The program should include an outreach effort demonstrating to residents that annexation into the City would provide for an enhanced living environment preferable to staying in an unincorporated enclave, surrounded or substantially surrounded by the City. This program shall also be applicable within the Southeast Growth Area, and shall be reflected in the Specific Plan prepared by the City as required by condition 1, above.

The annexation program for the designated Open Space areas in the Fresno Air Terminal approach corridor should be undertaken as a means to preserving open space lands that would otherwise not be proposed for annexation; thereby providing for the efficient extension of government services to areas beyond the approach corridor, and providing for orderly boundaries that will facilitate annexation of other properties proposed for urban development.

SECTION #9 - The Executive Officer is hereby authorized and directed to mail certified copies of this resolution as provided in Government Code Section 56882 and to file, as appropriate, in the office of the Fresno County Clerk all environmental documents, if any, pertaining to the approval of this Proposal, as required by state law.

* *

ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF APRIL, 2006, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Lopez, Rodriguez, Fortune, Alternate County Commissioner Larson, and Waterston.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Anderson

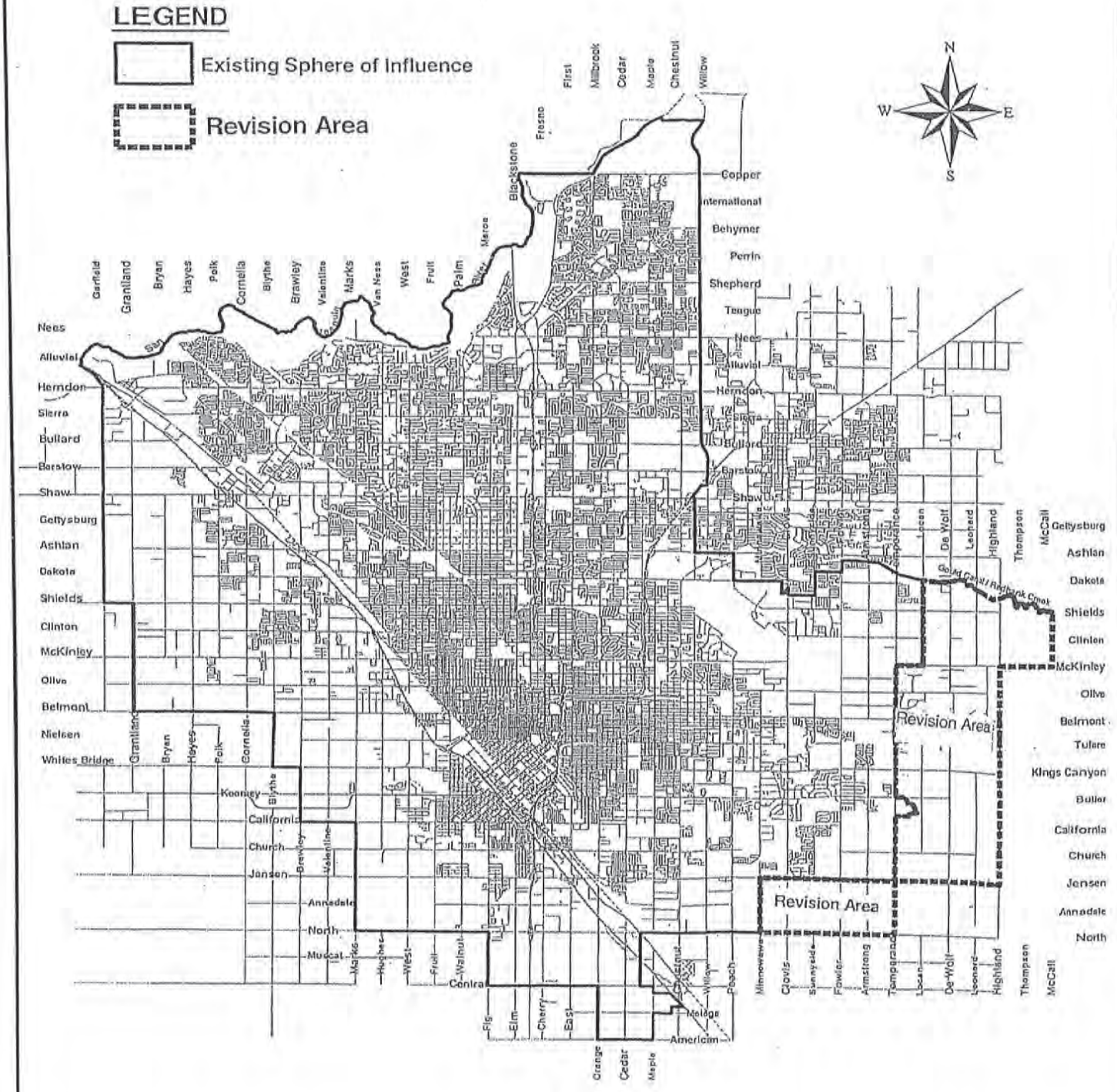
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO)

CERTIFICATION OF CHAIRMAN

I, Bob Waterston, Chairman of the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission, Fresno County, State of California, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Commission at a regular meeting held on the 12th day of April, 2006.

Bob Waterston, Chairman
Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission

EXHIBIT "A"
RESOLUTION NO. USOI-144



Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Plan Review Team
Land Management
[redacted]

February 11, 2025

Sophia Pagoulatos
Planning Manager
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Ref: Gas and Electric Transmission and Distribution

Dear Sophia,

Thank you for submitting Recirculated Draft PEIR plans for our review. PG&E will review the submitted plans in relationship to any existing Gas and Electric facilities within the project area. If the proposed project is adjacent/or within PG&E owned property and/or easements, we will be working with you to ensure compatible uses and activities near our facilities.

Attached you will find information and requirements as it relates to Gas facilities (Attachment 1) and Electric facilities (Attachment 2). Please review these in detail, as it is critical to ensure your safety and to protect PG&E's facilities and its existing rights.

Below is additional information for your review:

1. This plan review process does not replace the application process for PG&E gas or electric service your project may require. For these requests, please continue to work with PG&E Service Planning: https://www.pge.com/en/account/service-requests/building-and-renovation.html.

2. If the project being submitted is part of a larger project, please include the entire scope of your project, and not just a portion of it. PG&E's facilities are to be incorporated within any CEQA document. PG&E needs to verify that the CEQA document will identify any required future PG&E services.

3. An engineering deposit may be required to review plans for a project depending on the size, scope, and location of the project and as it relates to any rearrangement or new installation of PG&E facilities.

Any proposed uses within the PG&E fee strip and/or easement, may include a California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) Section 851 filing. This requires the CPUC to render approval for a conveyance of rights for specific uses on PG&E's fee strip or easement. PG&E will advise if the necessity to incorporate a CPUC Section 851filing is required.

This letter does not constitute PG&E's consent to use any portion of its easement for any purpose not previously conveyed. PG&E will provide a project specific response as required.

Sincerely,

Plan Review Team
Land Management

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Attachment 1 – Gas Facilities

There could be gas transmission pipelines in this area which would be considered critical facilities for PG&E and a high priority subsurface installation under California law. Care must be taken to ensure safety and accessibility. So, please ensure that if PG&E approves work near gas transmission pipelines it is done in adherence with the below stipulations. Additionally, the following link provides additional information regarding legal requirements under California excavation laws: https://www.usanorth811.org/images/pdfs/CA-LAW-2018.pdf

1. Standby Inspection: A PG&E Gas Transmission Standby Inspector must be present during any demolition or construction activity that comes within 10 feet of the gas pipeline. This includes all grading, trenching, substructure depth verifications (potholes), asphalt or concrete demolition/removal, removal of trees, signs, light poles, etc. This inspection can be coordinated through the Underground Service Alert (USA) service at 811. A minimum notice of 48 hours is required. Ensure the USA markings and notifications are maintained throughout the duration of your work.

2. Access: At any time, PG&E may need to access, excavate, and perform work on the gas pipeline. Any construction equipment, materials, or spoils may need to be removed upon notice. Any temporary construction fencing installed within PG&E's easement would also need to be capable of being removed at any time upon notice. Any plans to cut temporary slopes exceeding a 1:4 grade within 10 feet of a gas transmission pipeline need to be approved by PG&E Pipeline Services in writing PRIOR to performing the work.

3. Wheel Loads: To prevent damage to the buried gas pipeline, there are weight limits that must be enforced whenever any equipment gets within 10 feet of traversing the pipe.

Ensure a list of the axle weights of all equipment being used is available for PG&E's Standby Inspector. To confirm the depth of cover, the pipeline may need to be potholed by hand in a few areas.

Due to the complex variability of tracked equipment, vibratory compaction equipment, and cranes, PG&E must evaluate those items on a case-by-case basis prior to use over the gas pipeline (provide a list of any proposed equipment of this type noting model numbers and specific attachments).

No equipment may be set up over the gas pipeline while operating. Ensure crane outriggers are at least 10 feet from the centerline of the gas pipeline. Transport trucks must not be parked over the gas pipeline while being loaded or unloaded.

4. Grading: PG&E requires a minimum of 36 inches of cover over gas pipelines (or existing grade if less) and a maximum of 7 feet of cover at all locations. The graded surface cannot exceed a cross slope of 1:4.

5. Excavating: Any digging within 2 feet of a gas pipeline must be dug by hand. Note that while the minimum clearance is only 24 inches, any excavation work within 24 inches of the edge of a pipeline must be done with hand tools. So to avoid having to dig a trench entirely with hand tools, the edge of the trench must be over 24 inches away. (Doing the math for a 24 inch

wide trench being dug along a 36 inch pipeline, the centerline of the trench would need to be at least 54 inches [24/2 + 24 + 36/2 = 54] away, or be entirely dug by hand.)

Water jetting to assist vacuum excavating must be limited to 1000 psig and directed at a 40° angle to the pipe. All pile driving must be kept a minimum of 3 feet away.

Any plans to expose and support a PG&E gas transmission pipeline across an open excavation need to be approved by PG&E Pipeline Services in writing PRIOR to performing the work.

6. Boring/Trenchless Installations: PG&E Pipeline Services must review and approve all plans to bore across or parallel to (within 10 feet) a gas transmission pipeline. There are stringent criteria to pothole the gas transmission facility at regular intervals for all parallel bore installations.

For bore paths that cross gas transmission pipelines perpendicularly, the pipeline must be potholed a minimum of 2 feet in the horizontal direction of the bore path and a minimum of 24 inches in the vertical direction from the bottom of the pipe with minimum clearances measured from the edge of the pipe in both directions. Standby personnel must watch the locator trace (and every ream pass) the path of the bore as it approaches the pipeline and visually monitor the pothole (with the exposed transmission pipe) as the bore traverses the pipeline to ensure adequate clearance with the pipeline. The pothole width must account for the inaccuracy of the locating equipment.

7. Substructures: All utility crossings of a gas pipeline should be made as close to perpendicular as feasible (90° +/- 15°). All utility lines crossing the gas pipeline must have a minimum of 24 inches of separation from the gas pipeline. Parallel utilities, pole bases, water line 'kicker blocks', storm drain inlets, water meters, valves, back pressure devices or other utility substructures are not allowed in the PG&E gas pipeline easement.

If previously retired PG&E facilities are in conflict with proposed substructures, PG&E must verify they are safe prior to removal. This includes verification testing of the contents of the facilities, as well as environmental testing of the coating and internal surfaces. Timelines for PG&E completion of this verification will vary depending on the type and location of facilities in conflict.

8. Structures: No structures are to be built within the PG&E gas pipeline easement. This includes buildings, retaining walls, fences, decks, patios, carports, septic tanks, storage sheds, tanks, loading ramps, or any structure that could limit PG&E's ability to access its facilities.

9. Fencing: Permanent fencing is not allowed within PG&E easements except for perpendicular crossings which must include a 16 foot wide gate for vehicular access. Gates will be secured with PG&E corporation locks.

10. Landscaping: Landscaping must be designed to allow PG&E to access the pipeline for maintenance and not interfere with pipeline coatings or other cathodic protection systems. No trees, shrubs, brush, vines, and other vegetation may be planted within the easement area. Only those plants, ground covers, grasses, flowers, and low-growing plants that grow unsupported to a maximum of four feet (4') in height at maturity may be planted within the easement area.

11. Cathodic Protection: PG&E pipelines are protected from corrosion with an “Impressed Current” cathodic protection system. Any proposed facilities, such as metal conduit, pipes, service lines, ground rods, anodes, wires, etc. that might affect the pipeline cathodic protection system must be reviewed and approved by PG&E Corrosion Engineering.

12. Pipeline Marker Signs: PG&E needs to maintain pipeline marker signs for gas transmission pipelines in order to ensure public awareness of the presence of the pipelines. With prior written approval from PG&E Pipeline Services, an existing PG&E pipeline marker sign that is in direct conflict with proposed developments may be temporarily relocated to accommodate construction work. The pipeline marker must be moved back once construction is complete.

13. PG&E is also the provider of distribution facilities throughout many of the areas within the state of California. Therefore, any plans that impact PG&E’s facilities must be reviewed and approved by PG&E to ensure that no impact occurs which may endanger the safe operation of its facilities.

Attachment 2 – Electric Facilities

It is PG&E's policy to permit certain uses on a case by case basis within its electric transmission fee strip(s) and/or easement(s) provided such uses and manner in which they are exercised, will not interfere with PG&E's rights or endanger its facilities. Some examples/restrictions are as follows:

1. Buildings and Other Structures: No buildings or other structures including the foot print and eave of any buildings, swimming pools, wells or similar structures will be permitted within fee strip(s) and/or easement(s) areas. PG&E's transmission easement shall be designated on subdivision/parcel maps as "**RESTRICTED USE AREA – NO BUILDING."**

2. Grading: Cuts, trenches or excavations may not be made within 25 feet of our towers. Developers must submit grading plans and site development plans (including geotechnical reports if applicable), signed and dated, for PG&E's review. PG&E engineers must review grade changes in the vicinity of our towers. No fills will be allowed which would impair ground-to-conductor clearances. Towers shall not be left on mounds without adequate road access to base of tower or structure.

3. Fences: Walls, fences, and other structures must be installed at locations that do not affect the safe operation of PG&'s facilities. Heavy equipment access to our facilities must be maintained at all times. Metal fences are to be grounded to PG&E specifications. No wall, fence or other like structure is to be installed within 10 feet of tower footings and unrestricted access must be maintained from a tower structure to the nearest street. Walls, fences and other structures proposed along or within the fee strip(s) and/or easement(s) will require PG&E review; submit plans to PG&E Centralized Review Team for review and comment.

4. Landscaping: Vegetation may be allowed; subject to review of plans. On overhead electric transmission fee strip(s) and/or easement(s), plant only low-growing shrubs under the wire zone and only grasses within the area directly below the tower. Along the border of the transmission line right-of-way, plant only small trees no taller than 10 feet in height at maturity. PG&E must have access to its facilities at all times, including access by heavy equipment. No planting is to occur within the footprint of the tower legs. Greenbelts are encouraged.

5. Reservoirs, Sumps, Drainage Basins, and Ponds: Prohibited within PG&E's fee strip(s) and/or easement(s) for electric transmission lines.

6. Automobile Parking: Short term parking of movable passenger vehicles and light trucks (pickups, vans, etc.) is allowed. The lighting within these parking areas will need to be reviewed by PG&E; approval will be on a case by case basis. Heavy equipment access to PG&E facilities is to be maintained at all times. Parking is to clear PG&E structures by at least 10 feet. Protection of PG&E facilities from vehicular traffic is to be provided at developer's expense AND to PG&E specifications. Blocked-up vehicles are not allowed. Carports, canopies, or awnings are not allowed.

7. Storage of Flammable, Explosive or Corrosive Materials: There shall be no storage of fuel or combustibles and no fueling of vehicles within PG&E's easement. No trash bins or incinerators are allowed.

8. Streets and Roads: Access to facilities must be maintained at all times. Street lights may be allowed in the fee strip(s) and/or easement(s) but in all cases must be reviewed by PG&E for proper clearance. Roads and utilities should cross the transmission easement as nearly at right angles as possible. Road intersections will not be allowed within the transmission easement.

9. Pipelines: Pipelines may be allowed provided crossings are held to a minimum and to be as nearly perpendicular as possible. Pipelines within 25 feet of PG&E structures require review by PG&E. Sprinklers systems may be allowed; subject to review. Leach fields and septic tanks are not allowed. Construction plans must be submitted to PG&E for review and approval prior to the commencement of any construction.

10. Signs: Signs are not allowed except in rare cases subject to individual review by PG&E.

11. Recreation Areas: Playgrounds, parks, tennis courts, basketball courts, barbecue and light trucks (pickups, vans, etc.) may be allowed; subject to review of plans. Heavy equipment access to PG&E facilities is to be maintained at all times. Parking is to clear PG&E structures by at least 10 feet. Protection of PG&E facilities from vehicular traffic is to be provided at developer's expense AND to PG&E specifications.

12. Construction Activity: Since construction activity will take place near PG&E's overhead electric lines, please be advised it is the contractor's responsibility to be aware of, and observe the minimum clearances for both workers and equipment operating near high voltage electric lines set out in the High-Voltage Electrical Safety Orders of the California Division of Industrial Safety (https://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/sb5g2.html), as well as any other safety regulations. Contractors shall comply with California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95 (http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/go_95_startup_page.html) and all other safety rules. No construction may occur within 25 feet of PG&E's towers. All excavation activities may only commence after 811 protocols has been followed.

Contractor shall ensure the protection of PG&E's towers and poles from vehicular damage by (installing protective barriers) Plans for protection barriers must be approved by PG&E prior to construction.

13. PG&E is also the owner of distribution facilities throughout many of the areas within the state of California. Therefore, any plans that impact PG&E's facilities must be reviewed and approved by PG&E to ensure that no impact occurs that may endanger the safe and reliable operation of its facilities.

From:	Erika Leonard
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	Annalisa Perea; Andrew Janz
Subject:	SEDA public comment from District 1 resident Erika Leonard
Date:	Sunday, March 9, 2025 7:40:43 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno Long Range Planning Team,

I am a City of Fresno District 1 resident writing in response to the new proposed SEDA Environmental Impact Report draft.

I strongly object to the SEDA plan described in the Recirculated Draft PEIR and urge all City leaders to wholeheartedly reject SEDA in full.

SEDA will harm the City of Fresno, our neighborhoods, and Fresno residents. The harm is likely to be profound and last for decades.

My objections include, but are not limited to, the following five key concerns:

- **The City of Fresno is in debt. Approving SEDA is fiscally irresponsible**. Approving SEDA invites significant additional debt with no guarantee of future development to offset it. This debt will be a burden on city residents, tax payers, and businesses for year to come.
- **The SEDA plan is dangerously outdated, based on a a wildly inaccurate presumed growth rate**. This plan assumes a growth rate ten times greater than our current - and declining - growth rate.
- **SEDA will direct our clearly limited resources away from existing neighborhoods and their profound infrastructure needs**. One example: the people in West Fresno have been working for years to get infrastructure changes described in the West Area Specific Plan to improve pedestrian safety, storm drainage, traffic flow, cyclist safety, and green space. I believe successfully implementing their West Area Specific Plan is more important than implementing SEDA - and we have every reason to believe approving SEDA will imperil this and similar plans in our existing neighborhoods.
- **SEDA will ham Fresno businesses**. I hear business owners asking for improvements to sidewalks, parking, drainage, traffic flow, and lighting. Thriving businesses support a thriving Fresno, and they deserve better. Investing in SEDA without clear assurance that SEDA will NOT redirect the City's already minimal infrastructure attention away from our existing business districts will be a blow to our existing businesses.
- **SEDA will destroy existing communities of county residents who have no voice in this process.** I have listened to the upset voices of people currently living in the area that would be transformed by SEDA. It’s not yet part of the City, so they have no council members to fight for them - or even listen to them. SEDA threatens their communities and their agricultural land without taking their interests into account.

I am urging all City leaders involved in assessing SEDA and its impact on the City of Fresno to reject this plan to protect us all from the harm it will bring - and to strengthen our capacity to improve and enhance our existing neighborhoods and communities.

With appreciation for your public service,
Erika Leonard
[redacted]

From the Desk of Dr. Carol Bloesser	[redacted]

March 17, 2025

These are comments regarding the SEDA EIR along with the marked reference:

	3.1	Aesthetics. Light, and Glare
	3.2	Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources
	3.3	Air Quality
	3.4	Biological Resources
u	3.5	Cultural Resources and Tribal Resources
	3.6	Energy
	3.7	Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
	3.8	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
	3.9	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
	3.10	Hydrology and Water Quality
	3.11	Land Use and Planning
	3.12	Mineral Resources
	3.13	Noise
	3.14	Population and Housing
	3.15	Public Services
	3.16	Recreation
		Transportation and Traffic
	3.18	Utilities and Service Systems
	3.19	Wildfire
X		Mandatory Finds of Significance

In the entire EIR, I see no financial impact statement. All EIR's must have budget projections. The educated estimate is that the cost for infrastructure will run over 4 billion dollars. How will the city afford this when budget figures show that the city is in a deficit financial mode. I also saw from your Utilities Director who was online to say that the city needs at least 100 new wells because many wells are pumping sand. In addition, a report estimates millions of dollars to repair sidewalks and potholes. Are you going to abandon existing neighborhoods and their needs to create urban sprawl?

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 6 OFFICE
1352 WEST OLIVE AVENUE | P.O. BOX 12616 | FRESNO, CA 93778-2616
(559) 981-1041 | FAX (559) 488-4195 | TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

March 18, 2022

FRE-180-R65.1
NOTICE OF PREPARATION, EIR
https://ld-igr-gts.dot.ca.gov/district/6/report/25659

SENT VIA EMAIL
Shawn Monk, Planner
City of Fresno
Long Range Planning Division
Office: 559-621-8031
shawn.monk@fresno.gov

Dear Mx. Monk,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan. The proposed Southeast Development Area covers nearly 9,000 acres and has the potential to accommodate approximately 45,000 homes by the year 2050. The Plan Area is bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, on the east by McCall and Highland Avenues, on the south by Jensen and North Avenues, and on the West by Locan, Temperance, and Minnewawa Avenues.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

1. Caltrans anticipates this development area would add substantial traffic to the State Route 180 interchanges at Clovis Avenue, Fowler Avenue, and Temperance Avenue. The result could be significant speed differentials between the off-ramp queues and the mainline of the freeway. **It is highly recommended that a peak hour ramp queue analysis is completed at each of these interchanges to determine potential impacts.**

2. This development area would also be expected to add traffic to the State Route 180 intersections at De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall Avenue. The result could be significant speed differentials between the turn lane queues and the through lane traffic caused by insufficient left turn lanes or intersection control. **Therefore, it is also recommended that a peak hour queue analysis is completed at each of these intersections to determine potential impacts.**

3. Future development(s) should also consider traffic safety impacts on the State Highway System due to new pedestrian and bicyclist needs based on new origins or destinations that intersect a State Route. Additionally, multimodal conflict points and change in traffic composition (such as an increase in bicyclists or pedestrians, where features such as shoulders or sidewalks may not exist or are inconsistent with facility design) should be included. The State Route 180 interchanges at Fowler Avenue and Temperance Avenue; and the State Route 180 intersections at De Wolf Avenue, Highland Avenue, and McCall

Avenue should be included in this analysis.

4. Future development(s) should conduct a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) study for projects that may substantially induce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Pedestrian and bicycle facilities within the project site should be considered in this study. The project proponents should also consider coordinating with nearby planned bike networks for a larger active transportation network. The City should consider creating a VMT Mitigation Impact Fee to help reduce potential impacts on the State Highway System.

5. For future residential development, Caltrans recommends project proponents consider working with the City to convert a portion of the planned residential units to affordable housing units.

6. The City should establish policies for the installation of Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging for single- and multi-family residential units as well as DC Fast Charging EV charging stations for retail, commercial, park and public facilities.

7. Caltrans recommends the Project implement multimodal strategies, such as those that originate from Transit-oriented development (TOD), in an effort to further reduce future projects' traffic related impacts.

8. Active Transportation Plans and Smart Growth efforts support the state's 2050 Climate goals. Caltrans supports reducing VMT and GHG emissions in ways that increase the likelihood people will use and benefit from a multimodal transportation network.

9. Early engagement with Caltrans is highly requested for future projects that would impact state right-of-way. Furthermore, prior to initiating the traffic study, please include Caltrans in the scoping.

If you have any other questions, please call or email Edgar Hernandez at [redacted]

Sincerely,

David Padilla, Branch Chief
Transportation Planning – North

March 19, 2025

longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

RE: **OPPOSE** - SEDA PROPOSED EIR AND OPPOSE SEDA DEVELOPMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as our required public comment, specifically our opposition to the recirculated PEIR on February 7, 2025. Please know that the reference numbers are set forth in this opposition as you require (however I do not see that stated anywhere, we were told put reference number or they won't read it) … continue reading. Please be aware pursuant to Exhibit 2-2, Land Use Map, our property is located under "Flexible Research & Development" (FR&D). FR&D states in the PEIR:

> "*Flexible Research and Development districts would be primarily located west of the Briggs Canal and/or south of Jensen Avenue and are intended for uses such as research and development, light manufacturing, product testing centers, and office development. The area may also include compatible commercial uses such as restaurants, coffee shops, cafés, printing and publishing, dry cleaners, and other supporting businesses. Access to regional transportation corridors (both road and rail) is critical.* ***Residential uses are not allowed in Flexible Research and Development areas.***"

What this means to our household is that eminent domain will be used against us in order for the City to move forward with SEDA. The last sentence reads residential is not allowed in these areas. Exactly what was done to homeowners in the path of the High Speed Rail, and look at them today, no land acquired yet for the rail, not one track laid, not one train running, not one person able to use the HSR and its currently under investigation as to where all the money went and way over budget that when and if it will be completed in our lifetime is the question of the day. The Federal agency, DOGE, is currently investigating HSR. What kind of research and development is being built, the PEIR fails to state but it shows this specific section of the area will be something similar to what we have near Food Max (Clovis & Kings Canyon). Take a look at the pictures I have attached as to that development. This is what will occur in SEDA.

Finding #3 "SEGA contributes to the decline of Fresno farmland." (City of Fresno Minutes 2/10/11)

My first concern is that our local government, the City, commends itself on transparency, however, to locate the PEIR on its website is not the most obvious and direct access. That in and of itself is problematic and deceptive because as you know, not all of society is tech savvy. To locate, you click on the City's website, then Planning and Development, (scroll all the way down) click on Long Range Planning (why the community would know to go there is beyond me), then Plans and Projects Under Review, then find Southeast Development Specific Plan (the document that Asadoorian stated we could not comment upon), then locate and click on Executive Summary which is a separate document that discusses the changes of the new recirculated PEIR, and then scroll a few links down then click on Recirculated EIR - February 2025. This is ridiculous!! The City is fully capable of having their IT staff place a link or a scrolling marquee on its homepage with a link that auto connects/opens to the Executive Summary and the PEIR. This attempt to make things difficult for the reader, adds to gamesmanship of today's politician and government which leads the public to frustration and distrust all done in hopes that the public abandon the comment period; this tactic is no surprise to the vast majority of us.

In addition, the PEIR is over 800 pages, 800 pages! This is so overly burdensome and overly exaggerated (for comparison, the Fresno County Recommended 2024-25 posted online is 390 pages for 15 cities (PDF pages)). Furthermore, do you think it's asking too much to again have your IT staff make this document so that the reader has the ability to click on the page number in the table of

contents and be auto routed to that page, automatically. I believe the taxpayers and members of Fresno deserve that type of efficiency from our government that we the people elected. Don't play hide the ball!

Please be aware that I spoke to Ms. Asadoorian by telephone and she confirmed that the Specific Plan is a document that will be used by the City to support their PEIR; however, the public is not allowed to comment on the Specific Plan, only the PEIR. I find this disingenuous. If the City is being allowed to submit the "specific plan" in support of their PEIR, the public should be allowed to comment upon in opposition to the PEIR. What law states we are not allowed to comment?

PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUESTS

We requested information in our previous opposition to the City's EIR back in July 2023. The City failed to respond to our requests for information. It's our understanding it wasn't read because the city needed a do-over, how convenient. In preparing for our opposition to the February 2025 PEIR, we submitted PRA requests through the online portal. As of this date the City has requested an extension of time to respond to my requests: R074432-030725 extension requested to March 25th; R074041-022725 extension requested to March 24th; and R073948-02265 extension requested to March 24th. I find it disingenuous and intentional that the City is requesting an extension to a date of either on or after the public comment period for the PEIR. We did notify counsel's office of this and nothing that we requested is overly burdensome on the City, it is all information that the City does have on-hand. The City has not provided a good faith effort in an attempt to provide us with this information as a member of the public; they unilaterally picked a date that was conveniently on or after the City's public comment deadline. My requests were all submitted well in advance to the public comment period. This in turn led me to submit a PRA (R074705-031225 inquiring about the City's remote/telework policy for City staff and employees).

In addition, I have submitted a PRA (R075085-031725) to the City/lead agency regarding eminent domain and the process and procedures. As you should know from our previous comments to the last EIR, the City staff at one of their public meetings stated that eminent domain would not be used but further failed to respond as to what would happen if we do not comply. This is the type of full transparency the public requests of you; do not hide behind your veil of ignorance and not fully discuss the ramifications of SEDA. We the people want to hear how you will abuse your power and take this land unjustifiably under the guise of a housing crisis. The remedy to your man-made crisis: **tell your developer donors to lower the pricing of the current homes developed, making homes more affordable.** zillow.com states average rent is $1,600, how about finding a way to have property owners lower their rent price so people can afford to rent. There are other ways to go about this other than allowing government to take our Prime, Unique and Important ag land.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

In response to our PRA request #R073922-022625, the SEDA Specific Plan (Page 90 of the Plan) states, under management, **neighborhood gardens can be owned by a city, county**, … non-profit etc. This clearly confirms it is a land grab by our government, to take from the current property owners and line the pockets of government and developers. It further states the City encourages neighborhood organizations to seek funding for the neighborhood garden. If the people cannot find housing on their own and require assistance from government (to find and pay), how will they find funding for a neighborhood garden? But this does say "organizations" not the community members. Who will be the ones to gain financially in these transactions? There is no actual confirmation that these so-called gardens will actually occur. The Plan the City attached to this 2010 item produced, in response to my PRA ending in 022625, paints the picture of agriculture, all in an effort to convince and fool the public and readers, the Prime Ag land the government is taking, is not lost or forgotten. What I find once again disingenuous is the City responded to this PRA wherein I requested documents from 2006-2008, however, we received their agenda item from 2010 and attachments thereto but the City also included the SEDA Specific Plan in said response (which said Plan fails to reflect a date) and that Plan was not the plan utilized back in 2010 or 2006-08 for that matter, it wasn't changed from SEGA to SEDA till when 2014? The City offers no explanation in attaching the Specific Plan, since it lacks a date and seems to be the same Plan that is currently posted on your website but without a date

it cannot be verified, we would have to guess where it falls in response to my PRA; is this the Plan that would have been utilized, referred to, relied upon back in 2010, 06-08? The City is merely sending documents to see what sticks in hopes of papering us to death and shut us up.

Furthermore, the Minutes I received, pursuant to the above-mentioned PRA request, dated Feb. 10, 2011, and years 2007, 2008 did not include their respective agenda items. Maybe the City Councilmembers should review the 2011 Minutes to see the chaos, lack of transparency, and problems that arose during that city council meeting. "President Brand introduced the item and clarified the intent of this action was not to kill SEGA." Note: We the property owners say it should have been, then and now. But, the fact that he opens with that statement should give us all pause and ask why would he open with a statement as such … because there was and is reason to kill SEGA. President Brand refers to a fiscal crisis back then and like today, under a new federal administration, we are currently in a fiscal crisis: Federal funding is being frozen for **waste and fraud.**

Councilmember Borgeas then stated during this hearing in 2011 …. "Fresno cannot be afraid to admit when it makes mistakes." We say and we believe have shown that SEGA/SEDA is a mistake now and then. On said minutes: **Finding #3 "SEGA contributes to the decline of Fresno farmland."** True then and true today. That 2011 statement is confirmed in 2025 pursuant to the 2/7/25 PEIR (see Page 168, 169, 173 and throughout the PEIR. Per the 2/10/11 Minutes, President Brand states that SEGA was attractive looking at it from a distance. However, it seems from the minutes, as they took a deeper dive it became a totally different story. **Finding #4** population projections used to justify SEGA are inconsistent with growth trends. Here we are today, 14 years later after the 2011 Minute order, and not much has been learned, gained, remedied, rectified, clarified, changed, or made obvious and transparent to the public or property owners as to why SEDA should move forward and more importantly at this time, we believe this further shows us today that SEDA should be killed (Brand's word used). Basis for SEDA, original estimate annual population growth through 2050 1.5%; revised population growth estimate .18%; bigger than necessary for population growth 8.3X; 44,000 units planned; units actually needed 5,300; SEDA infrastructure cost estimate $0; potential infrastructure cost: $1,000,000,000+; City's budget deficit 2025 $20,000,000; basis for infill city limits 8,200 vacant acres=134,000 units; how much sense does SEDA make: ZERO (0).

Most concerning from this read and worthy of further investigation today is Westernlund's statement that there was a whole other side to this story and a number of things he wanted to speak to. As a tax paying citizen, registered voter, I'm perplexed as to why he would not speak candidly, openly, and honestly in said hearing, public forum, on that date. What was holding him back? Who do you represent in this capacity? If there was another side to the story, it should have been told, needs to be told, and yet no one stood up and thought it best for the We the People to call him out requesting that he speak now or the hearing cannot move forward or the development cannot move forward, that's what you are elected to speak on behalf of the people.

Page 157-44 of the document (received per PRA request) Westerlund states it was getting convoluted and out of control. Jurisdiction was a concern at that time, and it was further stated he had an issue with procedure and stated "stinks big time." Brand said it was getting personal. Clearly, throughout the Minutes we see some major concerns here; has anyone completed an in-depth investigation regarding the initiation, involvement of the persons, and the development itself; or, addressed these past issues or will the City attempt to have this skirt by, sweep it under the rug, in hopes nothing is revealed. Page 157-44, Brand states he learned the City spends way too much money on consultants.

It's now 2025, we have the same questions and concerns as reflected in the 2011 Minutes; the PEIR fails to fully and completely mitigate the issues raised in this current PEIR; and the past concerns of council. For reasons stated above, we oppose the PEIR dated 2/7/25 and believe we should look further into the concerns discussed in the 2011 hearing and if those concerns were in fact addressed, with or without public involvement; we believe it should be discussed in a public forum not private closed session. We further would like to see in a public forum, in an effort to be fully transparent, those donor contributions to the elected officials of that time as well as currently seated officials (e.g. Statement of Economic Interests - Form 700, Gifts & Gratuities or any other forms required by the FPPC).

We submitted PRA #R074526-030925 to the City requesting the names of persons or organizations the Planning Department, City Manager, Districts 1-7 and Mayors office have met with to discuss SEDA from 2022 to present. Of course the City requests an extension to March 31 in which to respond.

PAGE ES-1 (Executive Summary):

This document and lead agency states that the purpose of the subject PEIR is to inform of potential environmental effects as a result of implementing the SEDA project. It is further stated that this project is described as an "**acceleration of housing production**." The CITY is requesting to speed up producing homes. They base this on meeting the need of "diverse housing types" and "affordability levels." All to be completed by the year 2050. Has the revitalization of Downtown Fresno been completed? Have the vacant buildings in that location been restored, refurbished. Has new life as set forth in history when Downtown Fresno revitalization was introduced to the public been established? The honest answer is **NO!** The City web page states Downtown is following in the footsteps of Oakland and Sacramento. That more than 600 apartments have been recently added and the Mayor's goal is to grow the neighborhood from 3,000 to 10,000 residents. How about the high speed rail, yet been completed? When the rail was presented by a group of past elected officials it was posed as prosperous (to who that's unknown), and much needed; past elected officials believed a bullet-train from San Francisco to Los Angeles was needed (for who that is the unknown). Has the rail project been completed? The honest answer is **NO!** Look where we are at today in both projects, failure to complete (how many years later); failure to pay and/or have the money, and look at the environment. Just like DOGE is involved in looking into the high speed rail maybe we need to have them look into this land grab and how the City is spending our money and who is benefiting from this money. Maybe it's time the City of Fresno's waste and fraud be exposed. This PEIR of course states all in the name of being fiscally responsible, social equity, environmentally sustainable. I'm sure that is what was said for Downtown and the High Speed Rail. Downtown is littered with homelessness, businesses unable to stay afloat due to the increasing costs in rent, utilities, food, wages, and the inability to keep downtown Fresno safe, at its closest location to law enforcement. What this PEIR is introducing us to is Fresno 2.0. You've heard that term used by Gov. Newsom, after Southern Cal was devastated by wildfires (closest cities to the ocean); how interesting our government is now referring So Cal as a Smart City, to rebuild LA 2.0. Same thing with Lahaina (Maui wildfire), their government wanted a Smart City too.

The Fresno Housing Authority "manages diverse properties and programs;" they are designed and designated for "under-served populations, including farm laborers, migrant workers, seniors and those in need of support." On their website I find over 70 properties in Fresno within a 35 mile radius. In 2024 and 2025, Fresno County developed new "affordable" housing such as Avalon Commons, The Arthur, Promesa Commons, Sarah's Court apartments at Fancher Creek and Crossroads Village.

Population continues to be inconsistent as under this new current Federal administration, with the deportation of illegal immigrants, their need for housing will substantially decrease. In addition, the most cost effective remedy is not develop, develop, develop but how about pursuing these developers to lower the cost of their homes built to make them more affordable.

For this reason and many others as stated below is why we Southeast Property Owners strongly oppose the SEDA development and the recirculated Proposed EIR.

In addition, we have a mental health crisis, homeless problem involving substance abuse, mental health,; an illegal immigration problem, economy problem (groceries-eggs are $8 a dozen, rent, interest rates, tariffs), and the federal government is not inclined to continue writing checks. The lead agency states a population however how did they come up with the numbers on the population? You can no longer count those here illegally and therefore numbers must be adjusted. Who was included in your count, must be answered?

GV Wire article dated 12/17/24 by Edward Smith states: "A proposal would put 400-single family homes on the property occupied by the massive former IRS processing center in southeast Fresno." This is not about housing, this is about a land grab to line the pockets of politicians and developers/ donors.

PAGE ES-2&3:

The lead agency states this project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts. This right here should be enough and tells us all we need to know, but let's continue.

PAGE ES-4/AES-3 and Reference 3.1:

The lead agency has confirmed this project will substantially degrade the visual character or quality of public views of both site and surroundings. Of course it will. As stated in 2011 and still true today, SEGA is a decline of Fresno farmland. The impact physically to land, air, aesthetics, birds, coyotes, will be obsolete/extinct as we are pushing the city further and deeper into rural territory that was not meant or intended for a city life or Smart City. The effects would be changing the view of green landscape, fruit trees, vineyards, to concrete buildings, cell towers, cars, lights, bus and change the sounds of birds, quiet, little to no traffic in exchange for cars, power equipment, talking, music; pollution from those vehicles and buildings. This affects not just a few but it affects 9,000 acres. Adding a grassy knoll does not relieve these problems. You will still see those tall cement buildings, businesses and housing units, vehicles, lights whether it's a public view (from the grassy knoll) or private view. In the cities, you hear or read about in the news sightings of coyotes, duh of course, you moved into their territory, whether coyotes, toads, skunks, all those animals don't just up and walk to Squaw Valley to relocate, they will either die because we have removed their source of feeding or stay. Go outside in the morning, we hear birds singing; go out in the evening, you hear the toads, crickets. Under SEDA all will be lost and it will be traffic, smog, cell towers, homeless encampments.

The agency confirms there are no feasible mitigation measures available to mitigate the impact. **For the reasons we stated, we oppose**.

AES-4 Light & Glare:

Creates new source of light/glare adversely affecting day/night views.

The lead agency has confirmed this project will substantially degrade the visual character or quality of public views of both site and surroundings. As stated in 2011 and still true today, SEGA (SEDA) is a decline of Fresno farmland. The impact physically to land, air, aesthetics, birds, coyotes, will be obsolete or extinct as we are pushing the city further and deeper into rural territory that was not meant intended for a city, a Smart City. The effects would be changing the view of green landscape, fruit trees, vineyards, to concrete buildings, cars, lights, and change the sounds of birds, quiet, little to no traffic to cars, equipment, talking, music; pollution from those vehicles and buildings. This affects not just a few but it affects the 9,000 acres. Adding a grassy knoll does not relieve these problems. You will still see those tall cement buildings, businesses and housing units, vehicles, lights whether it's a public view (from the grassy knoll) or private view. In the cities, you hear or read about in the news sightings of coyotes, well yes you moved into rural territory, coyotes, toads, skunks, all those animals don't just up and walk to Squaw Valley immediately, they will either die because we have removed their source of feeding or stay. Go outside in the morning, we hear birds singing; go out in the evening, you hear the toads, crickets. In essence you are building a Smart City, just like your smart phone, laptop, the lighting, the cell towers all for public and private consumption.

The CITY has confirmed impacts remain significant and unavoidable. **For the reasons stated, we oppose.**

CUMULATIVE LIGHTS/GLARE:

I refer you to my statements made under ES-4/AES-3 and 4. I reiterate same here. The impacts are significant and unavoidable. **For this and all the reasons stated, we oppose.**

PAGE ES-4, Impact AG-1 - Reference 3.2:

As we all know, the SEDA project will be a catastrophic loss of 9,000 acres of what we the property owners have stated from the beginning, Prime Farmland, and what the **PEIR now confirms as (1) PRIME, (2) IMPORTANT STATE; (3) IMPORTANT LOCAL AND (4) UNIQUE FARMLANDS. Of that 9,000 acres, <u>the PEIR classifies 6,741 total acres as designated Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, AND Unique Farmland which is "scattered throughout the Plan Area</u>."** Read that again, scattered throughout the Plan Area, scattered throughout, not a block, not a street.

Again, we are not talking one block, one street, one acre; the CITY is requesting to destroy, demolish more than half of what is designated as PRIME, OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE AND LOCALLY, AND UNIQUE FARMLAND. We argue that all 9,000 acres are Prime , Unique and of Importance to the State and Locally. At a time when groceries are at their highest in the store, you want to build units so a household can "hopefully" create and sustain a garden to feed "their household" but yet you are destroying farmland that feeds the state, our County and quite frankly my/ our households. They won't even be the deed holders of this so-called housing, government and developers will be the ones to own the land, buildings, housing units. Our home sits next to the Briggs canal which is rare and unique in and of itself; the water flowing into that irrigation canal is from the Kings River. Our property along with many of my neighbors, we grow our own food, have our own farm animals and equipment and yet you want us to allow the government to take what we have paid for-worked for, and live off of, so that the government can create a Smart City/Fresno 2.0 to benefit and line their pockets under the guise of "hopefully" teaching people to have community gardens; the people work the land; the government or developers own the land, that's your Smart City aka Fresno 2.0.

The PEIR states that loss of farmland still occurs with this Plan, the impact is significant and unavoidable **<u>EVEN WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF AVAILABLE MITIGATION</u>**. As stated back in 2011, SEGA is the decline of Fresno's Farmland. Our communities depend on Ag; No Farmers, No Food!

For all the reasons stated in this letter and my neighbors' letters, we strongly oppose the PEIR as well as SEDA.

PAGE ES-5/AG-2:

There are significant impacts on existing Williamson Act land. T**<u>his PEIR states is unavoidable and no mitigation measures available.</u>** The California Land Conservation Act of 1965 helps preserve <u>agricultural land and open space.</u> It discourages premature conversion to urban uses; it further protects open space; and is supposed to keep land values relatively stable. By doing this, the value of our homes our properties declines substantially. There are supposed to be land use restrictions imposed upon the owners; however, what the City is doing is changing restrictions, better yet protections to property owners, to again line their pockets, the pockets of the developers as <u>government deems appropriate</u>. The California Department of Conservation's homepage states in part:

> …post World War II period. During that time California's Agricultural and open space lands began to face dramatically increasing conversion pressures from population growth, new commercial enterprises, and rising property taxes. "Valuable farmland began disappearing at an alarming rate as conversion to urban uses became the only financially viable alternative of many landowners."

The Williamson Act Program has remained stable and effective as a mechanism for protecting agricultural and open space land from premature and unnecessary urban development.

For all the reasons stated thus far, we oppose the PEIR and SEDA.

Impact AIR-1 - Reference 3.3:

Potential (which means to become or develop in the future) to exceed the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution thresholds and not consistent with existing Air Quality Plans. To date, we are told when to burn our fireplace, what type of fireplace, when to burn green waste and yet here the City knowingly wants to implement a project and plan that will exceed thresholds and goes against the standards imposed upon the people of this County. The PEIR states that **"due to the magnitude and intensity of development" it is unavoidable and a significant impact.**

AIR-2:

Projected Cumulative emissions associated with future development projects exceeds Valley Air thresholds and is a significant and unavoidable impact.

AIR-3 Sensitive Receptors:

The lead agency can't even respond, foresee, forecast this section. They state, "without such information" "it is not possible to conclude" and it is significant and an unavoidable impact.

For all the reasons stated, and their failure to provide a detailed or any response to include a cost, we oppose the PEIR AND SEDA.

Cumulative Air Quality:

"Not enough information to quantify" "future development projects may still exceed Valley Air District thresholds." This is what this PEIR states. It further states that due to the size of the project no significant mitigation available to reduce the cumulative impacts to air quality. It remains significant and unavoidable.

The impacts during and post plan development will be great; again, the impacts will be great. You are adding to the vehicular traffic, the people, the businesses, the smog, the cell towers, the power grid. People will be traveling not only for personal reasons but business. Of course there is a significant impact and it will not be avoided.

For all these reasons, we oppose the PEIR and SEDA.

References 3.4 - 3.8:

GHG-1:

Implementation of project contributes to global climate change through direct emissions of greenhouse gases not only from sources generated by project, indirectly, thru off-site energy. The project increases the population and employment which further contributes to increase in wastewater, **water demand,** and vehicle trips. Energy is increased due to the magnitude of new buildings constructed. **The Environmental impact of the project related to GHG emissions is significant. "There is no mitigation feasible to reduce GHG emissions."** The impacts of this project are significant and unavoidable.

The Minutes dated 2/10/11, provided to me per a PRA request, states in Finding #2: "(Committee finds the SEGA region is known to have insufficient water, and cost estimates on proposed water infrastructure are extraordinarily high)". This remains true to date. All the properties that would

remain have been informed by the City that we would be required to hook up to their water and sewer lines **at our own expense.** Yet the City has not provided a confirmed cost that would be assessed to property owners and stated that loans could be taken out with the City (now the City is a bank, lender) which would obviously line their pockets; and if property owners fail to be able to pay those loans a lien would be assessed on their home/property. We should not have to take a loan out for thousands, or have a lien placed on our property. What about these property owners who are of retirement years; they cannot just go back to work because of a land grab by the City? In addition, our home sits approximately 200 feet from the road, the cost would be beyond the minimum. Those of us not in prime health would be forced to choose and that is not something that should be posed to us by our government.

For all these reasons, we oppose the PEIR and SEDA.

Cumulative GHG ES-7:

I reiterate my statements here as set forth in paragraph GHG-1. It is reflected significant and unavoidable impacts.

For all these reasons, we oppose the PEIR and SEDA.

NOI-1/Reference 3.13:

The City/lead agency is unable to quantify the construction noise impacts. That's because it is so extreme during project development and post. During, between several equipment and projects working in tandem vehicles added to the road, people, its beyond what we can imagine, quantify or explain As stated in the PEIR, the impacts are significant and unavoidable.

Cumulative Noise:

Details of individual development projects are currently **unknown.** It is not possible to quantify future cumulative construction noise impacts if multiple developments construct simultaneously creating a cumulative noise impact. Because they can occur simultaneously and noise can occur for prolonged periods of time, cumulative construction and noise impacts are possible and are significant and unavoidable.

For all the reasons stated throughout this opposition, we oppose the PEIR and SEDA.

Reference 3.13:

How is this fiscally responsible? There is no projected cost that's been provided for SEDA construction nor monies allocated that we are aware of. We requested information, PRA #R073948-022625, asking for the City to identify by name/business and address all federal, state and local funding sources, grants, monies received by the City and requested by the City that will be applied to, and used for SEDA, include dates and amounts received and requested. You know the response we received from the City, they need an extension to March 24th (the deadline for public comment). This project has been in existence for over a decade, decade, and either they: (1) are lying; (2) playing hide the ball; (3) lack full transparency; or (4) abuse of power. Maybe all of the above. This is evidence of the type of answers we the property owners receive from the City on a consistent basis as it relates to SEDA. The lead agency/city cannot confirm to current southeast property owners the cost to connect to the city's water/sewer, which they state will be our financial responsibility to bear; they cannot confirm how much money a project of this size will cost the taxpayers, City and County citizens. This is a problem; maybe this is what the past council member meant by stinks big time? As done with the high speed rail any cost projection is a guess and can increase substantially after the project commences and you will have destroyed over 9,000 acres of farmland for what, a Smart City, you can revitalize downtown Fresno and have your Smart City, it's already there, vacant. Buildings exist downtown, drive throughout this City, you will find abandon buildings; and can be reconstructed by your developers for a confirmed cost. Are you receiving federal funding? If so, maybe we should get DOGE involved to see how fiscally responsible and cost effective this PEIR and

project Plan really is; or, maybe they will uncover waste and fraud at the expense of taxpayers and on this project, at the expense of the property owners.

How is this social equity? You are removing elders, our retired community, the vast majority of property owners in SEDA plan are retired, or farmers, and existing long-time property owners and families whose lives are according to their land, we grow our own food, have our own farm animals; you are forcing us from our PRIME, UNIQUE, AND GREATLY IMPORTANT TO THE STATE AND LOCAL FARMLAND, to create Fresno 2.0/Smart City under the guise of "affordable housing."

I have attached to this letter pictures of how fiscally responsible, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable the City of Fresno, County of Fresno is currently. (See attached pictures). There is an existing development located on the northeast corner of "Kings Canyon" and Clovis Avenue, the City just added a Ross in that development, the old OSH building (because a second Ross store was needed—there is a Ross located on Kings Canyon just 2.1 miles from the new Ross, stupid right); because Southeast Property owners only shop at Ross. You have vacant buildings located within this same complex, a Smoke Shop (see attached), empty buildings, which is all a place for the homeless community and thugs to hangout, start fires to keep warm, drug interactions. SEDA monies can go towards the homeless, mental health, the west side existing property owners and your Downtown Revitalization.

Between the City and County, there have been new developments of new affordable housing. Look at the canal that runs along McKinley from Clovis Avenue to the 168 freeway, look at the homeless that camp there. If you can't take care of that existing problem, how will you take on the homeless encampments in this new development, because if you build it they will come. This is the proof of what happens to the City of Fresno, they become a part of the have nots, they no longer receive the help that they need. The money for SEDA can be given to the homeless and provide the assistance they need. They don't need a Smart City.

Hydrology & Water Quality - 3.10

> The proposed project would have significant impact on the environment if the proposed project would:
>
> a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality.
> b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. (PDF page 453)
>
> c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:
> (i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;
> (ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;
> (iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff;
> or
> (iv) 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.

The above language from the PEIR I believe shows we will be violating the water quality standards and waste discharge; we will substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere; alter the

existing drainage; result in erosion … nothing good will come from SEDA. Now is not the time. How much more money should you throw out the window?

Impact HYD-2 Groundwater Supply & Recharge:

The PEIR states:

> **The proposed project could substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.**

It further states that groundwater alone will not be sufficient to meet future City demands, including those for SEDA. (PDF Page 492)

If you recall, the City/lead agency states this is to be fiscally responsible, environmental sustainability and socially equitable. Approving this to move forward fails us in all capacities including the people outside of SEDA where water is an issue in general such as Cantua Creek, El Porvenir. There are outside areas not only within the City of Fresno but Fresno County who need dire attention and have government focused on their water issues; not government creating new water issues for the sake of Fresno 2.0 Smart city.

The Business Journal 12/10/24: It's Horrible: Fresno's Record-Breaking Settlement Highlights Region's Larger Drinking Water Problem. This article states that a review of documents and interviews of key officials uncovers a decades-long environmental crisis enabled by both corporate greed and bureaucratic neglect. It goes on to state that a darker truth emerges—the money will vanish in less than a decade, covering filtration costs for roughly eight years, according to interviews with City officials Georgeanne White and Brock Buche. Once the settlement funds run dry, Fresno residents will be left to shoulder any remaining pollution cleanup, at a cost of millions each year. PDF Page 492 of the PEIR states, "impacts to water supply and demand would be considered at the time of annexation for each specific parcel." How stupid and reckless, environmentally and fiscally, to wait until the time of to determine the impacts to water supply and demand. Now we see how the high speed rail is in its current situation; let's wait until we are knee deep in this, people have lost their homes and property, with no recourse. Is this what we teach our children, don't think about the consequences now, just do it and we will deal with it later? We are doomed if this is the mentality of our government.

Cumulative significance before mitigation is significant impact, after mitigation less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The cost associated to mitigate will be astronomical and our outer communities will pay the price and be the ones to sacrifice once again. Fix other problems before creating new ones! This is fiscally, environmentally, and socially irreparable; ultimate damage is TBD and you have no right and its the least of our people who will be the sacrificial lambs. In closing, the lead agency is not accelerating housing, it is accelerating land grabs. You are to serve the interests of your constituents not your donors.

3.19 Wildfire

There is no longer a wildfire season, wildfires occur all year. This development in no way reduces wildfire risks, it enhances the risk as well as puts a further strain on already limited resources available to other communities during hard economic times. Wildfires in Maui, Southern California, Moss Landing battery facility.

Stanford University, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment article: Wildfire News Releases Social and Economic Disparities Impact Wildfire Protection. This article states that low income communities in California are at a greater risk of suffering the consequences because they are less protected. Financial support, educational programs, wildfire preparedness?

Reference 4.3 - Mandatory Findings

When the farms are gone, remember, it's forever!

For all the reasons stated in this letter, the attachments, and the other southeast property owners' letters, we strongly oppose the PEIR as well as SEDA.

Sincerely,

David Ortiz & Natalie Ortiz

Elijah Ortiz

Attachments (Pictures) to Ortiz Opposition Letter

Cc: Annalisa Perea, District 1 - Annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
Mike Karbassi, District 2 - mike.karbassi@fresno.gov
Miguel Ariaas, District 3 - Miguel.arias@fresno.gov
Tyler Maxell, District 4 - Tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
District 5 - TBD Due to Special Election sent to City Clerk
Nick Richardson, District 6 - nick.richardson@fresno.gov
Nelson Esparza, District 7 - nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
Todd Stermer, City Clerk - todd.stermer@fresno.gov

March 19, 2025

longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

RE: **OPPOSE** - SEDA PROPOSED EIR AND OPPOSE SEDA DEVELOPMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as our required public comment, specifically our opposition to the recirculated PEIR on February 7, 2025. Please know that the reference numbers are set forth in this opposition as you require (however I do not see that stated anywhere, we were told put reference number or they won't read it) … continue reading. Please be aware pursuant to Exhibit 2-2, Land Use Map, our property is located under "Flexible Research & Development" (FR&D). FR&D states in the PEIR:

> "*Flexible Research and Development districts would be primarily located west of the Briggs Canal and/or south of Jensen Avenue and are intended for uses such as research and development, light manufacturing, product testing centers, and office development. The area may also include compatible commercial uses such as restaurants, coffee shops, cafés, printing and publishing, dry cleaners, and other supporting businesses. Access to regional transportation corridors (both road and rail) is critical.* ***Residential uses are not allowed in Flexible Research and Development areas.***"

What this means to our household is that eminent domain will be used against us in order for the City to move forward with SEDA. The last sentence reads residential is not allowed in these areas. Exactly what was done to homeowners in the path of the High Speed Rail, and look at them today, no land acquired yet for the rail, not one track laid, not one train running, not one person able to use the HSR and its currently under investigation as to where all the money went and way over budget that when and if it will be completed in our lifetime is the question of the day. The Federal agency, DOGE, is currently investigating HSR. What kind of research and development is being built, the PEIR fails to state but it shows this specific section of the area will be something similar to what we have near Food Max (Clovis & Kings Canyon). Take a look at the pictures I have attached as to that development. This is what will occur in SEDA.

Finding #3 "SEGA contributes to the decline of Fresno farmland." (City of Fresno Minutes 2/10/11)

My first concern is that our local government, the City, commends itself on transparency, however, to locate the PEIR on its website is not the most obvious and direct access. That in and of itself is problematic and deceptive because as you know, not all of society is tech savvy. To locate, you click on the City's website, then Planning and Development, (scroll all the way down) click on Long Range Planning (why the community would know to go there is beyond me), then Plans and Projects Under Review, then find Southeast Development Specific Plan (the document that Asadoorian stated we could not comment upon), then locate and click on Executive Summary which is a separate document that discusses the changes of the new recirculated PEIR, and then scroll a few links down then click on Recirculated EIR - February 2025. This is ridiculous!! The City is fully capable of having their IT staff place a link or a scrolling marquee on its homepage with a link that auto connects/opens to the Executive Summary and the PEIR. This attempt to make things difficult for the reader, adds to gamesmanship of today's politician and government which leads the public to frustration and distrust all done in hopes that the public abandon the comment period; this tactic is no surprise to the vast majority of us.

In addition, the PEIR is over 800 pages, 800 pages! This is so overly burdensome and overly exaggerated (for comparison, the Fresno County Recommended 2024-25 posted online is 390 pages for 15 cities (PDF pages)). Furthermore, do you think it's asking too much to again have your IT staff make this document so that the reader has the ability to click on the page number in the table of

contents and be auto routed to that page, automatically. I believe the taxpayers and members of Fresno deserve that type of efficiency from our government that we the people elected. Don't play hide the ball!

Please be aware that I spoke to Ms. Asadoorian by telephone and she confirmed that the Specific Plan is a document that will be used by the City to support their PEIR; however, the public is not allowed to comment on the Specific Plan, only the PEIR. I find this disingenuous. If the City is being allowed to submit the "specific plan" in support of their PEIR, the public should be allowed to comment upon in opposition to the PEIR. What law states we are not allowed to comment?

PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUESTS

We requested information in our previous opposition to the City's EIR back in July 2023. The City failed to respond to our requests for information. It's our understanding it wasn't read because the city needed a do-over, how convenient. In preparing for our opposition to the February 2025 PEIR, we submitted PRA requests through the online portal. As of this date the City has requested an extension of time to respond to my requests: R074432-030725 extension requested to March 25th; R074041-022725 extension requested to March 24th; and R073948-02265 extension requested to March 24th. I find it disingenuous and intentional that the City is requesting an extension to a date of either on or after the public comment period for the PEIR. We did notify counsel's office of this and nothing that we requested is overly burdensome on the City, it is all information that the City does have on-hand. The City has not provided a good faith effort in an attempt to provide us with this information as a member of the public; they unilaterally picked a date that was conveniently on or after the City's public comment deadline. My requests were all submitted well in advance to the public comment period. This in turn led me to submit a PRA (R074705-031225 inquiring about the City's remote/telework policy for City staff and employees).

In addition, I have submitted a PRA (R075085-031725) to the City/lead agency regarding eminent domain and the process and procedures. As you should know from our previous comments to the last EIR, the City staff at one of their public meetings stated that eminent domain would not be used but further failed to respond as to what would happen if we do not comply. This is the type of full transparency the public requests of you; do not hide behind your veil of ignorance and not fully discuss the ramifications of SEDA. We the people want to hear how you will abuse your power and take this land unjustifiably under the guise of a housing crisis. The remedy to your man-made crisis: **tell your developer donors to lower the pricing of the current homes developed, making homes more affordable.** zillow.com states average rent is $1,600, how about finding a way to have property owners lower their rent price so people can afford to rent. There are other ways to go about this other than allowing government to take our Prime, Unique and Important ag land.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

In response to our PRA request #R073922-022625, the SEDA Specific Plan (Page 90 of the Plan) states, under management, **neighborhood gardens can be owned by a city, county**, … non-profit etc. This clearly confirms it is a land grab by our government, to take from the current property owners and line the pockets of government and developers. It further states the City encourages neighborhood organizations to seek funding for the neighborhood garden. If the people cannot find housing on their own and require assistance from government (to find and pay), how will they find funding for a neighborhood garden? But this does say "organizations" not the community members. Who will be the ones to gain financially in these transactions? There is no actual confirmation that these so-called gardens will actually occur. The Plan the City attached to this 2010 item produced, in response to my PRA ending in 022625, paints the picture of agriculture, all in an effort to convince and fool the public and readers, the Prime Ag land the government is taking, is not lost or forgotten. What I find once again disingenuous is the City responded to this PRA wherein I requested documents from 2006-2008, however, we received their agenda item from 2010 and attachments thereto but the City also included the SEDA Specific Plan in said response (which said Plan fails to reflect a date) and that Plan was not the plan utilized back in 2010 or 2006-08 for that matter, it wasn't changed from SEGA to SEDA till when 2014? The City offers no explanation in attaching the Specific Plan, since it lacks a date and seems to be the same Plan that is currently posted on your website but without a date

it cannot be verified, we would have to guess where it falls in response to my PRA; is this the Plan that would have been utilized, referred to, relied upon back in 2010, 06-08? The City is merely sending documents to see what sticks in hopes of papering us to death and shut us up.

Furthermore, the Minutes I received, pursuant to the above-mentioned PRA request, dated Feb. 10, 2011, and years 2007, 2008 did not include their respective agenda items. Maybe the City Councilmembers should review the 2011 Minutes to see the chaos, lack of transparency, and problems that arose during that city council meeting. "President Brand introduced the item and clarified the intent of this action was not to kill SEGA." Note: We the property owners say it should have been, then and now. But, the fact that he opens with that statement should give us all pause and ask why would he open with a statement as such … because there was and is reason to kill SEGA. President Brand refers to a fiscal crisis back then and like today, under a new federal administration, we are currently in a fiscal crisis: Federal funding is being frozen for **waste and fraud.**

Councilmember Borgeas then stated during this hearing in 2011 …. "Fresno cannot be afraid to admit when it makes mistakes." We say and we believe have shown that SEGA/SEDA is a mistake now and then. On said minutes: **Finding #3 "SEGA contributes to the decline of Fresno farmland."** True then and true today. That 2011 statement is confirmed in 2025 pursuant to the 2/7/25 PEIR (see Page 168, 169, 173 and throughout the PEIR. Per the 2/10/11 Minutes, President Brand states that SEGA was attractive looking at it from a distance. However, it seems from the minutes, as they took a deeper dive it became a totally different story. **Finding #4** population projections used to justify SEGA are inconsistent with growth trends. Here we are today, 14 years later after the 2011 Minute order, and not much has been learned, gained, remedied, rectified, clarified, changed, or made obvious and transparent to the public or property owners as to why SEDA should move forward and more importantly at this time, we believe this further shows us today that SEDA should be killed (Brand's word used). Basis for SEDA, original estimate annual population growth through 2050 1.5%; revised population growth estimate .18%; bigger than necessary for population growth 8.3X; 44,000 units planned; units actually needed 5,300; SEDA infrastructure cost estimate $0; potential infrastructure cost: $1,000,000,000+; City's budget deficit 2025 $20,000,000; basis for infill city limits 8,200 vacant acres=134,000 units; how much sense does SEDA make: ZERO (0).

Most concerning from this read and worthy of further investigation today is Westernlund's statement that there was a whole other side to this story and a number of things he wanted to speak to. As a tax paying citizen, registered voter, I'm perplexed as to why he would not speak candidly, openly, and honestly in said hearing, public forum, on that date. What was holding him back? Who do you represent in this capacity? If there was another side to the story, it should have been told, needs to be told, and yet no one stood up and thought it best for the We the People to call him out requesting that he speak now or the hearing cannot move forward or the development cannot move forward, that's what you are elected to speak on behalf of the people.

Page 157-44 of the document (received per PRA request) Westerlund states it was getting convoluted and out of control. Jurisdiction was a concern at that time, and it was further stated he had an issue with procedure and stated "stinks big time." Brand said it was getting personal. Clearly, throughout the Minutes we see some major concerns here; has anyone completed an in-depth investigation regarding the initiation, involvement of the persons, and the development itself; or, addressed these past issues or will the City attempt to have this skirt by, sweep it under the rug, in hopes nothing is revealed. Page 157-44, Brand states he learned the City spends way too much money on consultants.

It's now 2025, we have the same questions and concerns as reflected in the 2011 Minutes; the PEIR fails to fully and completely mitigate the issues raised in this current PEIR; and the past concerns of council. For reasons stated above, we oppose the PEIR dated 2/7/25 and believe we should look further into the concerns discussed in the 2011 hearing and if those concerns were in fact addressed, with or without public involvement; we believe it should be discussed in a public forum not private closed session. We further would like to see in a public forum, in an effort to be fully transparent, those donor contributions to the elected officials of that time as well as currently seated officials (e.g. Statement of Economic Interests - Form 700, Gifts & Gratuities or any other forms required by the FPPC).

We submitted PRA #R074526-030925 to the City requesting the names of persons or organizations the Planning Department, City Manager, Districts 1-7 and Mayors office have met with to discuss SEDA from 2022 to present. Of course the City requests an extension to March 31 in which to respond.

PAGE ES-1 (Executive Summary):

This document and lead agency states that the purpose of the subject PEIR is to inform of potential environmental effects as a result of implementing the SEDA project. It is further stated that this project is described as an "**acceleration of housing production**." The CITY is requesting to speed up producing homes. They base this on meeting the need of "diverse housing types" and "affordability levels." All to be completed by the year 2050. Has the revitalization of Downtown Fresno been completed? Have the vacant buildings in that location been restored, refurbished. Has new life as set forth in history when Downtown Fresno revitalization was introduced to the public been established? The honest answer is **NO!** The City web page states Downtown is following in the footsteps of Oakland and Sacramento. That more than 600 apartments have been recently added and the Mayor's goal is to grow the neighborhood from 3,000 to 10,000 residents. How about the high speed rail, yet been completed? When the rail was presented by a group of past elected officials it was posed as prosperous (to who that's unknown), and much needed; past elected officials believed a bullet-train from San Francisco to Los Angeles was needed (for who that is the unknown). Has the rail project been completed? The honest answer is **NO!** Look where we are at today in both projects, failure to complete (how many years later); failure to pay and/or have the money, and look at the environment. Just like DOGE is involved in looking into the high speed rail maybe we need to have them look into this land grab and how the City is spending our money and who is benefiting from this money. Maybe it's time the City of Fresno's waste and fraud be exposed. This PEIR of course states all in the name of being fiscally responsible, social equity, environmentally sustainable. I'm sure that is what was said for Downtown and the High Speed Rail. Downtown is littered with homelessness, businesses unable to stay afloat due to the increasing costs in rent, utilities, food, wages, and the inability to keep downtown Fresno safe, at its closest location to law enforcement. What this PEIR is introducing us to is Fresno 2.0. You've heard that term used by Gov. Newsom, after Southern Cal was devastated by wildfires (closest cities to the ocean); how interesting our government is now referring So Cal as a Smart City, to rebuild LA 2.0. Same thing with Lahaina (Maui wildfire), their government wanted a Smart City too.

The Fresno Housing Authority "manages diverse properties and programs;" they are designed and designated for "under-served populations, including farm laborers, migrant workers, seniors and those in need of support." On their website I find over 70 properties in Fresno within a 35 mile radius. In 2024 and 2025, Fresno County developed new "affordable" housing such as Avalon Commons, The Arthur, Promesa Commons, Sarah's Court apartments at Fancher Creek and Crossroads Village.

Population continues to be inconsistent as under this new current Federal administration, with the deportation of illegal immigrants, their need for housing will substantially decrease. In addition, the most cost effective remedy is not develop, develop, develop but how about pursuing these developers to lower the cost of their homes built to make them more affordable.

For this reason and many others as stated below is why we Southeast Property Owners strongly oppose the SEDA development and the recirculated Proposed EIR.

In addition, we have a mental health crisis, homeless problem involving substance abuse, mental health,; an illegal immigration problem, economy problem (groceries-eggs are $8 a dozen, rent, interest rates, tariffs), and the federal government is not inclined to continue writing checks. The lead agency states a population however how did they come up with the numbers on the population? You can no longer count those here illegally and therefore numbers must be adjusted. Who was included in your count, must be answered?

GV Wire article dated 12/17/24 by Edward Smith states: "A proposal would put 400-single family homes on the property occupied by the massive former IRS processing center in southeast Fresno." This is not about housing, this is about a land grab to line the pockets of politicians and developers/ donors.

PAGE ES-2&3:

The lead agency states this project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts. This right here should be enough and tells us all we need to know, but let's continue.

PAGE ES-4/AES-3 and Reference 3.1:

The lead agency has confirmed this project will substantially degrade the visual character or quality of public views of both site and surroundings. Of course it will. As stated in 2011 and still true today, SEGA is a decline of Fresno farmland. The impact physically to land, air, aesthetics, birds, coyotes, will be obsolete/extinct as we are pushing the city further and deeper into rural territory that was not meant or intended for a city life or Smart City. The effects would be changing the view of green landscape, fruit trees, vineyards, to concrete buildings, cell towers, cars, lights, bus and change the sounds of birds, quiet, little to no traffic in exchange for cars, power equipment, talking, music; pollution from those vehicles and buildings. This affects not just a few but it affects 9,000 acres. Adding a grassy knoll does not relieve these problems. You will still see those tall cement buildings, businesses and housing units, vehicles, lights whether it's a public view (from the grassy knoll) or private view. In the cities, you hear or read about in the news sightings of coyotes, duh of course, you moved into their territory, whether coyotes, toads, skunks, all those animals don't just up and walk to Squaw Valley to relocate, they will either die because we have removed their source of feeding or stay. Go outside in the morning, we hear birds singing; go out in the evening, you hear the toads, crickets. Under SEDA all will be lost and it will be traffic, smog, cell towers, homeless encampments.

The agency confirms there are no feasible mitigation measures available to mitigate the impact. **For the reasons we stated, we oppose**.

AES-4 Light & Glare:

Creates new source of light/glare adversely affecting day/night views.

The lead agency has confirmed this project will substantially degrade the visual character or quality of public views of both site and surroundings. As stated in 2011 and still true today, SEGA (SEDA) is a decline of Fresno farmland. The impact physically to land, air, aesthetics, birds, coyotes, will be obsolete or extinct as we are pushing the city further and deeper into rural territory that was not meant intended for a city, a Smart City. The effects would be changing the view of green landscape, fruit trees, vineyards, to concrete buildings, cars, lights, and change the sounds of birds, quiet, little to no traffic to cars, equipment, talking, music; pollution from those vehicles and buildings. This affects not just a few but it affects the 9,000 acres. Adding a grassy knoll does not relieve these problems. You will still see those tall cement buildings, businesses and housing units, vehicles, lights whether it's a public view (from the grassy knoll) or private view. In the cities, you hear or read about in the news sightings of coyotes, well yes you moved into rural territory, coyotes, toads, skunks, all those animals don't just up and walk to Squaw Valley immediately, they will either die because we have removed their source of feeding or stay. Go outside in the morning, we hear birds singing; go out in the evening, you hear the toads, crickets. In essence you are building a Smart City, just like your smart phone, laptop, the lighting, the cell towers all for public and private consumption.

The CITY has confirmed impacts remain significant and unavoidable. **For the reasons stated, we oppose.**

CUMULATIVE LIGHTS/GLARE:

I refer you to my statements made under ES-4/AES-3 and 4. I reiterate same here. The impacts are significant and unavoidable. **For this and all the reasons stated, we oppose.**

PAGE ES-4, Impact AG-1 - Reference 3.2:

As we all know, the SEDA project will be a catastrophic loss of 9,000 acres of what we the property owners have stated from the beginning, Prime Farmland, and what the **PEIR now confirms as (1) PRIME, (2) IMPORTANT STATE; (3) IMPORTANT LOCAL AND (4) UNIQUE FARMLANDS. Of that 9,000 acres, <u>the PEIR classifies 6,741 total acres as designated Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, AND Unique Farmland which is "scattered throughout the Plan Area</u>."** Read that again, scattered throughout the Plan Area, scattered throughout, not a block, not a street.

Again, we are not talking one block, one street, one acre; the CITY is requesting to destroy, demolish more than half of what is designated as PRIME, OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE AND LOCALLY, AND UNIQUE FARMLAND. We argue that all 9,000 acres are Prime , Unique and of Importance to the State and Locally. At a time when groceries are at their highest in the store, you want to build units so a household can "hopefully" create and sustain a garden to feed "their household" but yet you are destroying farmland that feeds the state, our County and quite frankly my/ our households. They won't even be the deed holders of this so-called housing, government and developers will be the ones to own the land, buildings, housing units. Our home sits next to the Briggs canal which is rare and unique in and of itself; the water flowing into that irrigation canal is from the Kings River. Our property along with many of my neighbors, we grow our own food, have our own farm animals and equipment and yet you want us to allow the government to take what we have paid for-worked for, and live off of, so that the government can create a Smart City/Fresno 2.0 to benefit and line their pockets under the guise of "hopefully" teaching people to have community gardens; the people work the land; the government or developers own the land, that's your Smart City aka Fresno 2.0.

The PEIR states that loss of farmland still occurs with this Plan, the impact is significant and unavoidable **<u>EVEN WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF AVAILABLE MITIGATION</u>**. As stated back in 2011, SEGA is the decline of Fresno's Farmland. Our communities depend on Ag; No Farmers, No Food!

For all the reasons stated in this letter and my neighbors' letters, we strongly oppose the PEIR as well as SEDA.

PAGE ES-5/AG-2:

There are significant impacts on existing Williamson Act land. T**<u>his PEIR states is unavoidable and no mitigation measures available.</u>** The California Land Conservation Act of 1965 helps preserve <u>agricultural land and open space.</u> It discourages premature conversion to urban uses; it further protects open space; and is supposed to keep land values relatively stable. By doing this, the value of our homes our properties declines substantially. There are supposed to be land use restrictions imposed upon the owners; however, what the City is doing is changing restrictions, better yet protections to property owners, to again line their pockets, the pockets of the developers as <u>government deems appropriate</u>. The California Department of Conservation's homepage states in part:

> …post World War II period. During that time California's Agricultural and open space lands began to face dramatically increasing conversion pressures from population growth, new commercial enterprises, and rising property taxes. "Valuable farmland began disappearing at an alarming rate as conversion to urban uses became the only financially viable alternative of many landowners."

The Williamson Act Program has remained stable and effective as a mechanism for protecting agricultural and open space land from premature and unnecessary urban development.

For all the reasons stated thus far, we oppose the PEIR and SEDA.

Impact AIR-1 - Reference 3.3:

Potential (which means to become or develop in the future) to exceed the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution thresholds and not consistent with existing Air Quality Plans. To date, we are told when to burn our fireplace, what type of fireplace, when to burn green waste and yet here the City knowingly wants to implement a project and plan that will exceed thresholds and goes against the standards imposed upon the people of this County. The PEIR states that **"due to the magnitude and intensity of development" it is unavoidable and a significant impact.**

AIR-2:

Projected Cumulative emissions associated with future development projects exceeds Valley Air thresholds and is a significant and unavoidable impact.

AIR-3 Sensitive Receptors:

The lead agency can't even respond, foresee, forecast this section. They state, "without such information" "it is not possible to conclude" and it is significant and an unavoidable impact.

For all the reasons stated, and their failure to provide a detailed or any response to include a cost, we oppose the PEIR AND SEDA.

Cumulative Air Quality:

"Not enough information to quantify" "future development projects may still exceed Valley Air District thresholds." This is what this PEIR states. It further states that due to the size of the project no significant mitigation available to reduce the cumulative impacts to air quality. It remains significant and unavoidable.

The impacts during and post plan development will be great; again, the impacts will be great. You are adding to the vehicular traffic, the people, the businesses, the smog, the cell towers, the power grid. People will be traveling not only for personal reasons but business. Of course there is a significant impact and it will not be avoided.

For all these reasons, we oppose the PEIR and SEDA.

References 3.4 - 3.8:

GHG-1:

Implementation of project contributes to global climate change through direct emissions of greenhouse gases not only from sources generated by project, indirectly, thru off-site energy. The project increases the population and employment which further contributes to increase in wastewater, **water demand,** and vehicle trips. Energy is increased due to the magnitude of new buildings constructed. **The Environmental impact of the project related to GHG emissions is significant. "There is no mitigation feasible to reduce GHG emissions."** The impacts of this project are significant and unavoidable.

The Minutes dated 2/10/11, provided to me per a PRA request, states in Finding #2: "(Committee finds the SEGA region is known to have insufficient water, and cost estimates on proposed water infrastructure are extraordinarily high)". This remains true to date. All the properties that would

remain have been informed by the City that we would be required to hook up to their water and sewer lines **at our own expense.** Yet the City has not provided a confirmed cost that would be assessed to property owners and stated that loans could be taken out with the City (now the City is a bank, lender) which would obviously line their pockets; and if property owners fail to be able to pay those loans a lien would be assessed on their home/property. We should not have to take a loan out for thousands, or have a lien placed on our property. What about these property owners who are of retirement years; they cannot just go back to work because of a land grab by the City? In addition, our home sits approximately 200 feet from the road, the cost would be beyond the minimum. Those of us not in prime health would be forced to choose and that is not something that should be posed to us by our government.

For all these reasons, we oppose the PEIR and SEDA.

Cumulative GHG ES-7:

I reiterate my statements here as set forth in paragraph GHG-1. It is reflected significant and unavoidable impacts.

For all these reasons, we oppose the PEIR and SEDA.

NOI-1/Reference 3.13:

The City/lead agency is unable to quantify the construction noise impacts. That's because it is so extreme during project development and post. During, between several equipment and projects working in tandem vehicles added to the road, people, its beyond what we can imagine, quantify or explain As stated in the PEIR, the impacts are significant and unavoidable.

Cumulative Noise:

Details of individual development projects are currently **unknown.** It is not possible to quantify future cumulative construction noise impacts if multiple developments construct simultaneously creating a cumulative noise impact. Because they can occur simultaneously and noise can occur for prolonged periods of time, cumulative construction and noise impacts are possible and are significant and unavoidable.

For all the reasons stated throughout this opposition, we oppose the PEIR and SEDA.

Reference 3.13:

How is this fiscally responsible? There is no projected cost that's been provided for SEDA construction nor monies allocated that we are aware of. We requested information, PRA #R073948-022625, asking for the City to identify by name/business and address all federal, state and local funding sources, grants, monies received by the City and requested by the City that will be applied to, and used for SEDA, include dates and amounts received and requested. You know the response we received from the City, they need an extension to March 24th (the deadline for public comment). This project has been in existence for over a decade, decade, and either they: (1) are lying; (2) playing hide the ball; (3) lack full transparency; or (4) abuse of power. Maybe all of the above. This is evidence of the type of answers we the property owners receive from the City on a consistent basis as it relates to SEDA. The lead agency/city cannot confirm to current southeast property owners the cost to connect to the city's water/sewer, which they state will be our financial responsibility to bear; they cannot confirm how much money a project of this size will cost the taxpayers, City and County citizens. This is a problem; maybe this is what the past council member meant by stinks big time? As done with the high speed rail any cost projection is a guess and can increase substantially after the project commences and you will have destroyed over 9,000 acres of farmland for what, a Smart City, you can revitalize downtown Fresno and have your Smart City, it's already there, vacant. Buildings exist downtown, drive throughout this City, you will find abandon buildings; and can be reconstructed by your developers for a confirmed cost. Are you receiving federal funding? If so, maybe we should get DOGE involved to see how fiscally responsible and cost effective this PEIR and

project Plan really is; or, maybe they will uncover waste and fraud at the expense of taxpayers and on this project, at the expense of the property owners.

How is this social equity? You are removing elders, our retired community, the vast majority of property owners in SEDA plan are retired, or farmers, and existing long-time property owners and families whose lives are according to their land, we grow our own food, have our own farm animals; you are forcing us from our PRIME, UNIQUE, AND GREATLY IMPORTANT TO THE STATE AND LOCAL FARMLAND, to create Fresno 2.0/Smart City under the guise of "affordable housing."

I have attached to this letter pictures of how fiscally responsible, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable the City of Fresno, County of Fresno is currently. (See attached pictures). There is an existing development located on the northeast corner of "Kings Canyon" and Clovis Avenue, the City just added a Ross in that development, the old OSH building (because a second Ross store was needed—there is a Ross located on Kings Canyon just 2.1 miles from the new Ross, stupid right); because Southeast Property owners only shop at Ross. You have vacant buildings located within this same complex, a Smoke Shop (see attached), empty buildings, which is all a place for the homeless community and thugs to hangout, start fires to keep warm, drug interactions. SEDA monies can go towards the homeless, mental health, the west side existing property owners and your Downtown Revitalization.

Between the City and County, there have been new developments of new affordable housing. Look at the canal that runs along McKinley from Clovis Avenue to the 168 freeway, look at the homeless that camp there. If you can't take care of that existing problem, how will you take on the homeless encampments in this new development, because if you build it they will come. This is the proof of what happens to the City of Fresno, they become a part of the have nots, they no longer receive the help that they need. The money for SEDA can be given to the homeless and provide the assistance they need. They don't need a Smart City.

Hydrology & Water Quality - 3.10

> The proposed project would have significant impact on the environment if the proposed project would:
>
> a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality.
> b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. (PDF page 453)
>
> c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:
> (i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;
> (ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;
> (iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff;
> or
> (iv) 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.

The above language from the PEIR I believe shows we will be violating the water quality standards and waste discharge; we will substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere; alter the

existing drainage; result in erosion … nothing good will come from SEDA. Now is not the time. How much more money should you throw out the window?

Impact HYD-2 Groundwater Supply & Recharge:

The PEIR states:

> **The proposed project could substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.**

It further states that groundwater alone will not be sufficient to meet future City demands, including those for SEDA. (PDF Page 492)

If you recall, the City/lead agency states this is to be fiscally responsible, environmental sustainability and socially equitable. Approving this to move forward fails us in all capacities including the people outside of SEDA where water is an issue in general such as Cantua Creek, El Porvenir. There are outside areas not only within the City of Fresno but Fresno County who need dire attention and have government focused on their water issues; not government creating new water issues for the sake of Fresno 2.0 Smart city.

The Business Journal 12/10/24: It's Horrible: Fresno's Record-Breaking Settlement Highlights Region's Larger Drinking Water Problem. This article states that a review of documents and interviews of key officials uncovers a decades-long environmental crisis enabled by both corporate greed and bureaucratic neglect. It goes on to state that a darker truth emerges—the money will vanish in less than a decade, covering filtration costs for roughly eight years, according to interviews with City officials Georgeanne White and Brock Buche. Once the settlement funds run dry, Fresno residents will be left to shoulder any remaining pollution cleanup, at a cost of millions each year. PDF Page 492 of the PEIR states, "impacts to water supply and demand would be considered at the time of annexation for each specific parcel." How stupid and reckless, environmentally and fiscally, to wait until the time of to determine the impacts to water supply and demand. Now we see how the high speed rail is in its current situation; let's wait until we are knee deep in this, people have lost their homes and property, with no recourse. Is this what we teach our children, don't think about the consequences now, just do it and we will deal with it later? We are doomed if this is the mentality of our government.

Cumulative significance before mitigation is significant impact, after mitigation less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The cost associated to mitigate will be astronomical and our outer communities will pay the price and be the ones to sacrifice once again. Fix other problems before creating new ones! This is fiscally, environmentally, and socially irreparable; ultimate damage is TBD and you have no right and its the least of our people who will be the sacrificial lambs. In closing, the lead agency is not accelerating housing, it is accelerating land grabs. You are to serve the interests of your constituents not your donors.

3.19 Wildfire

There is no longer a wildfire season, wildfires occur all year. This development in no way reduces wildfire risks, it enhances the risk as well as puts a further strain on already limited resources available to other communities during hard economic times. Wildfires in Maui, Southern California, Moss Landing battery facility.

Stanford University, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment article: Wildfire News Releases Social and Economic Disparities Impact Wildfire Protection. This article states that low income communities in California are at a greater risk of suffering the consequences because they are less protected. Financial support, educational programs, wildfire preparedness?

Reference 4.3 - Mandatory Findings

When the farms are gone, remember, it's forever!

For all the reasons stated in this letter, the attachments, and the other southeast property owners' letters, we strongly oppose the PEIR as well as SEDA.

Sincerely,

David Ortiz & Natalie Ortiz

Elijah Ortiz

Attachments (Pictures) to Ortiz Opposition Letter

Cc: Annalisa Perea, District 1 - Annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
Mike Karbassi, District 2 - mike.karbassi@fresno.gov
Miguel Ariaas, District 3 - Miguel.arias@fresno.gov
Tyler Maxell, District 4 - Tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
District 5 - TBD Due to Special Election sent to City Clerk
Nick Richardson, District 6 - nick.richardson@fresno.gov
Nelson Esparza, District 7 - nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
Todd Stermer, City Clerk - todd.stermer@fresno.gov

~~October 12, 2023~~

March 22, 2025

Via Email Transmission Only
City of Fresno, Council Members – Districts 1 thru 7
City of Fresno, Mayor, Jerry Dyer
City of Fresno Planning Department & Commissioners, Jennifer Clark & Janice Monroe

Dear Council members, Mayor, Ms. Clark and Ms. Monroe:

This letter was previously submitted in October 23; however, we were informed the City failed to read it. Please accept this letter as our second submission. As a property owner living in the Southeast Development Area (SEDA), we are contacting you concerning Fresno City's Plan to develop 9,000 acres in this area. This letter follows and is in addition to the previous letter we submitted to your City. We are concerned that this development plan will be harmful to Fresno in numerous ways and, therefore, are asking you to oppose this plan. The plan failed to provide remedies to obvious problems; failed to provide direct answers regarding Air Pollution, Water, eminent domain, annexation, zoning, and full transparency. As you know, what the City is attempting to develop is a 15 minute city, a smart city under the guise of housing needed. However, as you further know, with Hotel Fresno in development, the wide array of vacant buildings in downtown Fresno (all throughout the City of Fresno), as well as the vacant buildings located on the northeast corner of Kings Canyon and Clovis Avenue and vacant land and new development on Clovis and Tulare there are areas that you can develop, why you are choosing prime farmland is reckless. Furthermore, it was just in the news about the old UMC building being purchased, the city could have required that the purchaser use this building for low income housing.

The number one concern with this development is the lack of water. There are no concrete answers from Fresno's Planning Commission as to how they will provide water considering the magnitude of the population increase promoted.

We are also concerned with the loss of the best agriculture soil in the world. It is sandy loam soil making it prime soil for agriculture purposes. We request that the agriculture heritage of Fresno not be turned into housing.

We are also concerned with the loss of county residency, the inner city problems created with high density housing, the climate change concerns, the loss of personal property due to eminent domain, and the loss of property value.

Please let us know when an item related to SEDA will be on the City Council's agenda.

Please help the Southeast Property Owners in **opposing Fresno City's goal of developing** the 9000 acres. We feel that the implementation of this proposal would have a negative effect on the property owners, the City of Fresno, and the production of food for the nation as well as the world. We request that this proposal not be implemented.

When the farmland is gone, it's gone forever! Say NO to SEDA!

Respectfully,

David & Natalie Ortiz

Elijah Ortiz

~~August 24, 2023~~

March 22, 2025

Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
City of Fresno, City Clerk
Fresno City Council, Chairman and Council Members
2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor
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OPPOSE LETTER – EIR AND EDA/PROPOSED LAND USE/ANNEXATION/ BY THE CITY OF FRESNO

Dear Chairman, Council Members, City Clerk, and Ms. Asadoorian:

This letter was submitted back in August 2023; it's our understanding the City failed to read it. This is a second submission. Please accept this letter as our **opposition** to the City of Fresno's EIR report and the SEDA development, annexation, proposed land use and the map thereto, which is an item that is expected to go before the City Council in or about October 2023.

Our specific property/land sits next to what is known as the Briggs Canal. It is our understanding that water in the Briggs comes from the Kings River. This water is what irrigates properties for the food that you and I to eat and serves a greater purpose. It is serviced and maintained by Fresno Irrigation District (FID). The District's web page, under About Us, states as follows: The FID is a leader in California water, serving over 200,000 acres of prime agricultural farmland … Farmland sitting next to or that abuts a water structure such as ours is rare in Fresno County and not easily attainable. With our property adjacent to Briggs, it is irrecoverable and we would suffer a great loss. Therefore, we oppose the redevelopment and conversion of prime farmland to serve a purpose as Flexible Research and Development, which by the City's definition means no residential uses will not be allowed. That would therefore leave eminent domain which the City has stated would not be used however if I do not sell and my neighbor does not sell then there is no other recourse but for the city to use eminent domain. We have all seen what has occurred with the Reedley lab and as stated by many of you council members the public is placed at risk and so many other factors such as disease, groundwater contamination were common concerns. If we in this area "Flexible Research and Development" please explain with specificity what occurs to the property/land/farm owners the process and procedures and confirm if our property will be taken from us through eminent domain?

The City's project and plan area consists of Prime Farmland. We own 2.49 acres of farmland in the proposed SEDA plan area. We house two tractors, chickens, apricot trees, as well as house pets on our land. We are current fosters for the county animal shelter and we are able to assist with fostering of more than one animal primarily due to the land we have. We work our land like most, if not all of the residents in this project area. Removing farmers who grow their own food; and/or who commercially feed this Community, County and State is reckless and negligent so that the City can expand. The City's proposed land use map reflects for our parcel "Flexible Research & Development." You want to take irrecoverable prime farmland for Flexible Research & Development when you can place Flexible Research & Development in the vacant Orchard Supply building (vacant for more than 5 years). Does that mean a lab such as that most recently found in Reedley, CA will go here. What does "Mixed Residential" mean on the City's map? I specifically asked if that meant low income housing, please explain. Again, there are so many other vacant buildings within the City of Fresno that would allow you to do this that we do not need to remove, redevelop and destroy Prime Farmland or Farmland in general.

We have been told on numerous occasions that we would not be required to hook up to City services (water, sewage). We believe that to be incorrect. We were told that the City would not require us to; if not the City then who? If I am the only house that does not hook up, will I be forced to hook up? What will the cost be? Is there the potential for placement of a lien on my home due to the cost of these services? Please also confirm with past projects in this area or within the City (i.e. the area in and around north Jensen and Fowler to Kings Canyon etc.) how that land development was handled and if the landowners that were pre-existing were required to hook up to City of Fresno services (water/sewage). If so, what were the services, what was the process, the cost, who was responsible to pay those charges or for those services; how many complaints did you receive from the landowners verbal and in writing, what was the remedy of said complaints; and if any of these homes resulted in liens being placed on landowners property/homes. Please also provide on current and past projects when property owners choose to stay and not sell, the city is therefore developed around their property, how many wells have gone dry due to the new development? Does this map become the zoning map for this area?

Property owners were also told by the City representatives that eminent domain is not allowed or can or will not be used on property owners and their land located on the Land Use Map for this project, please confirm if this is an accurate statement? When I spoke to Jennifer Clark at the last in-person Drop In meeting she stated that should one homeowner decide not to sell or annex, they (property owner) will not be forced to annex; however, later she stated that they (City) cannot have one house one way while the rest of the area is annexed. Please clarify this statement by Ms. Clark. How will her stated change occur if one home cannot be different from the rest? Please explain who will impose and force the annexation of the land/property owners unwilling and opposing to said annexation? Please explain the process and the impacts to the landowners as well as the changes to zoning affecting the homeowner who did not willingly annex their land. Will I still be able to farm with all these houses around me?

As you know, there is vacant land and buildings in or around Kings Canyon and Clovis Avenue; you have the Orchard Supply building that currently sits empty littered with homeless people. You have vacant land and buildings all throughout the City of Fresno and other cities within Fresno County and your plan is to destroy the Prime farmland of the SEPO (Fresno Southeast Property Owners). Destroy our farmland to build more homes, which thus creates more traffic, more congestion, more land and air pollution, more crime, and homelessness. With the Briggs Canal, if that waterway remains, with the increase in population and homelessness, our canals will turn into bathing facilities and used as restrooms. Please ask your homeless task force if that is a possibility that the homeless population uses waterways as bathing facilities and toilets? If this water is intended to feed the community, is it possible for fecal

matter, urine and other forms of illness to be in said water. Furthermore, take a drive around the City of Fresno, look at their canals and waterways, you currently have homelessness on your canal banks, tents, littered with trash (e.g. McKinley and Chestnut; in front of the Social Services building Phillip and Kings Canyon, the canal located east of Clovis Avenue--north of Kings Canyon by Orchard Supply). The City is unable to handle the demands of the current crisis and you want to spread it out. Your intent is to make a 15 minute city. We have seen the destruction of Paradise, Maui, when you began to impact the rural areas which are not intended to be within the city limits. We have water issues, we were just in a drought and there is no guarantee that we will be blessed with rain in the future. How will you control air pollution? Where will you get water from? How will you get the needed money to build the infrastructure for this plan?

The City of Fresno needs a boundary, do not grow it out here destroying the aesthetic rural southeast farmland.

The EIR REPORT:

Paragraph 1.2.1 lists the potential significant environmental issues that require further analysis. Therefore, this is incomplete. In light of this statement, we oppose this EIR and request that you vote to deny/oppose/reject.

Paragraph located on PDF page number 762 titled (Wild-2) … Pollutant Concentrations from Wildfire impacts under this topic would be less than significant and there is no substantial change. However, we disagree and oppose that statement in that the City has a wide-ranging homeless population. What factors were considered as it relates to the ongoing homeless population within city limits when addressing this issue? We see many fires started due to homelessness. City streets are littered with trash, drugs and/or paraphernalia, and the homeless population utilizing fire in order to cook or stay warm during the winter months. Therefore, we disagree with this report and believe further studies should be done. As a reminder and as stated in paragraph 3.19.7, you would be converting prime ag land to residential and mixed-use land uses. Significant and unavoidable.

Chapter 4 Other CEQA Considerations – Bulletpoint AG-1 (… Conversion of Farmland to Non-ag Uses) states 2,475 acres of land designated as Prime Farmland, 1,352 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, approximately 1,189 acres of land designated as Farmland of Local Importance, and 1,725 acres of land designated as Unique Farmland "**scattered" throughout the plan area**. The impact is significant. Based on this information contained in the EIR, we oppose and request that you vote to reject/deny/oppose and that this plan does not move forward. We further request that all maps be amended to identify the land properly in full transparency. Significant and unavoidable.

Bullet Ag-2 (… Conflict with Existing Zoning or Williamson Act Contract) – This paragraph states in part that according to the Williamson Act Property map, the majority of the Williamson Act properties within the SOI and City are located within the Plan Area. It further states that there is a significant impact on existing Williamson Act Contract land. Ultimately, you are still converting Williamson Act land to non-ag land. For this reason, we strongly oppose and request that you vote to oppose and/or deny on this basis. We further request that all maps be amended to identify the land properly in full transparency. Significant and unavoidable.

Bullet Cumulative Ag Resources and Forestry Resources Impacts states and acknowledges that there is a loss of Prime Farmland within the plan area. Under your plan, you destroy existing Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland and small farms to build or develop community farming and small farms. The EIR

states that it will be a significant impact on Ag zoning and the Williams Act Contracts and there would be land use changes resulting in the conversion of farmland to non-ag uses and is unavoidable. We were told by the City at Drop-In meeting #1 on July 24, 2023 that we would not be rezoned should property owners choose not to sell. However, Jennifer Clark at the last in person drop-in meeting stated that we cannot have just one home not similarly zoned or annexed; therefore, please confirm what occurs based on Clark's statement. Rezoning would only occur if a neighbor complained, which thus alters my land use. The City's statement clearly is misleading and misrepresents what is occurring. I believe the impacts would be more than significant in that you are displacing property owners who are generational farmers, and farmers of their own land; how many of us current property owners would be physically displaced, and harmed financially. Based on this information we request that you strongly oppose and/ or deny based on this statement.

Impact Air-1 paragraph states this projects exceeds the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District another significant and unavoidable impact. Based on this paragraph we request you vote to oppose and/or deny based on this paragraph. Please note that we asked at the drop-in meetings why the Air Pollution District was not a part of these meetings to share in on the added pollution due to this development.

Air-3 states that since it cannot be foreseen the amount of construction occurring nor the exact location it cannot be determined if the emissions could be adequately controlled or reduced. Based on this statement, we believe the study is not complete as it must be looked at, precise and discussed. We are opposed based on this statement and request that you vote to oppose/deny.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions cumulative impacts are significant and unavoidable. Based on this statement we oppose and request that you vote to oppose/deny.

Impact NOI-1 – This statement states that impacts are significant and unavoidable. It also states that they are unable to quantify therefore there is no true, accurate impact identified and said report is incomplete. Based on this statement we oppose and request that you vote to oppose/deny. The Cumulative Noise impact is again noted as significant and unavoidable.

Exhibit 5-2 of the EIR shows just under 2,500 acres of Prime Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide and Local Importance, Unique Farmland of Importance, etc.

The EIR Table 5-1 under paragraph 5.7 states there is no location in the City where 45,000 homes (yes the Plan calls for 45,000) could be constructed while avoiding environmental impacts to ag land. Ag land would be impacted regardless. However, the land is not your basic ag land, it is Prime Farmland, it is land that sits next to the Briggs Irrigation Ditch which is rare, it's farmland with statewide and local importance, it's my backyard, small farming, however, we the property owners choose to define it, its our land that you want to dismantle, convert, and take so that you can build 45,000 homes, parks, and research and development.

The Orchard Supply Building on Clovis and Kings Canyon has sat empty for a number of years, that can be your research and development. You want to take our farmland, our livelihood, what feeds our families, our communities, for a bike trail, a park, a residential development to teach people to have a garden (who will teach them there is no guarantee that they will use it for such) all the while destroying the Prime Farmland we landowners have created destroying our way of life and country life. You will add 45,000 homes during a recession, a time when most cannot afford, thereby creating more empty houses. You want to disrupt our way of life and destroy the farmland that we have just to build more homes that

most cannot afford. You want to help this community have your builders or developers lower the prices of their homes to sell those existing homes already built. Convert some of these developments/homes already in progress into mixed residential. Ag land should be the last thing we convert, land that currently feeds us. That salad you had for lunch, fruit, etc. came from one of us most likely.

We oppose the alternatives set forth in the EIR due to the type of land we are looking at as referred to in this report: Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide and Local Importance, Unique Farmland. Based on the impacts as listed above and based on viable alternatives, we request that you deny/oppose the EIR. Furthermore, we oppose as this EIR shows that the plan is fiscally irresponsible and environmentally irresponsible. Finally, we request that the SEDA Plan be opposed and denied. If you review the Level of Significance as outlined in the EIR, we have listed below just a few that are classified as Significant and Unavoidable; therefore, for these reasons request you oppose and deny the City's Plan and find another area or location in the City of Fresno for said projects. The impacts are significant and unavoidable.

Finally, we were informed and received in the mail, on July 21, 2023, the City's flyer for the "Drop-In" meeting; the first meeting set for July 24, 2023, hosted by the City of Fresno. As you can see from the dates, this was three days before the first scheduled meeting. As I verbally stated and inquired about with the City during the July 24th meeting, what is a the meaning of a Drop-in meeting? Who decided to title this meeting as a Drop-In? To title it as such, is misleading and misrepresenting the intent of the City and purposes of said meeting. This title lacks transparency and is intended to misstate and mislead the purpose of an extremely important topic of discussion. It does little to ensure community/public attendance, involvement, participation and is a sure way to prevent and limit public input. This is an extremely important meeting that impacts the community of southeast Fresno, specifically the Fresno Southeast Property Owners (SEPO) and therefore, I believe was titled as such to limit the number of attendees and silence the opposition. Furthermore, Sontaya Rose from the Mayor's office was in attendance and can confirm as well as other City representatives, the location picked for the first important meeting on July 24th lacked the capacity to hold the number of attendees, safely and comfortably, and posed a safety hazard in that it was about 105 degrees outside and there was no working AC inside said building thereby making it 110 degrees most likely inside with all the people in the building. As I stated on that date, I believe that was a safety hazard and put citizens at risk and compromised their health and well-being. Not one representative spoke to that and acknowledged that the first meeting should be rescheduled or some other remedy. The temperature inside the building added to the frustration felt by most of the members of the community. As I stated, this meeting labeled by the City is misleading, and a calculated manner in which to misrepresent, misstate, and divert the public's attention to what it is in actuality and that is to take and change or convert land from the property owners. Should the meeting have been labeled annexation, eminent domain, town hall, any one of those trigger words the public at large would have a true understanding of what is occurring in the southeast area of Fresno and would understand the true discussions and importance of what is happening thereby enhancing attendance and opposition. Furthermore, I see no link for those to participate virtually due to a disability, medical necessity or some other personal reason. It was stated that the City would have one day assigned to a webinar. As you know, the topics of discussion can be convoluted and we the community would need time to research the Q&A dialogue that is provided to us therefore one day for those unable to physically attend is not enough. The public should not be limited to one day; we should all be afforded the same the ability to attend all meetings. Quite frankly, the information changes so frequently it would be in the best interest of the public to attend all meetings. As such, in this regard, **we strongly oppose**. Furthermore, the meeting by the City on 7/24/23 was very unorganized and lacked structure and foundation as to the discussions and topics and the City ran out of comment cards in English—the space allowed for comments was minimal on such an important topic of discussion.

I would also like to know why no representative of the County was in attendance at these meetings? A representative of the City was asked about annexing property and the City representative responded with the City would not annex. Please confirm the process for annexation and if not the City of Fresno, then please confirm the responsible agency. Please provide details on what grounds for annexation, the criteria or guidelines that must be met to annex property/land? If this response requires information from the County, I would ask that you direct City representatives to coordinate their response and work with the County of Fresno or any other agencies involved to get said information. I believe the City of Fresno when asked these types of questions it is their responsibility to answer in detail and they are required to be fully transparent and should be able to intelligently communicate if not their agency the appropriate agency involved and that would handle. To leave the response as simple as it's not the City, is vague and intended to mislead the public. The City knows the answer to the question and to not provide a full response is intentional. It may not be the City's responsibility to annex but if they know that it is the responsibility of another agency they should state as such.

I believe the SEDA homeowners/property owners have a right to know the following information. If there are costs associated with any of these requests, please confirm the amount or charges, in writing, prior to providing said information.

- Please provide the number of EIR's that are submitted to the City of Fresno per calendar year; and how many are rejected or voted as unapproved; how many are submitted to LAFCo per calendar year, voted as unapproved or rejected and the bases/reason for said vote.
- On April 25, 2023, an item went to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, Agenda Item #8 regarding a variance application that falls within SEDA. During Mr. Assemi's comments to the Board, he referred to having received a timeline from the Mayor on the project. Please confirm what that timeline was and if a copy can be provided electronically to the property owners should they wish to received; and please explain why a developer would have that information but not the property owners who would be negatively impacted by SEDA? When was the timeline (Assemi refers to in his comments) provided to him by the Mayor? When was this timeline provide to the property owners (SEPO) who will be impacted? If it has not been provided to the property owners, why? My household has not received a timeline from the Mayor nor was one provided to property owners at any drop-in meeting and to my knowledge a timeline has not been provided to property owners in any meeting thus far by the City of Fresno. Please confirm how many variances in the SEDA project area have gone through the process, what that process is, including how many have gone to the County of Fresno Board of Supervisors for vote and the vote result from the start of the project(s)/plan to present?
- Please identify the land parcels, land and farmland in the SEDA project area that have been purchased by developers, date of purchase, names of builders, corporations, school district, water districts, and any other business organization, corporation or entity from the start of SEDA to present that have purchased. Please include the names, cross-streets, parcel numbers and any other identify factors of the land pending a sale, owned, purchased or sold.
- Please provide the information on when the property sold or was purchased and include land, property that is pending sale/purchase.
- Please provide the members of our community, SEPO (Southeast Property Owners), with information on how much farmland/land is currently owned in Fresno County, CA by Darrius Assemi and/or Granville Homes and any other developers, builders or business organizations.

If this type of development continues, the lack of farmland to our community as well as the substantial loss of prime farmland is irrecoverable and factor in good farmland with irrigation resources such as ours, it is irrecoverable. Therefore, **we strongly oppose** the EIR and the SEDA development and ask that you deny and reject both in order to protect and preserve our homes and land.

The City of Fresno needs a boundary, do not grow it out here destroying the aesthetic rural southeast farmland.

Once the farmland is gone, it's gone forever! Say NO to SEDA!

Thank you.

David & Natalie Ortiz

Elijah Ortiz

PATIENCE MILROD

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

March 24, 2025

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
Sent by email: *longrangeplanning@fresno.gov*

RE: Public Comment on 2025 Recirculated draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Southeast Development Area Plan

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos:

On behalf of the Fresno Madera Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council and Regenerate California Innovation (RCI), I respectfully request the City incorporate the following comments, and attachments, regarding the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan and Recirculated draft Program Environmental Impact Report into the record of this matter. We look forward to substantive responses to these comments.

NOTE: Due to the fact that the infrastructure plan, budget, and public facilities financing plan have not yet been released for public review or comment, these commenters respectfully request an extension of 45 days from the date they are released for public comment on the SEDA Recirculated draft EIR. See section 7.e, infra.

1. The City's contract with HCD does not require that the City Council adopt the SEDA Plan, nor that it approve the SEDA EIR.

The City's application for the grant that funded the SEDA EIR[1] includes Schedule F, which identifies Council adoption as a "deliverable" under the grant. The Grant Agreement itself,[2]

[1] Attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

[2] Attached hereto as Exhibit 2. See specifically, Exhibit D, Section 4 (Remedies of [sic] Non-performance), subsection E. Similarly, Senate Bill 2 Planning Grant Program Year 1 Guidelines (https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/planning-grants/docs/sb2-planning-grant-

[redacted]

however, while requiring a "strong implementation component," recognizes that the locality may only formally adopt the completed planning document "where appropriate."

In this case, for the reasons set out in this letter, adoption of the SEDA Plan and approval of the Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report would not be an appropriate exercise of the City Council's legislative discretion, nor can the SB2 grant award contract compel the City Council to exercise its sovereign legislative discretion in such a fashion.

2. If the language of Section 4 of the Grant Agreement were to be interpreted as requiring the City Council to adopt the SEDA Plan and associated documents, it would be null, void *ab initio*, and unenforceable.

At Section 17, the General Terms and Conditions applicable to the grant award contract provide for severability "[i]n the event that any provision of this Agreement is unenforceable or held to be unenforceable." Standard Grant Conditions also provide for severability of unenforceable provisions, at Section 10.A.

However, "[t]he California Constitution provides that a county or city may make and enforce within its limits 'all local, police, sanitary, and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws.' (Cal. Const., art. XI, § 7.) From this police power, a California city derives its power to control land use and enact comprehensive land use and zoning laws." *Discovery Builders, Inc. v. City of Oakland*, 92 Cal.App.5th 799, 810, 310 Cal.Rptr.3d 241, 249 (2023) [citations omitted].

Since land use regulations involve the exercise of police power (*Summit Media LLC v. City of Los Angeles,* 211 Cal.App.4th 921, 934, 150 Cal.Rptr.3d 574 (2012)), any agreement that functions to divest a municipality of its ability to exercise its police power with respect to land use laws is invalid. *Discovery Builders, supra*, 92 Cal.App.5th at 812. This responsibility extends to a city's consideration of an environmental impact report: "CEQA confers the duty upon the local lead agency to produce an adequate EIR" and this "statutory obligation may not be the consideration for a contract or promise, nor may the County bargain away its constitutional duty to regulate development." *Mission Oaks Ranch, Ltd. v. County of Santa Barbara,* 65 Cal.App.4th 713, 723 (1998), quoted in *Discovery Builders, supra*, 92 Cal.App.5th at 812.

Thus, the City of Fresno could not have obligated itself as a condition of grant approval to adopt the SEDA Plan, nor to approve the SEDA EIR. In this situation in particular, the EIR is so inadequate across multiple functions, chapters, and analyses that approval would constitute an abuse of discretion.

3. The City has violated material terms of its SB 2 agreement with HCD in the following respects:

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guidelines.pdf) include plan adoption among Program Objectives (Section 101, subd. (a) and (b)), Eligible Uses for the funding (Section 302, subd. (a) and (b)). However, among Remedies of [sic] Non-performance, Section 603(c) suggests only that "Localities that do not formally adopt the funded activity could be subject to repayment of the grant." [emphasis added]

a. The City has failed to produce a Public Review Draft of the Infrastructure Plan, Infrastructure Financing Plan, and Fee Nexus Study.

At Section C, subsection 3 of the City's application for the planning grant that funded the SEDA Plan and PEIR, the City commits to using the funding in support of a State Priority Policy Area, specifically "Housing Related Infrastructure Financing and Fee Reduction Strategies." Under Section D, Proposed Activities Checklist, the City commits to item 15, "infrastructure financing plans." At Section E, Project Description, the City acknowledges that "an infrastructure assessment [and] fiscal nexus study must be completed prior to adoption [of a SEDA Specific Plan]." At Appendix A, the City recognizes explicitly that:

> "To implement a large-scale master planned community including infrastructure improvements and annexation, an analysis of the currently existing infrastructure, the infrastructure necessary to support development, and the gap is required. Additionally, the General Plan of the City of Fresno requires that all new annexations are fiscally neutral expansions to the City's General Fund budget. This requires a fiscal nexus study to show the anticipated costs and revenues associated with the annexation and mechanisms to fund any needed infrastructure gaps."

The costs of preparing the Infrastructure Assessment, Financing Plan, and Fee Nexus Study were built into the grant application, at a cost of $87,500.[3] The 2020 Consultant Services Agreement between the City and HCD incorporated these items as deliverables[4]. Nevertheless, as of the date of this writing, the studies, plans, budget, etc. are not available. In 2023, in response to requests for information from members of the public, the City admitted that it had such documents, but refused to make them public, claiming (without evidence or justification) that they were "privileged," that the public interest in keeping them secret outweighed the public interest in disclosing them, because the studies were "ongoing" (even though the Plan and its PEIR had already been released for public comment), and that disclosure of infrastructure cost estimates would provide "incomplete information."

Given the complexity of the SEDA planning project, and the fact that an infrastructure analysis, budget, plan, nexus study, and financing mechanisms are integral components of the SEDA Specific Plan *and have environmental impact ramifications*, the City's failure to release these documents with the Specific Plan and PEIR is a material breach of the City's commitments to HCD in accepting SB2 grant funding.

b. The SEDA Plan and Recirculated DPEIR show the City's grant application misrepresented that it would use SB 2 grant funding to "accelerate housing production."

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[3] City SB2 Planning Grants Application, Schedule F.

[4] Consultant Service Agreement between City of Fresno (City) and FirstCarbon Solutions (Consultant), Southeast Development Area Specific Plan, executed November 4, 2020, Scope of Services, Subtask 1.1.2, 1.1.3 – 1.1.7, 1.1.8 – 1.1.9, and Task 2.

The City's grant application, Section D, subsection 3, claimed the Plan would include "environmental analyses that eliminate the need for project-specific review." At Section E, Project Description, the City promised to deliver a Program EIR under which "future development will also utilize an expanded exemption under Government Code Section 65457 that will apply to certain residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects that are consistent with a specific plan adopted pursuant to Government Code, Article 8, Chapter 3 and would be exempt from CEQA."

The Government Code § 65457 exemption would create a no-new-EIR presumption for all projects within SEDA, unless somebody happens to become aware of and can make the case that the proposed development project requires "substantial changes" to the PEIR, that there have been "substantial changes" in circumstances requiring major revisions to the PEIR, and/or that there is new information unknown (and unknowable) at the time of PEIR certification. Public Resources Code § 21166.

This is all well and good when the Plan-level PEIR has accurately analyzed the environmental impact data, and has created the Plan-level coordinated mitigation structures that will realistically minimize cumulative impacts, either through Plan-level design and land use decisions or through enforceable conditions of project approvals. But the SEDA Plan EIR does not deliver on the promised "environmental analyses that eliminate the need for project-specific review."

Generally, the SEDA draft PEIR unlawfully abdicates its responsibility to calculate impacts, disclaiming capacity to calculate impacts of the SEDA Specific Plan because site- and project-level planning have not yet been done. The PEIR essentially takes the position that Plan-level mitigation is impossible, as exemplified by its approach to air quality impacts: "*there is currently not enough information to quantify emissions* of specific project development that may occur under the proposed project. … *[D]ue to the size of the proposed {SEDA Plan] project,* there is not sufficient feasible mitigation available to reduce the potential criteria pollutant emissions associated with the proposed project to levels that would not exceed the Valley Air District thresholds of significance." PEIR, p. ES-6 [emphasis added].

In fact, the PEIR appears indifferent to the concept of plan-level mitigation. As drafted, impact analysis and mitigation either would occur on a piecemeal basis, as discretionary projects within the SEDA footprint come up for approval, or would not occur at all, as future SEDA development projects get a pass, falsely claiming approval of the PEIR means impacts have already been considered and mitigated, and using § 65457 to "tier" off phantom environmental impact analyses and nonexistent mitigation measures. This approach defeats one of the essential functions of a Program EIR, to "ensure consideration of cumulative impacts that might be slighted in a case-by-case analysis." CEQA Guidelines, § 15168(b)(2).

Here, the Plan promotes case-by-case environmental impacts analyses, as each SEDA development project is proposed. Similarly, determination and application of missing mitigation measures are deferred to environmental reviews of discretionary projects (if such environmental reviews are ever done), again one by one. The result at the Specific Plan level is

fatally deficient cumulative impact analyses, no (or illusory) mitigation to address cumulative impacts, and very few additional-analysis conditions on project-level entitlements. These failures of analysis show the City has failed to fulfill its commitment to create a Specific Plan that "accelerates housing production."

c. The City has failed to produce the streamlining checklist promised in its grant application.

The City's grant application, Section E, Project Description, promised that the Program EIR to be funded with SB2 grant monies "will include a detailed programmatic evaluation of activities to be carried out through [the] Specific Plan and will allow the City to incorporate feasible mitigation measures including a streamlining checklist to evaluate site specific operations within the scope of the program EIR. This use of streamlining will fast-track the production of much-needed housing for the City and the region."

This concept of streamlining meshes well with a Specific Plan calling for tens of thousands of units over 9,000 acres, to be implemented in a largely greenfield geography ten miles from the city's center. Such a checklist could incorporate many standard mitigation measures to reduce the massive environmental impacts that implementation of such a plan unavoidably entails. If the City had followed through on its commitment to include "environmental analyses that eliminate the need for project-specific review," deploying those analyses in a checklist format would have been an excellent strategy for expediting new-home construction.

However, neither the SEDA Plan, nor any of the three versions of the draft PEIR released to date, provides any such "streamlining checklist." Instead, both the Plan and the EIR repeatedly admit that the City will only evaluate "site specific" impacts within SEDA on a project-by-project basis, and will with each project start from scratch on whether there will be environmental review, whether there are impacts that meet the threshold of Public Resources Code 21166, and whether mitigation measures will be imposed, and if so which ones. (Please see comments, infra, regarding mitigation measures and the EIR as a tiering document.)

This approach is the very opposite of a "fast-track" to production of new housing, building both delays and expensive environmental reviews into discretionary development projects within the SEDA footprint.

4. The City cannot approve the SEDA Plan and EIR until it has a valid General Plan.

In its now-invalidated[5] 2021 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, the City acknowledged that its 2014 General Plan was no longer compliant with new laws and regulations.[6] A general plan

[5] *South Fresno Community Alliance v. City of Fresno*, 2024 WL 3663122, August 6, 2024.

[6] City of Fresno GHG Reduction Plan Update, March 2021, pp. 1-1 (General Plan's Greenhouse Gas Appendix must be updated to comply with SB 32, CARB's Climate Change Scoping Plan, and the California Supreme Court's Newhall Ranch decision); and 1-2 (General Plan update required in order to bring it into conformance with current local and State law. CLC and RCI join, and incorporate by this reference, the portions of the March 24, 2025, comment letter submitted by Douglas Carstens and

must be reviewed and revised as circumstances warrant. Gov't Code § 65103, subd. (a); *DeVita v. County of Napa,* 9 Cal.4th 763, 792 (1995) ("the [planning] agency … is *required* periodically to review and *revise* the general plan to ensure that its elements remain integrated and internally consistent." [emphasis in original]). Above all, "the status of a general plan as the 'constitution' for the City's development requires that the plan be reasonably complete and current." *Camp v. Board of Supervisors*, 123 Cal.App.3d 334, 351, 176 Cal.Rptr. 620 (1981).

The level of housing need, and demand, is a crucial component of a city's land use planning decisions, and flows directly from the rate at which the city's population is growing. The City of Fresno's 2014 General Plan was based on an average annual growth rate of 1.24%[7]. However, the city is no longer growing at that robust pace. The City's March 2025 draft EIR for the West Area Neighborhood Specific Plan acknowledges this new reality, citing U.S. Census Bureau and California State Department of Finance data showing Fresno's growth at one-sixth the 2014 rate—0.2%—as of 2024.[8] Population growth out to 2035 for the whole City of Fresno is thus reduced from 2014 projections by approximately 184,000 residents[9]—well over the anticipated population of SEDA alone.

Approval of SEDA's 45,000-unit plan based on the 2014 General Plan's materially outdated and erroneous population projections and housing demand assumptions would be consistent with the 2014 General Plan, but also an abuse of discretion because contradicted by more recent and more accurate record evidence. This is the very reason a planning agency must keep its General Plan "reasonably complete and current."

5. If the 2014 General Plan is not invalidated by failure to comply with State mandates, changed circumstances, and new information, the SEDA EIR would have to be consistent with that General Plan. It is not.

a. The SEDA Plan's Consistency analysis is fatally flawed.

The Draft PEIR offers a General Plan Consistency Analysis at p. 3.11-24 to -37, Table 3.11-1. However, many of the consistency determinations sound more like Orwellian double

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Michelle Black on behalf of the Sierra Club, Central Valley Partnership, and League of Women Voters that relate to the General Plan's failures to comply with AB 170 (Gov't. Code § 65302.1—General Plans must incorporate specified air pollution information) and SB 1000 (Gov't. Code § 65302(h)(2)—General Plans must incorporate an Environmental Justice element).

[7] City of Fresno 2014 General Plan, p. 1-24.

[8] Recirculated Draft EIR – West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan, p. 3.12-1, Table 3.12.1—Environmental Setting—Demographics--Population Trends.

[9] The 2014 General Plan projects 226,000 new residents by 2035 (p. 1-23); Department of Finance growth projections would result in only about 22,877 new city residents during that period (calculated from Department of Finance's predicted 41,594 County population growth, multiplied by historical City of Fresno 55% share of county population increases). See also, fn. 11, infra.

speak[10] than planning professionals' analysis. A few examples (of many) follow. They have in common that they rely on unquantified assertions unsupported by record evidence, and/or in fact contradicted by the evidence in the record.

UF-12: "Locate roughly one-half of future residential development in infill areas—defined as being within the City on December 31, 2012— including the Downtown core area and surrounding neighborhoods, mixed-use centers and transit-oriented development along major BRT corridors, and other noncorridor infill areas, and vacant land. *Consistency Determination*: Consistent. The proposed project is consistent with the City's strategy to focus on infill development within existing City limits. The proposed project would minimize the City's outward expansion while promoting vibrant, sustainable communities." SEDA EIR, p. 3.11-26.

> **IN FACT:** Not consistent. Approval of SEDA would torpedo the General Plan's goal of ensuring approximately one-half of future residential development would occur in infill areas. (See, UF-13, *infra*.) Moreover, the proposed project itself is the very antithesis of "infill," since it is not located within the City limits and does not in any other way resemble infill. Its siting outside the very farthest southeast rim of the City *maximizes* outward expansion, and the massive additional infrastructure that must be built to serve it will create a growth-inducing dynamic far from the infill areas that are the focus of the 2014 General Plan. Finally, the expenditures on those SEDA-serving infrastructure projects will suck resources away from the billions of dollars in infrastructure construction, replacement, improvement, and repair that would "promot[e] vibrant, sustainable communities" within the City limits.

UF-13 "Locate roughly one-half of future residential development in the Growth Areas—defined as unincorporated land as of December 31, 2012 SOI—which are to be developed with Complete Neighborhoods that include housing, services, and recreation; mixed-use centers; or along future BRT corridors. *Consistency Determination*: Consistent. The proposed project is a comprehensive plan for the nearly 9,000-acre Southeast Growth Area. The proposed project concentrates residential development in Neighborhood Town Centers, consistent with the General Plan concept of complete neighborhoods." SEDA EIR, p. 3.11-26.

> **IN FACT:** Not consistent. Approval of SEDA would torpedo the General Plan's goal of limiting development in Growth Areas to one-half of new residential construction. Due to reduced population projections, and concomitant reduced housing demand, the

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[10] "**Doublespeak** is language that deliberately obscures, disguises, distorts, or reverses the meaning of words. Doublespeak may take the form of euphemisms (e.g., 'downsizing' for layoffs and 'servicing the target' for bombing), in which case it is primarily meant to make the truth sound more palatable. It may also refer to intentional ambiguity in language or to actual inversions of meaning. In such cases, doublespeak disguises the nature of the truth. Doublespeak is most closely associated with political language used by large entities such as corporations and governments." Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doublespeak, accessed March 19, 2025 [bolded emphasis in original; internal links and footnotes omitted].

whole city of Fresno will need only about 7,600 new housing units by 2035. The SEDA's 2035 target is 14,900, almost twice the number needed[11] for the entire city during that period, and perversely incentivizing suburban sprawl[12] over the infill development the General Plan seeks to promote.

LU-2 "Plan for infill development that includes a range of housing types, building forms, and land uses to meet the needs of both current and future residents. *Consistency Determination*: Consistent. The proposed project provides for the development of a range of housing types, building forms, and land uses to meet the needs of both existing and future residents." SEDA EIR, p. 3.11-26.

IN FACT: Not consistent. As is apparent from the Project Description[13], SEDA is a greenfield plan, not an infill plan. However well-planned they may be, SEDA's 9,000 acres are located far from the portions of the City that could reasonably meet the 2014 General Plan's definition of "infill" in UF-12, *supra*.

LU-4 "Enhance existing residential neighborhoods through regulations, code enforcement, and compatible infill development. *Consistency Determination*: Consistent. The proposed project would design and implement a vision that would allow new growth to occur without negatively affecting existing neighborhoods.

IN FACT: Not consistent. The SEDA Specific Plan and EIR include no analyses, policies, or provisions that could conceivably affect regulations, code enforcement, or infill development in existing neighborhoods in the City of Fresno, except negatively. Far more likely, adoption of the Plan would extinguish possibilities for new infill development, including by sapping resources needed for infill-supporting infrastructure

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[11] Assuming, based on state Department of Finance 2035 projections: Fresno County population increase of 41,594 people x 55% (historical City of Fresno share of population growth) = 22,877 people, ÷ 3 (average number of persons/dwelling unit) = 7,626, total dwelling units needed to accommodate population growth in the entire City of Fresno by 2035.

[12] This dynamic has been well documented. See, e.g., Patterns of Sprawl in Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley, Freemark, Fu, Rosenow, Su, May 2024, p.8 (copy attached): "As sprawl redirects growth from one part of a metropolitan area to another, one additional consequence is that housing development becomes rare in jurisdictions and neighborhoods with low incomes and low demand, since developers can respond to demand for homes by building at the far edge of regions, where there are low land costs and high demand (Freemark 2022). This may lead to low-income neighborhoods experiencing disinvestment and decay, while high-income, suburban neighborhoods benefit from the majority of private and public investment." Accord, Fresno Urban Decay Analysis, ECONorthwest, 2023 (copy attached).

[13] "The predominant existing use in the Plan Area (approximately 5,000 acres) is agriculture, primarily vineyards, orchards, and vegetable farms. The average parcel size is approximately 25 acres and is typically used for growing a range of crops. The Plan Area also contains agriculture-related and commercial operations, such as plant nurseries, wineries, and other various agricultural businesses." SEDA Recirculated Draft PEIR, p. 2-4.

improvements and for the repairs and maintenance that legacy neighborhoods need to avoid falling into blight and decay.

LU-5 "Plan for a diverse housing stock that will support balanced urban growth, and make efficient use of resources and public facilities. *Consistency Determination*: Consistent. The proposed project would design and implement a vision that would allow the City to grow in ways that equitably expand the economy and housing stock while protecting public health. The proposed project represents an opportunity to meet emerging market demands, provide much-needed diversity in housing stock, and enrich communities with safe, walkable, and inspiring urban environments."

IN FACT: Not consistent. The SEDA Plan, proposing intensive development of a 9,000-acre greenfields site, will require massive new construction of public facilities, whereas "efficient use" of resources and public facilities would dictate that the City satisfy its future housing needs in an area where such facilities already exist, such as the West Area Neighborhood Plan area, or the thousands of infill sites within the city limits. The effect of new growth into SEDA will not promote equity nor "enrich" existing neighborhoods (where Fresno's low-income housing stock is located), but will deprive those neighborhoods of resources they need to fight blight and decay. The Plan does not impose conditions of entitlement on SEDA developments that would be at all likely to supplement the City's stock of low-income housing. Finally, the public health protection claim here flies directly in the face of the air quality impacts data in the PEIR Appendix B, which show huge unmitigated increases in air pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and diesel particulate matter. Notwithstanding CEQA and California Supreme Court mandates, the EIR fails to calculate the ozone pollution that Plan development would generate, or to provide a human health impact analysis. A claim that the plan protects human health, on this record, is facially false.

LU-9 "Plan land uses, design, and development intensities to supplement and support, and not compete with, the Downtown. *Consistency Determination*: Consistent. The proposed project is a comprehensive plan for the nearly 9,000-acre Southeast Growth Area, located to the east of the Downtown. The proposed project concentrates residential development in Neighborhood Town Centers, consistent with the General Plan concept of complete neighborhoods. These uses would support the Downtown but would not compete with the Downtown."

IN FACT: Not consistent. The SEDA Plan area is ten miles from Fresno's Downtown. *At best* it will compete with Downtown, drawing away the private investments and public institutions that give an urban downtown core its crucial role in a city's life. More likely, the SEDA development will make it impossible for the City to supplement state grants to ensure completion of downtown infrastructure upgrades, essential to a thriving downtown.

b. The SEDA Specific Plan violates California's Planning and Zoning Law in that its leapfrog approach to growth fundamentally contradicts the 2014 General Plan objectives, violating consistency requirements.

California Government Code § 65454 provides that "[n]o specific plan may be adopted or amended unless the proposed plan or amendment is consistent with the general plan." As of 2018, the Legislature's amendment of Government Code § 65700 applied this consistency requirement also to charter cities such as Fresno. *Kennedy Commission v. City of Huntington Beach*, 91 Cal.App.5th 436, 443, 308 Cal.Rptr.3d 461, 468 (2023), reh'g denied (June 7, 2023), review denied (July 19, 2023).

Apart from and in addition to the many errors in the PEIR's General Plan Consistency Analysis (see section 5.a., *supra*), the SEDA Plan is inconsistent in that it upends the 2014 General Plan's proposed growth trajectory, which calls for SEDA development to occur last, after Development Areas 1 and 2.[14] The General Plan explains that "[t]he pace of new development in the Development Areas needs to be balanced with the City's goals for achieving significant reinvestment within the 2012 City Limits."[15]

In its 2014 General Plan, unusually for Fresno, the City Council purposefully declined to expand the City's Sphere of Influence based on a reasoned analysis of the effects suburban sprawl had created and would create into the future if not curbed. The 2014 General Plan explicitly chose a different path:

> Continued growth outwards creates transportation and air quality issues, as well. The continued siting of major retail and commercial uses, as well as jobs, at Fresno's urban fringe is lengthening travel times and increasing traffic levels (and air pollution) disproportionately faster than the rate of population growth, due to inefficient location selection. Given the restrictions on and impacts of increasing Fresno's land area, the Plan promotes the highest and best use of land within Fresno's current city limits, phases growth into unincorporated areas of the SOI, and avoids de-investment in Downtown and established neighborhoods. Furthermore, certain patterns of land development can increase costs to the City in excess of related revenues and essentially reduce fiscal resources. The Plan seeks to discourage this type of development and, at the least, ensure that all development covers its fair share of public costs.[16]

The SEDA draft PEIR attempts to explain away its inconsistency with these goals and objectives, acknowledging that "SEDA was intended to be developed once other infill initiatives were given time to gain momentum," and that "there is still ample residential capacity within the current city limits and in Growth Area I (which includes the Southwest Fresno and the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan areas)." But then the PEIR goes on to argue that "there is a

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[14] 2014 General Plan, Figure I-3, Residential Capacity Allocation, which shows Development Areas ("DA"s) in order of priority; SEDA comprises DA-3 Southeast and DA-4 East, the City's fifth- and sixth-level development priorities. The West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan Area is labeled DA-1 North, and is the first-level priority for new development.

[15] Id. at p. 3-19.

[16] 2014 General Plan, Ch.7, Resource Conservation & Resilience—§7.2 Use of Infrastructure & Resources, p.7-7

sense of urgency about the current housing crisis and the City's ability to provide housing for the existing population and its natural growth as well as the unanticipated in-migration occurring at this time."[17]

But the facts do not support a "sense of urgency"—population growth has plummeted, taking with it the demand for new housing, and the City is already on track to adopt the proposed West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan sometime in summer 2025.[18] The West Area Plan is likely to result in housing units long before SEDA, since the West Area Plan will be implemented upon a platform of already-existing (if still incomplete) infrastructure, whereas SEDA will require construction of all significant urban-supporting public improvements.[19] The West Area Plan alone will accommodate over 50,000 new housing units; when added to the 43,512 units[20] on parcels zoned and appropriate for housing within existing City limits, the City will not need SEDA to meet its housing needs for many decades.

To allow SEDA to jump the line into first place is antithetical to how the City has planned its growth. Such reorganizing of development priorities is inconsistent with the General Plan, and creates significant adverse fiscal and environmental consequences for the City and its existing neighborhoods that the 2014 General Plan specifically intends to avoid by its new-growth priorities hierarchy.

c. CLC and RCI incorporate comments submitted on behalf of County of Fresno.

In support of their comment that the draft PEIR cannot be adopted under the 2014 General Plan, CLC and RCI hereby join, and incorporate by this reference, the portion of the September 4, 2023 comment letter on the 2023 draft SEDA PEIR, submitted by Jeffrey Reid on behalf of the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, at pages 5 through 6 (Section C).

6. The City cannot approve the SEDA Specific Plan until it has complied with the prerequisites imposed via LAFCO Resolution USOI-144.

CLC and RCI join, and hereby incorporate by this reference, the portions of the September 4, 2023 comment letter on the 2023 draft SEDA PEIR submitted by Jeffrey Reid, on behalf of the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, pages 1 through 3 (Section A),

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[17] SEDA Recirculated Draft PEIR, p. 2-1. The PEIR neither documents nor otherwise refers to "in-migration," anticipated or otherwise.

[18] The West Area Plan was released for public comment on March 12, 2025, and is expected to go to the City Council during the summer. https://www.fresno.gov/planning/plans-projects-under-review/#west-area-neighborhoods-specific-plan.

[19] One of the important reasons the 2014 Plan put SEDA area last in line as a site for new housing was precisely that the area lacks public infrastructure to support extensive residential and commercial development. 2014 General Plan, p. 1-19.

[20] Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element, December 2024, Table 1E-3.23: Housing Capacity by Community Plan/Specific Plan Area, p.1E-3-145.

and pages 10-11 (Section H).

7. The SEDA Specific Plan violates California Planning and Zoning Law CEQA in that it omits components required by statute, and fails to meet standards for public involvement by failing to timely circulate for public comment an infrastructure plan and infrastructure financing plan.

a. Essential components are missing from the SEDA Plan documents.

California Government Code § 65451 mandates that every specific plan include certain "Required contents." Subsection (a) of the statute requires that a specific plan "include a text and a diagram or diagrams which specify all of the following in detail …

> "(2) The proposed distribution, location, and extent and intensity of major components of public and private transportation, sewage, water, drainage, solid waste disposal, energy, and other essential facilities proposed to be located within the area covered by the plan and needed to support the land uses described in the plan.
>
> …
>
> "(4) A program of implementation measures including regulations, programs, public works projects, and financing measures necessary to carry out paragraphs (1), (2), and (3)."

Neither the Specific Plan, nor the Recirculated Draft PEIR released for public comment on February 7, 2025 includes the text or diagrams specifying the "essential facilities proposed" for the Plan as required by § 65451(a)(2), nor the implementation and financing measures required by § 65451(a)(4).

b. The City has failed to release timely for public comment the missing components of the SEDA Plan proposal.

In adopting Title 7, Division 1, Chapter 3 of the Government Code, addressing Local Planning and Zoning, the California Legislature declared its intent "to provide an opportunity for each city and county to coordinate its local budget planning and local planning for federal and state program activities, such as community development, with the local land use planning process…" Cal. Gov't Code § 65300.9.

The SB2 Planning Grants Application included, at Schedule F, a Project Timeline and Budget, which called for release of the Public Review Draft of the Infrastructure Financing Plan and the Nexus Study at least three months in advance of City Council consideration of the Plan and associated documents. Nevertheless, and notwithstanding the explicit strictures of the statute, and promises made throughout the Specific Plan and its PEIR, the City has failed to release either an infrastructure plan disclosing the details required by § 65451(a)(2), or an infrastructure budget, nexus study, and financing plan, as required by § 65451(a)(4).

Especially pertinent to the fiscal wisdom of City investment in SEDA infrastructure: the Consultant Service Agreement required a Qualitative Fiscal Review, but as of this writing, in the last few days of the public comment period for the Recirculated draft PEIR, no such review has been made public. Such a review should clarify "whether or not the existing targeted tax

sharing parameters will remain feasible with the development of the SEDA Specific Plan."[21]

Withholding from the public such critical information is inconsistent with provisions of both the Planning and Zoning Law, and of CEQA. See, e.g., Cal. Gov't Code § 65351,[22] Pub. Res. Code § 21000, et seq. ("If CEQA is scrupulously followed, the public will know the basis on which its responsible officials either approve or reject environmentally significant action, and the public, being duly informed, can respond accordingly to action with which it disagrees. The EIR process protects not only the environment but also informed self-government." *Golden Door Properties, LLC v. Superior Court of San Diego County*, 53 Cal.App.5th 733, 763, 267 Cal.Rptr.3d 32, 55 (2020), as modified on denial of reh'g (Aug. 25, 2020) [citations omitted].)

c. Failure to timely disclose documents related to SEDA infrastructure expenditures defeats CEQA's requirement that all environmental impacts be disclosed, considered, and mitigated where possible.

i. Environmental impacts of construction and operation of infrastructure are neither disclosed nor mitigated.

Constructing utilities and other needed infrastructure for 9,000 acres' worth of residences, schools, businesses, parks, etc., will require grading, excavating, paving, and other soil-disturbing activities that beyond peradventure will generate air pollution and greenhouse gases, among other impacts. Operation of the infrastructure will entail still further impacts. The PEIR simply claims that project-level construction mitigation measures will be adequate to mitigate all impacts. However, given that the PEIR fails to mitigate air quality impacts for non-infrastructure activities, the additional impacts infrastructure construction will have on air quality must be analyzed in terms of the extent to which they will cumulatively contribute to air pollution. Operational impacts must also be evaluated.

ii. The PEIR Project Description fails to include information now known about infrastructure needs, or to calculate the environmental effects of those parts of the project.

The PEIR Project Description represents that at the time of circulation the City had already done infrastructure analyses, referencing a "Public Facilities Financing Plan" (p.2-3), and an Infrastructure Plan with "more closely specified" details about types of infrastructure to be constructed in the Specific Plan area.[23] But the Recirculated PEIR includes none of the descriptive information required by Government Code § 65451(a)(2), nor analysis either of the

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[21] Consultant Service Agreement between City of Fresno (City) and FirstCarbon Solutions (Consultant), Southeast Development Area Specific Plan, executed November 4, 2020, Exhibit A, Attachment A: Scope of Services, Task 1.2.

[22] Addressing public involvement in proceedings related to a general plan, and made applicable to Specific Plan preparation, adoption, and amendment by Government Code § 65453(a).

[23] See, p.2-8, roads; p.2-17, "sustainable infrastructure," not otherwise specified; p.2-18, "holistically coordinated infrastructure," not otherwise specified.

construction or the operational impacts of supplying that infrastructure, violating CEQA's express purpose that agencies "give 'major consideration' to preventing damage to the environment when conducting their regulatory functions. (Pub.Resources Code, § 21000(g).)" See, *Santiago County Water Dist. v. County of Orange*, 118 Cal.App.3d 818, 829-831, 173 Cal.Rptr. 602, 607-609 (1981) [failure to account for impacts related to project water delivery facilities]. See also, *San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center v. County of Stanislaus,* 27 Cal.App.4th 713, 730, 32 Cal.Rptr.2d 704 (1994), as modified (Sept. 12, 1994) [omission of reference to wastewater treatment plant recognized as necessary to the project resulted in an improperly "curtailed" and "distorted" project description.]

iii. The draft PEIR neither discloses nor mitigates environmental impacts of directing billions of dollars into SEDA infrastructure, forcing scarce city resources away from existing neighborhoods.

Although one of the claimed Project Objectives of the SEDA Plan is "fiscal responsibility," including "self-financing for the development and ongoing maintenance of the SEDA that does not reduce City of Fresno resources dedicated to other areas of the City or burden Fresno residents outside of the SEDA,"[24] the Plan provides no evidence of such a "self-financing" approach to infrastructure. On the contrary, the Plan repeatedly promises that when infrastructure capacity falls short, the City will step in and pay.[25] The as-yet-undisclosed documentation of infrastructure needs and funding mechanisms must either substantiate the fiscal responsibility of the Plan, or not. As of this moment, the public has no idea because there is no evidence in the record for the City's claim that development and ongoing maintenance will be "self-financing."

Unless there is proof of the "self-financing" claim, SEDA commits the City to massively expensive infrastructure that is <u>not</u> needed to accommodate Fresno's housing needs, and that directly conflicts with the General Plan by privileging new growth over strengthening established neighborhoods. In addition, it foreseeably, substantially, contributes to physical blight and decay, with resulting economic decline, in all non-SEDA areas of the City.[26]

As in *Bakersfield Citizens for Local Control v. City of Bakersfield*, 124 Cal.App.4th 1184, 1208, 22 Cal.Rptr.3d 203, 222 (2004), the SEDA PEIR has failed to comply with the information disclosure provisions of CEQA because it has omitted any meaningful consideration of the question whether the diversion of funding for infrastructure improvements could trigger a series of events that ultimately cause urban decay. Nor does the PEIR even contain a statement indicating that such a possibility had been considered, or reasons why it had been determined

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[24] SEDA Recirculated Draft EIR, passim, including pp. ES-2, 2-18.

[25] For example, mitigation measures HYD-2b and HYD-2c require the City to "secure additional water supplies by securing additional water sources" where a proposed SEDA development would exceed existing water supply capacity.

[26] See, Fresno Urban Decay Analysis, ECONorthwest, 2023 (copy attached); see also, Patterns of Sprawl in Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley, 2024, p.8 (copy attached).

that urban decay was not a significant effect of the proposed project.

d. CLC and RCI incorporate comments submitted on behalf of County of Fresno

In support of their comment that the draft PEIR fails to include adequate planning details (including regarding public infrastructure) to permit a sufficient degree of analysis and public information regarding the environmental consequences of such a large greenfield development, CLC and RCI hereby join, and incorporate by this reference, the portions of the September 4, 2023 comment letter on the 2023 draft SEDA PEIR, submitted by Jeffrey on behalf of the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, at pages 3 through 5 (Section B), and page 7 (Section D).

e. City must extend the public comment period on the SEDA Plan for 45 days after the infrastructure plan, infrastructure budget, nexus study, and financing plan have been released for review.

Failure to timely release the infrastructure-related studies and analyses for public comment deprives the public of a meaningful opportunity to comment upon substantial adverse environmental impacts of the proposed project or a feasible way to mitigate or avoid such an effect that the project's proponents have declined to implement. CEQA Guidelines, § 15203, requires the lead agency to "provide adequate time for other public agencies and members of the public to review and comment on a draft EIR or negative declaration that it has prepared."

It may be that the disclosure of the infrastructure documents constitutes significant new information within the meaning of Pub. Res. Code § 21092.1 or CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5(a) that requires recirculation of the PEIR. Even if not, the infrastructure information is crucial to evaluation of SEDA's environmental impacts. Therefore, the infrastructure documents are also subject to the 45-day public review period required by CEQA Guidelines, § 15105(a).

8. The SEDA Recirculated draft PEIR's Existing Conditions description is fatally inaccurate.

In its Introduction chapter, the SEDA draft PEIR includes a current city population figure, but no population projections. (p. 2-3 – 2.21) Projected population growth data appears, instead, in an "Existing Conditions" segment of the Population and Housing chapter. There, the PEIR describes historical population increases in the City and the County, using 2022 Census Bureau Quick Facts figures. (SEDA PEIR, pp. 3.14-1 – 2, fn. 1, 2.) It relies on California Department of Finance for Fresno's average household size. (*Id.*, p.3.14-2, fn. 3.)

However, on the crucial question of projected population growth, the Recirculated PEIR continues to rely on Fresno Council of Governments' (FCOG) 2021 Fresno County growth projections to 2050, apparently last accessed May 20, 2022. (p.3.14-2, fn. 5.) The City's use of the FCOG figures in 2022 may have been the best information available at the time; there is no way to know, as the PEIR does not explain its choice of data sources.

But the PEIR has now been recirculated twice since the July 2023 release of the first version of the draft, once in October of 2023, and again in February of 2025 (current version). Well prior to the October 3, 2023 partial recirculation of the draft PEIR, the City was aware that the SEDA

EIR's population assumptions were materially inaccurate.[27] As of August 2023, the California Department of Finance (DOF) had issued updated data very different from that cited in the July 2023 draft EIR.[28] However, the October 2023 Partial Recirculated draft PEIR did not incorporate any corrections to its population projections.

In August of 2024, the Fifth District's *South Fresno Community Alliance* decision invalidated the City's General Plan update and Greenhouse Gas plan, requiring the current recirculation of the SEDA PEIR. By September of 2024, DOF had again updated its data to incorporate a finer-grained analysis, and as of October of 2024, FCOG had corrected its own data based on the new information issued by the state.

In December of 2024, the City paid First Carbon Solutions an additional $153,636 to author a second Recirculated draft PEIR; at that point, the accurate DOF and FCOG population data were readily available. In fact, when one now follows the link provided in the Recirculated PEIR at footnote 5 on page 3.14-2, one finds FCOG's October 2024 updated data, which show a Fresno population in 2025 of 595,370 (not the PEIR's 621,540[29]). FCOG's updated data report a 2050 Fresno City population of 646,260 (not the PEIR's 728,200). The accurate, FCOG, data show a Fresno City increase of 50,890 people between 2025 and 2050, not the almost 107,000 predicted in the PEIR. The accurate, FCOG, data yield only an additional 16,963 households by 2050, well under half of the 35,553 households the PEIR's figures would project.[30]

These errors in growth projections are fundamental: According to SEDA, its plans for 45,000 new housing units would comprise planned growth of only 31% percent of the total planned capacity for the City.[31] However, using accurate, FCOG, growth figures, it is clear that SEDA development would amount to almost *three times* (265%) the actual housing needs for all of Fresno City by 2050. Such a glut of new homes on the market, and the public investment necessary to launch it, would shatter the General Plan's goals for infill development and revitalization of Fresno City existing neighborhoods.

In its Reasons for Recirculation, the SEDA document describes *South Fresno Community Alliance*'s invalidation of prior planning documents as constituting "substantial changes to the environmental setting," and therefore "significant new information" requiring recirculation (p. ES-9); but the PEIR does not include corrected data nor otherwise respond to commenters'

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[27] CLC and RCI hereby incorporate by this reference the comment letter submitted by Keith Bergthold, dated August 28, 2023, and those portions of the August 28, 2023, comment letter submitted by Patience Milrod on behalf of CLC, IAF, and RCI, at pages 3 through 5. (copies attached)

[28] Please see Keith Bergthold August 28, 2023, comment letter.

[29] SEDA PEIR, at p. 3.14-2.

[30] At 3 persons per household, the SEDA PEIR Fresno City population growth figures would yield 35,553 new households.

[31] PEIR, p. 3.14-13 – Section 3.14.4 - Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures.

critique of population projections.[32] Nor does the Recirculated draft PEIR explain why it relies on outdated and inaccurate data, except to say (using circular reasoning) that "This approach is consistent with requirements to maintain consistency with the General Plan." (p. 3.14-2.) This statement can only be read as an acknowledgement that the draft PEIR incorporates erroneous data into its environmental impact analyses—not only affecting calculations of housing demand, but also other impacts such as water quality, air quality, transportation, greenhouse gases, and infrastructure design, sequencing, and cost.

A knowing use of false data is antithetical to CEQA's purpose of accurately informing decision makers and the public, especially when the plan in question creates such extensive unmitigated impacts on the environment as this one.

9. The SEDA draft PEIR fails to address Fresno's documented housing needs, proposing instead a more than doubling of the oversupply of single-family detached units.

The Plan itself does not commit to any particular number of homes at any particular price point; nor does it require as a mitigation measure that developers build so as to ensure any proportion of affordable-to-market-rate homes. But based on the SEDA proposed zoning map[33], and on the City's application for the SEDA planning grant[34], the SEDA Plan anticipates at most 9,000 potentially affordable multifamily units[35] and 35,200 single-family units.

As it happens, the City's own One Fresno Housing Strategy acknowledges that the City's pressing needs are not for the single-family market-rate housing SEDA will supply, but for housing affordable to low-income residents: "Historic poor land use planning, inequitable fair housing practices and the basic imbalance of supply and demand have all led Fresno to its current state of needing approximately 15,000 new and converted affordable housing units between now and 2025 to meet our residents' needs." One Fresno Housing Strategy, April 2022, Mayor's Message, p. 2.

The One Fresno Housing Strategy makes clear that "Fresno needs 21,001 units for households who can afford no more than $500 on monthly housing costs," and "the City of Fresno has a glut of 28,310 single-family detached units over and above what Fresno households need based on household size." *Id*. at p. 38. These are not housing needs that SEDA's 35,200 additional

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[32] In the 2025 West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan draft EIR, the City acknowledged the new population reality of 0.2% growth, a small fraction of the growth assumed in the SEDA PEIR. See, Recirculated Draft EIR – West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan, p. 3.12-1, Table 3.12.1—Environmental Setting—Demographics—Population Trends.

[33] Southeast Development Area Specific Plan, Map 2.5—SEDA Proposed Land Use, p. 22.

[34] Fresno City SB 2 Planning Grants Application, Section E, Project Description, p. 6.

[35] Based on HCD's zoning standard of at least 16 units per acre (see, HCD By-Right Program Minimum Densities Table). However, density standards are only a rough proxy for affordability; at this point—since the PEIR includes no enforceable mitigation measures imposed as conditions of entitlement—it is possible that not a single unit to be built in SEDA will be affordable to low-income families.

single-family market rate homes will meet.

The City's own quantified assessment of Fresno's housing needs[36] over most of the next decade shows more than adequate inventory for that new housing; not a single parcel from SEDA is needed to meet those goals.[37]

The SEDA Specific Plan's claim that "the acceleration of the current housing crisis has created a 'substantial shortage' of homes and therefore prioritized completion of the SEDA Plan"[38] is demonstrably untrue. This claim cannot therefore be the basis for legitimate, evidence-based findings of overriding consideration.

10. The SEDA draft PEIR fails to analyze or to mitigate foreseeable and avoidable impacts on farmland.

CLC and RCI hereby join, and incorporate by this reference, the portions of the September 4, 2023, comment letter on the 2023 draft SEDA PEIR, submitted by Jeffrey Reid on behalf of the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, found at pages 7 through 10 (Sections E, F, and G).

CLC and RCI hereby join, and incorporate by this reference, the portion of the March 24, 2025, comment letter submitted by Douglas Carstens and Michelle Black on behalf of the Sierra Club, Central Valley Partnership, and League of Women Voters entitled "Agricultural Resources and Forestry Resources Impacts are Not Sufficiently Mitigated."

11. Traffic impacts

a. The Recirculated SEDA draft PEIR materially underestimates VMT by significantly overestimating trip capture within SEDA.

i. At the time of recirculation, the City was aware of the PEIR's failure to accurately estimate VMT.

In support of their comment that the draft PEIR fails to accurately estimate VMT, CLC and RCI hereby incorporate by this reference the following comment letters submitted on the 2023 draft

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[36] See, FRESNO MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HOUSING ELEMENT, July 2023: Figure 1E-2.2 Sites Inventory, Fresno 2023, p. 1E-2-33; and Table 1E-1.1, Summary of Quantified Objectives, 2023-2031, p. 1E-1-35.

[37] The SEDA PEIR admits as much at p. 2-1: "While there is still ample residential capacity within the current city limits and in Growth Area I (which includes the Southwest Fresno and the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan areas), there is a sense of urgency about the current housing crisis and the City's ability to provide housing for the existing population and its natural growth as well as the unanticipated in-migration occurring at this time." The PEIR includes no evidence justifying this supposed "urgency," and California Department of Finance population growth figures flatly contradict it. Moreover, they do not reflect any "unanticipated in-migration occurring at this time," and the EIR offers no evidence in support of this apparently fictitious phenomenon.

[38] Draft SEDA Specific Plan, p. 9.

SEDA PEIR:

- California Department of Transportation, David Padilla, submitted August 25, 2023.
- California Department of Transportation, David Padilla, submitted November 17, 2023.
- Victoria Transport Policy Institute, Todd Litman, submitted August 21, 2023.
- Sunnyside Property Owners Association, Sue Williams, submitted August 25, 2023.
- County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, Jeffrey Reid, submitted November 7, 2023.
- CLC, IAF, and RCI, Patience Milrod, submitted August 28, 2023.
- CLC, IAF, and RCI, Patience Milrod, submitted November 6, 2023.

ii. VMT figures must be recalculated.

Notwithstanding multiple comments submitted after the release of each of the two 2023 PEIR drafts, the Recirculated draft PEIR has failed to correct the counterfactual assumptions it makes about internal trip capture within SEDA, fails to provide VMT per service population data for years prior to 2035, and continues simply to assert that VMT per service population will drop from 45.72 to 5.07 without addressing or explaining omission of interim-years data. Moreover, it incorrectly identifies a 2035 buildout horizon—though such a timeline conflicts with the General Plan estimate of only new 14,900 units in SEDA by that date, is not physically feasible, and inaccurately reflects the Specific Plan's buildout timeframe.[39]

Professionally adequate analysis would recognize that realistically only second-generation SEDA residents will be able to work, go to school, shop, and recreate within SEDA's boundaries to the extent claimed, since commercial and employment centers will lag a decade or two behind housing development and occupancy. This serious analytic error in turn generates drastically underestimated traffic impacts, which in turn results in material undercounting of air quality impacts, which in turn would invalidate any human health impact analysis based on these data, if such an analysis had been done.

As Victoria Transport Policy Institute points out, "the Plan's current analysis significantly underestimates vehicle traffic congestion, crash, emission and resulting air quality impacts. Until more accurate travel modeling can be completed, and air quality impacts adjusted, this PEIR fails to predict the project's significant social and environmental impacts and so fails to provide the information that policy makers, practitioners and the general public need to make informed decisions." (August 25, 2023 comment letter, p.2.)

CalTrans' letter notes that SEDA will create a VMT impact because it cannot accurately claim trip capture for decades after the project begins to be built out, as residential uses (which produce trips) are followed, "slowly over time," by commercial uses (trip attractors). CalTrans

[39] See, e.g., Recirculated SEDA draft PEIR at p. ES-1, anticipating "approximately 45,000 homes and 37,000 jobs within the nearly 9,000-acre planning area by the year 2050."

quantifies the net VMT increase from No Project Conditions as 162% and contradicts the PEIR's claimed VMT per service population claim.

CEQA Guidelines, § 15064.3(b)(4) allows a lead agency to choose a methodology by which to evaluate vehicle miles traveled but requires that "[a]ny assumptions used to estimate vehicle miles traveled and any revisions to model outputs should be documented and explained in the environmental document prepared for the project." The PEIR's choice of a 2035 horizon is unreasonable. In addition, the PEIR does not inform the reader how it calculates VMT either for the years between the project's initiation and its 2035 horizon, nor provide any data out through the (more realistic) 2050 actual buildout period. The PEIR's analysis is subject to Guidelines § 15151's standard of adequacy: "An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in the light of what is reasonably feasible." The missing calculations are reasonably feasible but have not been incorporated into the PEIR and their omission is unexplained.

b. Traffic mitigation measures must be updated based on corrected data and analysis.

The 2025 PEIR does acknowledge, as the 2023 draft did not, that the Specific Plan "could conflict" with a program or policy related to transportation. (p. 3.17-31.) It claims the Specific Plan "is a comprehensive planning document" that "addresses wide-ranging infrastructure and community challenges" related to future growth. But, while noting that "[p]lanning at this scale allows design and phasing of infrastructure improvements that are more efficient, environmentally sensitive, and cost-effective," the Plan in fact incorporates no such design or phasing information.

Notwithstanding the almost one million daily trips the project will generate,[40] and commenters' requests for quantifiable and enforceable mitigation measures, the Recirculated draft PEIR identifies exactly the same mitigation measures as the original draft PEIR. There is no evidence of effort to plan comprehensively, or at scale, to design and phase infrastructure so as to mitigate environmental impacts from VMTs. Instead, all mitigation measures defer mitigation to the implementing project level, except possibly MM TRANS-1d (bus service). The cumulative impacts analysis is likewise deferred to project-level approvals. (SEDA draft PEIR, pp.3.17-44 – 45.)

In its Executive Summary Matrix, the draft PEIR claims that the SEDA Specific Plan "would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines, § 15064.3(b)" (Table ES-1, p.ES-51), and lists that Guideline's criteria for assessing significance of transportation impacts at p.3.17-34. However, the PEIR fails to provide sufficient accurate information to establish whether, or how, the rebuttable presumption of no significant transportation impacts would legitimately apply to the SEDA Specific Plan: The Plan imposes no enforceable mitigation measures as conditions of project-level approvals to ensure siting within 0.5 miles of transit; and, the claim that SEDA planning would reduce VMT below existing conditions is unsustainable on the evidence in the

[40] Plan Area VMT with the project build out in 2035 is expected to be 974,369. SEDA Recirculated draft PEIR, p.3.17-32

draft PEIR.

What the draft PEIR does not give us is a reasoned explanation of why it has not adopted, at the Plan level, the many recommended mitigation measures that could make accurate the Plan's claim to comprehensive planning. These include the mitigation measures suggested in CalTrans' August 2023 letter, the Emission Reduction Clean Air Measures recommended by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (copy attached), and the City's own 2020 VMT threshold guidelines document, which points out that "regional VMT mitigation is considered the most effective method for large-scale VMT reduction," and provides multiple mitigation options for community and general plans.[41] As required by Section 15126.4 of the State CEQA Guidelines, "Where several measures are available to mitigate an impact, *each should be discussed* and the basis for selecting a particular measure should be identified. *Formulation of mitigation measures shall not be deferred until some future time*." [emphasis added]. This draft PEIR fails to fulfill this function.

12. The SEDA Recirculated draft PEIR fails to adequately analyze or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from the SEDA project

CLC and RCI hereby join, and incorporate by this reference the portions of the March 24, 2025 comment letter submitted by Douglas Carstens and Michelle Black on behalf of the Sierra Club, Central Valley Partnership, and League of Women Voters that relate to the PEIR's assessment, analysis, disclosure, and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions due to SEDA projects' construction and operation activities.

13. The SEDA Recirculated draft PEIR fails to adequately identify, quantify, or mitigate air quality impacts.

a. The draft PEIR must include ozone calculations.

The draft PEIR's Air Pollution Description and Health Effects discussion lists criterion pollutants, generally describes their adverse effects on human health, and identifies the regulatory programs intended to curb air pollution, including the ozone reduction/prevention plans for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin nonattainment area. However, there is no discussion of the human health impacts of the additional pollution load this project contributes to Fresno's already-dirty air.

The PEIR does not calculate the anticipated parts per million (ppm) of ozone resulting from SEDA construction and operations; although NOx and ROG are estimated, the reader has no idea how much ozone will be produced (i.e., whether the amount of ozone resulting from the ROG and NOx pollution will bring the ozone ppm within the 0.10 to 0.40 range). Given that the measures for both the precursor pollutants exceed their respective thresholds of significance,

[41] CEQA Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled Thresholds (Fresno CEQA VMT Guide), adopted June 25, 2020, City of Fresno, p.40; for mitigation measures, see, Appendix C, Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Measures for Community Plans and General Plans.

this omission renders the draft PEIR's air quality analysis inadequate. *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018) 6 Cal.5th 502, 520.

The ozone discussion must, of course do more than calculate the NO_x + ROG figure but must also factor in the rising temperatures being experienced and expected to increase over the project implementation period. See SJVAPCD Redesignation Request, Appendix B: Analysis of Meteorology Affecting Ozone Levels, p. B-8:

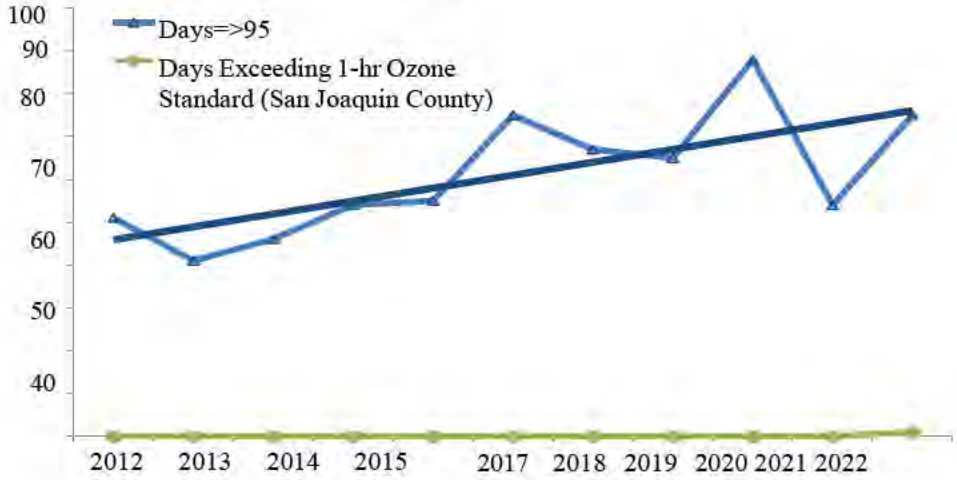


Figure B-7 Number of Days per Year with High Temperatures ≥ 95°F at Stockton Airport (May-October) and Days Exceeding the 1-hour Ozone NAAQS (2012-2022)

As importantly, ozone calculations must be based on an accurate VMT figure derived from realistic, evidence-based VMT projections that correct for the excessively optimistic internal trip capture assumptions of this Draft PEIR.

b. The draft PEIR must include a human health impact analysis

The PEIR fails to include an analysis that correlates the project's emissions of air pollutants to its impacts on human health, rendering the draft PEIR's air quality analysis inadequate. *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018) 6 Cal.5th 502, at pp. 517-520.

Because ozone is not confined to the site where it is generated, piecemealing human health impact analyses on a development-by-development basis, as the draft PEIR proposes, both grossly understates the health impacts, and makes their mitigation effectively impossible.

Moreover, the draft PEIR deliberately misleads the public and decision makers about the seriousness of the air quality impacts SEDA will create, by discussing ROG separately from NOx, and asserting that "direct exposure to ROG would not … result in health effects." See, p. 3.3-58. There is no mention of the toxic cocktail that ROG creates when it combines with NO_x in the heat of a Central Valley summer afternoon. But ozone's effects on humans, especially children, are not trivial:

SJVAPCD describes ozone impacts in its Community Emission Reduction Program

approved for SEDA-adjacent South Central Fresno[42]: "Breathing ozone can trigger a variety of health problems, including chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and congestion. It can reduce lung function and inflame the linings of the lungs. Repeated exposure may permanently scar lung tissue. Children are at a greater risk of experiencing negative health impacts because their lungs are still developing and they are more likely to be active outdoors when ozone levels are high, thus increasing their exposure. Studies have linked rising hospital admissions and emergency room visits to higher ozone levels." Appendix G: Health Impacts of Air Pollution, p. G-17.

Fresno State University's Central Valley Health Policy Institute studied emergency room and hospital admissions in Fresno, Bakersfield, and Modesto on a daily basis for selected conditions, such as asthma and acute myocardial infarction (MI), that had been previously linked to air pollution in other studies. They determined that ozone was strongly linked to increased risk for asthma ER visits in children during the hottest summer months. Moreover, asthma ER admissions are also strongly linked to increasing $PM_{2.5}$ across the Valley, with a higher risk in children. Further, risk for asthma hospitalizations increased dramatically with $PM_{2.5}$ in children and adults across the region. A moderate increase in risk of acute MI (heart attack) was also linked to $PM_{2.5}$ levels regionally, as were pneumonia ER visits in children and acute bronchitis ER visits in adults.[43]

Dr. Emanuel Alcalá advised in his September 6, 2023, comment letter (copy attached and incorporated by this reference) that "incremental increases in ozone levels alone—independent of the other pollutants the project will create—will have the following human health impacts: decreased lung function, decreased lung function growth in children, increased asthma-related emergency visits and hospital admissions, and mortality among older adults."

The PEIR is inadequate because, as in *Bakersfield Citizens*, "After reading the EIR[], the public would have no idea of the health consequences that result when more pollutants are added to a nonattainment basin." (*Bakersfield Citizens, supra,* at p. 1220.) The PEIR does not explain why it includes no quantified health impact projections "to inform the public how its bare numbers translate to create potential adverse impacts," nor to "explain what the agency *does* know and why, given existing scientific constraints, it cannot translate potential health impacts further." (*Friant Ranch, supra*, 6 Cal.5th at p. 521 [emphasis in original].) The PEIR offers no "explanation why it was not feasible to provide an analysis that connected the air quality effects to human health consequences." *Id.*, 6 Cal.5th at p. 522.

In fact, such analysis is feasible, and should have been conducted here. In 2020, after the *Friant Ranch* decision, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District adopted

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[42] http://community.valleyair.org/selected-communities/south-central-fresno, incorporated by this reference.

[43] Capitman & Tyner, The Impacts of Short-Term Changes in Air Quality on Emergency Room and Hospital Use in California's San Joaquin Valley, California State University, Fresno, June 2011.

Guidance to Address the Friant Ranch Ruling for CEQA Projects in the Sacramento Metro Air District (copy attached), which sets out procedures for conducting a health effects analysis that would meet the Supreme Court's standard for disclosure of adverse health effects resulting from a CEQA project. The procedures rely on the Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program (BenMAP), a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) tool that estimates health impacts from ozone and $PM_{2.5}$. At Section 6 and Appendix A. the Guidance provides technical procedures and details; at Appendix G it correlates emissions levels and pollutants with "health endpoints"[44] by geographic region and age range for strategic area projects.

As Dr. Alcalá pointed out to the City in September of 2023, "the tools with which to conduct [a human health effects analysis] are readily available. For example, the Environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program – Community Edition (BenMAP-CE) – not only estimates health impacts but also estimates economic values associated with health morbidity events." BenMAP, or some similar program, should and could have been used here to provide the information the public and decisionmakers need—including an assessment of ozone impacts on human health.

c. The PEIR is inconsistent with air quality attainment status, and conflicts with and obstructs implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

While the draft PEIR acknowledges as "a significant and unavoidable impact" that implementation of SEDA will conflict with and obstruct applicable air quality plans, it does not specify which plans, nor does it quantify the degree to which SEDA will obstruct their implementation. (See, p.3.3-42 – 43.)

A review however of the draft PEIR's Appendix B can garner some idea of how SEDA air quality impacts will harm efforts to ensure healthy air in the Fresno Region. One example is comparing the PEIR's air quality impacts analysis with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's "Proposed 2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard" (SJVAPCD Redesignation Request) adopted by the Air District Board on June 15, 2023.[45] The purpose of that document is to persuade the federal Environmental Protection Agency to terminate anti-backsliding provisions for the revoked 1-hour ozone standard, including Section 185 nonattainment fees. Toward that end, the document includes both proofs of compliance and a maintenance plan. It clearly does not factor in the ozone contributions SEDA would make to the Valley's pollution load.

Specifically, SJVAPCD's Redesignation Request, Appendix A: Emissions Inventory (pp. A-1 through A-4), projects annual anticipated pollution levels for NO_x through 2036. A layperson—including a member of the public, the Planning Commission, or the City Council—gets a

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[44] These include: hospital admissions, all respiratory; mortality, non-accidental; emergency room visits, asthma; hospital admissions, asthma; mortality, all cause; hospital admissions, all cardiovascular (less myocardial infarctions); acute myocardial infarction, nonfatal.

[45] See, SJVAPCD 2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard —see https://ww2.valleyair.org/rules-and-planning/air-quality-plans/ozone-plans/.

graphic idea of SEDA's impact just by comparing the Air District's *all-Valley* numbers in identified years to the numbers *this project alone* will generate.

NO_x —summer average in tons/day[46]

Year	Entire San Joaquin Valley, per SJVAPCD	SEDA, per PEIR	SEDA % increase over total SJV
2026	119.50	180.529	151.07%
2031	97.49	170.8218	175.22%
2036	84.13	168.2333	199.97%

This chart illustrates SEDA's huge and negative effect on Valley air quality: by 2036, SEDA alone is projected to produce double the amount of NO_x being produced *across the entire rest of the San Joaquin Valley*. The document provides changes in VOC over time and does not sum up ROG separately; it will therefore be important for an adequate SEDA ozone analysis to determine, and to include as a point of comparison, how SEDA ROG emissions will compare to regionwide ROG production during the identified years, in order to report accurately the extent to which SEDA will impede achievement of regionwide air quality improvement goals.

The PEIR must acknowledge these data, explain them in the context of the SEDA proposal, and provide fact-based analysis of the proposal's air quality impacts that take these data into account. The draft PEIR's passing confession that "Emissions of VOC and NO_X that exceed the Valley Air District regional threshold would cumulatively contribute to the ozone nonattainment designation of the SJVAB" (p. 3.3-56) is inadequate. Exceedances at this scale require some effort beyond falling back on General Plan mitigation measures that never anticipated impacts of this magnitude.

d. Plan level and project level mitigation measures are inadequate, amounting to piecemealing of SEDA's regional air quality impacts.

The draft PEIR fails to propose plan-level mitigation measures that will have <u>any</u> mitigating effect on air quality impacts, although many tools and other resources are available for this purpose. The PEIR takes the position that plan-scale mitigations are infeasible, but this is inaccurate: the City's own 2020 VMT threshold guidelines document provides multiple mitigation options for community and general plans.[47] It is objectively unreasonable, and an invitation to piecemealing that will defeat the whole purpose of a mitigation program, to

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[46] See, SJVAPCD *Adopted 2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard*, Appendix A: Emissions Inventory, p. A-4. Copy attached; available at https://www.valleyair.org/Workshops/postings/2023/06-15-23/maintenance-plan.pdf; last accessed March 24, 2025.

[47] See, e.g., Fresno CEQA VMT Guide, and SJVAPCD Emission Reduction Clean Air Measures—among many others.

suggest that it is impossible to impose plan-scale mitigation measures as enforceable conditions of development in SEDA.

The draft PEIR falsely claims that it has adequately canvassed and incorporated available air quality mitigation measures, but that "due to the magnitude of emissions generated by the residential, office, and commercial land uses proposed as part of the proposed project, no mitigation measures are available that would reduce cumulative impacts below the Valley Air District's thresholds." That the PEIR cannot find measures to reduce (for example) 2026 NO_x emissions from 180 tons per year to 10 does not mean there are *no* possible mitigations that would reduce NO_x emissions to (for example) 50: "Mitigation measures need not include precise quantitative performance standards, but they must be at least partially effective, even if they cannot mitigate significant impacts to less than significant levels." *Laurel Heights Improvement Assn. v. Regents of University of California* (1988) 47 Cal.3d 376, 404; §§ 21051, 21100; Guidelines, § 15370. It is not an option in 2025 to effectively abandon the effort, when air pollution from this project would so massively exceed the entire total NO_x output for the rest of the San Joaquin Valley, creating avoidable illness and death, and dooming City efforts to reduce climate change impacts.

Such specific mitigation measures as the plan does include are to be implemented at the project level; only AIR-1a imposes use of low-VOC paints ("super-compliant architectural coatings") as a condition of approval. The others (AIR-1b through AIR-4) do not impose mitigation obligations unless preconditions are met. For AIR-1b and -1c (respectively, construction- and operation-related air impacts), there is no need for air quality mitigation measures unless the *project* impacts exceed the Air District threshold of significance. By definition, project-level emissions will have (relative to the SEDA Plan as a whole) minimal potential impact on the environment.

For AIR-1d, mitigation for emission of Toxic Air Contaminants (TAC) or Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) pollutants is only required at the project level, and only if *both* of two conditions are met: 1) if such emissions will occur within 1000 feet of a sensitive receptor; *and* 2) if a Health Risk Assessment shows incremental health risks for those sensitive receptors exceed Air District levels. Thus, a development project within SEDA could freely emit unmitigated TAC and/or DPM so long as it is not sited near a sensitive receptor. This is a perverse outcome, defeating the purpose of SEDA, increasing in an unmeasured and unmitigated manner the toxic contaminants to which the general public will be exposed, and putting even non-sensitive receptors at unnecessary risk.[48]

Not surprisingly, though the PEIR acknowledges significant cumulative air quality impacts, the

[48] It is also contrary to best practices, according to the Air District. SJVAPCD comments on a Fresno community plan did *not* recommend limiting mitigation to uses near sensitive receptors, but rather prescribed one of two types of health impact analysis for *every* development project within the plan area. See, comments on Recirculated Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for Revisions to the Fresno South Central Specific Plan, May 14, 2021, p. 6, available at https://community.valleyair.org/media/1ywkdo1a/district-comments-20210313-nop-fresno-south-central-specific-plan-5-14-21.pdf

project-by-project approach to the issue would allow many projects to avoid air quality mitigation entirely, thus precluding effective mitigation of cumulative impacts. Thus, the Specific Plan's cumulative air quality impacts remain, according to the PEIR, "significant and unavoidable."

Piecemealing a project such as SEDA to avoid imposing mitigation is no more defensible than piecemealing to avoid environmental review. As the Fifth District pointed out in *Los Angeles Dep't of Water & Power v. Cnty. of Inyo*, 67 Cal. App. 5th 1018, 1035, 283 Cal.Rptr. 3d 119, 130 (2021), "CEQA contemplates consideration of environmental consequences at the earliest possible stage, even though more detailed environmental review may be necessary later. [Citation.] Consistent with this view, CEQA's requirements cannot be avoided by chopping a large project with significant adverse consequences into many little ones—each with a minimal potential impact on the environment. [Citation.] Piecemeal review is contrary to CEQA's requirements." The PEIR fails to demonstrate an honest effort to accurately calculate and to reduce VMTs, or an honest effort to apply any of the many available technologies, mechanisms, and strategies to mitigate air quality impacts. It fails as the informational document CEQA requires.

Moreover, the draft PEIR does not sufficiently account for its lack of specificity by assurances that a "Health Risk Assessment" (HRA) will be prepared later in the CEQA process, in connection with development-specific EIRs. (See, e.g., MM AIR-3.1, -3.2.) *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno*, supra, 6 Cal.5th at p. 521. For one thing, an HRA is required by the California Health & Safety Code, § 44306, only to evaluate and predict the dispersion of hazardous substances. Secondly, a project-specific HRA is inadequate for assessing plan-scale impacts or for devising plan-scale mitigation measures—the very purpose of a Program Environmental Impact Report, but not remotely achieved by the SEDA draft PEIR.

The draft PEIR also fails to propose mitigation measures that will significantly reduce transportation impacts, including dangerous levels of air pollution. Although the project triples vehicle miles traveled to almost 1 million per day, mitigation measures are absent or illusory. For the first two decades of the project's operation, its transportation and consequent air quality impacts are huge, both as a result of the concept itself—a new city of 145,000 planted in rural Fresno, 10 miles from the city's urban center—and of an apparent determination to impose no mitigation that might inconvenience or cost SEDA developers and builders.

14. The PEIR is inconsistent with the Housing Element of the City's General Plan.

The draft PEIR undermines the Housing Element's corrective approach to decades of poor planning. Fresno's 6th cycle draft Housing Element acknowledges that "growth in the City of Fresno over the past few decades has traditionally been low density suburban development, which has resulted in conditions of sprawl in various areas of the city." Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element July 2023, Appendix 1E: City of Fresno, p.1E-4-1.

The Housing Element therefore proposes to fill a perennial critical gap in the City's capacity to provide and upgrade housing in legacy neighborhoods: "As part of the implementation of the

Housing Element, programs are identified to upgrade the city's infrastructure as needed in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods with the greatest needs. *Priority for infrastructure projects will be given to serving established neighborhoods*, including generally south of Herndon Avenue as shown in Figure 1E-3.41: Priority Areas for Development Incentives, along BRT and enhanced transit corridors, and in the Downtown Planning Area, consistent with General Plan policies." Housing Element, p.1E-3-119 [emphasis added].

A City decision to invest billions of dollars in SEDA infrastructure is inconsistent with the Housing Element's commitment to correct the City's history of neglecting older neighborhoods. In the zero-sum game of municipal finance, and especially in the absence of a SEDA infrastructure financing plan, there is no way to ensure adequate resources to fund "Priority Investments in Established Neighborhoods" as already identified in the General Plan.[49]

Again, consistently with the General Plan, the 6th Cycle Housing Element inventory does not identify parcels in SEDA as necessary to meet Regional Housing Needs between now and 2031. See, Figure 1E-2.7 at p. *1E-2-67*. Instead, the Housing Element identifies SEDA as Development Area 3, as does the General Plan—the last in priority for development on the fringe areas. See, Housing Element, Figure 1E-3.42, which shows Growth Area 2 to include SEDA, labeled "DA-3" for Development Area 3. "Growth Area 2 has significantly less access to completed infrastructure. Any development in these areas would require all infrastructure costs to be borne by the new development." 1E-3-121.

15. The SEDA draft PEIR fails to adequately analyze or mitigate project water impacts.

a. Water impacts are badly underestimated.

It appears the City has not factored drought conditions or climate change projections into its water supply sustainability calculations. Figure ES-2, Projected Water Supplies[50], shows an increase of almost 21,000 AFY in available groundwater between 2025 and 2045, plus another 6,500 AFY increase in surface water over the same period.

However, the draft PEIR recognizes that across California, climate change will effect a "reduction in the quality and supply of water from the Sierra snowpack,"[51] a source on which the City of Fresno is heavily reliant for both surface water and groundwater recharge. The Draft PEIR reports that by 2050, such impacts in the Fresno area will reduce the average water supply from snowpack to two-thirds historical levels, and "If emissions reductions do not occur, water from snowpack could fall to less than one-third of historical levels by 2100."[52]

Not only are these concerns not discussed in the Plan or the draft PEIR, but they are explicitly

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[49] See summary in December 2024 draft Housing Element, p. 1E-3-119.

[50] Draft PEIR, Appx. F, p. ES-7.

[51] Draft PEIR, p. 3.8-9 (warmer temperatures could reduce the Sierra Nevada spring snowpack "by as much as 70 to 90 percent.")

[52] *Id.*, p. 3.8-10.

minimized in the discussion of hydrology and water quality. There, the PEIR proposes a cheerful water outlook, repeating in multiple places the phrases "during normal water years" and "assuming groundwater characteristics are not altered due to climatic events or regulatory influences from SGMA."[53] These are objectively unreasonable assumptions, but there is no discussion of a fallback position in the (likely) event the PEIR's sunny projections are inaccurate.

b. Mitigations for hydrology impacts are inadequate; City taxpayers will bear the cost.

Not only are the projections unreasonably optimistic, but this is yet another place where the City's failure to do the program-level work of infrastructure planning, accurate environmental assessment, and imposition of mandatory, system-wide, coordinated mitigation measures predictably exacerbates environmental impacts.

Mitigation measures HYD-2b and HYD-2c require the City to refuse to approve proposed SEDA developments that would exceed "existing water supply capacity," and to "secure additional water supplies by securing additional water sources" prior to any such development approvals. This post-facto proposed mitigation—the costs of which are scheduled to be borne by City taxpayers and not by SEDA's developers or ultimate residents—is far inferior to plan-level mitigations prescribed in a Program EIR.

To achieve plan-level efficiencies and effectiveness, the City must disclose, and the draft PEIR must discuss, the "EIR-related water infrastructure planning tasks."[54] An intention to develop this vital information after SEDA approvals would violate CEQA.

c. CLC and RCI incorporate comments submitted on behalf of County of Fresno.

In support of their comment that mitigations of water supply impacts are inadequate, CLC and RCI hereby join, and incorporate by this reference, the portions of the September 4, 2023, comment letter (copy attached) submitted by Jeffrey Reid on behalf of the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, pages 11 through 12 (Section I).

16. The PEIR piecemeals assessments of environmental impacts, and mitigations.

The City's 2020 application to HCD for the SEDA planning grant committed to project streamlining as one of the SEDA plan's deliverables by incorporating "environmental analyses that eliminate the need for project-specific review."[55] This would have been a good idea, in light of the City's claim that it needs SEDA in order to expedite thousands of urgently needed new homes.

If the City *had* conducted the environmental analyses it promised to do, it would also have been able to keep another of the promises it made to HCD: a Program EIR under which "future development will also utilize an expanded exemption under Government Code Section 65457

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[53] *Id.*, p. 3.10-8.

[54] SEDA Specific Plan, pp. 100-109, *passim*.

[55] Fresno City SB 2 Planning Grants Application, Section D, Proposed Activities Checklist, item 3, p. 5.

that will apply to certain residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects that are consistent with a specific plan adopted pursuant to Government Code, Article 8, Chapter 3 and would be exempt from CEQA."[56]

The Plan pays lip service to streamlining, promising "Fiscal Responsibility" by "holistically coordinat[ing] infrastructure to integrate efficiencies that piecemeal planning cannot," and otherwise coordinating systems and networks for efficiency and economy.[57]

But the Plan and the draft PEIR fail to provide either plan-scale impact analysis or plan-scale mitigation measures; the draft PEIR itself repeatedly prescribes both environmental assessment and imposition of mitigation measures only during the City's approval process for subsequent discretionary projects within the SEDA footprint—for air quality impacts (see section 13.d, *supra*), transportation impacts, water supply impacts, etc. That is, if SEDA is approved as proposed, the City will need to subject every new project to environmental review in order to determine if its impacts are potentially significant, and what mitigation measures should be imposed—exactly the process streamlining is intended to avoid.

Statements by City officials have made this intention clear, most explicitly from City spokesman Brandon Johansen, whose email to a reporter admitted "As individual projects are filed within the Southeast Development Area, they will be evaluated under CEQA to determine project impacts and mitigation measures."[58] Such an approach makes streamlining impossible (unless the idea is to use the PEIR to evade environmental review and mitigation for follow-on projects, which has been known to happen in Fresno). Absent streamlining, the City cannot accomplish its claimed goal of expediting housing production.

As importantly, this approach renders impossible "holistic coordination of infrastructure to integrate efficiencies that piecemeal planning cannot," much less creating systems and networks for efficiency and economy.

Finally, a project-by-project evaluation of air quality, water supply, and transportation impacts makes effective mitigation of SEDA's large-scale environmental degradations illusory at best. A 9,000-acre project area, planted at such a remove from the city's center, requires creative and transformative approaches to the environmental consequences of its placement and its population. Piecemealing precludes effective mitigation.

17. The SEDA draft PEIR's alternatives analysis fails to satisfy CEQA requirements.

CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.6, provides guidance for conducting an adequate alternatives analysis. A reasonable alternative to a project may involve implementing it at a different

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[56] SB 2 Planning Grants Application, Section E, Project Description.

[57] Draft PEIR at pp. ES-2, 2-18, and 5-11.

[58] Greg Weaver, *Another Clovis, but in southeast Fresno? City moves forward on mega-development plans, Fresnoland*, August 25, 2023; https://fresnoland.org/2023/08/25/city-of-fresno-eyes-seda/; accessed August 27, 2023.

location, as long as it "would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project." § 15126.6(a). Subdivision (c) of the Guideline can make consideration of a different location mandatory: "The range of potential alternatives to the proposed project *shall* include those that could *feasibly accomplish most of the basic objectives* of the project and could *avoid or substantially lessen one or more of the significant effects*." [Emphasis added.]

Except for developers with inventory in the SEDA area, it should be a matter of indifference where exactly the City lawfully exercises its planning and zoning powers to incentivize adequate production of needed housing. Although "the housing crisis" is the putative justification for this Specific Plan at this time (see, fn. 37, *supra*), the Plan does not propose solutions to the housing crisis Fresno actually has: too few homes affordable to those at low and very low incomes, and an oversupply of detached single-family homes for above-moderate income buyers.[59] Section 9, *supra*. While the SEDA Plan pays lip service to providing housing at all income levels, without question a plan serious about ensuring production of even some low-income housing must actively require and incentivize it, not just hope it appears if the plan is adopted; this plan makes no such provisions. Moreover, population growth has dropped significantly (see, section 8, *supra*); logically, housing demand is also dropping[60] and will likely continue to drop.

This is the *accurate* description of the Environmental Setting/Existing Conditions within which SEDA is being proposed. Whether SEDA is wise public policy is not a CEQA question. But CEQA does require that decisionmakers seriously consider the tradeoffs even when acting foolishly, and that the public be fully aware of the costs of the choices their electeds are making for them.

Here, the Objectives of the Plan are set forth at pp. 5-11 – 5-12 of the EIR, a dreamy litany of smart-growth measures that conserve resources and foster community. Sadly, when subjected to comparative scrutiny, not one of these objectives can be better accomplished in a sprawl-inducing greenfields project like SEDA than in an already-urban part of the city. It certainly appears to the lay observer that the Plan's resource-oriented objectives (coordinated infrastructure, resource-conserving techniques for public facilities, efficient use of energy, water and other resources, and reduction of energy and water consumption) are more likely in a location where infrastructure has already been built, and which can be improved or converted

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[59] The office of Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer issued in April of 2022 a report entitled *One Fresno Housing Strategy*, which concluded that, *as of that date*, "Fresno needs 21,001 units for households who can afford no more than $500 on monthly housing costs," and "the City of Fresno has a glut of 28,310 single-family detached units over and above what Fresno households need based on household size." *Id*. at p. 38.

[60] Since the City has not responded to the Public Records Act request for the housing market study it apparently commissioned in connection with SEDA, these commenters are reduced to trawling the internet for pertinent data. According to one internet site, as of the end of February 2025, home sales had dropped 8.4% year over year, and were on average on the market 8 more days than for the same period last year. See, https://www.redfin.com/city/6904/CA/Fresno/housing-market, last accessed March 24, 2025.

to new uses depending on the project's needs. The SEDA alternative, to the contrary, will require billions of dollars in new infrastructure—the very opposite of resource conservation, and incompatible with the Plan's "fiscal responsibility" objective.

Other objectives, such as fostering healthy activity by providing walking and bicycling routes to activity centers, convenient transit service, walkable neighborhoods, mixed use town centers, and innovative employment areas, are geography-neutral: there is no need to create a new town on greenfields to provide these amenities for Fresno residents. In fact, the Housing Element commits the City "to upgrade the city's infrastructure as needed in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods with the greatest needs. *Priority for infrastructure projects will be given to serving established neighborhoods*." December 2024 draft Housing Element, p. 1E-3-119 [emphasis added].

The housing-related objectives are, likewise, geography-neutral—theoretically provision of housing affordable to all income levels and a wide variety of housing choices could be accomplished anywhere. However, unless the still-missing infrastructure financing plan calls for the City itself to fully absorb the expense, the massive cost of providing infrastructure to SEDA will make these objectives much harder to accomplish than they already are: these expenditures will inflate costs-per-square-foot; recouping those costs from SEDA homebuyers, renters, and business owners will create at least some drag on marketability, or will reduce the developers' return on investment. The possibility that lower-income housing could emerge from such a scenario is wildly unrealistic.

Finally, even if the SEDA Plan could create the perfect new town at the southeast corner of Fresno's sphere of influence, it would do so at a huge environmental cost to the region as a whole—including but not limited to the air quality, traffic, and water quality/access concerns itemized here and in other comment letters. It is unlikely that the SEDA Plan would be the environmentally superior alternative when compared to housing provision in existing urban areas of the city.

a. The City must consider an Infill/No-Project Alternative.

The City already has in hand a recent inventory of a sufficient number of suitable parcels to meet Fresno's housing needs in its December 2024 Housing Element draft. Facilitating housing development using the Housing Element as a blueprint is likely to yield all of the benefits and significantly reduced environmental impacts from construction and especially from operation.

An Infill Alternative is far likelier to meet many of the Plan's objectives, including creating housing affordable to the Fresnans who really need it. Recent state statutes privileging infill and low-income housing development, combined with a baseline of existing infrastructure, also create a pathway to expedited housing development—which is what you need in a crisis.

The SEDA draft PEIR must include an evaluation of this alternative, which *could feasibly accomplish most of the basic objectives of the project* and *could avoid or substantially lessen one or more of the significant effects* (§ 15126.6(a) [emphasis added]), to allow decision makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed project with the impacts of not approving the proposed

project. CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.6(e)(1).

b. The City must consider a West Area Neighborhood /No-Project Alternative.

On March 12, 2025, the City finally released a Recirculated Specific Plan draft EIR for the West Area Neighborhoods. Again, this Plan provides for over 50,000 new homes, in an area already at least partially built out, with at least a baseline of existing infrastructure, and where at least some development would qualify under state procedures for expediting affordable housing.

Again, the West Area Neighborhoods Alternative is far likelier than the SEDA Plan itself to meet all of its objectives, with significantly reduced environmental impacts from both construction and operation. Environmentally, this is a second-best alternative to the Infill Alternative, since the West Area is a new growth area and will be developed less-densely than housing under an Infill concept.

The SEDA draft PEIR must include an evaluation of this alternative, which *could feasibly accomplish most of the basic objectives of the project* and *could avoid or substantially lessen one or more of the significant effects* (§ 15126.6(a) [emphasis added]), to allow decision makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed project with the impacts of not approving the proposed project. CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.6(e)(1).

18. On this record, a statement of overriding considerations to approve the PEIR would be an abuse of discretion.

On the basis of the current record, it will be impossible for the City Council to make evidence-based findings that "specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the project outweigh the significant effects on the environment" (Public Resources Code, § 21081 (b)), or that the "unmitigated effects are outweighed by the project's benefits." (Laurel Heights, supra, 47 Cal.3d at p. 391.)

Conclusion

There is no emergency requiring immediate approval of this development plan. The City's own draft Housing Element establishes that there is more than adequate site inventory within the existing City to accommodate anticipated housing demand for at least eight years. More importantly, adoption of this plan at this time will utterly defeat its claimed principal purpose, to facilitate streamlined housing production by anticipating and mitigating at a program scale the environmental impacts of such development.

The City must correct erroneous population projections and otherwise gather corrected data, use the correct tools to assess impacts, identify effective and enforceable plan-scale mitigations, and fully disclose those facts and analyses. Given the size and scale of the SEDA proposal, and the need to bring the General Plan into conformity with statutory and judicial mandates, it may make most sense to roll its environmental assessment into a General Plan update.

Please include my clients (see cc's, below) and me on the notification list for next steps in this process. Thanking you for your attention to these matters, I remain,

Very truly yours,

PATIENCE MILROD
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GUIDANCE TO ADDRESS THE FRIANT RANCH RULING FOR CEQA PROJECTS IN THE SAC METRO AIR DISTRICT

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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RAMBOLL

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Appendix B: Screening Level Heath Effects Analysis

Appendix C: Strategic Area Project Health Effects Analysis

Appendix D: Characterization of SO_2 And CO Emissions

Appendix E: Sample SCC Codes Typically Used in CEQA Projects

Appendix F: BenMAP Health Effects Results for 41 Hypothetical Minor Projects

Appendix G: BenMAP Health Effects Results for Six Strategic Area Projects

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAQS:	Ambient Air Quality Standards
APCA:	Anthropogenic Precursor Culpability Assessment
AQMDs:	Air Quality Management Districts
AQTSD:	Air Quality Technical Support Document
ARB:	California Air Resources Board
BAAQMD:	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BenMAP:	Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program
CAMx:	Comprehensive Air Quality Model with Extensions
CCOS:	Central California Ozone Study
CEQA:	California Environmental Quality Act
CMAQ:	Community Multiscale Air Quality
CO:	Carbon Monoxide
C-R:	Concentration-Response
CSAPR:	Cross-State Air Pollution Rule
DDM:	Decoupled Direct Method
DPM:	Diesel Particulate Matter
EC:	Elemental Carbon
EIR:	Environmental Impact Report
EMFAC:	Emissions Factor (ARB's on-road mobile source emissions model)
EPA:	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FF10:	Flat File 2010
FPRM:	Fine Particulate Matter
GHGs:	Greenhouse Gases
GIS:	Geographical Information System
HDDM:	Higher Order Decoupled Direct Method
ISAM:	Integrated Source Apportionment Method
ISORROPIA:	Aerosol Thermodynamic Module
MERPs:	Modeled Emission Rate Precursors
MRGUAM:	Gridded merge program
NAAQS:	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NH_4:	Ammonium

NH_4NO_3:	Ammonium Nitrate
NO_2:	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_3:	Nitrate
NO_X:	Oxides of Nitrogen
O_3:	Ozone
OA:	Organic Aerosol
OC:	Organic Carbon
OSAT:	Ozone Source Apportionment Technology
PGM:	Photochemical Grid Model
PM:	Particulate Matter
$PM_{2.5}$:	Particulate Matter 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter
PM_{10}:	Particulate Matter 10 micrometers or less in diameter
POA:	Primary Organic Aerosol
Project:	CEQA project
PSAT:	Particulate Source Apportionment Technology
QA:	Quality Assurance
QC:	Quality Control
ROG:	Reactive Organic Gases
Sac Metro Air District:	Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
SCC:	Source Classification Code
SFNA:	Sacramento Federal Ozone Nonattainment Area
SIPs:	State Implementation Plans
SMOKE:	Sparse Matrix Operator Kerner Emissions
SOx:	Oxides of Sulfur
SO_2:	Sulfur Dioxide
SO_4:	Sulfate
TOS:	Thresholds of Significance
USEPA:	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VOCs:	Volatile Organic Compounds

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1. INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a state statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. A public agency must comply with CEQA when it undertakes an activity defined by CEQA as a "project." A project is an activity carried out by a public agency or a private activity that must receive some discretionary approval (meaning that the agency has the authority to deny the requested permit or approval) from a government agency, and that may cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment. Air quality impacts of a proposed project are one of the environmental factors that are required to be evaluated under CEQA, and require mitigation unless the impacts can be shown to be insignificant. Air quality impacts typically include increases in criteria pollutants [e.g., ozone (O_3), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$)], greenhouse gases (GHGs), air toxics (e.g., diesel particulate matter, DPM), and the resultant health effects of increases in air pollutants.

The California Supreme Court, in the case of *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018) 6 Cal. 5th 502, determined that the air quality analysis in the environmental impact report (EIR) prepared under CEQA for the Friant Ranch Project was inadequate because it did not make "a reasonable effort to substantively connect the project's air quality impacts to likely health consequences." The Court determined that "the EIR should be revised to relate the expected adverse air quality impacts to likely health consequences or explain in meaningful detail why it is not feasible at the time of drafting to provide such an analysis."

Lead agencies and practitioners preparing documents to comply with CEQA have requested guidance from the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District) on implementing the Friant Ranch decision in the review and analysis of proposed projects in Sacramento County. On April 25, 2019, the Sac Metro Air District published an Interim Recommendation for addressing the Friant Ranch decision. The Interim Recommendation stated that agencies should follow the Court's advice to explain in meaningful detail why an analysis of likely health consequences resulting from a development project is not yet feasible. This explanation should describe the background underlying air regulations, the regional nature of the regulatory approach, and why the approach is not amenable to project-level assessments.

The Interim Recommendation stated that an expanded discussion of health impacts resulting from specific air pollutants may also be warranted for projects with emissions exceeding the Sac Metro Air District's thresholds of significance. The Interim Recommendation was put in place to assist lead agencies and practitioners with CEQA document preparation until the Sac Metro Air District developed a methodology that would provide a consistent, reliable and meaningful analysis to address the Court's direction on correlating health impacts to a project's emissions.

2. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The Sac Metro Air District is one of 35 air districts in California responsible for local air quality planning, monitoring, and stationary source permitting. Sac Metro Air District covers Sacramento County, including the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Elk Grove, Galt, and Isleton.

Under the CEQA review process, Sac Metro Air District may serve as the lead agency, a responsible agency with limited discretionary authority, or a reviewing agency providing comment on the air quality impacts of a proposed project or plan. CEQA requires that lead agencies identify significant environmental impacts and to avoid or mitigate those impacts if feasible. Lead agencies in the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA) often look to the Sac Metro Air District for guidance on CEQA-related topics. In addition, the Sac Metro Air District partners on regional issues with nearby air districts including the following:

- Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District;
- Placer County Air Pollution Control District;
- El Dorado County Air Quality Management District; and
- Feather River Air Quality Management District.

Sac Metro Air District staff has developed this guidance with input from the other SFNA air districts since they share air quality issues and use the same growth assumptions, mobile source emissions, and modeling efforts to support ozone and PM attainment plans. The geographic area covered by the Sac Metro Air District and the four other neighboring Air Districts listed above is referred to as the Five-Air-District Region.

This guidance is intended for use in the Sac Metro Air District, however it contains information that can be used by the partner agencies to set guidance.

This guidance document:

1. Replaces the Interim Recommendation.
2. Provides insight on the health effects that may result from a project emitting at the maximum thresholds of significance (TOS) levels in the Five-Air-District Region for oxides of nitrogen (NO_X), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and PM, in addition to levels of CO and oxides of sulfur (SO_X) calculated proportional to NO_X (as described in **Section 4.1**). This information can be used in environmental documents to provide a conservative estimate of the health effects of criteria pollutant emissions at the significance thresholds or below.
3. Provides look-up tables for estimating health effects for strategic areas where growth exceeding thresholds of significance is anticipated.
4. Provides modeling guidance for CEQA projects that have emissions in excess of the significance thresholds and are located outside the strategic areas modeled.
5. Provides information on disclosing health effects in an overall health context in a CEQA document.

3. ORGANIZATION OF GUIDANCE

This guidance document provides an overview of the Friant Ranch screening analyses, methods and results. **Section 4** describes the screening analysis approach and methods for projects with emissions at or below the thresholds of significance. **Section 5** describes the screening methods for projects located in strategic areas with emissions above the thresholds of significance. **Section 6** provides a general description of the recommended analysis methods for projects above the thresholds of significance suitable for planners and the public should the screening methods in **Section 4** and **Section 5** not be applicable. **Section 7** provides information on incorporating health effects information into a CEQA document and discussing overall health context. **Appendix A** provides, for practitioners skilled in the art of photochemical grid modeling and health effects analyses, recommended procedures for conducting a health effects analysis that would be expected for larger projects and for projects that do not fit the requirements described for using the screening analyses. The procedures used in conducting the health effects screening analysis for small projects are discussed in **Appendix B**. **Appendix C** discusses the screening analysis for strategic area projects. The treatment of SO_2 and CO emissions that do not have significant emissions levels in the screening analysis and procedures for speciating ROG and PM emissions is discussed in **Appendix D**. **Appendix E** provides a list of commonly used Source Classification Codes (SCC) for source types from typical CEQA projects. **Appendices F and G** provide health effects output for the minor project and strategic area project screening modeling.

4. GUIDANCE FOR SCREENING HEALTH EFFECTS ANALYSIS

4.1 Thresholds of Significance

The Sac Metro Air District and neighboring air districts have established thresholds of significance (TOS) for certain criteria air pollutants and their precursors. If a proposed project has an emissions rate for a pollutant that exceeds one of the TOS, then the project would be considered to have a significant air quality impact and the proponent must evaluate and implement mitigation where feasible. **Table 1** displays the TOS for the Sac Metro Air District and neighboring air districts.

Table 1. Operational thresholds of significance for the Sac Metro Air District and neighboring air districts

Pollutants in lbs./day				
Air District	**NO_X**	**ROG**	**PM_{10}**	**$PM_{2.5}$**
Sacramento	65	65	80	**82**
Placer	55	55	**82**	Not established
El Dorado	**82**	**82**	Cause or contribute to an exceedance of Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS)	Cause or contribute to an exceedance of AAQS
Feather River	25	25	80	Not established
Yolo Solano	55[a]	55[a]	80	Not established

[a] 55 lbs./day is equivalent to the 10 tons/year adopted threshold.
Red indicates the highest emission rate among the five districts

Ramboll conducted a screening analysis to estimate the level of health effects for a proposed CEQA project that has emissions at the maximum TOS levels. In addition to the pollutants with thresholds, project emissions also included SO_2 and CO. SO_2 is a precursor to secondary $PM_{2.5}$ and CO plays a small role in the formation of ozone.

Lead agencies and CEQA practitioners can use this screening analysis to provide a conservative estimate of health effects for projects with emissions at the TOS or below.

4.2 Overview of Health Effects Analysis

This section presents a general overview of the procedures for conducting a health effects analysis of a project that satisfies the requirements of the Friant Ranch court decision to disclose adverse health effects resulting from a CEQA project. The first step in the process is to run a photochemical grid model (PGM) to assess the increases in ambient air concentrations of pollutants that the project emissions may cause. PGMs require a database of information, including meteorology and the spatial and temporal allocation of emissions in the area to be modeled. This includes both existing emissions and the emissions of the particular project being evaluated. The next step is to put the increases in concentrations from the PGM that result from the project's emissions into the Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program (BenMAP), a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) tool that estimates

health impacts from ozone and $PM_{2.5}$. More discussion of the procedures to conduct a health effects analysis are provided in **Section 6** of this guidance, with technical details provided in **Appendix A**.

4.3 Screening Analysis for Projects at or Below Thresholds Levels

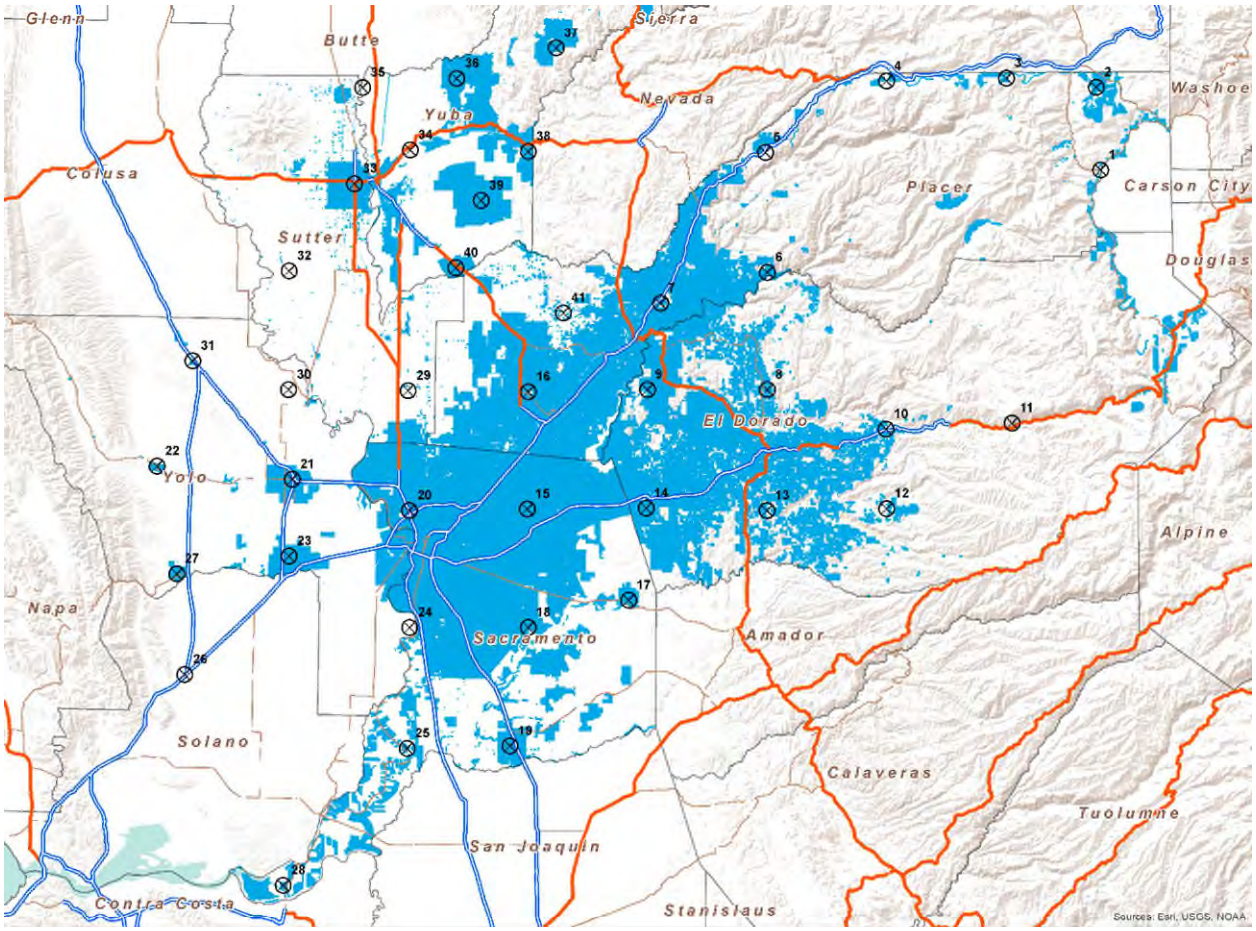
A health effects screening analysis was conducted for hypothetical sources within the Sac Metro Air District and neighboring air districts (i.e., the Five-Air-District Region) using emission rates at the thresholds of significance (noted in **Table 1**). The hypothetical source locations were intended to be proxy locations for where real projects may be located.

4.3.1 Definition of Hypothetical Project Sources for Screening Analysis

Each hypothetical source was assumed to have an emission rate for each pollutant at the threshold of significance, indicated by the red numbers in **Table 1**. This resulted in an emission rate of 82 lbs./day for NO_X, ROG, $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}. The hypothetical sources also included emission rates of CO and SO_2 that were based on an analysis of the ratios of the emission rates of SO_2 to NO_X and CO to NO_X for six recent CEQA projects in Sacramento County. This analysis is described in **Appendix D**.

Figure 1 shows the geographic areas in which the Sac Metro Air District expects CEQA projects to be located in Sacramento and neighboring counties (shaded blue), along with the locations of the 41 hypothetical projects. These expected growth areas are consistent with the Sacramento Area Council of Government's 2050 Blueprint growth map. The 41 hypothetical projects were distributed across the potential growth areas to capture the differences in the dispersion regimes of the mountain/valley flow systems, photochemical regimes, areas which include high and low emissions levels, urban and rural atmospheres, and population densities of the urban versus remote areas.

Figure 1. Potential CEQA project locations (blue shading) in the five-air-district region along with locations of the 41 hypothetical project locations used in the screening modeling.



4.3.2 Screening Analysis Health Effects Modeling

For the screening analysis, the Comprehensive Air Quality Model with Extensions (CAMx) PGM was used with a 2012 annual 4-km grid resolution meteorological and emissions database for a domain covering Sacramento and nearby counties. The 2035 future year anthropogenic (i.e., human-made) emissions were used as the baseline. The ozone and PM impacts were estimated from each of the 41 hypothetical sources whose emissions were set at the 82 lbs./day TOS level for ROG, $PM_{2.5}$ and NO_X and corresponding levels of CO and SO_2. Health effects were estimated for each of the 41 hypothetical sources using a simulator of USEPA's BenMAP health effects model with the concentration-response (C-R) functions, 2035 population, and procedures described in **Appendix A** (see **Tables A-1** and **A-2**). This guidance recommends assessing mortality (all causes), hospital admissions (respiratory, asthma, cardiovascular), emergency room visits (asthma), and acute myocardial infarction (non-fatal) health effects for $PM_{2.5,}$ and assessing mortality, emergency room visits (respiratory) and hospital admissions (respiratory) health effects for ozone, consistent with

the USEPA's approach when establishing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)[1].

As an example, **Table 2** displays the health effects for PM and ozone increases resulting from hypothetical source location number 20 (see **Figure 1** for location map). The analysis estimates that a project at hypothetical source location number 20, emitting 82 lbs./day of NO_X, ROG and PM and corresponding levels of CO and SO_2, would have 2.3 premature deaths (mortality, all causes) per year across the modeling domain (see Appendix A, Table A-1 and Appendix B, Figure B-2 for the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain specifications and map) and 2.1 premature deaths per year within the Five-Air-District Region due to its increases in PM concentrations. To put this health effect into context, **Table 2** also includes the increase over the background health incidence rate of each health effect endpoint within the Five-Air-District Region. For hypothetical source location number 20, the 2.1 premature deaths per year within the Five-Air-District Region due to the project's PM impacts would result in a very small (0.005%) increase over the background incidence of premature deaths due to PM concentrations within the Five-Air-District Region, which is 44,766 deaths per year.

The PM and ozone health effects due to emissions from each of the 41 hypothetical source locations are provided in **Appendix F**.

[1] https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pm/data/PM_RA_FINAL_June_2010.pdf.

Table 2. Health effects for hypothetical project number 20 produced by EPA's BenMAP program (see Appendix F for health effects of all 41 hypothetical projects).

BenMAP					
Run with PopGrid populations - Source 20					
$PM_{2.5}$ Health Endpoint	Age Range*	Incidences Across the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)	Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)	Percent of Background Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region**	Total Number of Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region (per year)**
		(Mean)	(Mean)		
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.45	1.36	0.0074	18419
Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.29	2.06	0.0046	44766
Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	0.097	0.092	0.0050	1846
Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	0.19	0.17	0.00071	24037
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.34	0.30	0.0015	19644
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	0.00013	0.00012	0.0032	4
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	0.012	0.012	0.0038	308
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	0.025	0.024	0.0032	741
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	0.040	0.038	0.0031	1239
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	0.12	0.11	0.0022	5052

Ozone Health Endpoint	Age Range*	Incidences Across the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain Resulting from Project Emissions (per year) (Mean)	Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year) (Mean)	Percent of Background Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region**	Total Number of Health Incidences Across the 5-Air- District Region (per year)**
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.085	0.065	0.00033	19644
Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	0.053	0.043	0.00014	30386
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	0.46	0.39	0.0066	5859
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	0.72	0.61	0.0049	12560

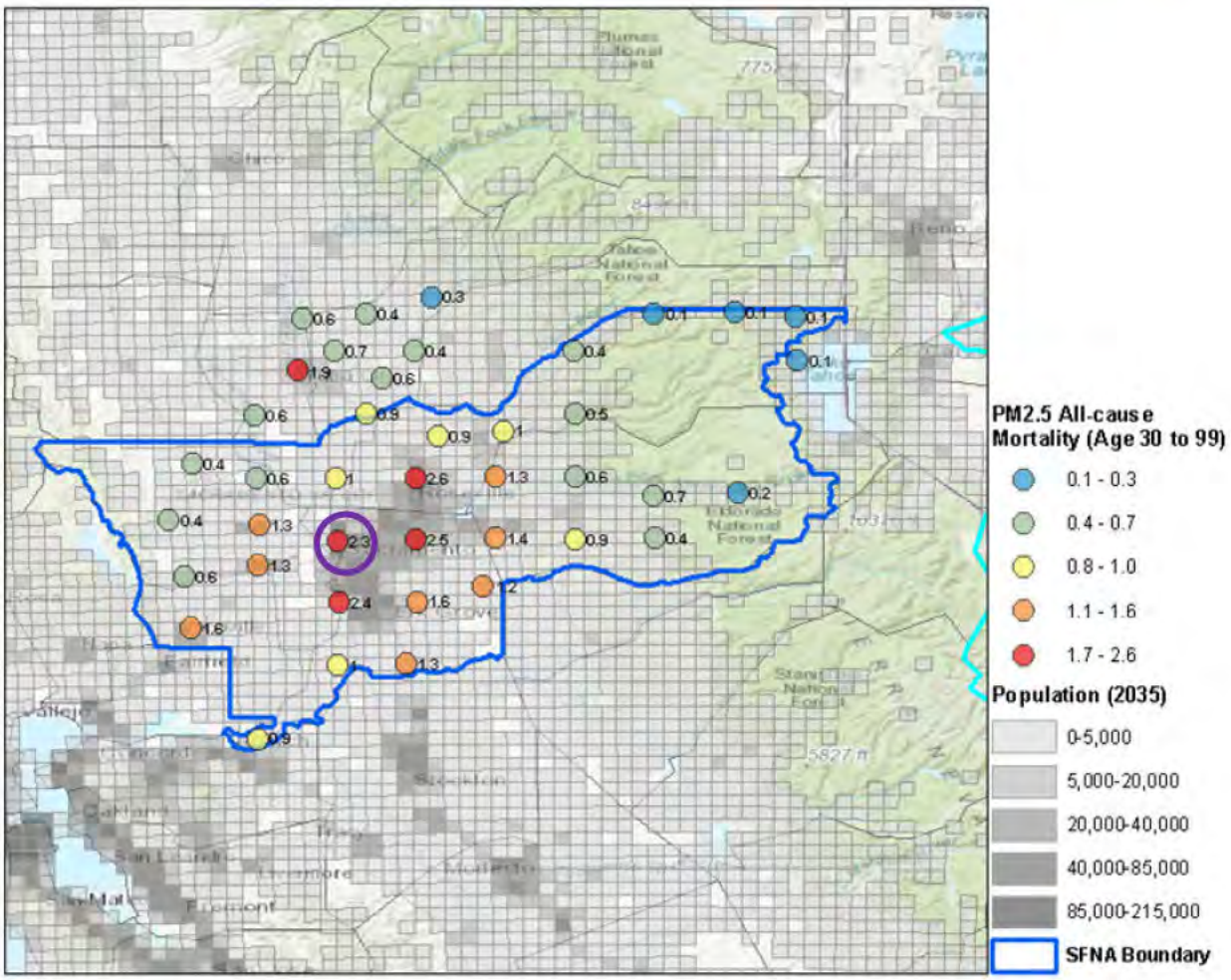
* Other age ranges are available, but the studies shown here are the ones used by the EPA in its health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with each epidemiological study that is the basis of the health function.

** The percent of background health incidence uses the mean incidence. The background health incidence is an estimate of the average number of people that are affected by the health endpoint in a given population over a given period of time. In this case, these background incidence rates cover the Five-Air-District Region. Health incidence rates and other health data are typically collected by the government as well as by the World Health Organization. The background incidence rates used here are obtained from BenMAP.

Figure 2 is a map that displays the estimated number of premature deaths across the modeling domain that may result from increases in PM concentrations from the NO_X, $PM_{2.5}$ and SO_2 emissions at each of the 41 hypothetical project locations. The estimated PM premature deaths range from 0.1 to 2.6. Also shown in **Figure 2** are the gridded population amounts in 2035 used in the health effect estimates. Premature death and other health effects are greatest for those sources located near high population areas. For example, there are three hypothetical sources in Sacramento County that have estimated PM premature deaths greater than 2, whereas all of the other hypothetical source estimated PM premature deaths are less than 2. The three Sacramento County hypothetical sources include source number 20 in the northwestern portion of Sacramento County (near Interstate 5 and Interstate 80), used for the example results shown in **Table 2**.

For a project with emissions below the thresholds of significance, the health effects will be lower than presented here.

Figure 2. Premature deaths resulting from PM at 41 hypothetical project locations on a population base map with SFNA boundary outline. Location of hypothetical source number 20, whose results were presented in Table 2, is shown by the purple circle.



4.3.3 Minor Project Health Effects Screening Tool

The health effects of the 41 hypothetical sources were interpolated to the 4-km modeling domain and imported into an interactive spreadsheet into which the user can input the project location and obtain the estimated health effects information for a source with TOS emission rates at that location. Projects with emissions lower than the TOS would have lower estimated health effects.

The Minor Project Health Effects Screening Tool is available on the Sac Metro Air District's CEQA Guidance & Tools website.

5. TREATMENT OF PROJECTS THAT EXCEED THRESHOLDS IN STRATEGIC AREAS

To estimate the health effects of potential projects with emissions greater than the thresholds of significance emission rates and located in strategic areas, additional health effects screening modeling was conducted, and the results were used to develop a Strategic Area Health Effects Screening Tool. This screening analysis is discussed briefly below, with details provided in **Appendix C**.

5.1 Strategic Area Project Screening Modeling

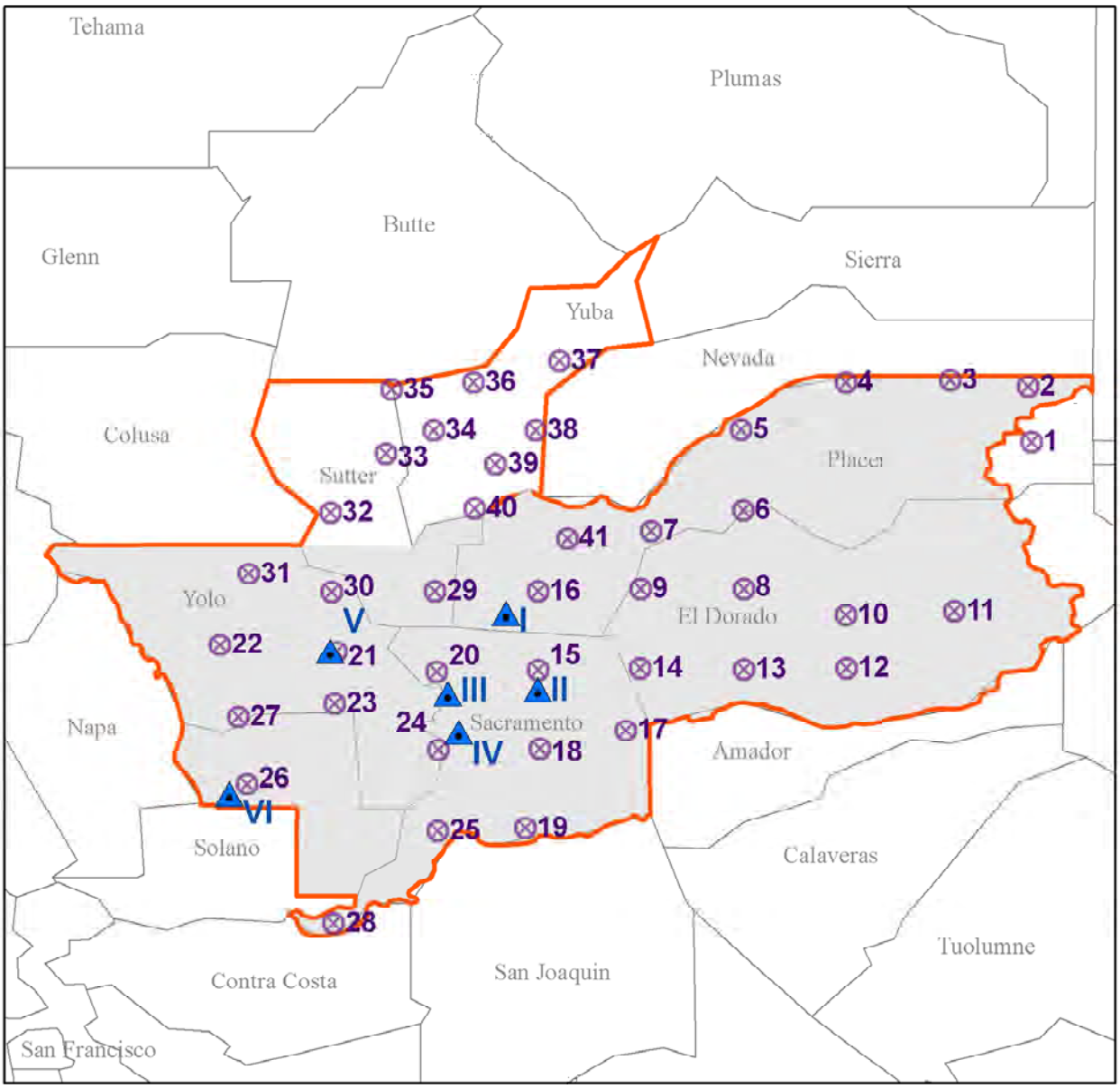
The Sac Metro Air District provided six potential strategic area project locations for use in the health effects screening modeling. These six locations are intended to be used as proxy locations for nearby projects exceeding the thresholds of significance. The six locations are listed in **Table 3** and shown in **Figure 3**.

Table 3. Coordinates for 6 hypothetical strategic area projects.

ID	Name	Latitude	Longitude	Location
I	West Roseville	38.765833	-121.359299	Fiddyment Road & Pleasant Grove Boulevard
II	Rancho Cordova	38.588080	-121.286765	Zinfandel Drive & White Rock Road
III	Downtown Sacramento	38.579336	-121.494119	10th Street & K Street
IV	South Sacramento	38.490489	-121.468468	Florin Road & Franklin Boulevard
V	Woodland	38.677388	-121.765759	Main Street & East Street
VI	Vacaville	38.347954	-121.998058	Merchant Street & Lincoln Highway

IMPORTANT NOTE: Prior to using the Strategic Area Project Health Screening Tool, project proponents should confirm with Sac Metro Air District staff that one of the strategic area project locations is appropriate for use as a proxy. If a project is located outside of Sacramento County, the project proponent should check with the applicable air district.

Figure 3. Locations of six strategic area Projects I-VI used in the screening modeling, along with the 41 hypothetical projects used in the minor project analysis with boundary of the Five-Air-District Region (red) and the SFNA shaded grey.



The screening modeling addressed hypothetical sources at each of the six strategic area project locations at emission levels that were two times (2x) and 8 times (8x) the maximum threshold of significance level (see **Table 1**). The strategic area projects also included CO and SO_2 emissions and speciated ROG and PM emissions using the same approach as used in the 41 hypothetical minor project analysis (see **Appendix D**). The strategic area project screening modeling emissions rates used are shown in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Levels of emissions proposed for evaluating strategic area projects that are 2 and 8 times the maximum threshold of significance

Pollutant	Emissions (lbs./day)	
	2xTOS	8xTOS
NO_X	164	656
$PM_{2.5}$	164	656
ROG	164	656
SO_2	1.96	7.84
CO	524	2096

Two annual CAMx ozone and PM source apportionment model simulations were conducted for the 2012 calendar year; 2035 future year anthropogenic (i.e., human-made) emissions were used as the baseline emissions. The following future-year anthropogenic emissions were used: (1) six projects at 2xTOS emissions; and (2) six projects at 8xTOS emissions. Emissions from each of the six projects were tagged for treatment by the CAMx ozone and PM source apportionment tool. The incremental ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ contributions of each of the six projects at the two levels of emissions were used with the BenMAP tool to estimate health effects, with results shown in **Appendix G**. BenMAP was run to obtain ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ health effects from each of the precursor emissions (i.e., NO_X, ROG and PM) separately, which allows the user to obtain only the health results associated with the pollutant with emissions above the threshold.

5.2 Strategic Area Project Health Effects Screening Tool

The strategic area project screening modeling health effects were used to develop a Strategic Area Projects Health Effects Screening Tool spreadsheet that can be used to estimate health effects for potential projects with emissions below the 8xTOS level. The Strategic Area Project Health Effects Screening Tool has two interactive components that need to be specified by the user:

1. Project Location: The user selects one of the six strategic area project locations (see **Table 3** and **Figure 3**) from a dropdown menu so that the spreadsheet uses the strategic area project health effects screening modeling results for that location.
2. Project Emissions: The user inputs the NO_X, ROG and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions in pounds/day for the potential project. The tool linearly interpolates the ozone and PM health effects for the selected project location from the 2xTOS and 8xTOS CAMx/BenMAP modeling.

If the user inputs any one of the NO_X, ROG or PM emissions below the 2xTOS emissions rate, then the health effects for the 2xTOS emissions level for that precursor is used to provide a conservative estimate of health effects. If the user inputs one or more emission rates above the 8xTOS level, the tool outputs an error message that one or more of the emission rates provided is too high to use the tool.

The Strategic Area Project Health Effects Screening Tool can be obtained on the Sac Metro Air District's CEQA Guidance & Tools website.

5.3 Recommendations for Using the Strategic Area Projects Health Effects Screening Tool

The Strategic Area Health Effects Screening Tool can provide an estimate of the health effects for a CEQA project within the Sac Metro Air District and the 5-Air-District Region with 656 lbs/day or less of NOx, ROG and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions. If the proposed CEQA project is within close proximity (e.g., within one 4-km grid cell) of one of the six strategic area source locations, a project proponent can discuss using the health effects from the Tool at that strategic area location with concurrence from the Sac Metro Air District, or applicable air district if the project is located outside of Sacramento County. If the project is located within the Sac Metro Air District, but is not in close proximity to one of the six strategic area source locations, then the project proponent may use the health effects results from the South Sacramento strategic area location as that will provide a conservative (i.e., upper bound) estimate of the potential health effects of the project, since the South Sacramento strategic area is located in the highest population area in the 5-Air-District Region. If a project is located outside of Sacramento County, the project proponent should confirm this approach with the applicable air district. Alternatively, the project proponent can conduct explicit photochemical grid and health effects modeling following the procedures in section 6 and Appendix A of this guidance.

6. ANALYSIS OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

For a practitioner skilled in the art of photochemical grid modeling and health effects analysis, **Appendix A** provides detailed guidance on how to conduct a health effects analysis for an individual project in Sacramento County, and potentially in the Five-Air-District Region, with input from the applicable air district**.** This section provides a layperson's description of this approach. While the approach outlined in this section can be used for any project, this guidance document allows a screening approach for projects within Sacramento County and the Five-Air-District Region in which emissions of VOC, NO_X and PM are equal to the maximum thresholds of significance or lower, and provides look-up tables for larger projects in designated strategic areas. Therefore, this individual project modeling guidance should only be used for larger projects outside the designated strategic areas to prepare a site-specific health effects analysis.

In order to estimate the health effects of the increases of criteria pollutants from a proposed project, practitioners should apply a photochemical grid model (PGM) to estimate the increases in concentrations of ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ in the region as a result of the emissions of criteria and precursor pollutants from a project. Next, apply the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)-authored program, the Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program (BenMAP[2]), to estimate the resulting health effects from the increases in concentration. This process is described further below.

6.1 Pollutants Evaluated

This analysis estimates the health effects of criteria pollutants and their precursors, specifically those health effects that are evaluated by the USEPA in rulemaking setting the NAAQS: NO_X, VOC [also known as reactive organic gases, or ROG, which are virtually the same as VOC with some slight differences][3], CO, ozone, SO_2, $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}. USEPA's default health effects functions in BenMAP for PM use $PM_{2.5}$ as the causal PM agent, so the health effects of PM_{10} are represented using $PM_{2.5}$ as a surrogate. NO_X and VOC are not criteria air pollutants but, in the presence of sunlight, they form ozone and contribute to the formation of secondary $PM_{2.5}$ and thus are analyzed here. As a conservative measure, SO_2 and CO are evaluated due to their small contribution to the formation of secondary $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone, respectively.

This guidance recommends that the health effects from ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ be evaluated, because the USEPA has determined that these criteria pollutants would have the greatest effect on human health. While ozone is not commonly emitted directly, some $PM_{2.5}$ is emitted directly. Ozone and secondary $PM_{2.5}$ are formed by the emissions of other pollutants to the atmosphere, including VOC, NO_X, CO and SO_2.

Additionally, SO_2, NO_2 and CO concentration changes due to a project are not evaluated individually. Each of these pollutants has NAAQS against which the presence or absence of health effects can be measured, and none of these pollutants are typically considered to be formed in the atmosphere as secondary pollutants, as are ozone and $PM_{2.5}$. NAAQS are health-based thresholds and thus a direct comparison with them allows evaluation of

[2] https://www.epa.gov/benmap/benmap-ce-manual-and-appendices.

[3] ROG emissions are quantified and modeled as VOCs in this assessment. ROG means total organic gases minus ARB's "exempt" compounds (e.g., methane, ethane, CFCs, etc.). ROG is similar, but not identical, to USEPA's term "VOC", which is based on USEPA's exempt list, which is slightly different from ARB's list.

potential health effects. NO_2 concentration changes are not individually evaluated as there are currently no NO_2 non-attainment areas in the United States, even now that the 1-hour standard has been implemented. Similarly, SO_2 concentration changes are also not individually evaluated as there are no current SO_2 non-attainment areas in the state of California. Sac Metro Air District has been in attainment of the NAAQS and State CO standards since the early 1990s. Even so, as noted above, contributions of NO_X, CO, and SO_2 continue to be evaluated for their contributions to the formation of ozone and secondary $PM_{2.5}$, the two criteria pollutants the USEPA has determined to have the greatest effect on human health.

6.2 Technical Analysis

The first step in the technical analysis is to run the PGM with appropriate information to assess the increases in ambient air concentrations of pollutants that the project's emissions may cause. PGMs require a database of information, including meteorological fields and how emissions are distributed in the area to be modeled. This includes both existing emissions and project emissions. The latest publicly-available PGM database for Northern California should be used in this analysis.

The USEPA's air quality modeling guidelines (Appendix W[4]) and ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ modeling guidance[5] recommend using a PGM to estimate ozone and secondary $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations. The USEPA's modeling guidance does not recommend specific PGMs but provides procedures for determining an appropriate PGM on a case-by-case basis. Both the modeling guidelines and guidance note that the CAMx[6] and the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ)[7] PGMs have been used extensively in the past and would be acceptable PGMs. The USEPA has prepared a memorandum[8] documenting the suitability of using CAMx and CMAQ for ozone and secondary $PM_{2.5}$ modeling of a single-source or small group of sources.

To estimate the potential outcome of a proposed project's emissions on ambient pollutant concentrations, add the project's mitigated emissions to the existing emissions in the PGM database. Ensure that the project emissions that are analyzed present a maximum year. Construction emissions could be included in the analysis if the lead agency determines the size, intensity, and duration of construction warrant review and disclosure. These maxima may occur in different years but may be conservatively analyzed in a single-year assessment. Consider when the maximum emissions year will have the greatest impact. It is recommended that maximum 24-hour emission rates be used, as some of the C-R health effects functions use daily concentration estimates. Account for seasonal changes in maximum 24-hour emissions when appropriate, such as when wood stoves or fireplaces are used for home heating in the cold months.

Each project's emissions should be spatially distributed across the modeling area in a manner that reflects the actual distribution, considering where mobile source emissions may occur. Operational emissions may include area sources (architectural coatings, VOCs in

[4] https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/scram/appendix_w/2016/AppendixW_2017.pdf.

[5] https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/scram/guidance/guide/O3-PM-RH-Modeling_Guidance-2018.pdf.

[6] http://www.camx.com/.

[7] https://www.epa.gov/cmaq.

[8] https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/scram/guidance/clarification/20170804-Photochemical_Grid_Model_Clarification_Memo.pdf.

consumer products, and landscaping equipment), emergency generators, off-road equipment, and emissions associated with motor vehicle use. Construction emissions may include off-road equipment, paving, architectural coatings, fugitive dust, and emissions associated with hauling, vendor, and worker activity.

Following completion of the PGM modeling, use USEPA's BenMAP[9, 10] program to estimate the potential health effects of the project's contribution to ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations. BenMAP uses the concentration estimates produced by the PGM along with population and health effect C-R functions to estimate various health effects of the concentration increases. BenMAP has a wide history of applications by the USEPA and others, including for local-scale analyses[11] as needed to assess the health effects of a project's emissions. Use the USEPA default BenMAP health effects C-R functions that are typically used in national rulemaking, such as the health effects assessment[12] for the 2012 $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS. The guidance recommends assessing the following health effects for $PM_{2.5:}$ mortality (all causes), hospital admissions (respiratory, asthma, cardiovascular), emergency room visits (asthma), and acute myocardial infarction (non-fatal). For ozone, the guidance recommends the following endpoints: mortality, emergency room visits (respiratory) and hospital admissions (respiratory).

The procedures outlined in **Appendix A** are designed to provide guidance to a practitioner with experience in PGM modeling to conduct a health effects analysis that satisfies the requirements of the Friant Ranch court decision. Consequently, the guidance assumes a level of knowledge of PGM and health effects modeling and is not designed for those not familiar with PGM and health effects modeling.

[9] https://www.epa.gov/benmap/how-benmap-ce-estimates-health-and-economic-effects-air-pollution.

[10] https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/benmap-ce_user_manual_march_2015.pdf.

[11] https://www.epa.gov/benmap/benmap-ce-applications-articles-and-presentations#local.

[12] https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pm/data/PM_RA_FINAL_June_2010.pdf.

7. DISCLOSING MODELING RESULTS IN A PROJECT CEQA DOCUMENT

Now that photochemical grid modeling and BenMAP analyses have been conducted for minor projects at the maximum threshold levels at 41 locations in the five-air-district area, and for projects greater than threshold levels (2x and 8x) for 5 strategic growth areas, an analysis of the results must be developed for disclosure in a project CEQA document. Only the health effects of ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ are addressed in this guidance, as those are the pollutants that USEPA uses in BenMAP to estimate the health effects of emissions of NOx, VOCs, CO, SO_2, and $PM_{2.5}$. Ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ have the most critical health effects and thus are the emissions evaluated to determine the CEQA project's health effects. A CEQA analysis should report the results generated by the Minor Project Health Effects Screening Tool, Strategic Area Project Health Effects Screening Tool (example output in **Table 2**), or project specific modeling, and qualitatively discuss how the health effects tool provides an average estimate across all populations. Note that CEQA "does not require technical perfection in an EIR, but rather adequacy, completeness, and a good-faith effort at full disclosure."[13] To this end, the environmental document will be improved in its sufficiency as an informational document if it includes a *qualitative* discussion of influences on the outcomes of modeling the health effects of projects. These factors may apply *universally* to the health effects on the total population or be *limited in application* to population subgroups.

7.1 Discussing Health Effects on the Total Population

Present the applicable screening table for the project and **frame the model's outputs in terms of the wider context of current population health**. Provide this wider context for the results by describing overall health conditions in the county. This can be done by using other data sources, which might include:

- Be Healthy Sacramento[14], which provides a search of and comparisons of local health indicators.
- The California Department of Public Health, which provides County Health Status Profiles.[15]
- The California Air Resources Board's lists of health tracking websites, which provide community health trends.[16]

As an example of how to use this data, Sacramento County's Health Status Profile for 2019 reported an annual average of 11,551 deaths from all causes (2015-2017) in Sacramento County. This can be compared to a project with emissions at or below the thresholds of significance for which the screening tool indicates that the potential increase in mortality incidence is less than 3 in the Five-Air-District Region.

[13] *2020 CEQA Statute & Guidelines Handbook* https://www.califaep.org/statute_and_guidelines.php, Association of Environmental Professionals, CEQA Guidelines Section 15003, Policy (i), p. 136. Accessed 4/28/20

[14] *Be Healthy Sacramento,* Sacramento County, 2020, www.behealthysacramento.org. Accessed 3/9/2020

[15] *Vital Records Data and Statistics*, California Department of Public Health, 2020, https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/County-Health-Status-Profiles.aspx. Accessed 3/9/2020

[16] *Understanding the Health of Our Communities,* California Air Resources Board, 2020, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/understanding-health-our-communities. Accessed 3/13/2020

Also consider that overall, **each model generates *conservative* estimates of health effects**, for two reasons:

- **The tools' outputs are based on the simulation of a *full year* of exposure at the maximum daily average** of the increases in air pollution concentrations. As a result, actual project-related health effects may be *less* than the estimates calculated by the tool. For more information on how the CAMx modeling was prepared to estimate ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ emission concentration changes due to a project's emissions, and the resulting conservative nature of the health effects modeling using the BenMAP model, please see Section A.4 of **Appendix A**.
- **The health effects are calculated for emissions levels that are very high**. For the Minor Projects Health Effects Tool, described in Section 4, emissions are assumed to be *at* the threshold of significance levels. The Minor Projects Health Effects Screening Tool estimates the mean incidence of health outcomes such as mortality, hospital admissions, emergency room visits and heart attacks (acute myocardial infarction) in the Five-Air-District Region that may result from emissions from a new project that emits 82 pounds/day of NOx, ROG or PM. For the Strategic Area Project Health Effects Tool, described in Section 5, inputted emissions are between *two times* and *eight times* the threshold of significance (up to 656 pounds/day). The Strategic Area Project Health Effects Screening Tool focuses the analysis in six locations where growth is expected from projects with emissions above thresholds levels. Most projects, except for large plans such as specific plans, will not have emissions at these high levels.

However, even with these conservative factors built in, the models' outputs indicate low overall health effects. The mean health incidence for a project emitting at the threshold of significance levels at all 41 locations was less than 3 per year for mortality and less than 1.5 per year for other health outcomes evaluated. The modeling results support a conclusion that any one proposed project in the Five-Air-District Region with emissions at or below the maximum threshold levels does not on its own lead to sizeable health effects. At the strategic area locations, as expected, mean health incidences are higher than the Minor Projects Health Effects Screening Tool. The maximum reported mortality rate is 22 incidences per year and all other health outcomes evaluated are under 9 per year from a project emitting 656 pounds/day of NOx, ROG, and PM at the downtown Sacramento location.

On the other hand, projects may produce other health effects that are not evaluated in the models. These can be discussed as well.

- **The models' outputs include only the effects that have been researched sufficiently so as to be quantifiable**. Research has identified other health effects for both $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone than those indicated in the models.
  - For $PM_{2.5}$, modeled health outcomes include respiratory effects, cardiovascular effects, and premature mortality. But $PM_{2.5}$ through various modes of action can alter not only respiratory and cardiovascular systems, but also metabolism, affecting weight gain and increasing diabetes rates; the nervous system, leading to cognitive decline, brain inflammation, and reduced brain volume; and gestation, resulting in

low birthweight and preterm birth.[17] These other effects have been documented but not been studied sufficiently to identify a dose-response relationship.

- For ozone, the health consequences reported by these models include respiratory effects and premature mortality. In the screening models, project health effects resulting from ozone are considerably smaller than those of $PM_{2.5}$. Ozone is primarily a respiratory system irritant, but at sufficient doses, ozone can increase lung permeability, increasing their susceptibility to toxins and microorganisms.[18] Long-term exposure to ozone may cause permanent lung damage, such as abnormal lung development in children, and has also been linked to cardiovascular effects, but less is known than for $PM_{2.5}$ about the concentrations at which these effects occur.[19]

7.2 Discussing Health Effects in Population Subgroups

The models estimate increases in the incidence of health effects in the entire population of the Five-Air-District Region. The model outputs are derived from the numbers of people who would be affected by a project due to their geographic proximity and based on an *average population* throughout the Five-Air-District Region. **The models do not take into account population subgroups with greater vulnerabilities to air pollution, except for ages for certain endpoints.** The health effects of increased air pollution emissions may occur disproportionately in areas where the population is more susceptible to health effects from air pollution.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)[20] reports human health being influenced by five main determinants: genetics, behavior, environmental and physical influences, medical care, and social factors. These five determinants of health are seen in **Figure 4**. BenMAP estimates the potential health effects from a change in air pollution concentrations, but does not fully account for other factors impacting health such as access to medical care, genetics, income levels, behavioral choices such as diet and exercise, and underlying health conditions. As an environmental factor, air pollutants have been linked to multiple health effects, with greater impacts on vulnerable populations.[21] Vulnerable populations are those defined by environmental sensitivity factors such as age, race/ethnicity, levels of education and income, and linguistic isolation.[22]

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[17] *Particulate Matter: Spotlight on Health Protection. Symposium Summary: Health Effects and Exposures and Risk*. *October 29, 2019*. Bay Area Air Quality Management District. https://www.baaqmd.gov/~/media/files/board-of-directors/advisory-council/2019/20191028-pm-symposium-summary-final-03062020-pdf.pdf?la=en. Accessed 4/28/20.

[18] *Facts About Ozone and Health,* California Air Resources Board, 2016, https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/research/aaqs/caaqs/ozone/ozone-fs.pdf Accessed 4/17/20

[19] *Ozone and Oxidants,* Health Effects Institute, https://www.healtheffects.org/air-pollution/ozone-and-oxidants, 2020. Accessed 4/9/2020

[20] *NCHHSTP Social Determinants of Health*, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019, https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/socialdeterminants/faq.html#what-are-social-determinants . Accessed 4/13/2020

[21] *People at Risk,* California Air Resources Board, 2020, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/people-risk/about. Accessed 4/14/2020

[22] *Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators for California,* California Department of Public Health, April 2020. https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/CC-Health-Vulnerability-Indicators.aspx. Accessed 4/29/20

Figure 4. Five main determinants that affect human health (Source: CDC).



The CDC has made it a priority nationally to achieve health equity, eliminate disparities, and improve the health of all groups.[23] One of the health disparities observable in the effects of air pollution is that increases in $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone concentrations lead to a *greater risk of death for racial minorities and people with low income* than for the rest of the population, even when the concentrations are lower than the national standards.[24] Communities that are home to high numbers of low-income and minority populations are often *environmental justice* (EJ) areas where a history of unfavorable decisions has led to greater concentrations of air pollution and other negative environmental factors than in higher-income areas. In EJ areas, not only are the residents exposed to higher levels of negative environmental factors, but because of the chronic stressors inherent in a life with limited resources and other factors that increase their susceptibility, they are less resilient to environmental influences on health. As a result, emissions from a new project will be experienced more severely in low-income and minority communities than in wealthier areas. The tool outputs health effects in regional averages. The number of health incidences that result from an increase in air pollution will not likely be higher than what the model estimates, but the incidences may disproportionately occur in the areas where the population is more susceptible.

It will be especially important to discuss this in the environmental document if a project emits $PM_{2.5}$ in the community. Both ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ contribute to regional health impacts, but ozone is primarily a regional pollutant, and its effects are experienced throughout the

[23] *NCHHSTP Social Determinants of Health*, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019, https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/socialdeterminants/faq.html#what-are-social-determinants. Accessed 4/13/2020

[24] Quan Di, MS et al: "Air Pollution and Mortality in the Medicare Population," N Engl J Med 2017; 376:2513-2522, June 29, 2017, https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1702747.

community. On the other hand, primary $PM_{2.5}$ emissions are more locally concentrated. For example, the people who experience the most health effects from roadway pollutant emissions are those who live within 1,000 feet of a freeway or major roadway.[25] Projects that emit a great deal of $PM_{2.5}$ are likely to have more impact locally in vulnerable communities than in communities more representative of the average population of the region.

7.3 Identifying Vulnerable Populations

To identify and discuss the population characteristics near a project site that may lead to increased risk of health effects from a project, a useful tool is the Healthy Places Index[26] created by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California and derived from federal, state and local government data. The Healthy Places Index (HPI) offers indicators of local community conditions in California that contribute to life expectancy and a mapping tool for comparisons of selected areas with other areas across the region or the state. The HPI mapping tool can be used to compare *specific characteristics* of the population in the area of the proposed project – such as the proportion of the population living below 200% Federal Poverty Level – with other census tracts, cities, counties, Congressional districts, elementary school districts, or other geographic units in the area. It can also be used to compare the *overall relative health vulnerability* (the combined indicators) with those of other geographic units. The HPI mapping tool allows the user to compare local factors down to the census tract level, a degree of resolution that is useful for assessing project health effects. A geographic area that appears in a shade of blue on the HPI mapping tool has *lower* levels of health-promoting community conditions and could be reported in the CEQA analysis as likely to experience a *disproportionate rate of health effects* from a project than a community that appears in a shade of green. The HPI mapping tool provides *comparisons* only, showing how an area compares to other areas in the state or to other geographic regions selected, and not raw numbers.

7.4 Consideration of Incidental Health Effects

While this guidance is focused on the health effects of air pollution emitted by a single project, it should be considered that a project may influence health in other ways. New development creates changes in the built environment that can affect health through various pathways. A complete analysis might include a qualitative discussion of how the project's changes to the built environment could have incidental health effects, and whether those incidental health effects will be experienced by *project users* and the *broader community*. The following topics could be considered.

Vehicle Miles Traveled: Increasing vehicle miles traveled per capita (VMT/capita) in a region creates acute health impacts (injuries and deaths due to vehicle collisions) as well as chronic health impacts (obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease due to increased sedentary behaviors, such as driving).[27] Conversely, reducing VMT/capita by increasing

[25] *Strategies to Reduce Air Pollution Exposure Near High Volume Roadways,* California Air Resources Board, Technical Advisory April 2017. P. 12. https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2017-10/rd_technical_advisory_final.pdf. Accessed 4/28/20.

[26] https://healthyplacesindex.org/

[27] *Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emissions is Only the Beginning: A Literature Review of the Co-Benefits of Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled*, UC Davis National Center for Sustainable Transportation, 2017,

density and land use mix, especially when combined with sidewalks or trails and public transit infrastructure, enables more people to live closer to daily destinations, making it practical to walk and bike instead of drive. This increases physical activity and reduces obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and other chronic conditions associated with a sedentary lifestyle. Infill development provides support for transit operations, which offer people more options for accessing health-supportive services such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and medical facilities. Building housing near transit encourages people to walk to transit to get to where they need to go, and provides linkages to jobs, food, and health services for the one-third of adults who do not drive. More compact, connected street networks with fewer lanes on major roads are correlated with lower levels of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, as well as with the lowest levels of traffic deaths.[28]

Urban Greening: Greater neighborhood tree canopy has been correlated to improvement of overall human health, primarily healthier weight, social cohesion, and mental health.[29] People make more walking trips to task destinations such as stores or coffee shops when they perceive that there are many natural features along the route, including street trees. New trees planted on roadsides and medians and along sidewalks reduce crash rates on both urban arterial and highway sites.[30] Trees and shrubs in thick vegetative barriers along freeway edges can also absorb and disperse traffic emissions and thus reduce exposure to pollutants for nearby populations. Shade trees on streets, in parking lots, and near driveways reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds from parked cars.

Heat Exposure: By the end of the century, average daily temperatures will increase by 10° F in the Sacramento region, with as many as 36 added days of extreme heat (greater than 103.9° F) per year in some areas. Extreme heat can lead to heat-related illnesses such as heat rash, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke. If left untreated, heat-related conditions can lead to death.[31] The built environment can increase or decrease incidence of extreme heat and heat exposure. Projects that convert natural or agricultural lands to areas covered with concrete, asphalt, and rooftops increase the amount of solar radiation that is absorbed and re-radiated into the surrounding environment, creating an urban heat island effect. Projects that increase tree canopy and utilize high-albedo surfaces such as cool roofs and cool pavements can lower local temperatures and contribute to regional reductions. Combining these vegetation and cool-surface measures provides the greatest effect.[32]

Allostatic Load: Defined as the cost of chronic exposure to elevated or fluctuating stress-hormone or neural responses resulting from chronic or repeated challenges that the

https://ncst.ucdavis.edu/research-product/cutting-greenhouse-gas-emissions-only-beginning-literature-review-co-benefits.

[28] Marshall WE et al (2014) Community design, street networks, and public health. *J Transport and Health* 1 (4), p. 326-340. Dec 2014. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jth.2014.06.002

[29] Ulmer JM et al. Multiple health benefits of urban tree canopy: The mounting evidence for a green prescription, *Health and Place* 42, 54-62. November 2016. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2016.08.011

[30] Mok, J., et al. (2006) Landscape Improvement Impacts on Roadside Safety in Texas. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, Vol. 78, No. 3, pp 263-274. http://www.naturewithin.info/Roadside/RdsdSftyTexas_L&UP.pdf

[31] Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative, *Capital Region Transportation Sector Urban Heat Island Reduction Plan,* May 2020. pp. 9-10. https://urbanheat-smaqmd.hub.arcgis.com/

[32] Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative, *Capital Region Transportation Sector Urban Heat Island Reduction Plan Summary Report,* May 2020, p. 16. https://urbanheat-smaqmd.hub.arcgis.com/

individual experiences as stressful, allostatic load can lead to development of heart disease, diabetes, chronic pain, fatigue, and other conditions.[33] The built environment can increase or decrease the allostatic burden placed on individuals. Projects that expose people to chronic noise or odors increase the burden. Allostatic load also increases if people have difficulty fulfilling daily needs. Projects that support individuals of all incomes and ages and that include a mix of uses or amenities to facilitate daily life will reduce the sense of stress in peoples' lives. Infill and compact development projects can increase community connectivity and social cohesion (trust), reducing stress and improving health resilience. Allostatic load is also decreased by projects that provide ample access to safe physical activity, whether through sidewalks and bike lanes that lead to daily destinations or networks of walking and biking trails. Projects that incorporate social cohesion can increase perceived safety, which also reduces stress and encourages use of active modes.

Once the health effects of a project are fully reviewed and described, including disclosure of outputs from one of the screening tools or project-specific modeling results and discussion of health effects in context, the lead agency can make an informed decision on a project with health effects information that meets the intent of the Friant ruling.

[33] *Allostatic Load,* ScienceDirect, 2020. https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/neuroscience/allostatic-load

APPENDIX A
GUIDANCE FOR CONDUCTING A SITE-SPECIFIC HEALTH EFFECTS ANALYSIS

This Appendix provides documentation on how to conduct a site-specific health effects analysis for a project in Sacramento County (and potentially the Five-Air-District Region with input from the applicable air district) that does not qualify to use the minor project screening approach, or the larger project strategic area approach provided in this guidance.

The procedures outlined in this Appendix are designed to provide guidance to practitioners with experience in PGM modeling in conducting health effects analyses that satisfy the requirements of the Friant Ranch court decision. Consequently, this guidance assumes a level of knowledge related to PGM modeling and is not designed for those not familiar with PGM modeling.

A.1 OVERVIEW OF TECHNICAL APPROACH

The first step in this process is to run a photochemical grid model (PGM) with appropriate information to assess the increases in ambient air concentrations of pollutants caused by the project's emissions. PGMs require a database of information, including meteorological fields and the spatial allocation of emissions in the area to be modeled, including both base (background/existing) emissions and emissions for the project being evaluated. A recommended modeling plan for conducting such a photochemical modeling study is provided in **Section A.2.**

Project emissions include oxides of nitrogen (NO_X), respirable (PM_{10}) and fine ($PM_{2.5}$) primary particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compounds (VOC, also called ROG). NO_X and VOC are precursors to ozone and, along with SO_2, are also precursors to secondary $PM_{2.5}$. CO also plays a smaller role in the formation of ozone and should be considered for evaluation if emissions information is available.

To estimate the potential outcome of a proposed project's emissions on ambient air concentrations, a project's emissions are added to the 4-km annual PGM modeling database.[34] For use in PGMs, each project emissions source must be spatially distributed across the modeling grid cells so that they can be incorporated into the gridded emission inventory. For projects with on-road mobile source emissions, the emissions will need to be spread across the roadway network.

Once project emissions are allocated to grid cells, emission estimates from the project are spatially gridded, temporally allocated (e.g., adjustments to account for season/month, day-of-week and hour-of-day), and chemically speciated to be used for the PGM using the Sparse Matrix Operator Kerner Emissions (SMOKE[35]) emissions modeling system supported by the USEPA. More details on how to work with the emissions inventory, spatial allocation, and SMOKE inputs and outputs are described in **Section A.3.**

In order to be conservative, we recommend that future year emissions be used for the modeling database. Future years will feature larger populations and lower background emissions, which usually results in higher ozone and secondary PM from the incremental project emissions. Accordingly, the future year database provides the most conservative estimate of health effects. More details on preparing inputs for the PGM modeling are included in **Section A.3.**

Following completion of the PGM modeling, the USEPA's BenMAP[36, 37] program is used to estimate the potential health effects of the project's contribution to ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations. USEPA's default health effect functions in BenMAP for PM use fine particulate ($PM_{2.5}$) as the causal PM agent, so the health effects of PM_{10} are represented using $PM_{2.5}$ as a surrogate. BenMAP uses the concentration

[34] In this guidance we recommend that the currently available BAAQMD 2012 PGM modeling database be used for the CCOS Northern California domain or a reduced size domain that is focused on the SFNA. BAAQMD performed Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) meteorological modeling for the 4-km domain and 2012 calendar year that has been processed by MCIP and WRFCAMx to generate CMAQ and CAMx 2012 4-km meteorological inputs for the domain. BAAQMD prepared 2012 emissions for the CMAQ model that have been converted to the format used by CAMx using the CMAQ2CAMx processor.

[35] https://www.cmascenter.org/smoke/

[36] https://www.epa.gov/benmap/how-benmap-ce-estimates-health-and-economic-effects-air-pollution.

[37] https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/benmap-ce_user_manual_march_2015.pdf.

estimates produced by CAMx, along with population and health effect concentration-response (C-R) functions, to estimate the various health effects of the concentration increases. BenMAP has a wide history of applications by the USEPA and others, including for local-scale analysis[38] as needed for assessing the health effects of a project's emissions. This guidance recommends using USEPA-default BenMAP health effects C-R functions that are typically used in national rulemaking, such as the health effects assessment[39] for the 2012 $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS. The health effects for $PM_{2.5}$ include mortality (all causes), hospital admissions (respiratory, asthma, cardiovascular), emergency room visits (asthma), and acute myocardial infarction (non-fatal). For ozone, the endpoints are mortality, emergency room visits (respiratory) and hospital admissions (respiratory). Details on the BenMAP inputs and outputs and definitions for the health effects are shown in **Section A.4.**

[38] https://www.epa.gov/benmap/benmap-ce-applications-articles-and-presentations#local.

[39] https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pm/data/PM_RA_FINAL_June_2010.pdf.

A.2 MODELING PLAN

Estimating the potential health impacts of criteria pollutants due to emissions from a proposed CEQA project involves the following activities:

- Selection of an air quality model and air quality modeling database for use in the analysis.
- Estimating the ozone and PM precursor emissions for the proposed CEQA project.
- Processing of the CEQA project emissions for use in the selected air quality model.
- Air quality modeling of the proposed CEQA project emissions to obtain the incremental ozone and PM concentrations due to the project's emissions.
- Processing of the incremental ozone and PM concentrations due to the project's emissions by a health effects model to estimate the mortality, morbidity and other health effects.
- Documenting the health effects modeling and results with enough detail that the results could be duplicated.

A.2.1 Selection of an Air Quality Model

Proposed CEQA project emissions typically include, but are not limited to NO_X, $PM_{10,}$ $PM_{2.5}$, SO_2, CO and VOC. NO_X and VOCs are not criteria air pollutants[40] but, in the presence of sunlight, they form ozone and contribute to the formation of secondary $PM_{2.5}$ and thus are analyzed here. If SO_2 and CO emissions are otherwise quantified in the environmental document, these can be conservatively included as they have contributions to the formation of secondary $PM_{2.5}$ and/or ozone.

EPA's air quality modeling guidelines (Appendix W[41]) and ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ modeling guidance[42] recommend using a photochemical model to estimate ozone and secondary $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations. Most photochemical models for modeling ozone and secondary PM are photochemical grid models (PGMs). EPA's modeling guidance does not recommend specific PGMs but provides procedures for determining an appropriate PGM on a case-by-case basis. EPA's air quality modeling guidelines and guidance does note that both the Comprehensive Air-quality Model with extensions (CAMx[43]) and the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ[44]) PGMs have been used extensively in the past and if applied correctly would be acceptable PGMs. In fact, EPA has prepared a Memorandum[45] documenting the suitability of using CAMx and CMAQ for ozone and secondary $PM_{2.5}$ modeling of single-sources or a small groups of sources.

[40] The six criteria air pollutants are ozone (O_3), particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), carbon monoxide (CO) and lead (Pb).

[41] https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/scram/appendix_w/2016/AppendixW_2017.pdf.

[42] https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/scram/guidance/guide/O3-PM-RH-Modeling_Guidance-2018.pdf.

[43] http://www.camx.com/.

[44] https://www.epa.gov/cmaq.

[45] https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/scram/guidance/clarification/20170804-Photochemical_Grid_Model_Clarification_Memo.pdf.

Thus, for the Sac Metro Air District Friant Ranch analysis of the health effects of criteria pollutants from a proposed CEQA project, either the CAMx or CMAQ PGMs would be acceptable.

A.2.2 Selection of an Air Quality Modeling Platform

Because some of the health effect Concentration-Response (C-R) functions require annual PM concentrations, an annual PGM modeling platform is required. The development of an all-new annual PGM modeling platform from scratch is quite resource-intensive. Thus, it is more cost-effective to use an appropriate existing PGM modeling platform. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) and several air districts in California routinely develop PGM modeling databases to address ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ attainment as part of State Implementation Plans (SIPs). We propose to use the latest publicly-available PGM database for Northern California, developed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), and to adapt it for this analysis. The BAAQMD PGM database is tailored for California using California-specific input tools [e.g., the Emissions Factor (EMFAC[46]) mobile source emissions model] and uses a high-resolution 4-km horizontal grid resolution to better simulate meteorology and air quality in the complex terrain and coastal environment of California. This contrasts with EPA's national modeling platforms[47] used for national rulemakings [e.g., transport rules such as Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR[48]) or defining new NAAQS] that use a coarser 12-km horizontal grid resolution. The BAAQMD 2012 annual PGM modeling database that uses the Central California Ozone Study (CCOS) modeling domain depicted in **Figure A-1** would be appropriate for this analysis. For the hypothetical project screening analysis discussed in **Appendix B**, the BAAQMD 2012 annual CCOS domain PGM database was adapted for a reduced 4-km grid resolution domain covering the Sacramento and neighboring counties shown in **Figure B-2** that would also be appropriate for this analysis. The CCOS and reduced 4-km PGM modeling domains use a Lambert Conformal Conic (LCC) projection with the domain definitions given in **Table A-1**. BAAQMD performed WRF meteorological and SMOKE emissions modeling for the CCOS 4-km domain and 2012 calendar year in generating the 2012 CCOS domain PGM modeling database. The 2012 CCOS PGM modeling database was originally developed for the CMAQ PGM but has been extended for the CAMx PGM as well. Descriptions of the WRF meteorological, SMOKE emissions and CMAQ and CAMx PGM models are available on the BAAQMD's Research and Modeling website.[49]

[46] https://www.arb.ca.gov/emfac/

[47] https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-modeling/2014-2016-version-7-air-emissions-modeling-platforms

[48] https://www.epa.gov/csapr

[49] http://www.baaqmd.gov/about-air-quality/research-and-data/research-and-modeling

Table A-1. Definitions of the Northern California CCOS (Figure A-1) and reduced Sacramento (Figure B-2) 4-km grid resolution PGM modeling domains

Parameter	Value			
Projection	Lambert-Conformal Conic			
1st True Latitude	30 degrees N			
2nd True Latitude	60 degrees N			
Central Longitude	-120.5 degrees W			
Central Latitude	37 degrees N			
Domain	**NX**	**NY**	**X-Offset Origin (km)**	**Y-Offset Origin (km)**
CCOS (NCA)	185	185	-376	-292
Reduced (Sacramento)	78	106	-224	8

Future-year emission scenarios can be developed as far out as the 2035 year using ARB's county-level emissions by species and source category that are available on the ARB CEPAM webpage[50] and that can be used to project the 2012 emissions to a future year. A project's contribution to ozone and PM concentrations should be evaluated for the most appropriate future year(s) based on the characteristics of the project.

[50] https://www.arb.ca.gov/app/emsinv/fcemssumcat/fcemssumcat2016.php

Figure A-1. CCOS 4 km modeling domain for Northern California PGM modeling



A.2.3 Approaches for Estimating Incremental Project Contributions

PGMs simulate emissions concentrations due to all sources, including all anthropogenic and natural emissions and transport from all upwind sources. There are several techniques that can be used to isolate the incremental contributions of emissions from a proposed CEQA project to ozone and PM concentrations:

1. Brute Force Method: In the Brute Force Method, the PGM is applied for a base case and a case where the project's emissions are added to the base case and the project's ozone and PM incremental impacts are obtained from the differences in the two simulations.

2. Source Apportionment Tools: Some PGMs (including CAMx and CMAQ) come instrumented with a source apportionment tool that uses tagged species (reactive tracers) that run in parallel to the host model and keeps track of the ozone and PM contributions due to user-selected source groups (e.g., emission from a CEQA Project).
3. Sensitivity Tools: Some PGMs also come with sensitivity tools that can track the sensitivity of ozone and PM to user-selected source groups that can be post-processed to get the source contributions.

The Brute Force Method can be used with any air quality model and could be a viable method for obtaining the ozone and PM contributions from a proposed CEQA project. However, because the project's incremental concentrations are obtained by calculating the difference between two PGM simulations, there is the potential to introduce model noise. Model noise in this case are changes in the two PGM simulations concentration estimates that are due to numerical artifacts not associated with the project's emissions. The aerosol thermodynamic module (ISORROPIA) used in CAMx and CMAQ is particularly prone to producing model noise in particle ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3) concentrations due to its complicated parameterization that includes branching. Given the small concentrations expected from CEQA projects, model noise could be a significant issue.

Source Apportionment methods alleviate the problem of model noise because only one simulation is performed. The CAMx Ozone and Particulate Source Apportionment Technology (OSAT/PSAT) tools have been used extensively by EPA and others, including in EPA's CSAPR (CSAPR Update[51]), which estimated upwind state contributions to downwind state nonattainment with details on the CSAPR CAMx source apportionment modeling contained in the CSAPR Air Quality Technical Support Document (AQTSD).[52] CAMx was also used by EPA to develop single-source or facility-level ozone and secondary $PM_{2.5}$ Modeled Emission Rate Precursors (MERPs[53]) significance threshold emission rates, a use similar to modeling a CEQA project's emissions ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ impacts. The CMAQ has the Integrated Source Apportionment Method (ISAM[54]) source apportionment tool for ozone and PM.

Both CAMx and CMAQ have the Decoupled Direct Method (DDM) sensitivity tool. DDM operates similarly to the source apportionment tools, providing sensitivity coefficients only for user-selected source groups. However, DDM is much more computationally extensive than source apportionment. And for a single project, the Brute Force Method, which is another sensitivity method, is also more efficient. Thus, we do not recommend using DDM for this analysis.

Either the Brute Force or Source Apportionment methods are viable tools for estimating the incremental ozone and PM impacts due to emissions of a proposed CEQA project's emissions. Given that it is difficult to determine whether model noise will be a problem, the Source Apportionment method is a safer pathway so it is recommended in this guidance. If using CAMx, the Anthropogenic Precursor Culpability Assessment (APCA) version of the ozone source apportionment tool should be used.

[51] https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-10-26/pdf/2016-22240.pdf.
[52] https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/aq_modeling_tsd_final_csapr_update.pdf.
[53] https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/scram/appendix_w/2016/MERPs_WebinarPresentation_01192017.pdf.
[54] https://github.com/USEPA/CMAQ/blob/master/DOCS/Users_Guide/CMAQ_UG_ch11_ISAM.md

A.3 EMISSIONS AND AIR QUALITY MODELING

The following sections describe how the CEQA project emissions are processed and the air quality modeling conducted using either the BAAQMD Northern California CCOS 4-km modeling domain or the Sacramento reduced 4-km modeling domain in the 2012 PGM modeling database.

A.3.1 Project Emissions

For most projects, the maximum daily emissions of criteria pollutants and their precursors from operation and construction should be used. In cases where there are projects with large seasonal variations in maximum daily emissions (e.g., wood stoves or fireplace use), the seasonal variation in the maximum daily emissions should be accounted for. If maximum daily emissions are not otherwise quantified in the environmental document, average daily emissions should be provided. At a minimum, emissions of NO_X, VOC, and $PM_{2.5}$ are required, unless one or more of these did not increase due to the project. If quantified and available, project emissions for CO and SO_2 should be provided as well. The development of detailed emissions inventories is an important component of any CEQA project analysis. However, for PGM modeling, the project emissions inventories need to be converted into the hourly gridded speciated emission inputs in the format used by the PGM. This is typically accomplished using the Sparse Matrix Kernel Emissions (SMOKE[55]) modeling system.

A.3.2 SMOKE Emissions Modeling of Project Emissions

The first step in the SMOKE emissions processing is to convert the project emission inventory into the Flat File 2010 (FF10) format for input to SMOKE. The emissions for each process of the project's emissions need to be assigned an appropriate Source Classification Code (SCC[56]) that is used to cross-reference to that particular source sector's typical chemical speciation and temporal allocation profile. SCCs are a 10-digit numerical code that represents a hierarchical classification of the source sectors emissions type. In this case, chemical speciation is performed for the SAPRC07 chemical mechanism used in the 2012 4-km PGM modeling database. Temporal allocation takes annual emissions or maximum daily emissions and distributes them to month of year, day of week, and hour of day using typical temporal profiles for each source sector as defined by the SCC. In some cases, there are source sectors that only operate during part of a year (e.g., residential wood combustion, home heating using wood stoves and fireplaces). In this case, separate SMOKE modeling using the maximum daily emissions for the different seasons is appropriate. EPA has a detailed website describing SCCs[57], although not all possible SCCs have a cross-reference to chemical speciation and temporal profiles in SMOKE. **Appendix E** presents several SCCs that are typically used to characterize source types in CEQA project emissions that are included in SMOKE's cross-reference file and can be used in populating the FF10 SMOKE input files.

As part of the analysis, the project source emissions need to be spatially allocated to appropriate geographic locations (i.e., 4-km grid cells). The emissions can be allocated to modeling grid cells using gridding surrogates. To process the project emissions, a project area-based spatial surrogate needs to be developed. For many project sources the emission sources (e.g., construction) are allocated to the

[55] https://www.cmascenter.org/smoke/

[56] https://ofmpub.epa.gov/sccwebservices/sccsearch/docs/SCC-IntroToSCCs.pdf

[57] https://ofmpub.epa.gov/sccwebservices/sccsearch/

grid cell(s) containing the project. For more geographically complex project emission source categories (e.g., mobile source emissions associated with the project), the surrogate distributions can be developed using the USEPA's Spatial Allocation Tool,[58] which combines geographical information system (GIS)-based data (shapefiles) and modeling domain definitions to generate the appropriate gridded surrogate data set. In SMOKE, the project sources are assigned specific surrogates for gridding by cross-referencing the SCCs. All on-site project emissions are distributed in the modeling grid cell(s) where the project is located. On-road mobile sources are typically spatially distributed in the site's grid cells and surrounding grid cells based on roadway locations that can be defined using GIS shapefiles and the EPA surrogate tool. In some cases, CEQA projects have used transportation models to characterize the project's effects on mobile sources and to define the extent of the mobile source emissions spatial distribution.

The SMOKE system is then used to process emissions for the modeling domain, for example the CCOS 4-km modeling grid shown in **Figure A-1**. A representative week from each month (seven days a week for each month) is typically used to represent the entire month's emissions and obtain the correct day-of-week emissions. Holidays are typically modeled separately as if they were a Sunday. SMOKE should be applied to perform the following tasks:

1. Chemical Speciation: Emissions estimates of criteria pollutant precursors should be speciated for the SAPRC07 photochemical and AERO6 aerosol chemical mechanisms employed by the PGM in SMOKE processing. The speciation profiles compatible with the SAPRC07-AERO6 mechanism for $PM_{2.5}$ should be used to be consistent with the emissions used in the BAAQMD's modeling system used in this analysis. SMOKE outputs PGM emission inputs in the CMAQ PGM format that can be converted into CAMx-ready formats using CMAQ2CAMx conversion program and species mapping if CAMx is the PGM used.
2. Temporal Allocation: SMOKE resolves the annual emissions to a monthly, day-of-week and hour-of-day timescale for PGM modeling. These allocations are determined from the particular source category specified by the SCC. Monthly, weekly, and diurnal profiles are cross-referenced to SCC in the SMOKE processing to provide the appropriate temporal resolution.
3. Spatial Allocation: The project emissions estimates should be spatially resolved to the grid cells for modeling using spatial surrogates, as described above.

Standard quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) of the emissions developed and SMOKE processing need to be conducted during all aspects of the SMOKE emissions processing. These steps should follow the approach recommended in the USEPA modeling guidance (USEPA, 2007). SMOKE includes quality assurance and reporting features to keep track of the adjustments at each processing stage and to ensure that data integrity is not compromised. The SMOKE log files should be carefully reviewed for error messages and ensured that appropriate source profiles were used. All error records reported during processing should be reviewed and any discrepancies resolved. This is important to ensure that source categories are correctly characterized. A key step in the QA/QC of the SMOKE emissions modeling is to compare SMOKE input and output emissions and to ensure that no emissions are dropped or added in the processing. As part of the documentation, summary tables of emissions should be generated to compare input inventory totals against model-ready output totals and to confirm

[58] https://www.cmascenter.org/sa-tools/documentation/4.2/html/srgtool/SurrogateToolUserGuide_4_2.pdf

consistency. Spatial plots should be generated to visually verify correct spatial allocation of the emissions.

The final step in the emissions processing is to merge the project's gridded emissions with other regional components through the gridded merge program (MRGUAM) for CAMx. The daily emissions for CAMx should be merged in the time format required by CAMx. If CAMx v7.0 or newer is used, then the individual "pre-merged" emission inputs can be provided separately in the CAMx inputs, so the final merge is not necessary. CMAQ can also take separate emission file inputs, so it also does not need a final merged step.

A.3.3 PGM Modeling of Project Emissions

PGM modeling is conducted for a future-year emissions scenario to isolate the contributions of the project's emissions to ozone and PM concentrations. As noted above, either the CAMx or CMAQ PGM models would be acceptable and the project's contributions could be obtained in either model using either the Brute Force or Source Apportionment approaches, but this guidance recommends that the Source Apportionment approach be used to isolate the project's ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ contributions, as the Brute Force method can be susceptible to model noise.

With CAMx, the Anthropogenic Precursor Culpability Assessment (APCA) ozone and PSAT PM source apportionment tools should be used. For CMAQ, the ISAM ozone and PM source apportionment tool should be used. The project emissions need to be separately tagged for tracking by the CAMx APCA/PSAT or CMAQ ISAM source apportionment tools. The CAMx user's guide[59] describes how to tag sources for treatment by and how to invoke the APCA/PSAT source apportionment tools. A CAMx APCA/PSAT source apportionment simulation will generate two hourly average concentration files: (1) the standard model output of hourly gridded total surface layer concentrations; and (2) an hourly output file of surface layer gridded concentrations for each APCA/PSAT source group. The standard output file with elimination (subtraction) of the APCA/PSAT concentration contributions from the project source group is defined as the Base Case, and the standard output that includes the contributions of the project's emissions is defined as the Project Case. Documentation on the CMAQ ISAM source apportionment tool is available on the CMAQ website.[60]

The PGM Base Case and Project Case gridded hourly concentration outputs are processed to generate annual (365 days) gridded files for the following two species and averaging times:

- Daily average total $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations; and
- Maximum daily average 8-hour (MDA8) ozone concentrations.

It is recommended that spatial maps of the incremental $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone concentrations due to project's emissions be examined and reported as part of the QA/QC of the PGM modeling. At a minimum, the annual average and highest 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ and highest MDA8 ozone incremental concentrations due to the project's emissions be reported. **Figures B-3, B-4 and B-5** show examples of these types of displays for source 20 from the hypothetical minor source screening modeling discussed in **Appendix B**. The PGM gridded daily $PM_{2.5}$ and MDA8 ozone concentrations are used as inputs to BenMAP to obtain the incremental health effects due to the emissions of the project, as described in the next section.

[59] http://www.camx.com/files/camxusersguide_v6-50.pdf

[60] https://www.airqualitymodeling.org/index.php/CMAQv5.0.2_Integrated_Source_Apportionment

A.4 ESTIMATION OF HEALTH EFFECT IMPACTS

The potential health effects of ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations due to the project's emissions should be estimated using the Environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program (BenMAP), Community Edition v1.5 (March 2019).[61] BenMAP, originally developed by the USEPA, is a powerful and flexible tool that helps users estimate human health effects and economic benefits resulting from changes in air quality. BenMAP outputs include PM- and ozone-related health endpoints such as premature mortality, hospital admissions, and emergency room visits. BenMAP uses the following simplified formula to express changes in ambient air pollution to certain health endpoints (AAI, 2018)[62]:

$$\text{Health Effect} = \text{Air Quality Change} \times \text{Health Effect Estimate} \times \text{Exposed Population} \times \text{Background Health Incidence}$$

- Air Quality Change: The difference between the starting air pollution concentration level (the Base Case) and the air pollution concentration level after some change, such as a new source (e.g., emissions from a proposed CEQA project in the Project Case).
- Health Effect Estimate: An estimate of the percentage change in an adverse health effect due to a one-unit change in ambient air pollution. Effect estimates, also referred to as concentration-response (C-R) functions, are obtained from epidemiological studies.
- Exposed Population: The number of people affected by the air quality change. The government census office is a good source for this information. As noted below, we recommend the use of data from PopGrid, which is an add-on program to BenMAP that allocates the block-level U.S. Census population to a user-defined grid.[63] As new census data is collected, USEPA updates the BenMAP tool.
- Background Health Incidence: An estimate of the average number of people that die (or suffer from some adverse health effect) in a given population over a given period of time. For example, the health incidence rate might be the probability that a person will die in a given year. Health incidence rates and other health data are typically collected by the government as well as by the World Health Organization. The background incidence rates used here are obtained from BenMAP. Age-, cause-, and county-specific mortality rates are calculated by BenMAP using data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) WONDER database[64]. Hospitalization rates and emergency room visits are calculated using data from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). The relationship between short-term PM exposure and heart attacks have been determined using epidemiological studies.

A.4.1 Application of BenMAP

The PGM output data are processed to generate aggregated daily average $PM_{2.5}$ and MDA8 ozone concentrations appropriate for various health endpoints as described above. The PGM concentrations for a Base Case (i.e., without the project emissions) and a Project Case (i.e., the Base Case plus the contributions of the project emissions) are used as inputs to BenMAP, which internally takes the

[61] http://www.epa.gov/air/benmap/

[62] The common function used for calculating health effects is the following log-linear function: Health Effect = Background Health Incidence x [1 – exponential (Health Effect Estimate * Air Quality Change)] x Exposed Population

[63] https://www.epa.gov/benmap/benmap-community-edition

[64] http://wonder.cdc.gov

difference between the Base and Project Cases in order to obtain the incremental ozone and PM contributions due to the project. The PGM simulation results from the full year (January to December) are used to estimate the health effects of $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone. BenMAP translates increases in the pollutant concentrations due to the project emissions to changes in the incidence rate for each health effect using a C-R function derived from previously published epidemiological studies. BenMAP provides multiple C-R functions based on different epidemiological studies for a given health endpoint. We recommend using the USEPA default C-R functions that are used in national rulemaking when evaluating health effects. We also recommend using more refined population data that uses population data from PopGrid, which allocates the census population to each modeled 4x4 kilometer (km) grid cell (e.g., **Figure A-1**).

The population used for both the quantified health effects and the calculation of background health incidence presented here is usually calculated for a future year that has maximum project emissions.[65]

Although there are a large number of potential health endpoints that could be included in the analysis, we recommend using the key health endpoints that have been the focus of recent USEPA risk assessments (e.g., USEPA, 2010; USEPA, 2014). For example, the USEPA notes that health endpoints were selected based on consideration of at-risk populations (e.g. people with asthma), endpoints that have public health significance, and endpoints for which information is sufficient to support a quantitative concentration-response relationship (USEPA, 2014).

The $PM_{2.5}$ health endpoints and associated C-R functions that we recommend for use in this BenMAP analysis are presented in **Table A-2**. Each C-R function is based on a certain age range for the given health endpoint depending on the underlying epidemiological study on which it is based.

The increases in the BenMAP-estimated health effect incidences and the background and percent of background health incidence due to the project emissions should be presented for each health endpoint in **Table A-2.** These values reflect the total health effects across the modeling domain (e.g., CCOS domain in **Figure A-1** or reduced 4-km Sacramento domain in **Figure B-1**) or across the Five-Air-District Region. Reporting the percent increase in each of the health effect endpoints across the Five-Air-District Region or other geographic region puts into context the incremental increase in health effects due to the project emissions.

[65] For background incidence rates, BenMAP projects likely mortality rates for future years, but for other health effects, incidence rates are based on population changes only and may not reflect rates for future years.

Table A-2. Summary of recommended $PM_{2.5}$ health endpoints

Health Endpoint	Age Range[2]	Daily Metric	Seasonal Metric	Annual Metric	C-R Function Selected[1]
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0-99	24-hr mean			Mar et al., 2010
Mortality, All Cause	30-99	24-hr mean	Quarterly mean	Mean	Krewski et al., 2009
Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0-64	24-hr mean	-	-	Sheppard, 2003
Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (excluding Myocardial Infarctions)	65-99	24-hr mean	-	-	Bell, 2012
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65-99	24-hr mean	-	-	Zanobetti et al., 2009
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18-24	24-hr mean	-	-	Zanobetti et al., 2009
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25-44	24-hr mean	-	-	
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45-54	24-hr mean	-	-	
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55-64	24-hr mean	-	-	
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65-99	24-hr mean	-	-	

[1] C-R functions available in BenMAP (AAI, 2018)
[2] Other age ranges are available, but the studies shown here are the ones used by the EPA in its health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with each epidemiological study that is the basis of the health function.

As noted above, although a larger number of health endpoints could be evaluated, we recommend selecting the ozone health endpoints based on recent USEPA risk assessments (USEPA, 2010; USEPA, 2014). The health endpoints and associated C-R functions for ozone are presented in **Table A-3.** Each ozone C-R function is associated with a certain age range for the given health endpoint, depending on the epidemiological study on which it is based. Increases in the BenMAP-estimated health effects incidences and percent of background health incidence due to the project emissions across the Five-Air-District Region should be presented for each health endpoint. In addition, health incidences and percent of background health incidence due to project emissions can be reported for other geographic areas with justification.

Table A-3. Summary of recommended ozone health endpoints

Health Endpoint	Age Range[3]	Daily Metric[2]	Seasonal Metric	Annual Metric	C-R Function Selected[1]
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	MDA8	-	-	Katsouyanni et al., 2009
Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	MDA8	-	-	Smith et al., 2009
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	MDA8	-	-	Mar and Koenig, 2009
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	MDA8	-	-	Mar and Koenig, 2009

1. C-R function available in BenMAP (AAI, 2018)
2. MDA8 = Maximum daily average 8-hour ozone concentration
3. Other age ranges are available, but the studies shown here are the ones used by the EPA in its health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with each epidemiological study conducted that is the basis of the health function.

The uncertainties in the CEQA project health effects analysis should be discussed, along with assumptions made, to ensure that the analysis is conservative (i.e., tending toward overstating the project's health effects). Many of these uncertainties are discussed below.

Due to the uncertainties in the health effects analysis, the CEQA Friant Ranch health effects analysis approach and methodology should be conducted in a fashion to ensure that the uncertainty is of a conservative nature. In addition to the conservative assumptions noted above that should be built into the emissions quantities (e.g., using maximum 24-hour emissions and year with maximum emissions), there are a number of assumptions that are built into the application of C-R functions in BenMAP that may lead to an overestimation of health effects. For example, for all-cause mortality health effects from $PM_{2.5}$, the estimates are based on a single epidemiological study that found an association between $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations and mortality. While similar studies suggest that such an association exists, there remains uncertainty regarding a clear causal link. This uncertainty stems from the limitations of epidemiological studies, such as inadequate exposure estimates and the inability to control for many factors that could explain the association between $PM_{2.5}$ and mortality, such as lifestyle factors like smoking. Several reviews have evaluated the scientific evidence of health effects from specific particulate components (e.g., Rohr and Wyzga 2012; Lippmann and Chen, 2009; Kelly and Fussell, 2007). These reviews indicate that the evidence is strongest for combustion-derived components of PM including elemental carbon (EC), organic carbon (OC) and various metals (e.g., nickel and vanadium). However, there are still no definitive data that point to any particular component of PM as being more toxic than other components. The USEPA has also stated that results from various studies have shown the importance of considering particle size, composition, and particle source in determining the health effects of PM (USEPA, 2009). Further, the USEPA (2009) found that studies have reported that particles from industrial sources and from coal combustion appear to be the most significant contributors to PM-related mortality, consistent with the findings by Rohr and Wyzga (2012) and others. This is particularly important to note here, as in many projects a large portion of primary PM emissions are from entrained roadway dust and not from combustion.

For both the $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone health effects calculated, each of the pollutants may be a confounder of the other. Thus, while the C-R functions are derived from studies that evaluated the effects for each pollutant individually, both air pollutants could contribute to the health effect outcomes evaluated, and thus the overall impacts may be overstated.

Another uncertainty highlighted by the USEPA (2012) that applies to potential health effects from both $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone is the assumption of a log-linear response between exposure and health effects, without consideration for a threshold below which effects may not be measurable. The issue of a threshold for $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone is highly debatable and can have significant implications for health effects analyses as it requires consideration of current air pollution levels and calculating effects only for areas that exceed threshold levels. Without consideration of a threshold, any incremental contribution to existing ambient air pollution levels, whether below or above the applicable threshold for a given criteria pollutant, is assumed to adversely affect health. Although the USEPA traditionally does not consider thresholds in its cost-benefit analyses, the NAAQS itself is a health-based threshold level that the USEPA has developed, based on evaluating the most current evidence of health effects.

As noted above, the health effects estimation using this method presumes that effects seen at large concentration differences can be linearly scaled down to (i.e., correspond to) small increases in concentration, with no consideration of potential thresholds below which health effects may not occur. This methodology of linearly scaling health effects is broadly accepted for use in regulatory evaluations and is considered as being health protective (USEPA, 2010), but potentially overstates the potential health effects. In summary, health effects presented using the procedures in this guidance are conservatively estimated, and the actual effects may be zero.

A.4.2 Documentation of Results

The results of the health effects assessment should be documented in a brief technical report in plain English that clearly describes how the project's emissions of air pollutants are correlated to health effects. The report should include sufficient detail to enable those who are skilled in the art (and who did not participate in its preparation) to understand the procedures that were used and to consider meaningfully the issues the proposed project raises.

The technical reports should include the following sections: Introduction, Technical Approach, and Results. The technical report should include details on how the PGM was selected and the source of the database used in its operation. It should include details on the emissions used in the PGM as well as a rationale that includes information on the geographical distribution of emissions within the modeling domain. This is particularly important if offsite traffic comprises a significant part of the emissions. The technical report should include details on the speciation of emissions and how the individual emissions were allocated among various source groups. The technical report should include details on how the PGM was operated as well as the important technical choices made and include QA/QC procedures and displays (e.g., spatial maps like in **Figures B-3, B-4 and B-5**). While not recommended unless there is ample evidence to justify it, the user may have some rationale for using C-R responses that are different from the defaults found in BenMAP. Should those be used, the technical report should contain the justification for departure from default C-R responses, as well as details on the C-R responses that were used. The technical report should also contain information on uncertainties in the various steps of the process.

The report should put the health effects into context by comparing them to background rates in the population at large, expressing them as a percent of the background health effects. This comparison can be done using data from the BenMAP model. For perspective, previous evaluations of large developments have shown that the estimated increases in those health effect incidences are fairly minor compared to the background values.

The report should also note that the health effects estimation using BenMAP presumes that effects seen at large concentration differences can be linearly scaled down to small increases in concentration. Accordingly, the report should note that the health effects are conservatively estimated.

Section 7 of the guidance provides additional health context and resources that should be included in the results documentation.

A.5 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX B
SCREENING LEVEL HEATH EFFECTS ANALYSIS

B.1 INTRODUCTION

A screening analysis using PGM and BenMAP modeling of hypothetical projects within the Sac Metro Air District and neighboring areas was conducted. The screening level health effects analysis was conducted by first identifying locations where potential new projects may be located within the Five-Air-District Region that also includes the entire Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA): Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Feather River and Yolo Solano air districts.

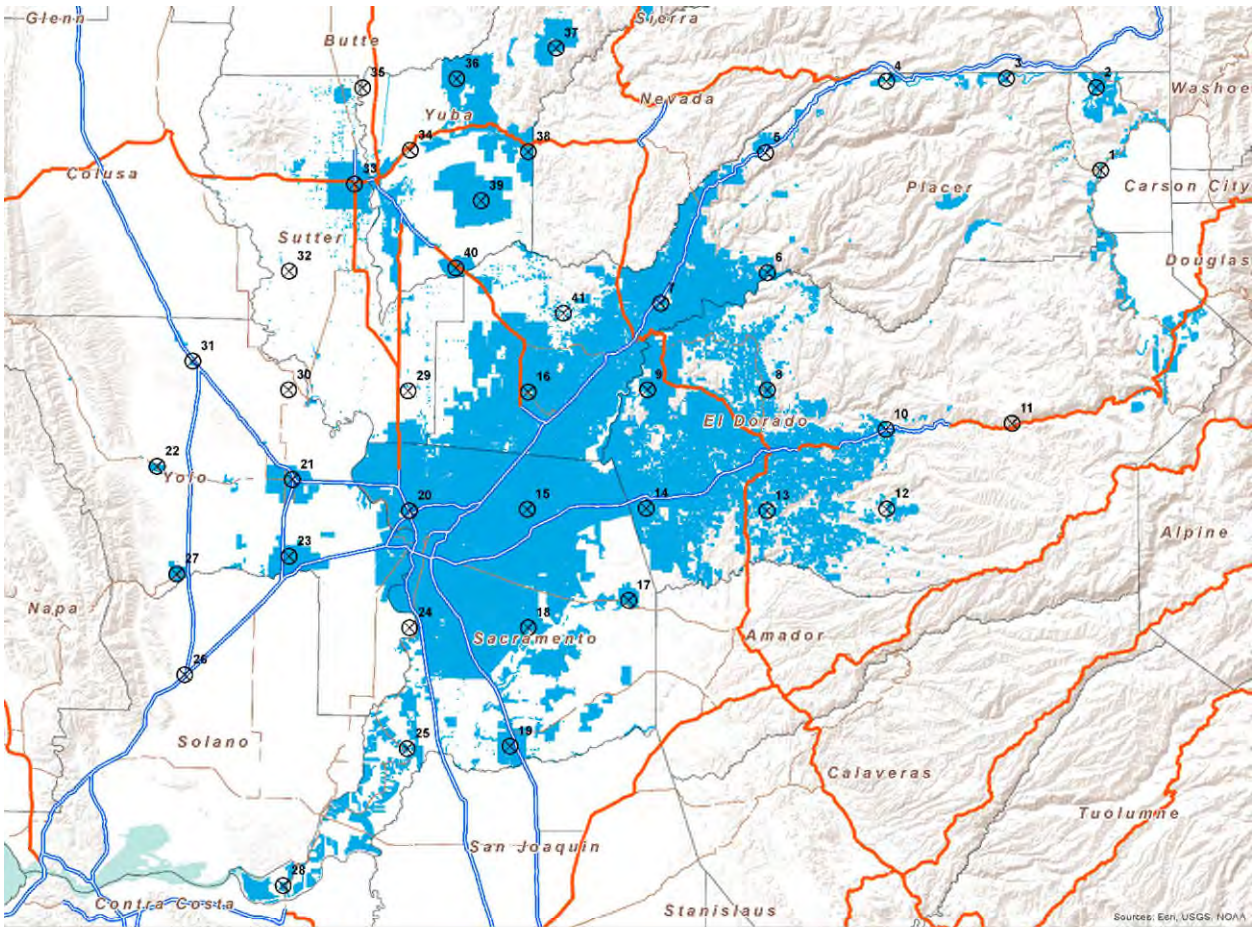
Using the methods described in **Appendix A**, emissions equal to the CEQA thresholds of significance were assumed to occur in 41 representative project locations. The PGM modeling results were then put into BenMAP in order to estimate the health effects that may result from development in each of these locations. The resulting screening level health effects for each of the 41 hypothetical project locations were generated. In addition, Ramboll developed an interactive Minor Project Health Effects Screening Tool in an Excel spreadsheet that allows the user to input a specific proposed project location and the resultant health effects for a project at the maximum TOS emission rates are interpolated from the 41 representative project locations to the point of the proposed project location. This tool is further described in this section.

B.2 HYPOTHETICAL PROJECT DEFINITIONS

B.2.1 Hypothetical Project Locations

The potential project locations for the screening-level health effects analysis were determined by overlaying the 2050 Sacramento Area Council of Governments estimate of potential project development in the Five-Air-District Region on the 4-km gridded domain area, as shown in the blue shaded area in **Figure B-1**. A sufficient number of hypothetical project locations were selected in order to represent the different meteorological and transport conditions across the region, but not so many that the computational burden of the air quality model simulation became prohibitive. Based on this information, 41 hypothetical project source locations were chosen, shown in **Figure B-1**. Each hypothetical project site represents a source of precursor emissions for $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone.

Figure B-1 Potential CEQA project locations (blue shading) in the 5-Air-District Region along with locations of the 41 hypothetical project sources used in the screening modeling.



B.2.2 Emissions for Each Hypothetical Project Source

The screening methodology is intended to provide preparers of environmental documentation a conservative estimate of health effects for projects at any location within the Five-Air-District Region that has emissions at or lower than the significance thresholds for all pollutants. Each of the five air districts within the SFNA has its own thresholds of significance for emissions of air pollutants, as shown in **Table B-1**. The highest threshold of significance for any district within the SFNA is 82 lbs./day each for NO_X, ROG, $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}. Therefore, 82 lbs./day each of NO_X, ROG and $PM_{2.5}$ was chosen as the emission rate for each of these hypothetical project sources. Although SO_2 and CO aren't pollutants with thresholds of significance levels in the five air districts that comprise the SFNA, they are often associated with projects and they do impact ozone and secondary particulate formation.

In order to characterize the appropriate emission levels of SO_2 and CO, the emissions inventories for six projects from Sacramento County were reviewed and compared to the emissions of NOx. Based on the ratios of the emissions of SO_2 to NOx and CO to NOx, the relative SO_2 and CO emissions rates for a project where its NOx emissions were at the threshold of significance were calculated to be 0.98 lbs./day and 262 lbs./day, respectively. These emissions rates are therefore representative of SO_2 and CO emissions from residential and commercial projects relative to the emissions of NO_X at the threshold of significance levels of 82 lbs./day. This calculation is further discussed in **Appendix D**.

The health effects from any project with emissions below the thresholds of significance will be lower than the health effects presented in this screening analysis.

Table B-1. Thresholds of significance

Pollutants in lbs./day (with some exceptions, noted)				
Air District	**NOX**	**ROG**	**PM10**	**PM2.5**
Sacramento	65	65	80	**82**
Placer	55	55	**82**	Not established
El Dorado	**82**	**82**	Cause or contribute to an exceedance of ambient air quality standards (AAQS)	Cause or contribute to an exceedance of ambient air quality standards (AAQS)
Feather River	25	25	80	Not established
Yolo Solano	55[a]	55[a]	80	Not established

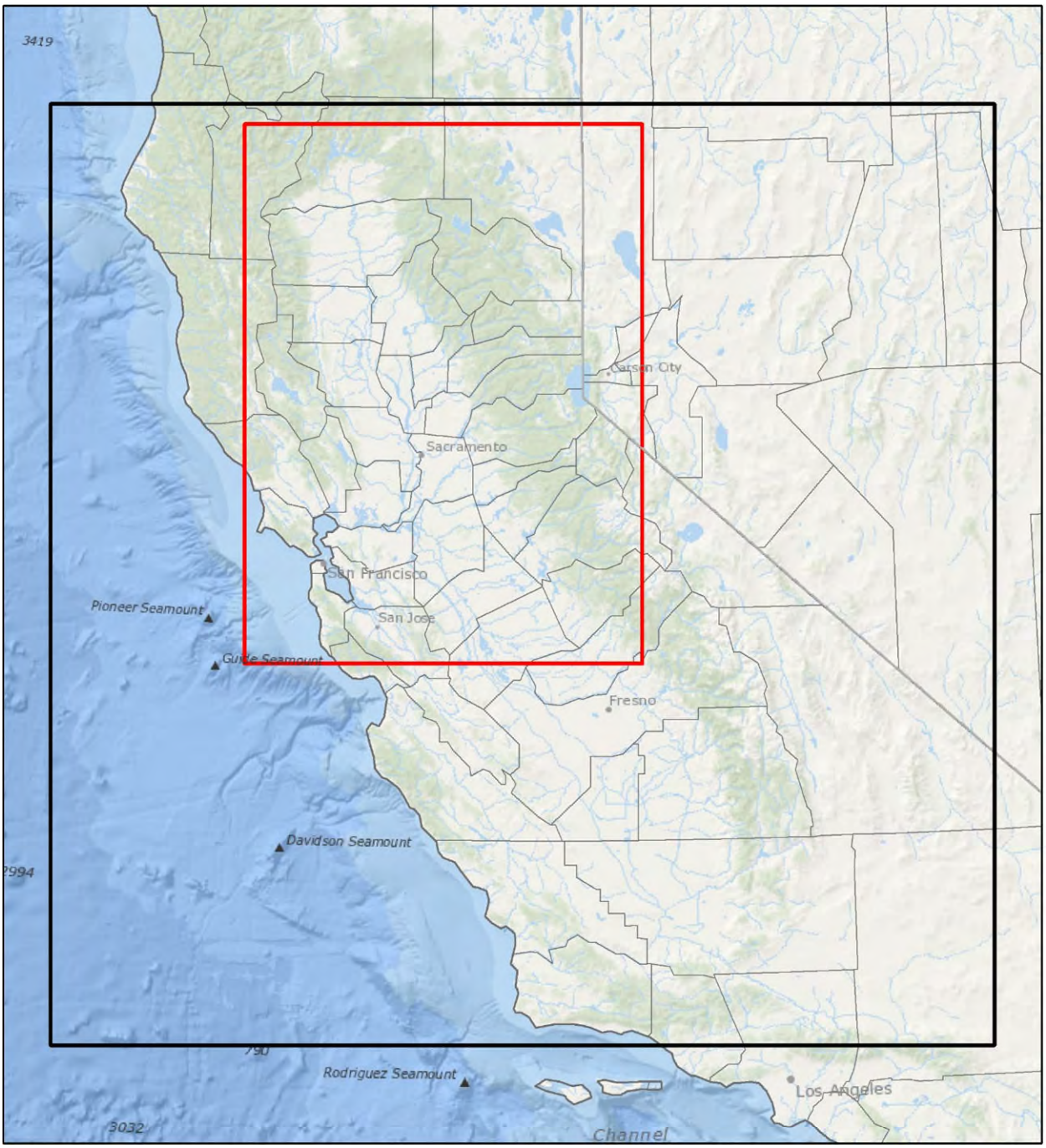
[a] 55 lbs./day is equivalent to 10 tons/year adopted threshold
[b] **Red** indicates the highest emission rate among the five districts

B.3 PGM SCREENING MODELING

B.3.1 Reduced 4-km Modeling Domain

The 2012 BAAQMD modeling platform for the CCOS domain shown in **Figure A-1** was adapted for the health effects screening analysis. The CCOS domain covers large portions of northern California and western Nevada where we would expect there to be no significant health effects due to a CEQA project within the Five-Air-District Region. Thus, we reduced the size of the CCOS domain to the red domain embedded in the CCOS domain shown in **Figure B-2**. The boundary conditions for the smaller 4-km domain in **Figure B-2** were based on a CAMx simulation of the larger CCOS domain (**Figure A-1**). As QA for the new 2012 reduced Sacramento modeling domain database, we performed a CAMx base case simulation using the reduced domain and found that it produced essentially the same ozone and PM results as the CAMx full CCOS domain simulation.

Figure B-2. Sac Metro Air District CAMx 4-km domain (red box) used in the screening analysis embedded in the 4-km CCOS domain (black box) covering northern California.



B.3.2 Emissions used in the Screening Analysis

The 2035 anthropogenic emissions for the reduced 4-km modeling domain **(Figure B-2)** were obtained by projecting the BAAQMD 2012 anthropogenic emissions to 2035 using the ARB CEPAM[66] emission projections.

As discussed in **Section B.1.2**, each of the 41 hypothetical projects were assumed to have NO_X, ROG and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions of 82 lbs./day with SO_2 and CO emissions of 0.98 lbs./day and 262 lbs./day, respectively. The hypothetical project ROG (also known as VOC) emissions were speciated into the VOC species used in the SAPRC07 chemical mechanism that is used by CAMx with speciation profiles based on the typical mix of sources types in a CEQA project as described in **Appendix D**. The emissions were assumed to be released near the surface (i.e., in layer 1), which is also typical for CEQA projects in the region.

B.3.3 PGM Modeling

The CAMx PGM was used to simulate the incremental ozone and PM concentrations due to emissions from each of the 41 hypothetical project sources. Emissions from each of the 41 hypothetical sources were separately tagged for treatment by the CAMx APCA/PSAT ozone/PM source apportionment tools. The CAMx standard and source apportionment output was processed to generate Base Case concentrations that consisted of CAMx standard model output minus the contributions of all 41 hypothetical sources. Then, the contributions of each individual hypothetical project were separately added to the Base Case for each Project Case. The PGM estimated gridded daily 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ and MDA8 ozone concentrations for the Base Case and Project Case that were then used in the health effects modeling.

Figures B-3, B-4 and B-5 display the incremental $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone concentrations due to hypothetical source number 20, which is located near the intersection of I-80 and I-5 (see **Figure B-1**). For annual average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations, the maximum contribution due to hypothetical source 20 is 0.44 $\mu g/m^3$ and occurs close to the source location (**Figure B-3**). The highest daily $PM_{2.5}$ (**Figure B-4**) and MDA8 ozone (**Figure B-5**) concentrations due to hypothetical source 20 are, respectively, 1.69 $\mu g/m^3$ and 0.38 ppb, and also occur close to the location of source 20.

[66] https://www.arb.ca.gov/app/emsinv/fcemssumcat/fcemssumcat2016.php

Figure B-3. Map of the incremental annual average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations ($\mu g/m^3$) due to emissions from hypothetical source 20.

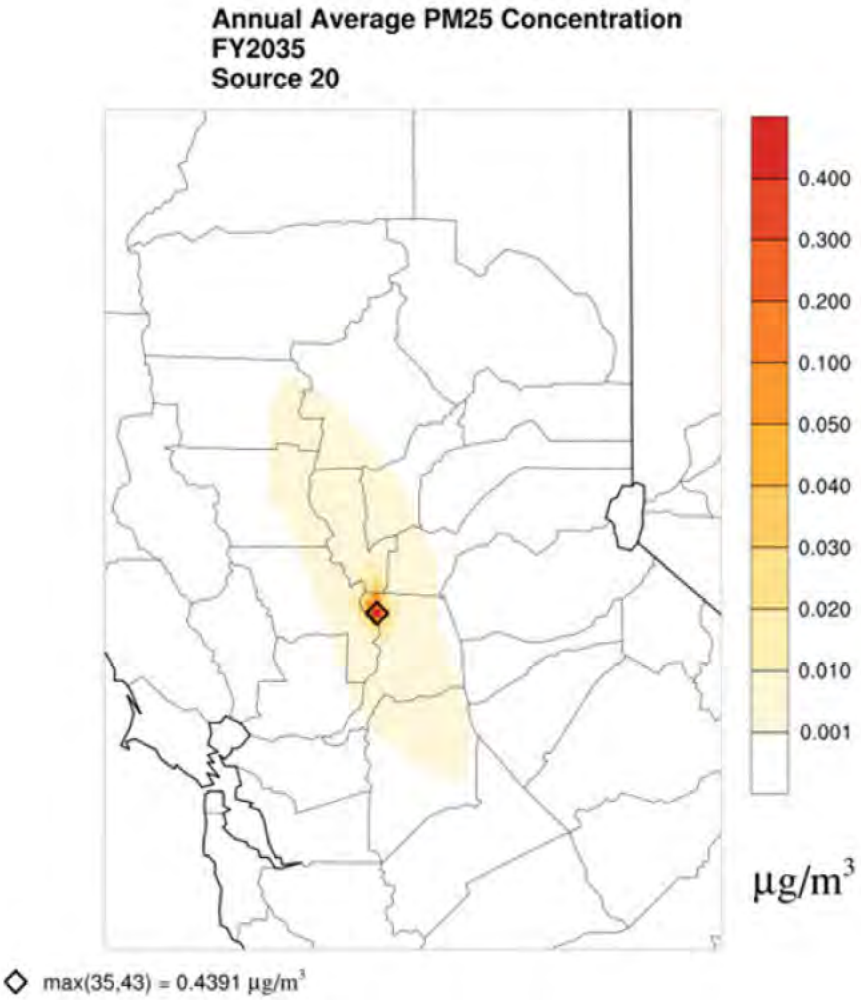


Figure B-4. Map of the incremental maximum 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations ($\mu g/m^3$) due to emissions from hypothetical source 20.

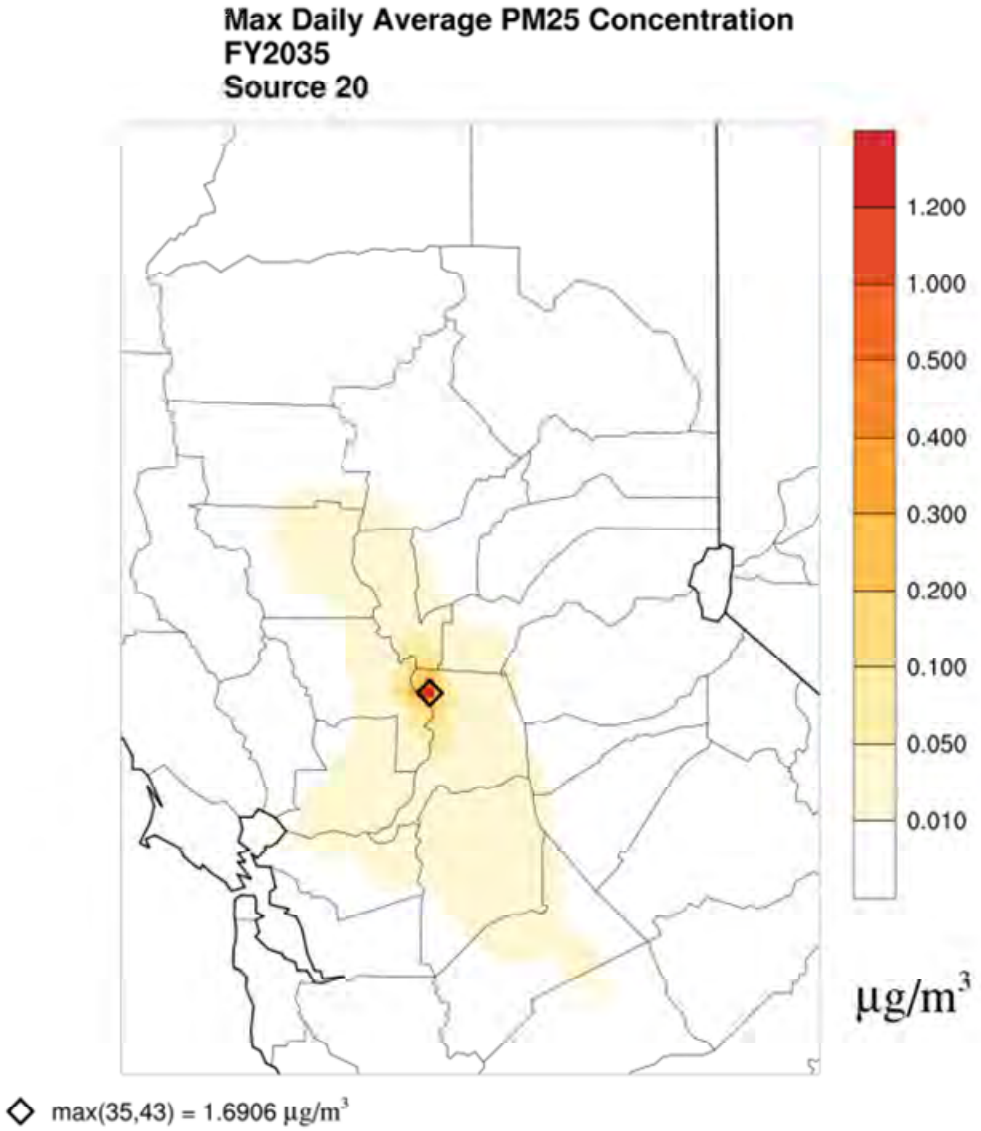
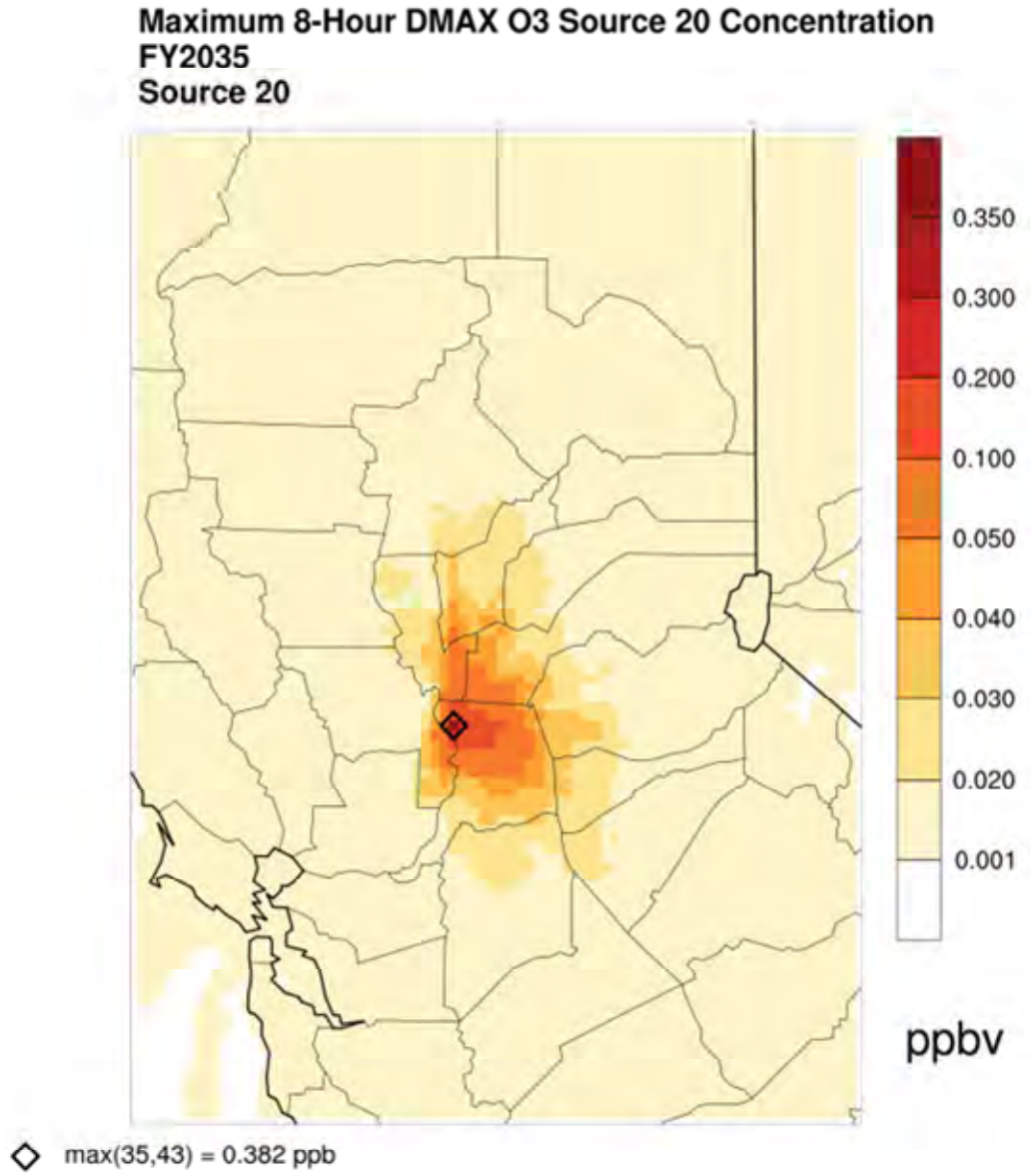


Figure B-5. Map of the incremental highest MDA8 ozone concentrations (ppb) due to emissions from hypothetical source 20.



B.4 HEALTH EFFECTS MODELING

B.4.1 BenMAP Simulator

EPA's BenMAP air pollution health effects tool is a Windows-based program with the flexibility to use several alternative Concentration-Response (C-R) functions. The application of BenMAP for the 41 hypothetical projects would be quite time-consuming. Thus, a Python-based BenMAP simulator was developed that could efficiently estimate the health effect impacts of the 41 hypothetical projects using the CAMx source apportionment modeling results. The specific default C-R functions identified in **Appendix A** (**Tables A-2** and **A-3**) were implemented in the Python-based BenMAP simulator.

The Python-based BenMAP simulator was run for the 41 hypothetical project locations shown in **Figure B-1** using the CAMx Base Case and Project Case modeling results. We then ran BenMAP using the CAMx 2035 annual source apportionment modeling results for hypothetical project number 20, which, because it is in the City of Sacramento, represents one of the hypothetical sources with relatively higher health effects than others. **Tables B-2** and **B-3** display the resultant $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone health effects from running the EPA BenMAP and Python-based BenMAP simulator on the CAMx source apportionment modeling results for hypothetical source number 20. To three significant digits, the results are identical. Because the Python-based simulator uses higher precision than BenMAP, the results are not identical when looking out to more significant decimal places. For example, to four significant digits the premature mortality due to PM across the entire modeling domain for hypothetical project number 20 is 2.289 per year using BenMAP and 2.287 per year using the Python-based BenMAP simulator. These less-than-0.1% differences do not change any aspects of the health effects assessment. Summaries of the potential health effects across the modeling, like those presented in Tables **B-2** and **B-3** for hypothetical source 20, are provided for each one of the 41 hypothetical sources in **Appendix F**. Note that in addition to the project's incremental health effects, the percent increase of the health effects over the background health effects should also be presented. For example, for hypothetical source 20, the increase of 2.06 premature mortalities per year within the Five-Air-District Region that is due to increased PM concentrations from the project's emissions represents a 0.005% increase over the background value of the Five-Air-District Region; thus, this is a very small increase.

Table B-2. Health effects for hypothetical project number 20 produced by EPA's BenMAP program.

BenMAP					
Run with PopGrid populations - Source 20					
$PM_{2.5}$ Health Endpoint	Age Range*	Incidences Across the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)	Incidences Across the 5-Air District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)	Percent of Background Health Incidences Across the 5-Air District Region**	Total Number of Health Incidences Across the 5-Air District Region (per year)**
		(Mean)	(Mean)		
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.45	1.36	0.0074	18419
Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.29	2.06	0.0046	44766
Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	0.097	0.092	0.0050	1846
Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	0.19	0.17	0.00071	24037
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.34	0.30	0.0015	19644
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	0.00013	0.00012	0.0032	4
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	0.012	0.012	0.0038	308
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	0.025	0.024	0.0032	741
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	0.040	0.038	0.0031	1239
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	0.12	0.11	0.0022	5052

Ozone Health Endpoint	Age Range*	Incidences Across the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain Resulting from Project Emissions (per year) (Mean)	Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year) (Mean)	Percent of Background Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region**	Total Number of Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region (per year)**
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.085	0.065	0.00033	19644
Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	0.053	0.043	0.00014	30386
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	0.46	0.39	0.0066	5859
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	0.72	0.61	0.0049	12560

* Other age ranges are available, but the studies shown here are the ones used by the EPA in their health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with each epidemiological study that is the basis of the health function.

** The percent of background health incidence uses the mean incidence. The background health incidence is an estimate of the average number of people that are affected by the health endpoint in a given population over a given period of time. In this case, these background incidence rates cover the Five-Air-District domain. Health incidence rates and other health data are typically collected by the government as well as the World Health Organization. The background incidence rates used here are obtained from BenMAP.

Table B-3. Health effects for hypothetical project number 20 produced by the Python-based BenMAP simulator.

BenMAP-Python					
Run with PopGrid populations - Source 20					
$PM_{2.5}$ Health Endpoint	**Age Range***	**Incidences Across the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)**	**Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)**	**Percent of Background Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region****	**Total Number of Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region (per year)****
		(Mean)	**(Mean)**		
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.46	1.37	0.0074	18419
Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.29	2.06	0.0046	44766
Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	0.097	0.092	0.0050	1846
Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	0.19	0.17	0.00071	24037
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.34	0.30	0.0015	19644
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	0.00013	0.00012	0.0032	4
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	0.012	0.012	0.0038	308
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	0.025	0.024	0.0032	741
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	0.0398	0.038	0.0031	1239
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	0.12	0.11	0.0022	5052

Ozone Health Endpoint	Age Range*	Incidences Across the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)	Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)	Percent of Background Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region**	Total Number of Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region (per year)**
		(Mean)	(Mean)		
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.085	0.065	0.00033	19644
Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	0.053	0.043	0.00014	30386
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	0.46	0.39	0.0067	5859
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	0.72	0.61	0.0049	12560

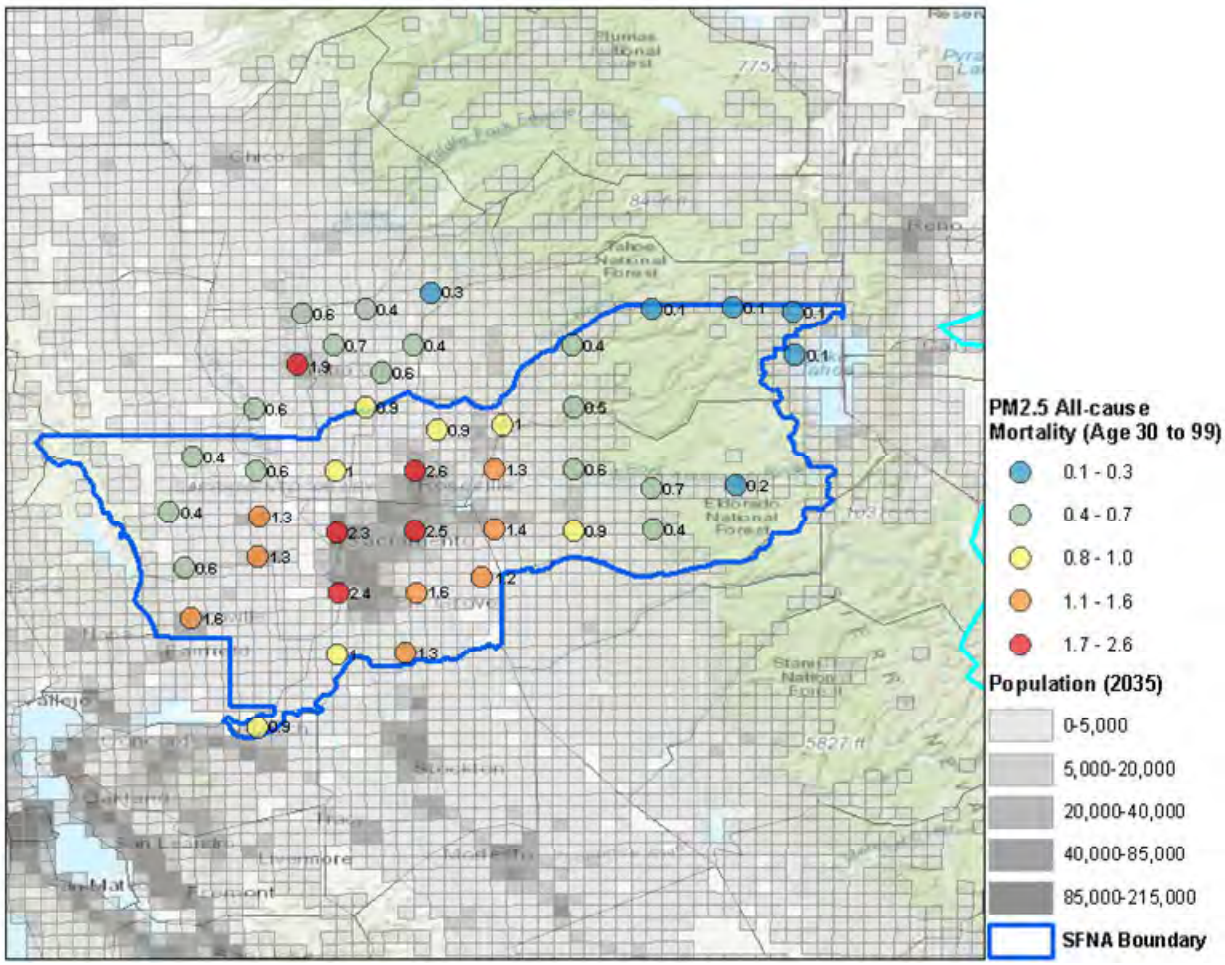
* Other age ranges are available, but the studies shown here are the ones used by the EPA in its health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with each epidemiological study that is the basis of the health function.

** The percent of background health incidence uses the mean incidence. The background health incidence is an estimate of the average number of people that are affected by the health endpoint in a given population over a given period of time. In this case, these background incidence rates cover the Five-Air-District domain. Health incidence rates and other health data are typically collected by the government as well as the World Health Organization. The background incidence rates used here are obtained from BenMAP.

B.4.2 Screening Modeling Health Effects Results

The estimated health effects due to a change in $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone concentrations resulting from emissions for each of the 41 hypothetical project sources are provided in **Appendix F. Figure B-6** displays a map of the total PM mortality health effects results of all 41 hypothetical projects. Even though all 41 hypothetical projects have the same emissions, their health effects can vary by over an order of magnitude (e.g., from 0.1 to 2.6). Atmospheric chemistry and dispersion can play a role in the differences in a hypothetical source's concentrations and resulting health effects in different locations, but the primary difference in a hypothetical project's health effects is the source's proximity to population centers. For example, the hypothetical sources located in the City of Sacramento have greater health effects than those in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Figure B-6. Hypothetical project PM mortality health effects superimposed on population density with SFNA boundary outline.



B.4.3 Minor Project Health Effects Screening Tool

A simple screening health effects spreadsheet tool was developed by interpolating the health effects from the 41 hypothetical source locations to each 4-km grid in the Sac Metro Air District and neighboring air districts. The spatial interpolation was performed using python's SciPy implementation of the radial basis function interpolation.[67] Multiple basis functions were tested, but the linear function was selected because it provides higher values for the interpolated health effects and therefore was considered more conservative for the purposes of the screening tool implementation. The user can input the latitude/longitude location of a proposed project and the spreadsheet will generate a table of health effects corresponding to the threshold of significance emissions rate at the proposed project location.

[67] https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/generated/scipy.interpolate.Rbf.html

APPENDIX C
STRATEGIC AREA PROJECT HEALTH EFFECTS ANALYSIS

C.1 STRATEGIC AREA HEALTH EFFECTS RESULTS

This Appendix describes the Friant Ranch strategic area health effects screening modeling analysis for potential projects in the Sac Metro Air District and neighboring air districts.

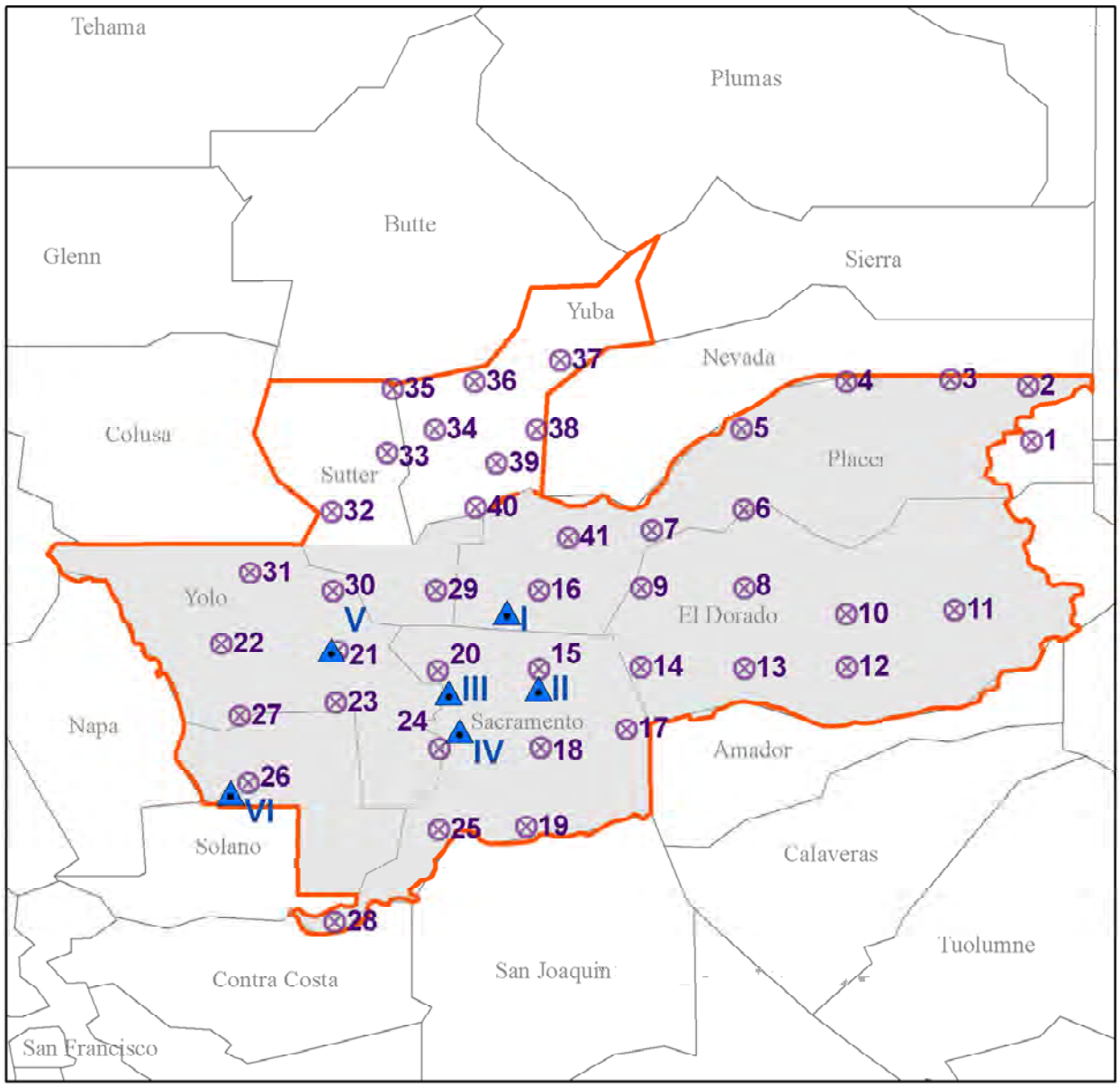
C.1.1 Strategic Area Project Screening Modeling

The Sac Metro Air District provided six locations for potential projects that represent the general areas in which projects exceeding thresholds of significance levels would be expected to occur. The six potential locations are listed in **Table C-1** and shown in **Figure C-1**.

Table C-1. Coordinates for 6 hypothetical strategic area projects.

ID	Name	Latitude	Longitude	Location
I	West Roseville	38.765833	-121.359299	Fiddyment Road & Pleasant Grove Boulevard
II	Rancho Cordova	38.588080	-121.286765	Zinfandel Drive & White Rock Road
III	Downtown Sacramento	38.579336	-121.494119	10th Street & K Street
IV	South Sacramento	38.490489	-121.468468	Florin Road & Franklin Boulevard
V	Woodland	38.677388	-121.765759	Main Street & East Street
VI	Vacaville	38.347954	-121.998058	Merchant Street & Lincoln Highway

Figure C-1. Locations of six projects I-VI used in the strategic area screening modeling, along with the 41 hypothetical Projects used in the minor project analysis and boundary of the Five-Air-District Region (red) with the SFNA shaded grey.



The project screening modeling was run at each of the six locations at two levels of emissions, corresponding to two times (2x) and 8 times (8x) the threshold of significance level, which is 82 lbs./day for NO_X, ROG, $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} (see **Table 1**). The six projects also included CO and SO_2 emissions using the same approach as used for the 41 hypothetical minor project analysis (see **Appendices B and D**). The ROG and PM emissions for the six projects were also speciated following the same approach as the hypothetical minor project modeling (see **Appendix D**). **Table C-2** displays the project emissions for the two levels of emissions used. Two levels of emissions were modeled in

the project screening modeling to account for non-linear effects of ozone and secondary PM formation as a function of NO_X, ROG, SO_2 and CO emissions.

Table C-2. Emissions levels used for modeling strategic area projects at the six locations that are 2 and 8 times the threshold of significance.

Pollutant	Emissions (lbs./day)	
	2xTOS	8xTOS
NO_X	164	656
$PM_{2.5}$	164	656
ROG	164	656
SO_2	1.96	7.84
CO	524	2096

The ultimate goal of the strategic area screening analysis is to develop an interactive spreadsheet in which the user selects one of the six project locations and inputs the project total NO_X, $PM_{2.5}$ and VOC emissions. The spreadsheet internally interpolates the health effects from the CAMx/BenMAP modeling for each pollutant, and outputs a health effects summary table. If a user inputs any emissions value above the maximum emissions analyzed (see 8xTOS values in **Table C-2**), then the spreadsheet will output an error message. If the user inputs emissions below the minimum emissions analyzed (see 2xTOS values in **Table C-2**), then the spreadsheet will output the health effects corresponding to the 2xTOS scenario as a conservative estimate of the health effects.

Two annual CAMx ozone and PM source apportionment model simulations were conducted for the 2012 calendar year using 2035 future year anthropogenic emissions: (1) six strategic area projects at 2xTOS emissions; and (2) six strategic area projects at 8xTOS emissions. Emissions from each of the six projects were tagged for treatment by the CAMx ozone (APCA) and PM (PSAT) source apportionment tool.

The CAMx source apportionment ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ contributions of each of the six projects at the two levels of emissions were input into BenMAP to obtain health effects, with results shown in **Appendix G**. BenMAP was run separately to obtain the ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ health effects from the project NO_X, ROG and PM emissions. For ozone, the following species mappings were used to attribute ozone (O_3) health effects to NO_X, ROG and PM precursor emissions.

- Ozone(NO_X) = O3N (ozone formed under NOx-limited conditions)
- Ozone(ROG) = O3V (ozone formed under VOC/ROG-limited conditions)
- Ozone(PM) = 0.0

For particulate matter, the following species mappings were used to attribute $PM_{2.5}$ health effects to NO_X, ROG and PM emissions:

- $PM_{2.5}$(NOx) = Nitrate (NO3) + Ammonium (NH4) + Sulfate (SO4)
- $PM_{2.5}$(ROG) = 0.0
- $PM_{2.5}$(PM) = Elemental Carbon (EC) + Primary Organic Aerosol (POA) + Other Fine Particulate (FPRM) + Fine Crustal Particulate (FCRS)

Note that the $PM_{2.5}$ associated with SO_4 is assigned to the project NO_X precursor emissions because the project SO_2 emissions were derived as a ratio to the NO_X emissions (see **Appendix D**). Particulate sulfate is expected to be a small component, as the SO_2 emissions in the six projects are only 1.2% of the NO_X emissions (see **Table C-2**).

The BenMAP results of the six strategic area project screening modeling at two emissions levels are provided in **Appendix G**.

C.1.2 Strategic Area Project Health Effects Screening Tool

The strategic area project screening modeling health effects were used to develop a Strategic Area Projects Health Effects Screening Tool, which is a spreadsheet that can be used to estimate health effects for potential strategic area projects with emissions below the 8xTOS level. The Strategic Area Project Health Effects Screening Tool has two interactive components that need to be defined by the user:

1. Project Location: Select one of the six strategic area project locations (see **Table C-1** and **Figure C-1**) from a dropdown menu, and the spreadsheet uses the strategic area project health effects screening modeling results for that location.
2. Project Emissions: Input the NO_X, ROG and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions in pounds/day for the potential strategic area project, and the tool linearly interpolates the ozone and PM health effects for the selected project location from the 2xTOS and 8xTOS CAMx/BenMAP modeling.

Note that if the user inputs NO_X, ROG or PM emissions below the 2xTOS emissions rate, then the health effects for the 2xTOS emissions level are used to provide a conservative estimate of health effects. The assumption of linear interpolation of the ozone and PM health effects between the 2xTOS and 8xTOS CAMx/BenMAP modeling results could potentially introduce uncertainties in the results, if the linear assumption is invalid. The health effects concentration-response (C-R) functions used in BenMAP are most frequently expressed in log-linear relationships in concentration, so linear interpolation of the health effects between the 2xTOS and 8xTOS concentrations could introduce uncertainties. However, these are very low levels of concentrations, so the log-linear relationship of the C-R functions can be accurately represented by a linear relationship. The chemistry of ozone and secondary $PM_{2.5}$ formation is non-linear, so the use of linear interpolation of the NO_X and ROG health effects could introduce uncertainties in the results. Again, since we are analyzing very small changes in ozone and secondary $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations, the non-linear terms are negligible and small changes in the non-linear models can be correctly analyzed as linear, consistent with Taylor's theorem.[68] Furthermore, because we are interpolating between the 2xTOS and 8xTOS modeling scenarios (rather than extrapolating from one scenario), any non-linear effects in either the C-R functions or chemistry are bounded.

[68] https://mathinsight.org/taylors_theorem_multivariable_introduction

A CEQA project within the Sac Metro Air District or the 5-Air-District Region with 656 lbs/day or less of NOx, ROG and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions may use the Strategic Area Health Effects Screening Tool to provide an estimate of the health effects of the project. If the proposed project is within close proximity (e.g., within one 4-km grid cell) of one of the six strategic area source locations the proponent can discuss using the health effects from the Tool at that location with concurrence from the Sac Metro Air District or other applicable air district in the 5-Air-District Region.

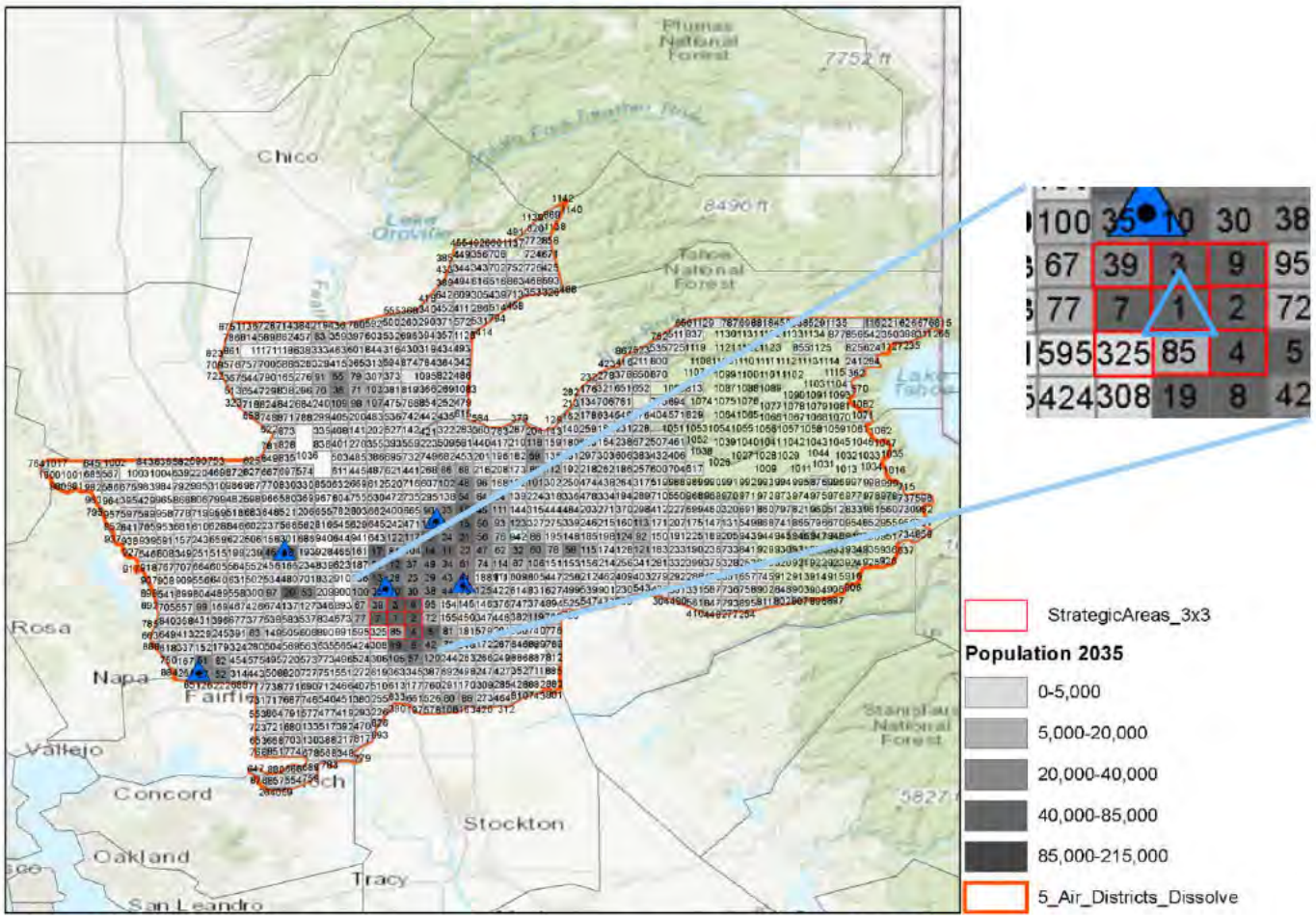
C.1.3 Using the Strategic Area Projects Health Effects Screening Tool Outside Strategic Areas

The strategic area projects health effects screening tool can be used outside of the strategic areas to provide a conservative (i.e., upper bound) estimate of health effects if the South Sacramento strategic area source is used as a surrogate location. The South Sacramento strategic area source was selected as a surrogate location because it has the highest population density within the 5-Air-District Region. Population density is the strongest driver of health effects. Consequently, the highest population density would be expected to have the largest population exposed and, as a result, the greatest number of health effects. The South Sacramento location is in the 4-km grid cell with the highest population and is also the grid cell centroid of a 3x3 array of 4-km grid cells with the highest population in the 5-Air-District Region; the 9-cells include the 4-km grid cells with the 1st, 2nd 3rd 4th 7th and 9th highest population grid cells in the 5-Air-District Region (see Figure C-2).

Because of the high population density, the South Sacramento location has the highest total health effects of the locations analyzed, out of the six strategic area source locations. For example, for a source with 656 lbs/day of NOx, ROG and $PM_{2.5}$, the premature mortality due to $PM_{2.5}$ across the 5-Air-District Region for the South Sacramento location is 26 deaths compared to 11, 17, 20, 2 and 2 deaths for the West Roseville, Rancho Cordova, Downtown Sacramento, Woodland and Vacaville strategic area locations, respectively.

Alternatively, the project proponent can conduct explicit photochemical grid and health effects modeling following the procedures in section 6 and Appendix A of this guidance.

Figure C-2. Ranking of population in each 4-km grid cell within the 5-Air-District Region with magnified inset of highest population grid cells where the South Sacramento strategic area source is located.



APPENDIX D
CHARACTERIZATION OF SO_2 AND CO EMISSIONS AND ROG CHEMICAL SPECIATION FOR TYPICAL PROJECT EMISSIONS

D.1 ESTIMATE OF HYPOTHETICAL PROJECT SO_2 AND CO EMISSIONS

To characterize the approximate SO_2 and CO emissions that may result from emissions at the significance thresholds for $PM_{2.5}$, NO_X and VOCs, we analyzed six historical projects from Sacramento County. The projects were chosen as they represented a diversity of sources and were not dependent on a specific type of source.

To conduct the analysis, the Sac Metro Air District provided criteria pollutant emissions inventory information for the six projects. The information was for the years spanning 2013-2018, and therefore reflected practices and emissions profiles that are current. The emissions inventories were created using CalEEMod to be consistent with past and future projects occurring within the Sac Metro Air District.

Descriptions of these projects can be found in **Table D-1**. Descriptions are from the project description section of the development's CEQA document, which does not always match the CalEEMod land use inputs, also shown in **Table D-1**.

Table D-1. Projects used to estimate the SO_2 and CO emissions ratios

Development	CEQA Project Document Descriptions	CalEEMod Inputs
Newbridge	• 1,095 acre mixed-use development • 3,135 Residential Units • 190,000 sq. ft. Commercial space, 180,000 sq. ft. Office space, 59.6 acres Recreational space, 9.4 acres Educational space	• 297.5 acres modeled • 880 Single Family Homes, 280 unit Low Rise Apartment • 120,000 sq. ft. Regional Shopping Center, 100 acre City Park, 1,000 student Elementary School
Panhandle	• 490 acre area to be annexed into Sacramento • 2,550 Residential Units and associated infrastructure	• Approx. 483 acres modeled • 2,660 Single Family Homes • 500 student Elementary School, 2800 student Junior High School, 57.8 acre City Park, 101,280 sq. ft. Regional Shopping Center
Richards Boulevard Office Complex	• 1.375 million GSF complex • Includes 1.225 million GSF workspace plus: lobbies, cafeterias, fitness center, auditorium, retail	• 1.437 million sq. ft. Government Office Building • 1,020 space Enclosed Parking with Elevator • 400 space Parking Lot
The Core	• 13 acre development • 300 unit luxury apartment complex with parking lot, utilities	• 11.7 acres modeled • 300 unit Mid Rise Apartment
Bilby Ridge	• Proposed annexation of 480 acre area • Description does not include a proposed new land use	• 17.57 acres modeled • 210,000 sq. ft. General Office Building, 110,000 sq. ft. Elementary School, 2.30 acre City Park, 345,000 sq. ft. Strip Mall
Cardoso	• 17.46 acre parcel of former agricultural land • 69 Single Family Homes to be built on 16.84 acres, remaining .62 acres for existing home	• 16.84 acres modeled • 69 Single Family Homes

Overall emissions from the projects are provided in **Table D-2**. The allocated emissions are shown in **Tables D-3a-e**. **Table D-3f** shows the average percentage of emissions of each pollutant for each source type. These tables show that the great majority of SO_2 and CO emissions are associated with mobile sources. Accordingly, we chose to estimate SO_2 and CO emissions from the ratio of mobile-source NO_X emissions as mobile-source emissions are also the great majority of NO_X emissions.

Table D-2. Total emissions by project

Development	Emissions (tons/yr.)				
	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM2.5
Newbridge	38.73	14.09	92.93	0.24	4.50
Panhandle	29.20	25.07	84.31	0.18	5.88
Richards Boulevard Office Complex	8.50	10.63	32.38	0.12	3.18
The Core	2.20	3.39	12.16	0.03	0.68
Bilby Ridge	8.29	19.63	50.30	0.12	2.51
Cardoso	0.80	0.98	3.20	0.01	0.19

Table D-3a. ROG - Percent of mitigated operational emissions attributed to each category by project

	Newbridge	Panhandle	Richards Blvd	The Core	Bilby Ridge	Cardoso
	Percentage of Operational Emissions (%)					
Architectural Coating	11.20	11.01	6.95	8.54	3.72	9.70
Consumer Products	64.78	70.43	66.46	53.30	31.34	60.55
Landscaping	1.36	4.11	0.04	4.27	0.01	2.70
Energy	0.47	0.11	0.85	0.72	0.41	1.20
Mobile	22.18	14.34	25.54	33.17	64.52	25.85
Stationary	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
Development Total (lbs./day)	212.21	160.01	46.57	12.04	45.43	4.39
Sac Metro Air District Significance Threshold (lbs./day)	65					

Table D-3b. NOx - Percent of mitigated operational emissions attributed to each category by development

	Newbridge	Panhandle	Richards Blvd	The Core	Bilby Ridge	Cardoso
	Percentage of Operational Emissions (%)					
Architectural Coating	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Consumer Products	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landscaping	1.43	1.84	0.00	1.06	0.00	0.84
Energy	11.20	1.16	6.21	3.98	1.58	8.35
Mobile	87.37	97.00	93.23	94.97	98.42	90.81
Stationary	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
Development Total (lbs./day)	77.20	137.39	58.23	18.57	107.57	5.39
Sac Metro Air District Significance Threshold (lbs./day)	65					

Table D-3c. CO - Percent of mitigated operational emissions attributed to each category by development

	Newbridge	Panhandle	Richards Blvd	The Core	Bilby Ridge	Cardoso
	Percentage of Operational Emissions (%)					
Architectural Coating	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Consumer Products	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landscaping	18.82	47.41	0.11	25.49	0.02	22.26
Energy	0.77	0.29	1.71	0.47	0.52	1.09
Mobile	80.41	52.30	98.07	74.04	99.46	76.64
Stationary	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Development Total (lbs./day)	509.21	462.00	177.43	66.65	275.60	17.55
Sac Metro Air District Significance Threshold (lbs./day)	N/A					

Table D-3d. SO2 - Percent of mitigated operational emissions attributed to each category by development

	Newbridge	Panhandle	Richards Blvd	The Core	Bilby Ridge	Cardoso
	Percentage of Operational Emissions (%)					
Architectural Coating	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Consumer Products	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landscaping	0.39	1.18	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.47
Energy	4.19	0.97	3.22	2.98	1.59	6.07
Mobile	95.42	97.85	96.73	96.46	98.41	93.47
Stationary	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Development Total (lbs./day)	1.31	0.99	0.67	0.16	0.64	0.05
Sac Metro Air District Significance Threshold (lbs./day)	N/A					

Table D-3e. PM2.5- Percent of mitigated operational emissions attributed to each category by development

	Newbridge	Panhandle	Richards Blvd	The Core	Bilby Ridge	Cardoso
	Percentage of Operational Emissions (%)					
Architectural Coating (Total)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Consumer Products (Total)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landscaping (Total)	2.15	3.78	0.00	2.50	0.00	2.12
Energy (Total)	2.83	0.38	1.58	1.59	0.94	3.58
Mobile (Fugitive)	90.26	94.29	95.73	92.51	93.47	90.92
Mobile (Exhaust)	4.76	1.55	2.63	3.40	5.59	3.38
Stationary (Total)	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
Development Total (lbs./day)	24.63	32.24	17.43	3.75	13.75	1.02
SMAQMD Significance Threshold (lbs./day)	82					

Table D-3f. Emissions summary for all pollutants for all projects with average percentages of emissions

	ROG			NOx			CO			SO2			PM2.5 Total		
	Avg	Min	Max	**Avg**	Min	Max	**Avg**	Min	Max	**Avg**	Min	Max	**Avg**	Min	Max
	%			**%**			**%**			**%**			**%**		
Architectural Coating	**8.52**	3.72	11.20	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00
Consumer Products	**57.81**	31.34	70.43	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00
Landscaping	**2.08**	0.01	4.27	**0.86**	0.00	1.84	**19.02**	0.02	47.41	**0.43**	0.00	1.18	**1.76**	0.00	3.78
Energy	**0.63**	0.11	1.20	**5.41**	1.16	11.20	**0.81**	0.29	1.71	**3.17**	0.97	6.07	**1.82**	0.38	3.58
Mobile (Total)	**30.93**	14.34	64.52	**93.63**	87.37	98.42	**80.15**	52.30	99.46	**96.39**	93.47	98.41	--	--	--
Mobile (Fugitive)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	**92.86**	90.26	95.73
Mobile (Exhaust)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	**3.55**	1.55	5.59
Stationary	**0.03**	0.00	0.16	**0.09**	0.00	0.56	**0.02**	0.00	0.10	**0.01**	0.00	0.05	**0.01**	0.00	0.06

The ratios of emissions of SO_2 and CO to NO_X is shown in **Table D-4**, below.

Table D-4. Ratio of CO/NOx and SO2/NOx

Source Category	Newbridge		Panhandle		Richards Boulevard		The Core		Bilby Ridge		Cardoso	
	CO/NOx	**SO2/NOx**	**CO/NOx**	**SO2/NOx**	**CO/NOx**	**SO2/NOx**	**CO/NOx**	**SO2/NOx**	**CO/NOx**	**SO2/NOx**	**CO/NOx**	**SO2/NOx**
	Unitless (ratio)											
Architectural Coating	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Consumer Products	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Landscaping	86.7711	0.0046	86.7080	0.0046	110.3030	0.0000	86.6061	0.0045	107.5000	0.0000	86.6464	0.0049
Energy	0.4515	0.0064	0.8400	0.0060	0.8400	0.0060	0.4251	0.0064	0.8401	0.0060	0.4263	0.0063
Mobile	6.0703	0.0185	1.8130	0.0072	3.2051	0.0120	2.7985	0.0086	2.5892	0.0059	2.7488	0.0090
Stationary	--	--	--	--	0.5702	0.0010	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	6.5958	0.0170	3.3626	0.0072	3.0469	0.0116	3.5894	0.0085	2.5620	0.0059	3.2571	0.0087

The ratio of CO to NO_X for mobile sources varied from a high of 6.07 to a low of 1.81, with many clustered between 2.5 and 3.2. We chose a ratio of 3.2 to be conservative and decided on a default value of 3.2 x 82, or 262 lbs. CO/day. The ratio of SO_2 to NO_X varies for mobile sources from a high of 0.0185 to a low of 0.0059, with most between 0.072 to 0.0090. We chose the second highest value of 0.012 to be conservative and decided on a default value of 0.012 times 82, or 0.98 lbs. SO_2/day.

D.2 CHEMICAL SPECIATION FOR HYPOTHETICAL PROJECT ROG AND PM EMISSIONS

In addition to specifying the hypothetical project primary $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} and ROG emissions, the user needs to chemically speciate these emissions into the individual components used in the CAMx chemical mechanism. Primary $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} are chemically inert, and the concentration-response functions selected for use in the BenMAP health effects model use only the total $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentrations and don't differentiate health effects across different PM species (e.g., elemental carbon, organic aerosol and other fine particulate). Thus, it doesn't matter how the hypothetical project PM emissions are speciated, and for this reason, all the hypothetical project $PM_{2.5}$ emissions were speciated as the CAMx fine particulate matter (FPRM) species.

The speciation of the hypothetical project ROG emissions, however, is important, as the different ROG individual species in the SAPRC07 chemical mechanism used in the BAAQMD CAMx 2012 modeling database have different chemical reactivities and ozone formation potentials. The hypothetical project ROG emissions are speciated into the SAPRC07 chemical mechanism using the SMOKE emissions model that allocates the ROG emissions to SAPRC07 species using chemical speciation profiles from EPA's SPECIATE database[69]. SMOKE cross-references SPECIATE chemical speciation profiles to source emission types using SCCs. To determine the types of sources with ROG emissions for a typical CEQA project in the Sac Metro Air District planning area, we examined the percent contribution of ROG emissions for the same six projects that are discussed above and shown in **Table D-3a**. Ignoring the Bilby Ridge Project, which is an outlier among the six projects, we found that the following three source categories contributed 95-99% of the ROG emissions, so we assumed the following ROG contributions for these three source categories, with the SCCs in parenthesis and the ranges across the five projects in brackets:

- Consumer Products (2460000000) = 65% [53% - 70%]
- Mobile Sources (220110111B) = 25% [14% - 33%]
- Architectural Coatings (241001000) = 10% [7% - 11%]

The SMOKE emissions model was used with the SCC codes listed above to chemically speciate the hypothetical project ROG emissions into the SAPRC07 chemical species.

[69] https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-modeling/speciate

APPENDIX E
SAMPLE SCC CODES TYPICALLY USED IN CEQA PROJECTS

E.1 APPENDIX E

Table E-1. Example SCCs frequently used to characterize CEQA Project emission source types

Emission Source	SCC	SCC Description
Architectural Coatings	2401001000	Solvent Utilization; Surface Coating; Architectural Coatings; Total: All Solvent Types
Construction Off-road Equipment	2270002000	Mobile Sources; Off-highway Vehicle Diesel; Construction and Mining Equipment; Total
Consumer Products	2460000000	Solvent Utilization; Miscellaneous Non-industrial: Consumer and Commercial; All Processes; Total: All Solvent Types
Consumer Products	2460100000	Solvent Utilization; Miscellaneous Non-industrial: Consumer and Commercial; All Personal Care Products; Total: All Solvent Types
Consumer Products	2460200000	Solvent Utilization; Miscellaneous Non-industrial: Consumer and Commercial; All Household Products; Total: All Solvent Types
Consumer Products	2460400000	Solvent Utilization; Miscellaneous Non-industrial: Consumer and Commercial; All Automotive Aftermarket Products; Total: All Solvent Types
Consumer Products	2460500000	Solvent Utilization; Miscellaneous Non-industrial: Consumer and Commercial; All Coatings and Related Products; Total: All Solvent Types
Consumer Products	2460600000	Solvent Utilization; Miscellaneous Non-industrial: Consumer and Commercial; All Adhesives and Sealants; Total: All Solvent Types
Consumer Products	2460800000	Solvent Utilization; Miscellaneous Non-industrial: Consumer and Commercial; All FIFRA Related Products; Total: All Solvent Types
Consumer Products	2460900000	Solvent Utilization; Miscellaneous Non-industrial: Consumer and Commercial; Miscellaneous Products (Not Otherwise Covered); Total: All Solvent Types
Energy (Stationary Engines)	20200102	Internal Combustion Engines; Industrial; Distillate Oil (Diesel);Reciprocating
Energy (Natural Gas)	2102006000	Stationary Source Fuel Combustion; Industrial; Natural Gas; Total: Boilers and IC Engines
Marine Vessels (Ferries)	2280002010	Mobile Sources; Marine Vessels, Commercial; Diesel; Ocean-going Vessels
Mobile	220100111B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Vehicles (LDGV);Rural[70] Interstate: Brake Wear
Mobile	220100111R	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Vehicles (LDGV); Rural Interstate: Resting Loss

[70] Rural and Urban mobile designations provide equivalent chemical speciation and temporal distributions, as the EMFAC mobile emissions model does not distinguish between the two.

Table E-1. Example SCCs frequently used to characterize CEQA Project emission source types

Emission Source	SCC	SCC Description
Mobile	220100111S	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Vehicles (LDGV); Rural Interstate: Start
Mobile	220100111T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Vehicles (LDGV);Rural Interstate: Tire Wear
Mobile	220100111V	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Vehicles (LDGV);Rural Interstate: Evap (except Refueling)
Mobile	220100111X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Vehicles (LDGV); Rural Interstate: Exhaust
Mobile	220102011B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Trucks 1 & 2 (M6) = LDGT1 (M5); Rural Interstate: Brake Wear
Mobile	220102011R	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Trucks 1 & 2 (M6) = LDGT1 (M5); Rural Interstate: Resting Loss
Mobile	220102011S	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Trucks 1 & 2 (M6) = LDGT1 (M5); Rural Interstate: Start
Mobile	220102011T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Trucks 1 & 2 (M6) = LDGT1 (M5); Rural Interstate: Tire Wear
Mobile	220102011V	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Trucks 1 & 2 (M6) = LDGT1 (M5); Rural Interstate: Evap (except Refueling)
Mobile	220102011X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Light Duty Gasoline Trucks 1 & 2 (M6) = LDGT1 (M5); Rural Interstate: Exhaust
Mobile	2201070110	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV);Rural Interstate: Total
Mobile	220107011B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Interstate: Brake Wear
Mobile	220107011I	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 2B; Rural Interstate: Idling
Mobile	220107011R	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Interstate: Resting Loss
Mobile	220107011S	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Interstate: Start
Mobile	220107011T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Interstate: Tire Wear
Mobile	220107011V	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Interstate: Evap (except Refueling)
Mobile	220107011X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Interstate: Exhaust
Mobile	2201070130	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Total

Table E-1. Example SCCs frequently used to characterize CEQA Project emission source types

Emission Source	SCC	SCC Description
Mobile	220107013B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Brake Wear
Mobile	220107013I	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Idling
Mobile	220107013R	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Resting Loss
Mobile	220107013S	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Start
Mobile	220107013T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Tire Wear
Mobile	220107013V	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Evap (except Refueling)
Mobile	220107013X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Heavy Duty Gasoline Vehicles 2B thru 8B & Buses (HDGV); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Exhaust
Mobile	220108011B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Motorcycles (MC); Rural Interstate: Brake Wear
Mobile	220108011R	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Motorcycles (MC); Rural Interstate: Resting Loss
Mobile	220108011S	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Motorcycles (MC); Rural Interstate: Start
Mobile	220108011T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Motorcycles (MC); Rural Interstate: Tire Wear
Mobile	220108011V	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Motorcycles (MC); Rural Interstate: Evap (except Refueling)
Mobile	220108011X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Gasoline; Motorcycles (MC); Rural Interstate: Exhaust
Mobile	223000111B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Light Duty Diesel Vehicles (LDDV); Rural Interstate: Brake Wear
Mobile	223000111T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Light Duty Diesel Vehicles (LDDV); Rural Interstate: Tire Wear
Mobile	223000111X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Light Duty Diesel Vehicles (LDDV); Rural Interstate: Exhaust
Mobile	223006011B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Light Duty Diesel Trucks 1 thru 4 (M6) (LDDT); Rural Interstate: Brake Wear
Mobile	223006011T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Light Duty Diesel Trucks 1 thru 4 (M6) (LDDT); Rural Interstate: Tire Wear

Table E-1. Example SCCs frequently used to characterize CEQA Project emission source types

Emission Source	SCC	SCC Description
Mobile	223006011X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Light Duty Diesel Trucks 1 thru 4 (M6) (LDDT); Rural Interstate: Exhaust
Mobile	223007111B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 2B; Rural Interstate: Brake Wear
Mobile	223007111I	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles – Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 2B; Rural Interstate: Idling
Mobile	223007111T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 2B; Rural Interstate: Tire Wear
Mobile	223007111X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 2B; Rural Interstate: Exhaust
Mobile	2230072110	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 3, 4, & 5; Rural Interstate: Total
Mobile	223007211B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 3, 4, & 5; Rural Interstate: Brake Wear
Mobile	223007211I	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 3, 4, & 5; Rural Interstate: Idling
Mobile	223007211T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 3, 4, & 5; Rural Interstate: Tire Wear
Mobile	223007211X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 3, 4, & 5; Rural Interstate: Exhaust
Mobile	223007311B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 6 & 7; Rural Interstate: Brake Wear
Mobile	223007311I	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 6 & 7; Rural Interstate: Idling
Mobile	223007311S	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 6 & 7; Rural Interstate: Start
Mobile	223007311T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 6 & 7; Rural Interstate: Tire Wear
Mobile	223007311X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (HDDV) Class 6 & 7; Rural Interstate: Exhaust
Mobile	223007513B	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Buses (School & Transit); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Brake Wear
Mobile	223007513I	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Buses (School & Transit); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Idling
Mobile	223007513S	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Buses (School & Transit); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Start
Mobile	223007513T	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Buses (School & Transit); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Tire Wear

Table E-1. Example SCCs frequently used to characterize CEQA Project emission source types

Emission Source	SCC	SCC Description
Mobile	223007513X	Mobile Sources; Highway Vehicles - Diesel; Heavy Duty Diesel Buses (School & Transit); Rural Other Principal Arterial: Exhaust
Mobile	2294000000	Mobile Sources; Paved Roads; All Paved Roads; Total: Fugitives
Waste Water Treatment Plant	2630010000	Waste Disposal, Treatment, and Recovery; Wastewater Treatment; Industrial; Total Processed

APPENDIX F
BENMAP HEALTH EFFECTS RESULTS FOR THE 41 HYPOTHETICAL SOURCES USED IN THE MINOR PROJECTS

Appendix F: BenMAP Health Effects Results for the 41 Hypothetical Sources used in the Minor Project Screening Modeling in Appendix B

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
1	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	3.01E-02
1	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.10E-01
1	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.04E-03
1	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	6.65E-03
1	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.77E-02
1	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	3.01E-06
1	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.18E-04
1	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	4.43E-04
1	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	8.35E-04
1	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.57E-03
1	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	9.91E-03
1	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.63E-03
1	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.84E-02
1	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	5.38E-02
2	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	5.41E-02
2	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.22E-01
2	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	3.10E-03
2	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	7.56E-03
2	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.06E-02
2	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	5.04E-06
2	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	3.33E-04
2	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	5.67E-04
2	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	8.40E-04
2	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.81E-03
2	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.07E-02
2	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.90E-03
2	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	3.53E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
2	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	6.37E-02
3	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	3.55E-02
3	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.01E-01
3	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.27E-03
3	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	6.53E-03
3	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.74E-02
3	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	3.14E-06
3	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.31E-04
3	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	4.44E-04
3	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	6.97E-04
3	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.33E-03
3	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	9.96E-03
3	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.51E-03
3	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	3.26E-02
3	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	5.86E-02
4	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	3.15E-02
4	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.00E-01
4	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.93E-03
4	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	7.08E-03
4	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.79E-02
4	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.77E-06
4	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.94E-04
4	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	4.53E-04
4	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	7.37E-04
4	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.78E-03
4	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	9.85E-03
4	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.43E-03
4	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	3.36E-02
4	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	5.82E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
5	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	9.43E-02
5	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	3.59E-01
5	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	4.93E-03
5	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.39E-02
5	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.10E-02
5	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	7.99E-06
5	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	4.94E-04
5	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.24E-03
5	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.16E-03
5	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.26E-02
5	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.84E-02
5	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	1.03E-02
5	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	6.22E-02
5	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.07E-01
6	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.12E-01
6	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	4.76E-01
6	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	6.24E-03
6	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.93E-02
6	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	7.41E-02
6	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.07E-05
6	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	6.41E-04
6	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.67E-03
6	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.83E-03
6	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.56E-02
6	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.27E-02
6	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	1.31E-02
6	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	7.54E-02
6	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.30E-01
7	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.98E-01
7	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	9.85E-01

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
7	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.06E-02
7	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	5.76E-02
7	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.47E-01
7	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.92E-05
7	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.10E-03
7	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.83E-03
7	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	5.19E-03
7	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.04E-02
7	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.72E-02
7	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.20E-02
7	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.07E-01
7	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.93E-01
8	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.35E-01
8	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	5.72E-01
8	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	7.89E-03
8	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	3.47E-02
8	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	8.63E-02
8	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.29E-05
8	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	8.57E-04
8	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.95E-03
8	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	3.29E-03
8	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.83E-02
8	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.68E-02
8	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	1.60E-02
8	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	8.34E-02
8	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.45E-01
9	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.94E-01
9	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.26E+00
9	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.64E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
9	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	7.51E-02
9	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.85E-01
9	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.90E-05
9	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.84E-03
9	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	4.33E-03
9	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	7.33E-03
9	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	4.05E-02
9	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.81E-02
9	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.97E-02
9	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.28E-01
9	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	2.34E-01
10	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.28E-01
10	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	6.45E-01
10	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	7.55E-03
10	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	3.64E-02
10	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	9.51E-02
10	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.25E-05
10	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	8.27E-04
10	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.66E-03
10	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.74E-03
10	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.80E-02
10	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.94E-02
10	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	1.15E-02
10	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	6.20E-02
10	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.08E-01
11	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	4.60E-02
11	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.76E-01
11	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.81E-03
11	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.11E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
11	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.74E-02
11	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	4.22E-06
11	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	3.00E-04
11	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	6.77E-04
11	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.12E-03
11	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	5.92E-03
11	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.20E-02
11	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	6.99E-03
11	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	3.82E-02
11	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	6.69E-02
12	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.13E-01
12	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	4.23E-01
12	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	6.86E-03
12	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.68E-02
12	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.39E-02
12	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.01E-05
12	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	7.53E-04
12	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.71E-03
12	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.81E-03
12	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.44E-02
12	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.94E-02
12	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	1.16E-02
12	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	6.42E-02
12	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.10E-01
13	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.31E-01
13	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	9.25E-01
13	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.41E-02
13	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	5.78E-02
13	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.36E-01
13	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.13E-05

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
13	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.59E-03
13	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	3.57E-03
13	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	5.82E-03
13	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.08E-02
13	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.88E-02
13	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.46E-02
13	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.02E-01
13	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.86E-01
14	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	4.77E-01
14	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.38E+00
14	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	3.00E-02
14	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	9.63E-02
14	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.05E-01
14	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	4.05E-05
14	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	3.74E-03
14	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	8.14E-03
14	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.26E-02
14	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	5.61E-02
14	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	5.29E-02
14	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.33E-02
14	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.53E-01
14	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	2.74E-01
15	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	8.92E-01
15	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.52E+00
15	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	5.63E-02
15	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.08E-01
15	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.81E-01
15	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	7.24E-05
15	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	6.31E-03
15	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.69E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
15	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.87E-02
15	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.31E-01
15	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	8.99E-02
15	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.73E-02
15	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	3.32E-01
15	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	5.85E-01
16	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	6.58E-01
16	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.61E+00
16	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	3.53E-02
16	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.50E-01
16	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.70E-01
16	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	7.02E-05
16	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	4.34E-03
16	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	8.91E-03
16	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.41E-02
16	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	8.15E-02
16	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	8.04E-02
16	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.12E-02
16	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.26E-01
16	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	4.05E-01
17	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	4.66E-01
17	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.22E+00
17	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.96E-02
17	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.01E-01
17	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.91E-01
17	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	3.62E-05
17	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	3.37E-03
17	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	8.43E-03
17	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.50E-02
17	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	6.24E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
17	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.86E-02
17	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.04E-02
17	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.69E-01
17	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	2.90E-01
18	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	7.78E-01
18	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.60E+00
18	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	5.15E-02
18	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.32E-01
18	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.44E-01
18	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	6.50E-05
18	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	5.86E-03
18	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.50E-02
18	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.35E-02
18	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	8.34E-02
18	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	5.29E-02
18	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.28E-02
18	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.28E-01
18	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.72E-01
19	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	7.04E-01
19	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.33E+00
19	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	4.53E-02
19	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.13E-01
19	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.19E-01
19	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	5.61E-05
19	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	5.01E-03
19	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.23E-02
19	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.99E-02
19	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	7.06E-02
19	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.55E-02
19	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.06E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
19	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.82E-01
19	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	2.68E-01
20	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.46E+00
20	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.29E+00
20	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	9.71E-02
20	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.86E-01
20	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.37E-01
20	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.31E-04
20	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.23E-02
20	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.49E-02
20	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	3.98E-02
20	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.19E-01
20	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	8.52E-02
20	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.28E-02
20	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	4.61E-01
20	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	7.24E-01
21	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	4.42E-01
21	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.27E+00
21	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.63E-02
21	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	5.48E-02
21	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.59E-01
21	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	6.22E-05
21	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.83E-03
21	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	5.19E-03
21	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	7.77E-03
21	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.43E-02
21	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	5.45E-02
21	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.38E-02
21	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.80E-01

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
21	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	4.39E-01
22	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.72E-01
22	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	4.25E-01
22	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.00E-02
22	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.60E-02
22	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.42E-02
22	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.86E-05
22	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	9.72E-04
22	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.20E-03
22	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	3.51E-03
22	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.51E-02
22	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.21E-02
22	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.44E-02
22	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.06E-01
22	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.36E-01
23	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	4.58E-01
23	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.33E+00
23	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.55E-02
23	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	5.81E-02
23	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.69E-01
23	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.43E-04
23	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.58E-03
23	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	4.87E-03
23	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	7.54E-03
23	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.64E-02
23	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	5.98E-02
23	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.73E-02
23	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	3.06E-01
23	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	4.87E-01

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
24	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.09E+00
24	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.38E+00
24	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	7.13E-02
24	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.94E-01
24	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.57E-01
24	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	9.32E-05
24	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	7.90E-03
24	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.02E-02
24	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	3.35E-02
24	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.24E-01
24	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	9.10E-02
24	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.68E-02
24	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	5.11E-01
24	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	7.88E-01
25	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	4.82E-01
25	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	9.72E-01
25	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.99E-02
25	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	7.84E-02
25	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.62E-01
25	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	4.01E-05
25	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	3.29E-03
25	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	7.92E-03
25	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.28E-02
25	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	4.75E-02
25	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.78E-02
25	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.68E-02
25	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.54E-01
25	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.77E-01
26	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	5.51E-01
26	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.60E+00

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
26	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.15E-02
26	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.05E-01
26	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.53E-01
26	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	4.13E-05
26	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.07E-03
26	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	5.50E-03
26	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	8.73E-03
26	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	5.63E-02
26	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.61E-02
26	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	4.00E-02
26	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	3.26E-01
26	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	5.39E-01
27	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.57E-01
27	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	6.27E-01
27	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.37E-02
27	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	3.65E-02
27	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	9.16E-02
27	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.81E-05
27	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.33E-03
27	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	3.07E-03
27	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	4.76E-03
27	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.10E-02
27	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	5.24E-02
27	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.13E-02
27	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.61E-01
27	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	4.29E-01
28	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	5.44E-01
28	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	9.03E-01
28	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	3.04E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
28	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	7.24E-02
28	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.72E-01
28	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	4.16E-05
28	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.80E-03
28	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	6.45E-03
28	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.07E-02
28	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	4.05E-02
28	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.34E-02
28	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.14E-02
28	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.64E-01
28	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.79E-01
29	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	4.39E-01
29	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.03E+00
29	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.76E-02
29	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	7.88E-02
29	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.63E-01
29	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	4.00E-05
29	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	3.10E-03
29	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	7.52E-03
29	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.22E-02
29	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	4.83E-02
29	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	8.76E-02
29	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.30E-02
29	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	3.72E-01
29	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	6.06E-01
30	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.69E-01
30	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	6.13E-01
30	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.66E-02
30	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	4.29E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
30	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	9.46E-02
30	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.74E-05
30	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.77E-03
30	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	4.08E-03
30	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	6.64E-03
30	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.61E-02
30	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	5.13E-02
30	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.13E-02
30	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.62E-01
30	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	4.14E-01
31	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.79E-01
31	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	4.31E-01
31	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.07E-02
31	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.88E-02
31	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.80E-02
31	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.79E-05
31	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.06E-03
31	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.48E-03
31	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	4.07E-03
31	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.69E-02
31	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.95E-02
31	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.31E-02
31	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.95E-01
31	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.12E-01
32	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.43E-01
32	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	5.58E-01
32	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.52E-02
32	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	4.11E-02
32	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	8.88E-02
32	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.33E-05

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
32	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.61E-03
32	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	3.86E-03
32	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	6.27E-03
32	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.50E-02
32	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	5.02E-02
32	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.97E-02
32	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.38E-01
32	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.84E-01
33	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	5.59E-01
33	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.90E+00
33	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	3.40E-02
33	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.19E-01
33	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.17E-01
33	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	7.34E-05
33	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	3.16E-03
33	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	9.15E-03
33	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.45E-02
33	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	7.54E-02
33	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.42E-02
33	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.22E-02
33	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.22E-01
33	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.79E-01
34	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.76E-01
34	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	6.93E-01
34	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.62E-02
34	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	6.11E-02
34	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.56E-01
34	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.69E-05
34	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.57E-03
34	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	5.10E-03

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
34	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	7.87E-03
34	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.57E-02
34	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.01E-02
34	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.88E-02
34	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.86E-01
34	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.21E-01
35	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.36E-01
35	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	6.00E-01
35	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.46E-02
35	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	4.82E-02
35	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.19E-01
35	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.32E-05
35	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.62E-03
35	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	4.03E-03
35	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	6.01E-03
35	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.82E-02
35	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.09E-02
35	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.84E-02
35	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.02E-01
35	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.40E-01
36	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.61E-01
36	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	4.23E-01
36	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	9.77E-03
36	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	3.77E-02
36	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	9.61E-02
36	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.44E-05
36	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.00E-03
36	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.93E-03
36	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	4.56E-03
36	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.15E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
36	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.81E-02
36	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.29E-02
36	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.40E-01
36	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	2.46E-01
37	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.16E-01
37	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	3.08E-01
37	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	7.21E-03
37	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.74E-02
37	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	7.08E-02
37	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.00E-05
37	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	6.75E-04
37	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.11E-03
37	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	3.76E-03
37	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.55E-02
37	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.29E-02
37	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	1.65E-02
37	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.04E-01
37	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.81E-01
38	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.57E-01
38	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	4.37E-01
38	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	9.00E-03
38	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	3.52E-02
38	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	8.87E-02
38	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.44E-05
38	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	8.92E-04
38	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.61E-03
38	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	4.17E-03
38	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.99E-02
38	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.94E-02
38	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.62E-02

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
38	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.38E-01
38	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	2.49E-01
39	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.19E-01
39	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	5.68E-01
39	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.25E-02
39	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	4.56E-02
39	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.13E-01
39	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.42E-05
39	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.25E-03
39	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	3.72E-03
39	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	5.83E-03
39	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.64E-02
39	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	5.25E-02
39	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.84E-02
39	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.57E-01
39	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	2.78E-01
40	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	3.63E-01
40	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	9.09E-01
40	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.04E-02
40	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	8.14E-02
40	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.07E-01
40	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	3.34E-05
40	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.98E-03
40	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	6.84E-03
40	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.03E-02
40	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	4.72E-02
40	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.78E-02
40	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.68E-02
40	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.09E-01

Source	Pollutant	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences (per year)[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
40	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.64E-01
41	PM2.5	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.42E-01
41	PM2.5	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	9.07E-01
41	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.37E-02
41	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	5.85E-02
41	PM2.5	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.42E-01
41	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.32E-05
41	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.48E-03
41	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	3.72E-03
41	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	6.30E-03
41	PM2.5	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.24E-02
41	O3	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.34E-02
41	O3	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.89E-02
41	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.62E-01
41	O3	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.00E-01

1. Affected age ranges are shown . Other age ranges are available, but the endpoints and age ranges shown here are the ones used by the USEPA in its health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with the epidemiological study that is the basis of the health function.
2. Health effects are shown in terms of incidences of each health endpoint and how it compares to the base (2035 base year health effect incidences, or "background health incidence") values. Health effects and background health incidences are across the Sacramento reduced 4-km model domain.

APPENDIX G
BENMAP HEALTH EFFECTS RESULTS FOR SIX STRATEGIC AREA PROJECTS

Appendix G: BenMAP health effects results for the six sources used in the Strategic Area Project Screening Modeling in Appendix C, in which BenMAP was run separately to get ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ health effects for the three major precursors (NOx, VOC and PM) emissions at the higher 8xTOS (high_8x) and lower 2xTOS (low_2x) emission rates.

Six Strategic Area Project Identifications and Locations				
ID	**Name**	**Latitude**	**Longitude**	**Location**
I	West Roseville	38.765833	-121.359299	Fiddyment Road & Pleasant Grove Boulevard
II	Rancho Cordova	38.588080	-121.286765	Zinfandel Drive & White Rock Road
III	Downtown Sacramento	38.579336	-121.494119	10th Street & K Street
IV	South Sacramento	38.490489	-121.468468	Florin Road & Franklin Boulevard
V	Woodland	38.677388	-121.765759	Main Street & East Street
VI	Vacaville	38.347954	-121.998058	Merchant Street & Lincoln Highway

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
I	high_8x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.89E-01
I	high_8x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	4.42E-01
I	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	4.30E+00
I	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.55E+00
II	high_8x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	5.52E-01
II	high_8x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.49E-01
II	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.64E+00
II	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.12E+00
III	high_8x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.88E-01
III	high_8x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.02E-01
III	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.90E+00
III	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.42E+00
IV	high_8x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	5.55E-01

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
IV	high_8x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	3.45E-01
IV	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	2.94E+00
IV	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	4.56E+00
V	high_8x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.79E-01
V	high_8x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.33E-01
V	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.04E+00
V	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.94E+00
VI	high_8x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.71E-01
VI	high_8x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.86E-01
VI	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	4.04E+00
VI	high_8x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	2.45E+00
I	low_2x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.93E-01
I	low_2x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	1.24E-01
I	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.21E+00
I	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	7.18E-01
II	low_2x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.49E-01
II	low_2x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	9.42E-02
II	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	9.89E-01
II	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	5.76E-01
III	low_2x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.30E-01
III	low_2x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	8.05E-02
III	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.04E+00
III	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	6.44E-01
IV	low_2x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.50E-01
IV	low_2x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	9.39E-02
IV	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.25E+00
IV	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	8.12E-01
V	low_2x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	9.97E-02
V	low_2x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	6.18E-02
V	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	8.00E-01
V	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	5.11E-01
VI	low_2x	O3-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.23E-01

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
VI	low_2x	O3-NOx	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	7.45E-02
VI	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.06E+00
VI	low_2x	O3-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	6.39E-01
I	high_8x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.25E-02
I	high_8x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.61E-02
I	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.01E-01
I	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.84E-01
II	high_8x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.29E-02
II	high_8x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.68E-02
II	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.09E-01
II	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.86E-01
III	high_8x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	7.49E-02
III	high_8x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	4.72E-02
III	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	6.57E-01
III	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	4.05E-01
IV	high_8x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	7.10E-02
IV	high_8x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	4.39E-02
IV	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	4.09E-01
IV	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	6.28E-01
V	high_8x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.66E-02
V	high_8x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.28E-02
V	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.10E-01
V	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.97E-01
VI	high_8x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.60E-02
VI	high_8x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	2.13E-02
VI	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	3.14E-01
VI	high_8x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	1.86E-01
I	low_2x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.01E-02
I	low_2x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	6.18E-03
I	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	7.17E-02
I	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	4.40E-02
II	low_2x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.02E-02

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
II	low_2x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	6.35E-03
II	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	7.35E-02
II	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	4.43E-02
III	low_2x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.82E-02
III	low_2x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	1.15E-02
III	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.60E-01
III	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	9.84E-02
IV	low_2x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.72E-02
IV	low_2x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	1.06E-02
IV	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	1.52E-01
IV	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	9.90E-02
V	low_2x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	8.81E-03
V	low_2x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.46E-03
V	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	7.47E-02
V	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	4.74E-02
VI	low_2x	O3-VOC	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	8.81E-03
VI	low_2x	O3-VOC	Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	5.19E-03
VI	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	7.66E-02
VI	low_2x	O3-VOC	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	4.53E-02
I	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	4.15E-01
I	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	9.73E-01
I	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.62E-02
I	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	7.58E-02
I	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	3.65E-05
I	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.91E-03
I	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	7.09E-03
I	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.15E-02
I	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	4.63E-02
I	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.53E-01
II	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	3.94E-01
II	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	9.27E-01

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
II	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.50E-02
II	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	7.45E-02
II	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	3.38E-05
II	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.77E-03
II	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	6.87E-03
II	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.12E-02
II	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	4.59E-02
II	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.46E-01
III	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	4.69E-01
III	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	9.99E-01
III	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.95E-02
III	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	7.88E-02
III	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	4.12E-05
III	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	3.24E-03
III	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	7.70E-03
III	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.27E-02
III	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	4.85E-02
III	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.61E-01
IV	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.35E+01
IV	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.70E+01
IV	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	8.94E-01
IV	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.36E+00
IV	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.22E-03
IV	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	9.72E-02
IV	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.43E-01
IV	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	4.02E-01
IV	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.52E+00
IV	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.10E+00
V	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.70E-01
V	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	5.87E-01
V	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.62E-02

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
V	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	4.19E-02
V	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	2.69E-05
V	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.66E-03
V	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	3.83E-03
V	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	6.25E-03
V	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.49E-02
V	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	9.56E-02
VI	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.22E-01
VI	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	4.75E-01
VI	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.22E-02
VI	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	3.52E-02
VI	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.93E-05
VI	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.19E-03
VI	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.97E-03
VI	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	4.76E-03
VI	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.01E-02
VI	high_8x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	7.88E-02
I	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.02E-01
I	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.39E-01
I	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	6.41E-03
I	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.86E-02
I	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	8.93E-06
I	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	7.14E-04
I	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.74E-03
I	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.82E-03
I	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.14E-02
I	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.75E-02
II	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	9.82E-02
II	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.31E-01
II	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	6.22E-03
II	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.86E-02

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
II	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	8.41E-06
II	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	6.90E-04
II	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.71E-03
II	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.80E-03
II	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.15E-02
II	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	3.64E-02
III	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.18E-01
III	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.51E-01
III	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	7.40E-03
III	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.98E-02
III	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.03E-05
III	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	8.14E-04
III	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.93E-03
III	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	3.20E-03
III	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.22E-02
III	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.02E-02
IV	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.34E-01
IV	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.76E-01
IV	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	8.52E-03
IV	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.25E-02
IV	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.17E-05
IV	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	9.29E-04
IV	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.26E-03
IV	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	3.71E-03
IV	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.39E-02
IV	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.44E-02
V	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	6.70E-02
V	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.46E-01
V	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	4.03E-03
V	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.04E-02
V	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	6.71E-06

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
V	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	4.12E-04
V	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	9.52E-04
V	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.55E-03
V	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	6.18E-03
V	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.38E-02
VI	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	5.58E-02
VI	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.19E-01
VI	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	3.04E-03
VI	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	8.80E-03
VI	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	4.83E-06
VI	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.98E-04
VI	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	7.43E-04
VI	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.19E-03
VI	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	5.01E-03
VI	low_2x	PM25-NOx	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.97E-02
I	high_8x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	5.87E+00
I	high_8x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.66E+01
I	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	3.60E-01
I	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.16E+00
I	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	5.29E-04
I	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	4.18E-02
I	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	9.84E-02
I	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.55E-01
I	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	6.85E-01
I	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.46E+00
II	high_8x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	7.02E+00
II	high_8x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.79E+01
II	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	4.49E-01
II	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.52E+00
II	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	5.76E-04
II	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	5.08E-02

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
II	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.31E-01
II	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.12E-01
II	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	9.61E-01
II	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.74E+00
III	high_8x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	8.31E+00
III	high_8x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.10E+01
III	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	5.33E-01
III	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.48E+00
III	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	7.59E-04
III	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	6.41E-02
III	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.44E-01
III	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.44E-01
III	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	9.53E-01
III	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.93E+00
IV	high_8x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.35E+01
IV	high_8x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.70E+01
IV	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.36E+00
IV	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	1.52E+00
IV	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.22E-03
IV	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	9.72E-02
IV	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.43E-01
IV	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	4.02E-01
IV	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.52E+00
IV	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.10E+00
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	3.27E+00
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	3.27E+00
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	9.58E+00
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.94E-01
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	3.97E-01
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	4.70E-04
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.10E-02

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	3.77E-02
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	5.59E-02
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.50E-01
V	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.18E+00
VI	high_8x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	6.86E+00
VI	high_8x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.29E+01
VI	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.43E-01
VI	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	8.10E-01
VI	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	5.37E-04
VI	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.53E-02
VI	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	6.61E-02
VI	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	9.00E-02
VI	high_8x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	4.37E-01
VI	high_8x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.95E+00
I	low_2x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.45E+00
I	low_2x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	4.13E+00
I	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	8.88E-02
I	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.87E-01
I	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.31E-04
I	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.03E-02
I	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	2.43E-02
I	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	3.83E-02
I	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.70E-01
I	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.11E-01
II	low_2x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.76E+00
II	low_2x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	4.48E+00
II	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.12E-01
II	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	3.79E-01
II	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.44E-04
II	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.27E-02
II	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	3.28E-02

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
II	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	5.30E-02
II	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.40E-01
II	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	6.84E-01
III	low_2x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	2.08E+00
III	low_2x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	5.25E+00
III	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	1.33E-01
III	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	3.71E-01
III	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.90E-04
III	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	1.60E-02
III	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	3.59E-02
III	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	6.11E-02
III	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	2.39E-01
III	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	7.31E-01
IV	low_2x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	3.36E+00
IV	low_2x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	6.73E+00
IV	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	2.23E-01
IV	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	5.86E-01
IV	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	3.04E-04
IV	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	2.42E-02
IV	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	6.04E-02
IV	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.00E-01
IV	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	3.78E-01
IV	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	1.02E+00
V	low_2x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	8.16E-01
V	low_2x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.39E+00
V	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	4.86E-02
V	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	9.92E-02
V	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.18E-04
V	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	5.25E-03
V	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	9.43E-03
V	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	1.40E-02

Strategic area Src	Emissions	Species-Precursor	Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences per year[2] (Mean) (Reduced Sacramento 4-km Domain)
V	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	6.24E-02
V	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	2.94E-01
VI	low_2x	PM25-PM	Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.70E+00
VI	low_2x	PM25-PM	Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	3.20E+00
VI	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	6.05E-02
VI	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	2.01E-01
VI	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	1.33E-04
VI	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	6.30E-03
VI	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	1.65E-02
VI	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	2.25E-02
VI	low_2x	PM25-PM	Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	1.09E-01
VI	low_2x	PM25-PM	Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	4.83E-01

1. Affected age ranges are shown. Other age ranges are available, but the endpoints and age ranges shown here are the ones used by the USEPA in its health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with the epidemiological study that is the basis of the health function.
2. Health effects are shown in terms of incidences of each health endpoint and how these compare to the base (2035 base year health effect incidences, or "background health incidence") values. Health effects and background health incidences are across the Sacramento reduced 4-km model domain.

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Emission Reduction Clean Air Measures

This document contains a list of clean air measures to assist land use agencies and developers to identify ways to reduce air quality impacts associated with development projects occurring in the San Joaquin Valley. The clean air measures listed below can be incorporated into the design of development projects to reduce air quality emissions impacts under District rules and regulations (e.g. District Rule 9510 - ISR) or state or federal law (e.g. California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act). Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, and both land use agencies and developers are encouraged to suggest new clean air measures including supporting documentation that are not listed below for inclusion into the design of development projects.

Clean Air Measure	Description
Clean Construction Equipment	Utilize the cleanest available off-road construction equipment, including the latest Tier diesel or electric equipment (e.g. scrapers, graders, trenchers, tractors, loaders, backhoes, etc.).
Zero-Emission On-Road Vehicles	Utilize electric on-road vehicles, such as: • Electric heavy-duty trucks • Electric medium-duty last-mile delivery vehicles • Electric buses • Electric municipal waste transport trucks • Electric light-duty delivery vans • Electric light-duty pick-up trucks and personal vehicles
Near-Zero On-Road Vehicles	Utilize alternative fueled clean vehicles such as compressed/liquid natural gas with exhaust control systems, including heavy-duty trucks that meet the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) established emission standard of 0.02 g/bhp-hr NOx.
On-Site Zero-Emission Off-Road Vehicles and Equipment	Utilize electric off-road vehicles and equipment (e.g., forklifts, yard trucks, and aerial lifts).
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Install and utilize electric vehicle (EV) charger(s) at the project site to promote the use of low or zero-emission vehicles.
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure	Installation of fueling infrastructure for compressed or liquid natural gas, or hydrogen fuel cell stations to promote the use of near-zero emission vehicles.

Clean Air Measure	Description
Clean Lawn and Garden Equipment	Installation of fueling infrastructure for compressed or liquid natural gas, or hydrogen fuel cell stations to promote the use of near-zero emission vehicles.
Solar Panels	Install and utilize solar panels as a renewable energy source.
Clean Residential Heating Devices	Install clean residential heating devices such as certified wood burning residential fireplaces and wood stoves, natural gas fireplace inserts, or electric heat pumps.
Warehouse/Distribution Center Clean Air Design Measures	The following project designs for warehouse development projects can be incorporated as additional emission reduction strategies: • Ensure HHD vehicles minimize idling time (e.g., 3 minute maximum) • Ensure solid screen buffering trees, solid decorative walls, and/or other natural ground landscaping techniques are implemented along the property line of adjacent sensitive receptors • Ensure all landscaping be drought tolerant • Orient loading docks away from sensitive receptors, unless physically impossible • Locate loading docks a minimum of 300 feet away from the property line of sensitive receptor unless dock is exclusively used for electric trucks • Incorporate signage and pavement markings to clearly identify on-site circulation patterns to minimize unnecessary on-site vehicle travel • Locate truck entries on streets of a higher commercial classification • Ensure all building roofs are solar-ready • Ensure all portions of roof tops that are not covered with solar panels are constructed to have light colored roofing material with a solar reflective index of greater than 78 • Ensure rooftop solar panels are installed and operated to supply 100% of the power needed to operate all non-refrigerated portions of the development project • Ensure power sources at loading docks for all refrigerated trucks have “plugin” capacity, which will eliminate prolonged idling while loading and unloading goods • Incorporate bicycle racks and electric bike plug-ins • Require the use of low volatile organic compounds (VOC) architectural and industrial maintenance coatings
Electrical Outlets	This measure utilizes electrical outlets on the exterior of project buildings as necessary for sufficient powering of electric landscaping equipment.

Clean Air Measure	Description
Increase Density of Land-Uses	This measure encourages the siting of development projects with increased densities in order to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) emissions and improve walkability and transit ridership in the area. Density is usually measured in terms of persons, jobs, or dwellings per unit area. Increased densities affect the distance people travel and provide greater options for the mode of travel they choose.
Increase Diversity of Surrounding Land-Use Types	This measure encourages the siting of development projects near various land-use types such as retail, mixed-use, etc. in order to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) emissions and improve walkability and transit ridership in the area.
Improve Walkability Design	This measure implements design elements into a development project that enhance walkability and connectivity. Improved street network characteristics within a neighborhood could include street accessibility, usually measured in terms of average block size, proportion of four-way intersections, or number of intersections per square mile. Examples of design implementation are sidewalk coverage, building setbacks, street widths, pedestrian crossings, presence of street trees, and a host of other physical variables that differentiate pedestrian-oriented environments from auto-oriented environments.
Improve Destination Accessibility	This measure locates development projects in an area with high accessibility to destinations. Destination accessibility is measured in terms of the number of jobs or other attractions reachable within a given travel time, which tends to be highest at central locations and lowest at peripheral locations, where the number of people and attractions are less dense. The location of the project could also increase the potential for pedestrians to walk and bike to these destinations, therefore reducing the VMT in the project area.
Increase Transit Accessibility	This measure locates development projects with high density near transit, which could promote the use of transit by people traveling to or from the project site. The use of transit could result in a mode shift and therefore could reduce VMT. The project should, at a minimum, include the following design features: • A transit station/stop with high-quality, high-frequency bus service located within a 5-10 minute walk (or roughly ¼ mile from stop to edge of development), and/or • A rail station located within a 20 minute walk (or roughly ½ mile from station to edge of development) • Fast, frequent, and reliable transit service connecting to a high percentage of regional destinations • Neighborhood designed for walking and cycling

Clean Air Measure	Description
Affordable and Below Market Rate Housing	Income has a statistically significant effect on the probability that a commuter will take transit or walk to work. Below Market Rate Housing provides greater opportunity for lower income families to live closer to jobs centers and achieve jobs/housing match near transit. It also addresses to some degree the risk that new transit oriented development would displace lower income families. This measure encourages development projects to incorporate a greater percentage of smaller units into the design to allow a greater number of families to be accommodated on infill and transit-oriented development sites within a given building footprint and height limit.
Improve Pedestrian Network	This measure provides a pedestrian access network to link areas of the project site to encourage people to walk instead of drive. This mode shift could result in people driving less and thus could result in a reduction in VMT. The project could provide a pedestrian access network that internally links all uses and connects to all existing or planned external streets and pedestrian facilities contiguous with the project site. The project could minimize barriers to pedestrian access and interconnectivity. Physical barriers such as walls, landscaping, and slopes that impede pedestrian circulation could be eliminated.
Provide Traffic Calming Measures	This measure is to provide traffic calming measures, which could encourage people to walk or bike instead of using a vehicle. This mode shift could result in a decrease in VMT. Project design could include pedestrian/bicycle safety and traffic calming measures in excess of jurisdiction requirements. Roadways could be designed to reduce motor vehicle speeds and encourage pedestrian and bicycle trips with traffic calming features. Traffic calming features may include: marked crosswalks, count-down signal timers, curb extensions, speed tables, raised crosswalks, raised intersections, median islands, tight corner radii, roundabouts or mini-circles, on-street parking, planter strips with street trees, chicanes/chokers, and others.
Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) Network	This measure creates local "light" vehicle networks, such as NEV networks. NEVs are classified in the California Vehicle Code as a “low speed vehicle”. They are electric powered and must conform to applicable federal automobile safety standards. NEVs offer an alternative to traditional vehicle trips and can legally be used on roadways with speed limits of 35 MPH or less (unless specifically restricted). They are ideal for short trips up to 30 miles in length. To create an NEV network, the project will implement the necessary infrastructure, including NEV parking, charging facilities, striping, signage, and educational tools. NEV routes can be implemented throughout the project and can double as bicycle routes.

Clean Air Measure	Description
Limit Parking Supply	This measure implements a change in parking requirements and the types of supply within a project site to encourage alternative transportation choices by project residents and employees. This could be accomplished using the following strategies: • Elimination (or reduction) of minimum parking requirements • Creation of maximum parking allowed • Provision of shared parking
Unbundle Parking Costs	This measure unbundles parking costs from property costs. Unbundling separates parking from property costs, requiring those who wish to purchase parking spaces to do so at an additional cost from the property cost. This could remove the burden from those who do not wish to utilize a parking space. Parking could be priced separately from home rents/purchase prices or office leases.
Implement Market Price On-Street Public Parking	This measure implements a pricing strategy for parking by pricing all central business district/employment center/retail center on-street parking. As a result, it deters parking spillover from project supplied parking to other public parking nearby.
Transit Subsidy	This measure promotes the use of subsidized/discounted daily or monthly public transit passes. The project may also provide free transfers between all shuttles and transit to participants. These passes can be partially or wholly subsidized by the employer, school, or development. Many entities use revenue from parking to offset the cost of such project.
Employee Parking "Cash-Out"	This measure implements an employee parking "cash-out." The term "cash-out" is used to describe the employer providing employees with a choice of forgoing their current subsidized/free parking for a cash payment equivalent to the cost of the parking space to the employer.
Workplace Parking Charges	This measure implements workplace parking charges at its employment centers. This may include: explicitly charging for parking for its employees, implementing above market rate pricing, validating parking only for invited guests, not provided employee parking and transportation allowances, and educating employees about available alternatives. This strategy focuses on implementing market rate and above market rate pricing to provide a price signal for employees to consider alternative modes for their work commute.
School Bus Program	This measure works with school districts to restore or expand school bus services in the project area and local community.

Clean Air Measure	Description
Telecommuting and Alternative Work Schedule	This measure encourages telecommuting and alternative work schedules, which could reduce the number of commute trips. Alternative work schedules could take in the form of staggered starting times, flexible schedules, or compressed work weeks (e.g., 4/40, 9/80).
Market Commute Trip Reduction Option	This measure implements marketing strategies that contribute to reductions in commute trips. Information sharing and marketing are important components to successful commute trip reduction strategies. Marketing strategies may include: • New employee orientation of trip reduction and alternative mode options • Event promotions • Publications
Employee Vanpool/Shuttle	This measure implements employer-sponsored vanpools and/or shuttles to reduce employees VMT to and from work. A vanpool will usually service employees' commute to work while a shuttle will service nearby transit stations and surrounding commercial centers. Employer-sponsored vanpool programs entail an employer purchasing or leasing vans for employee use, and often subsidizing the cost of at least program administration, if not more. The driver usually receives personal use of the van, often for a mileage fee. Scheduling is within the employer's purview, and rider charges are normally set on the basis of vehicle and operating cost.
Provide Ride Sharing Program	This measure implements a ride-sharing program as well as a permanent transportation management association membership and funding requirement. Increasing the vehicle occupancy by ride sharing could result in fewer cars driving the same trip. The project could promote ride-sharing programs through a multi-faceted approach such as: • Designating a certain percentage of parking spaces for ride sharing vehicles • Designating adequate passenger loading and unloading and waiting areas for ride-sharing vehicles • Providing a web site or message board for coordinating rides
Exceed Title 24 Building Code Standards	This measure recommends that the design of new buildings meet the building energy efficiency standards of Title 24, also known as the California Building Standards Code. Title 24 Part 6 regulates energy uses including space heating and cooling, hot water heating, and ventilation. By committing to a percent improvement over Title 24, a development could reduce its energy use.

Clean Air Measure	Description
Voluntary Emissions Reduction Agreement	A Voluntary Emissions Reduction Agreement (VERA) is a clean air measure by which the project proponent provides pound-for-pound mitigation of emissions increases through a process that develops, funds, and implements emission reduction projects. To implement a VERA, the project proponent and the District enter into a contractual agreement in which the project proponent agrees to mitigate project specific emissions by providing funds for the District's incentives programs. Types of emission reduction projects that have been funded in the past include electrification of stationary internal combustion engines (such as agricultural irrigation pumps), replacing old Heavy Heavy-Duty (HHD) trucks with new, cleaner, more efficient HHD trucks, and replacement of old farm tractors.
Bus Rapid Transit System	This measure incorporates a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System to provide high quality and cost effective transit services in the project area.
Park, Ride Lots, and/or Satellite Telecommuting Centers	This measure utilizes park, ride, and/or satellite telecommuting centers to reduce the degree of congestion on routes and the total VMT in the area.
Bicycle Enhancing Infrastructure	This measure utilizes various bicycle enhancing infrastructures to reduce VMT in the project area. Some of the infrastructure design elements used include: bikeways paths connecting to a bikeway system, secure bicycle parking, provides Class I and Class II bicycle parking/storage facilities on-site and/or employee lockers and showers. Bicycle parking facilities should be near destination points and easy to find. At least one bicycle parking space for every 20 vehicle parking spaces. It also provides Class I bicycle parking at apartment complexes or condos without garages and Class I or II bike lanes on arterial/collector streets, or where a suitable route exists.
On-Site Shops and Services for Employees	This measure utilizes on-site shop and services for employees such as cafeteria, bank/ATM, dry cleaners, convenience markets, etc. to reduce the number of commute trips to and from the workplace.
On-Site Child Care and Off-site Child Care within Walking Distance	This measure implements on-site childcare or provides off-site childcare within walking distance of the project to reduce the number of commute trips to and from the workplace.
Mid-Day Shuttle Services for Employees	This measure establishes mid-day shuttle services for employees, who commute from the work-site to food service establishments and other commercial areas during peak commute periods (e.g. schedule service during lunch hours) in order to reduce the number of commute trips.
Shuttle Services to Transit Stations/Multimodal Centers	This measure establishes shuttle services to transit stations and multimodal centers for employees to reduce the number of commute trips to and from the workplace.

Clean Air Measure	Description
Preferential Parking for Carpool and Vanpool Vehicles	This measure implements preferential parking areas for carpool and vanpool vehicles. It is most effective if parking supply is limited and/or located far from the building entrance.
Parking Fees for Single Occupancy Vehicle Commuters	This measure implements preferential parking areas for carpool and vanpool vehicles. It is most effective if parking supply is limited and/or located far from the building entrance.
Speed Limit Signs and Erosion Control	This measure ensures speed limit signs are posted on unpaved roads limiting traffic to no more than 15 mph and ensures sandbags or other erosion control measures are installed to public roadways from sites with a slope greater than one percent. This measure should be implemented to reduce construction related PM_{10} impacts.
Clean-Air Vehicle Parking	Labeling or signage limiting parking stalls for clean-air or electric vehicles only.
Pedestrian Access and Connectivity	This measure utilize the following design elements to increase pedestrian access and connectivity: • Provide continuous sidewalks separated from the roadway by landscaping and on-street parking. • Provide on and off-site pedestrian facility improvements such as trails linking them to designated pedestrian commuting routes and/or on-site overpasses and wider sidewalks. • Link cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets to encourage pedestrian and bicycle travel. • Provide traffic reduction modifications to project roads, such as: narrower streets, speed platforms, bulb-outs and intersection modifications designed to reduce vehicle speeds and to encourage pedestrian and bicycle travel. • Provide a parking lot design that includes clearly marked and shaded pedestrian pathways between transit facilities and building entrances. • Provide pedestrian access between bus service and major transportation points and to destination points within the project.
Windblown Dust Reduction Strategies	These measures utilize the following design elements to minimize emissions from windblown dust during construction-related activities: • On-site water sprays or other dust suppression materials • Construct and maintain wind barriers sufficient to limit visible dust to 20% opacity on the construction site. • Suspend excavation and grading activity when winds exceed 20 mph on the construction site.

Clean Air Measure	Description
Vehicle Idling Policy	This measure implements a Vehicle Idling Policy that requires all vehicles under company control to adhere to a 5-minute idling policy and/or to minimize the idling time (e.g., 5-minute maximum) for construction-related vehicles.
Curtail Construction Periods and Implement Activity Management	This measure can help reduce the short-term construction-related impacts from a development project, by implementing the following design elements: • Curtail construction during periods of high ambient pollutant concentrations; this may include ceasing of construction activity during the peak-hour of vehicular traffic on adjacent roadways. • Implement activity management (e.g. rescheduling activities to reduce short-term impacts) during construction.
Transportation Mode Display	This measure provides a display case or kiosk displaying transportation information (e.g., Bike Route Maps, Bus Schedules, carpooling, car sharing) in a prominent area accessible to employees, residents, or visitors.
Gas Outlets	This measure ensures gas outlets are installed so outdoor cooking appliances, and any proposed fireplaces, including outdoor recreational fireplaces or pits, can be used.
HEPA Filters/Ventilation Systems	The following measures can be implemented into the project's design to reduce impacts from air-borne emissions: • Install HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters. • Install "whole-house" or "fresh-air" ventilation systems.
Retrofit Existing Equipment	This measure retrofits existing equipment to reduce emissions using methods such as particulate filters, oxidation catalysts, or other approved technologies.

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Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning

Jennifer Clark (Jennifer.Clark@fresno.gov)
Director, City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
21 August 2023
Re: Southeast Development Area Plan Impact Analysis

Dear Ms. Clark,

I am writing as a planning consultant who specializes in transportation impact evaluation concerning the Southeast Development Area Plan transportation impact analysis as described in the 14 July 2023 SEDA's *Draft Program Environmental Impact Report* and related documents.

This plan's predictions of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are significantly flawed because it assumes an unrealistic internal trip capture rate that would reduce per capita VMT from 46 to 5 daily VMT, which is much lower than typical new developments.

The analysis assumes that the SEDA would be developed based on Smart Growth principles to create complete, multimodal neighborhoods where residents walk, bike and use public transit for most trips. These assumptions are unrealistic and not supported by the current proposal. For example, although the plan includes some mitigation strategies (p. 3.17-31-32), these are modest and unlikely to reduce vehicle travel 90% – significant VMT reductions require financial incentives such as cost-recovery pricing applied to all parking, plus grade-separated transit services – and complete communities typically take decades to fully develop and achieve their potential vehicle travel reductions.

New analysis tools and guidance documents are available that could provide more accurate predictions and guidance for achieving VMT reduction targets:

Caltrans (2020), *Vehicle Miles Traveled-Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide*, California Department of Transportation (https://dot.ca.gov); at https://bit.ly/3DDSm5H. Also see *SB 743 Implementation Resources* (https://dot.ca.gov/programs/sustainability/sb-743/sb743-resources).

CAPCOA (2021), *Handbook for Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions*, California Air Pollution Control Association (www.caleemod.com); at www.caleemod.com/handbook/index.html.

F&P (2022), *Providing VMT: Getting Beyond LOS*, Fehr & Peers (www.fehrandpeers.com); at www.fehrandpeers.com/vmt-impacts.

ITE SB 743 Task Force (2021), *ITE Guide to SB 743: Transition from Level of Service to Vehicle Miles Traveled*, Northern California ITE (www.norcalite.org); at https://bit.ly/3CU1DIe.

Todd Litman (2018), *Land Use Impacts on Transportation*, Victoria Transport Policy Institute (www.vtpi.org); at www.vtpi.org/landtravel.pdf.

Deborah Salon (2014), *Quantifying the Effect of Local Government Actions on VMT*, Institute of Transportation Studies (https://its.ucdavis.edu); at ww3.arb.ca.gov/research/apr/past/09-343.pdf.

Robert J. Schneider, Susan L. Handy and Kevan Shafizadeh (2014), "Trip Generation for Smart Growth Projects," *ACCESS 45*, pp. 10-15; at http://tinyurl.com/oye8aqj. Also see the *Smart Growth Trip-Generation Adjustment Tool* (https://tinyurl.com/mtuhz4j8).

Most experts recommend that North American communities start growing upward instead of outward. Fresno is currently not very dense and most existing housing stock is moderate-density single-family. To implement Smart Growth and maximize sustainability and transportation efficiency, Fresno should support infill development within the existing urban boundaries rather than expand to new areas.

In my opinion, the Plan's current analysis significantly underestimates vehicle traffic congestion, crash, emission and resulting air quality impacts. Until more accurate travel modeling can be completed, and air quality impacts adjusted, this PEIR fails to predict the project's significant social and environmental impacts, and so fails to provide the information that policy makers, practitioners and the general public need to make informed decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes,



Todd Litman



Image Source: Fresno Visitor Bureau

City of FRESNO

LSA

CEQA GUIDELINES FOR VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED THRESHOLDS

for the

CITY OF FRESNO

Adopted June 25, 2020

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CEQA GUIDELINES FOR
VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED THRESHOLDS

Submitted to:

City of Fresno
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Fresno, California 93721

Prepared by:

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Project No. CFO1802

Adopted June 25, 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Senate Bill (SB) 743, signed in 2013, changes the way transportation studies are conducted in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents. Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) replaces motorist delay and level of service (LOS) as the metric for impact determination. As a result of the final rulemaking surrounding SB 743 and the implementation deadline of July 1, 2020, the City of Fresno is adopting the new VMT thresholds and guidelines to address the shift from delay-based LOS CEQA traffic analyses to VMT CEQA traffic analyses.

This document discusses in further detail the following:

- Definition of region for VMT analysis
- Standardized screening methods for VMT threshold compliance data
- Recommendations for appropriate VMT significance thresholds for development projects, transportation projects, and plans
- Feasible mitigation strategies applicable for development projects, transportation projects, and plans
- For purposes of this analysis, the Fresno Council of Governments (COG) Activity-Based Model (ABM)[1] was used to develop screening maps. The Fresno COG ABM base year was updated from 2014 to 2019 based on consultation with Fresno COG staff. The appropriate use of the ABM for VMT calculations has been further elaborated in subsequent chapters of this document.

This document will serve as a detailed guideline for preparing VMT analysis consistent with SB 743 requirements for development projects, transportation projects, and plans. Project applicants will be required to follow the guidance provided in this document for preparation of CEQA VMT analysis.

[1] Fresno COG ABM Update Report: https://www.fresnocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Fresno-COG-ABM-Report.pdf

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABM	Activity-Based Model
ADT	average daily trips
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
City	City of Fresno
CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
COG	Council of Governments
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EO	Executive Order
FAR	floor-to-area ratio
GHG	greenhouse gas
GPA	General Plan Amendment
GWP	global warming potential
HOT	high-occupancy toll
HOV	high-occupancy vehicle
ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers
LOS	level of service
mi	mile
MT	metric ton

MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organizations
OPR	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
PRC	Public Resources Code
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RTPA	Regional Transportation Planning Agency
SB	Senate Bill
SCS	Sustainable Communities Strategy
sf	Square foot/feet
SOC	Statement of Overriding Considerations
TA	Technical Advisory
TDM	transportation demand management
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
ZC	Zone Change

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill (SB) 743, signed in 2013, changes the way transportation studies are conducted in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents. Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) replaces motorist delay and level of service (LOS) as the metric for impact determination. For development projects, VMT is simply the product of the daily trips generated by a new development and the distance those trips travel to their destinations. For capital projects, impacts are identified as the new VMT attributable to the added capital project, both from the installation of the facility and the induced growth—a new term in the CEQA lexicon—generated as a result of induced land use.

In January 2019, the Natural Resources Agency and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) codified SB 743 into the Public Resources Code (PRC) and the *State CEQA Guidelines*. *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) states:

1. **Land Use Projects.** Vehicle miles traveled exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact. Generally, projects within one-half mile of either an existing major transit stop or a stop along an existing high quality transit corridor should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. Projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled in the project area compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact.

2. **Transportation Projects.** Transportation projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. For roadway capacity projects, agencies have discretion to determine the appropriate measure of transportation impact consistent with CEQA and other applicable requirements. To the extent that such impacts have already been adequately addressed at a programmatic level, such as in a regional transportation plan EIR, a lead agency may tier from that analysis as provided in Section 15152.

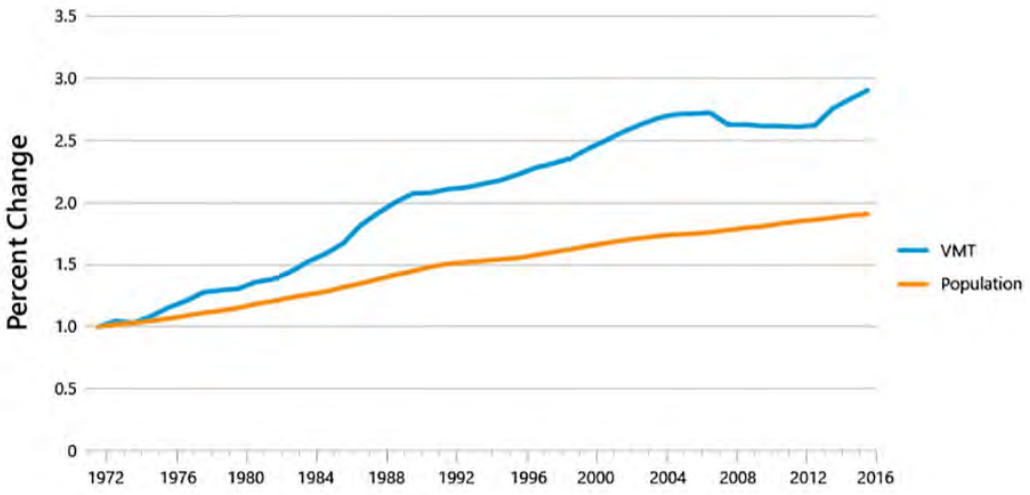
3. **Qualitative Analysis.** If existing models or methods are not available to estimate the vehicle miles traveled for the particular project being considered, a lead agency may analyze the project's vehicle miles traveled qualitatively. Such a qualitative analysis would evaluate factors such as the availability of transit, proximity to other destinations, etc. For many projects, a qualitative analysis of construction traffic may be appropriate.

4. **Methodology.** A lead agency has discretion to choose the most appropriate methodology to evaluate a project's vehicle miles traveled, including whether to express the change in absolute terms, per capita, per household or in any other measure. A lead agency may use models to estimate a project's vehicle miles traveled, and may revise those estimates to reflect professional judgment based on substantial evidence. Any assumptions used to estimate vehicle miles traveled and any revisions to model outputs should be documented and explained in the environmental document prepared for the project. The standard of adequacy in Section 15151 shall apply to the analysis described in this section.

The OPR provides a Technical Advisory (TA) as a guidance document to establish thresholds for this new VMT metric. The laws and rules governing the CEQA process are contained in the CEQA statute

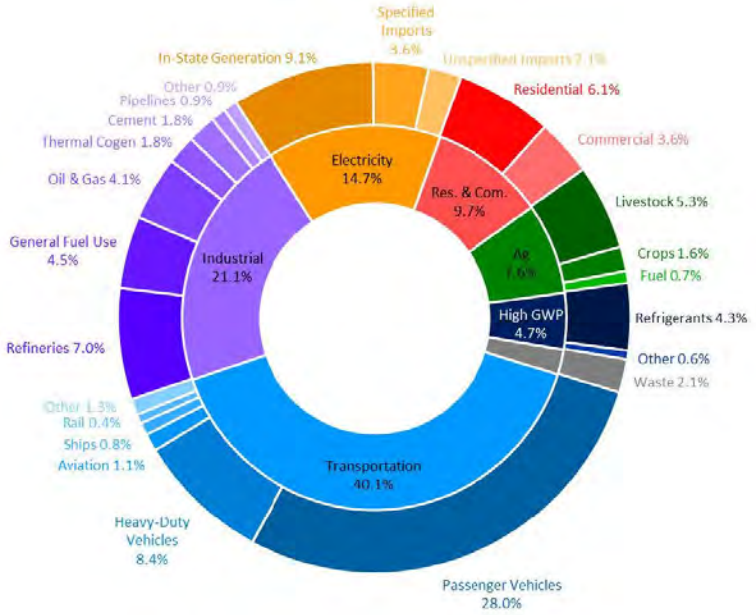
(PRC Section 21000 and following), the *State CEQA Guidelines* (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 and following), published court decisions interpreting CEQA, and locally adopted CEQA procedures. The TA is intended as a reference document; it does not have the weight of law. Yet, deviating from the TA is best undertaken with substantial evidence to support the agency action.

The State of California is committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and achieving long-term climate change goals. To achieve these climate change goals, California needs to reduce VMT. As illustrated in Figure 1, over the last 40 years, with increase in statewide population, the overall VMT has also increased. As illustrated in Figure 2, transportation is the single largest sector contributing to the State's GHG emissions. More than 40 percent of the GHG emissions come from the transportation sector, primarily passenger cars and light-duty trucks. Reducing the number of vehicle trips and reducing the length of trips are expected to result in reduced VMT and reduced GHG emissions. The new *State CEQA Guidelines* and the establishment of VMT thresholds for CEQA analyses is linked to GHG reduction strategies and overall statewide climate change goals.



Source: https://ca50million.ca.gov/transportation/

Figure 1: VMT Per Capita Compared to Population in California



Source: California Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2000 to 2017 Trends of Emissions and Other Indicators (California Air Resources Board Report)

Figure 2: 2017 GHG Emissions in California by Scoping Plan Sector and Sub-Sector Category

This document establishes the City of Fresno's (City) threshold of significance for CEQA transportation studies and provides substantial evidence as appropriate. It is divided into chapters, including:

- **Chapter 2 – Definition of Region:** Here the document describes what the comparative is for analysis purposes. Each project will be compared to an existing regional average. The geographical area that defines the region is defined and described.

- **Chapter 3 – Project Screening:** OPR acknowledges that certain projects are either low VMT generators, or by virtue of their location would have a less than significant impact. The City should use these screening criteria and should offer substantial evidence for other circumstances that would lead to a less than significant impact.

- **Chapter 4 – Significance Thresholds for Development Projects:** In this chapter, the threshold that would define a significant CEQA impact is identified. This threshold is linked to a specific travel mode and a set of trip purposes. The actual VMT metric (either an efficiency rate or total VMT) is described.

- **Chapter 5 – Significant Thresholds for Transportation Projects:** This chapter describes the method to evaluate significant CEQA impacts associated with transportation projects. Many non-vehicular capital projects are presumed to have a less than significant impact. Capacity enhancing projects may have significant impacts and may be subject to a detailed analysis that will include measuring induced travel.

- **Chapter 6 – Significance Thresholds for Land Use Plans:** This chapter provides guidance and substantial evidence to support the City's treatment of land use plans and their CEQA transportation analysis.

- **Chapter 7 – Mitigation Strategies:** Potential mitigation strategies are indicated in this chapter. It is noted that this discussion is not intended as a full list of measures the City sanctions as feasible. As in previous CEQA practice, it is generally the practitioner who identifies mitigation measures to offset the specific project related impacts identified in individual environmental document. The discussion here is intended as a reference and guide for possible strategy for applicants who may wish to investigate to offset their specific project-related significant impacts.

2.0 DEFINITION OF REGION: VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED CONTEXT

The question of context is the definition of the scope of the VMT analysis. The common term for this in previous delay-based LOS analyses is ***project study area***. In the delay-based LOS analyses, a project study area is generally determined based on the incremental increase in traffic from the project and its potential to create a significant LOS impact. This generally includes intersections and roadway segments where the project would add a prescribed number of peak-hour trips. Many times, lead agencies stop study area boundaries at their jurisdictional borders.

Unlike delay-based LOS analyses, VMT is a regional effect not defined by roadway, intersection, or pathway. The OPR acknowledges this in its TA (page 6), which states,

> *Lead agencies should not truncate any VMT analysis because of jurisdictional or other boundaries….*

Furthermore, the recommendations for thresholds for the primary land use types (residential and office) are based on a comparison to a ***regional average.*** Region is not defined further in the TA. Instead, the OPR offers the following suggestions:

1. *In cases where the region is substantially larger than the geography over which most workers would be expected to live, it might be appropriate to refer to a smaller geography, such as **county**, that includes the area over which nearly all workers would be expected to live (page 16).*

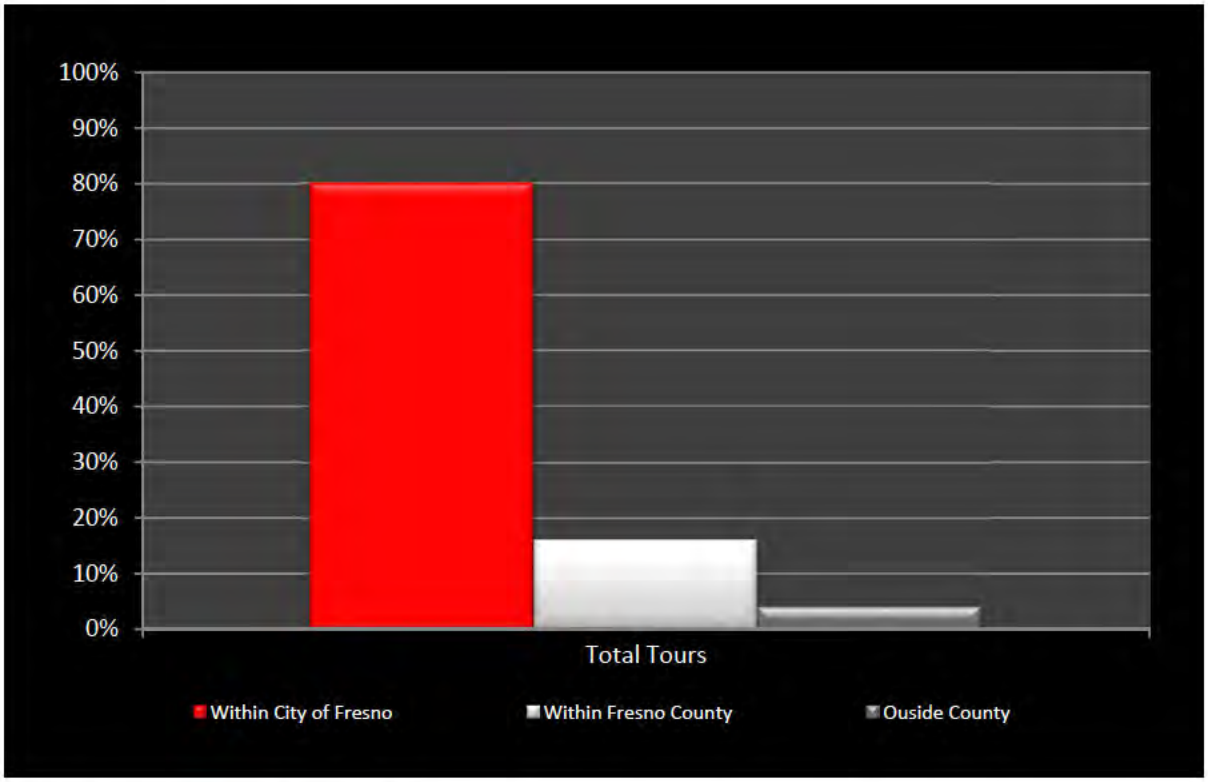
2. *For residential projects in unincorporated county areas, the local agency can compare a residential project's VMT to (1) the region's VMT per capita, or (2) the aggregate population weighted VMT per capita of all cities in the region (page 15).*

LSA surveyed other large urbanized areas around the State to identify what region has been established for VMT thresholds. In most cases, the county boundary has been identified as the region selected for VMT analysis. Mobility can be studied using a trip-based approach or a tour-based approach. The OPR TA states that "where available, tour-based assessment is ideal because it captures travel behavior more comprehensively." Since Fresno COG's model is an ABM, a tour-based approach has been followed. LSA used the Fresno COG ABM to examine the tours into and out of Fresno. As such, consistent with the OPR TA, only tours having origins or destinations or both within the City were considered. External pass-through trips were not considered. As illustrated in Figure 3, out of the total tours, about 80 percent originate and are destined within the city. Another 16 percent of tours originate or are destined within other jurisdictions in Fresno County. The remaining 4 percent home-based tours originate and are destined outside Fresno County.

Because the majority of the tours are contained within Fresno County, the county may be used to define the region. For residential projects, the TA states that "Existing VMT per capita may be measured as regional VMT per capita or as city VMT per capita. Proposed development referencing a threshold based on city VMT per capita (rather than regional VMT per capita) should not

cumulatively exceed the number of units specified in the [Sustainable Communities Strategy] SCS for that city, and should be consistent with the SCS." As such, this analysis evaluated residential VMT per capita for the City using the county as the region as well as the city boundary as the region. As illustrated in Figure 3, 85 percent of the residential trips having origins/destinations within Fresno terminate within Fresno County. Hence, based on this analysis, the City has determined to use the county as the region for all residential projects. Additionally, as illustrated in Figure 3, 90 percent of the employee trips having origins/destinations within Fresno terminate within Fresno County. Therefore, for office, retail, and all other non-residential projects, consistent with the TA, the county will be used as the region. The other OPR guidance recommends consistency in approach; once a region is established, that region should be used for all subsequent traffic analyses.

In some cases, this county boundary has other names, such as the Council of Governments boundary. Nonetheless, county is a common and reoccurring context for CEQA VMT analyses throughout the State.



Source: Fresno COG Activity Based Model

Figure 3: Percentage of Total Tours Having Origins/Destinations within the City of Fresno and Terminating within the City of Fresno, within Fresno County, or outside the County

It should be recognized the use of the county as the region defines the comparative, or the denominator, in the identification of project-related impact. The numerator is the project's VMT contribution. This project-related VMT profile may go beyond the county boundary and not be truncated by a jurisdictional boundary. For example, a new, large employment generating

development proposed near the city's northern boundary may include VMT from as far away as Madera, Tulare, or Kings Counties or other communities in the San Joaquin Valley. In that case, it would be the responsibility of the applicant and their traffic study preparer to include the project VMT regardless of geographical limit to the satisfaction of City staff. This project-related VMT profile would be compared against the County of Fresno regional average.

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3.0 PROJECT SCREENING

The TA does acknowledge that certain activities and projects may result in a reduction in VMT and GHG emissions and therefore a less-than-significant impact to transportation and circulation. A variety of projects may be screened out of a complicated VMT analysis due to the presumption described in the TA regarding the occurrence of less-than-significant impacts.

3.1 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The TA acknowledges that conditions may exist that would presume that a development project has a less than significant impact. These may be size, location, proximity to transit, or trip-making potential. For example, development projects that have one or more of the following attributes may be presumed to create a less than significant impact:

- The project is within 0.5 mile (mi) of a Transit Priority Area or a High-Quality Transit Area unless the project is inconsistent with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/SCS, has a floor area ratio (FAR) less than 0.75, provides an excessive amount of parking, or reduces the number of affordable residential units. In accordance with SB 743, "Transit priority areas" are defined 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. A Major Transit Stop means: "a site containing an existing rail transit station, a ferry terminal served by either a bus or rail transit service, or the intersection of two or more major bus routes with a frequency of service of 15 minutes or less during the morning and afternoon peak commute periods." A High-Quality Transit Area or Corridor is a corridor with fixed route bus service with service intervals no longer than 15 minutes during peak commute hours.

  Figure 4 depicts transit priority areas within Fresno including high-quality transit areas (within 0.5 mile of a major transit stop) served by the Fresno Area Express (FAX) with service intervals of 15 minutes or less. Projects proposed in these areas may be presumed to have a less-than-significant transportation impact unless the project is inconsistent with the RTP/SCS, has an FAR less than 0.75, provides an excessive amount of parking, or reduces the number of affordable residential units.

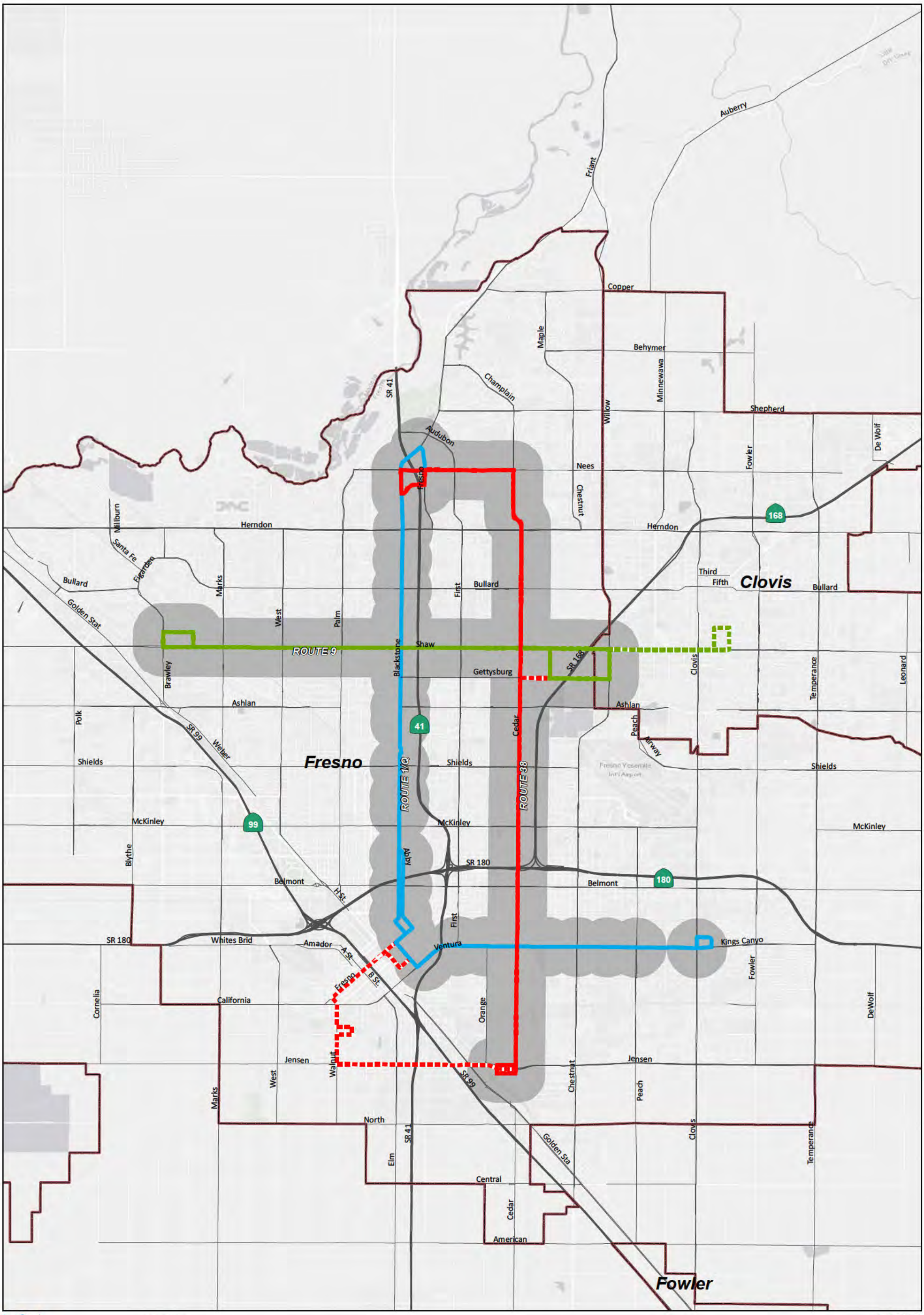
- The project involves local-serving retail space of less than 50,000 square feet (sf).

- The project has a high level of affordable housing units. The afforable-housing requirement to meet the screening criteria is to be determined by City staff.

- The project generates a low volume of daily traffic.

  The TA recommends a volume of 110 average daily trips (ADT). This recommendation is not based on any analysis of GHG reduction but, rather, on a CEQA categorical exemption. This exemption criterion states that for existing facilities, including additions to existing structures of up to 10,000 sf, the project is exempted from CEQA as long as the project is in an area where public infrastructure is available to allow for maximum planned development and the project is not located in an environmentally sensible area (*State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15301,

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LSA

LEGEND

- Cities with Sphere of Influence
- Route 1/Q (Bus Rapid Transit)
- Route 9
- Route 38
- Half-Mile Buffer
- Route 9 (Headway more than 15 Mins.)
- Route 38 (Headway more than 15 Mins.)

0 4000 8000
FEET

FIGURE 4

CEQA Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled Thresholds

High-Quality Transit Area Within Fresno County

SOURCE: Fresno Area Express (FAX) (03/20), City of Fresno (04/20), ESRI

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subdivision (e)(2). As stated in the OPR TA, for projects that have a linear increase in trip generation with respect to the building footprint, the daily trip generation is anticipated to be between 110 and 124 trips per 10,000 sf. Therefore, based on this assumption, the OPR recommends 110 ADT as the screening threshold. However, the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) was used to characterize the effect of changes in project-related ADT to the resulting GHG emissions. This model was selected because it is provided by the CARB to be used statewide for developing project-level GHG emissions. CalEEMod was used with the built-in default trip lengths and types to show the vehicular GHG emissions from incremental amounts of ADT. Table A shows the resulting annual VMT and GHG emissions from the incremental ADT.

Table A: Representative VMT and GHG Emissions from CalEEMod

Average Daily Trips (ADT)	Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)	GHG Emissions (Metric Tons CO_2e per year)
200	683,430	258
300	1,021,812	386
400	1,386,416	514
500	1.703,020	643
600	2,043,623	771

Source: CalEEMod version 2016.3.2.
CalEEMod = California Emissions Estimator Model GHG = Greenhouse Gas
CO_2e = carbon dioxide equivalent

A common GHG emissions threshold is 3,000 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent[2] (CO_2e) per year.[3] The vehicle emissions are typically more than 50 percent of the total project GHG emissions. Thus, a project with 500 ADT would generally have total project emissions that could be less than 1,300 MT CO_2e/year (i.e., 50 percent or 643 MT CO_2e/year coming from vehicle emissions and the other 50 percent coming from other project activities). As this level of GHG emissions would be less than 3,000 MT CO_2e/year, the emissions of GHG from a project up to 500 ADT would typically be less than significant. Therefore, the City will allow screening out projects if the project would generate less than 500 ADT.

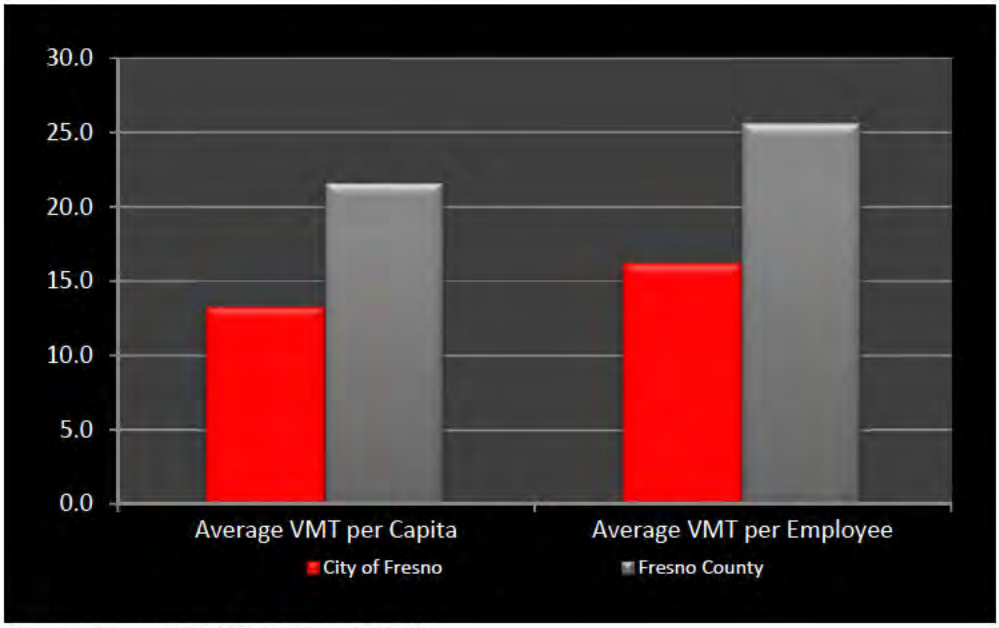
- The development of institutional/government and public service uses that support community health, safety and welfare may also be screened from subsequent CEQA VMT analysis. These facilities (e.g. police stations, fire stations, community centers, refuse stations) are already part of the community and, as a public service, the VMT is accounted for in the existing regional average. Many of these facilities generate fewer than 500 ADT and/or use vehicles other than passenger-cars or light duty trucks. These other vehicle fleets are subject to regulation outside

[2] Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) is a concept developed to provide one metric that includes the effects of numerous GHGs. The global warming potential (GWP) of each GHG characterizes the ability of each GHG to trap heat in the atmosphere relative to another GHG. The GWPs of all GHGs are combined to derive the CO_2e.

[3] Source: http://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/ghg-significance-thresholds

of CEQA, such as the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

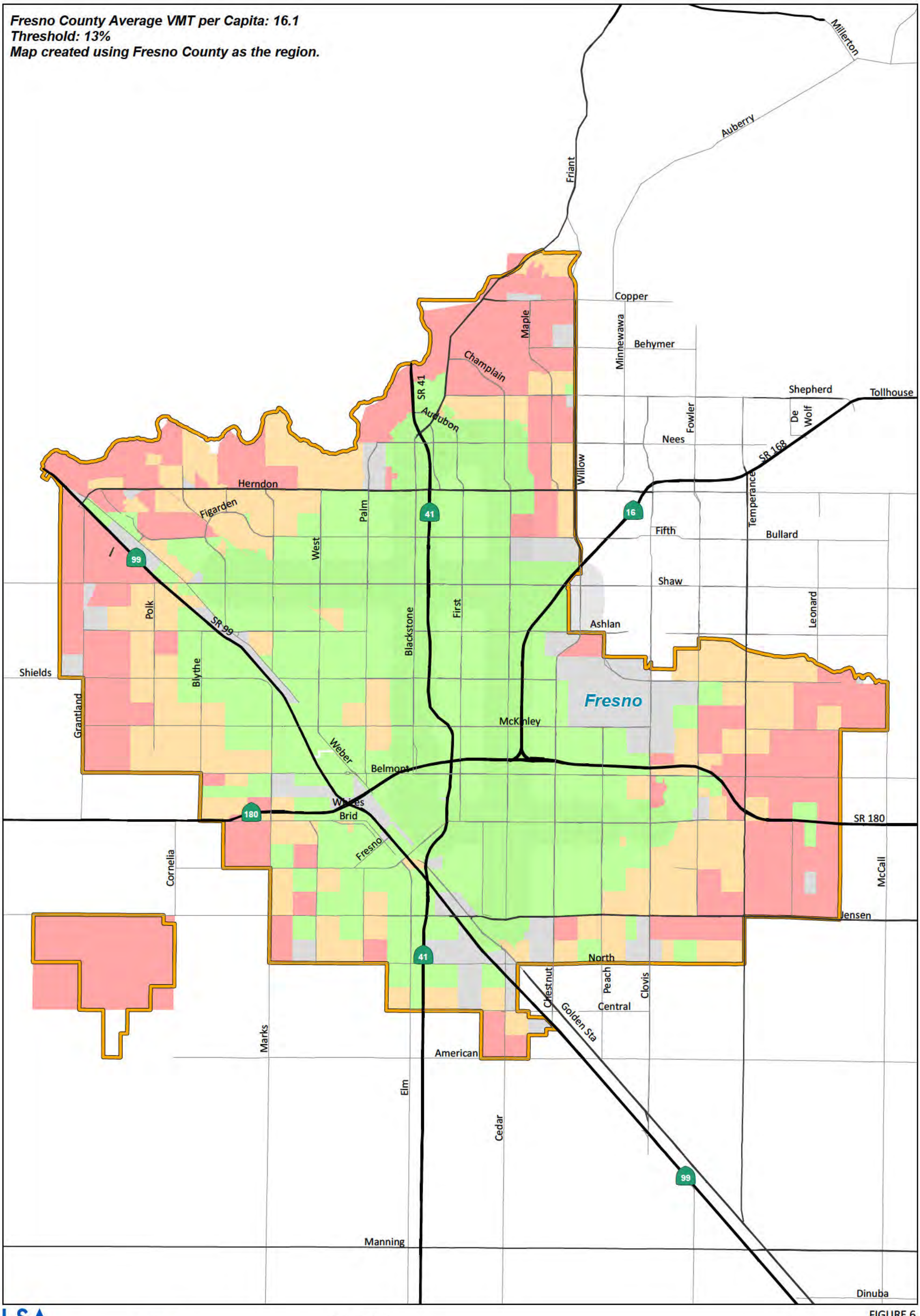
- The TA states "Residential and office projects that are located in areas with low VMT, and that incorporate similar features (i.e., density, mix of uses, transit accessibility), will tend to exhibit similarly low VMT. Maps created with VMT data, for example from a travel survey or a travel demand model, can illustrate areas that are currently below threshold VMT. Because new development in such locations would likely result in a similar level of VMT, such maps may be used to screen out residential and office projects from needing to prepare a detailed VMT analysis." LSA calculated VMT per capita and VMT per employee for the City of Fresno as well as the entire Fresno County. Figure 5 illustrates the comparison of these VMTs. LSA also created screening maps that residential and office projects within the city can use to screen projects. As described earlier, the City will use Fresno County as the region. Therefore, the screening maps have been created using the county as the region. Figure 6 illustrates Fresno's VMT per capita screening map. Figure 7 illustrates the City's VMT per employee screening map. As illustrated in Figures 6 and 7, most of the low VMT zones are in the central part of Fresno, where the City's vision is to promote infill development. Therefore, the VMT thresholds and IDs of these zones will effectively screen out or exempt from further VMT analysis the desired development types the City wishes to see as part of the General Plan process.



Source: Fresno COG Activity Based Model

Figure 5: Average VMT per Capita (Population) and VMT per Employee for City of Fresno and Fresno County

Fresno County Average VMT per Capita: 16.1
Threshold: 13%
Map created using Fresno County as the region.



LSA

FIGURE 6

LEGEND

City with Sphere of Influence

VMT per Capita

- No Population
- Less than 14.0
- 14.0 - 18.2
- Greater than 18.2

0 5000 10000
FEET

SOURCE: Fresno COG Activity Based Travel Demand Model (2019)

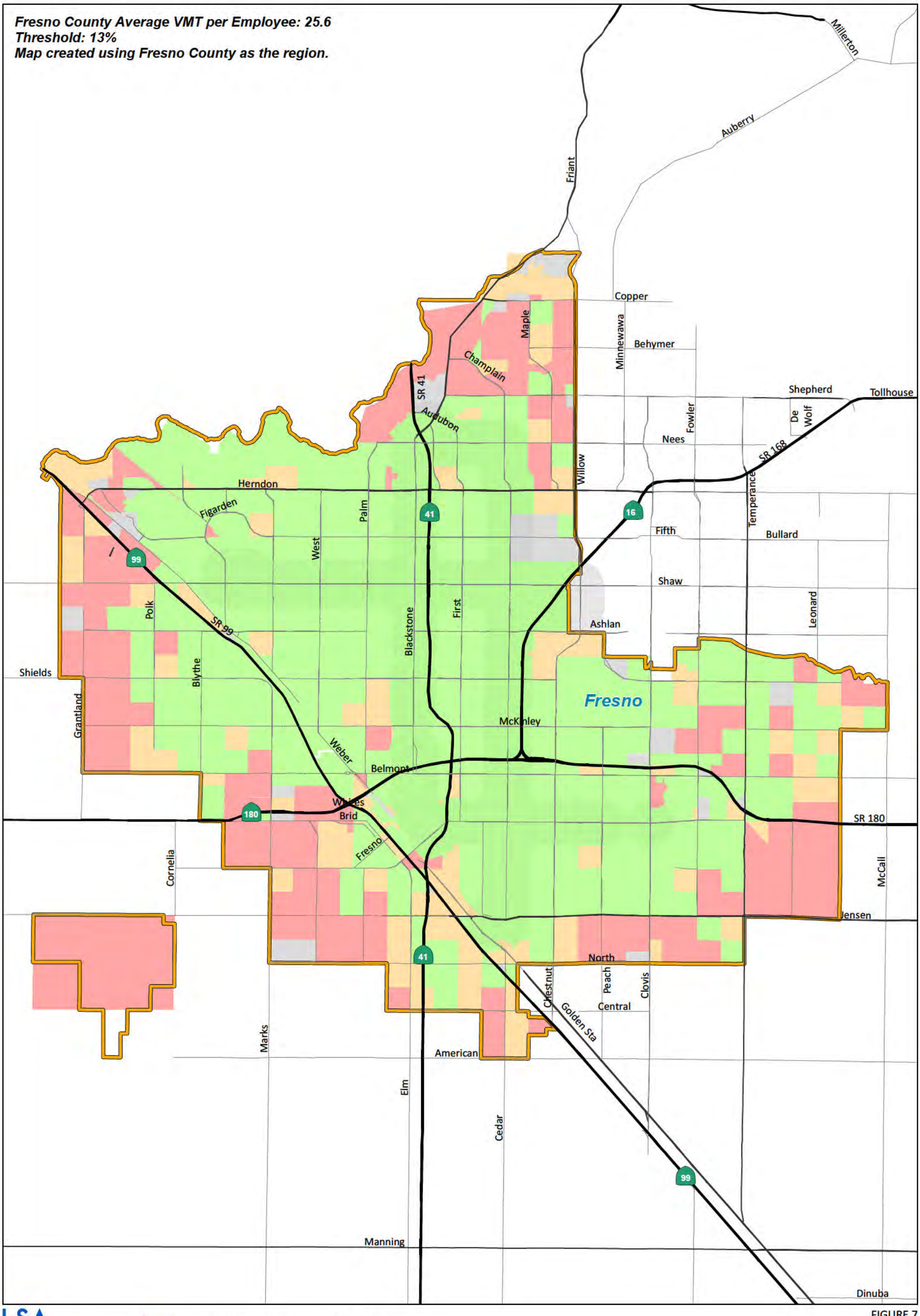
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CEQA Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled Thresholds

City of Fresno - Existing VMT per Capita

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Fresno County Average VMT per Employee: 25.6
Threshold: 13%
Map created using Fresno County as the region.



LSA

FIGURE 7

City with Sphere of Influence

VMT per Employee
- No Employee
- Less than 22.3
- 22.3 - 28.9
- Greater than 28.9

0 5000 10000
FEET

SOURCE: Fresno COG Activity Based Travel Demand Model (2019)

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CEQA Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled Thresholds

City of Fresno - Existing VMT per Employee

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- Based on the City's traffic study guidelines or existing CEQA guidelines, other conditions may apply to screen out projects. Consistency with other plans to reduce GHG emissions may also reflect substantial evidence supporting a screening out. Or, the City may adopt the TA recommendations in total.

The Fresno COG VMT Screening Tool[4] can be used to determine whether a development project may be screened from a detailed VMT analysis. It should be noted that if a project constitutes a General Plan Amendment (GPA) or a Zone Change (ZC), none of the above screening criteria may apply. The City will be required to evaluate such projects on a case-by-case basis to determine whether a VMT analysis would be required.

3.2 TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The primary attribute to consider with transportation projects is the potential to increase vehicle travel, sometimes referred to as "induced travel." Based on the OPR TA, while the City has discretion to continue to use a delay-based LOS analysis for CEQA disclosure of transportation projects, changes in vehicle travel must also be quantified. The City of Fresno will solely use VMT analysis for CEQA disclosure of transportation projects, but will also require a LOS analysis for design, traffic operations, and safety purposes. The TA lists a series of projects that would not likely lead to a substantial or measurable increase in vehicle travel and which would, therefore, not require an induced travel analysis. These include the following:

- Rehabilitation, maintenance, replacement, safety, and repair projects designed to improve the condition of existing transportation assets (e.g., highways; roadways; bridges; culverts; Transportation Management System field elements such as cameras, message signs, detection, or signals; tunnels; transit systems; and assets that serve bicycle and pedestrian facilities) and that do not add additional motor vehicle capacity
- Roadside safety devices or hardware installation such median barriers and guardrails
- Roadway shoulder enhancements to provide "breakdown space," dedicated space for use only by transit vehicles, to provide bicycle access, or to otherwise improve safety, but which will not be used as automobile vehicle travel lanes
- Addition of an auxiliary lane of less than 1 mi in length designed to improve roadway safety
- Installation, removal, or reconfiguration of traffic lanes that are not for through traffic, such as left-, right-, and U-turn pockets, two-way left-turn lanes, or emergency breakdown lanes that are not utilized as through lanes
- Addition of roadway capacity on local or collector streets, provided the project also substantially improves conditions for pedestrians, cyclists, and, if applicable, transit
- Conversion of existing general-purpose lanes (including ramps) to managed lanes or transit lanes, or changing lane management in a manner that would not substantially increase vehicle travel

[4] Fresno COG VMT Screening Tool Link: https://www.fresnocog.org/project/sb743-regional-guidelines-development/

- Addition of a new lane that is permanently restricted to use only by transit vehicles
- Reduction in the number of through lanes
- Grade separation to separate vehicles from rail, transit, pedestrians, or bicycles, or to replace a lane in order to separate preferential vehicles (e.g., high-occupancy vehicles [HOVs], high-occupancy toll [HOT] lane traffic, or trucks) from general vehicles
- Installation, removal, or reconfiguration of traffic control devices, including Transit Signal Priority features
- Installation of traffic metering systems, detection systems, cameras, changeable message signs, and other electronics designed to optimize vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian flow
- Timing of signals to optimize vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian flow
- Installation of roundabouts or traffic circles
- Installation or reconfiguration of traffic calming devices
- Adoption of or increase in tolls
- Addition of tolled lanes, where tolls are sufficient to mitigate VMT increase
- Initiation of a new transit service
- Conversion of streets from one-way to two-way operation with no net increase in the number of traffic lanes
- Removal or relocation of off-street or on-street parking spaces
- Adoption or modification of on-street parking or loading restrictions (including meters, time limits, accessible spaces, and preferential/reserved parking permit programs)
- Addition of traffic wayfinding signage
- Rehabilitation and maintenance projects that do not add motor vehicle capacity
- Addition of new or enhanced bike or pedestrian facilities on existing streets/highways or within existing public rights-of-way
- Addition of Class I bike paths, trails, multi-use paths, or other off-road facilities that serve nonmotorized travel
- Installation of publicly available alternative fuel/charging infrastructure
- Addition of passing lanes, truck climbing lanes, or truck brake-check lanes in rural areas that do not increase overall vehicle capacity along the corridor

Additionally, transit and active transportation projects generally reduce VMT and, therefore, may be presumed to cause a less than significant impact on transportation. This presumption may apply to all passenger rail projects, bus and bus rapid-transit projects, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects. The City may use this CEQA presumption of less than significant impact to aid in the prioritization of capital projects, as the CEQA process for any of these project types would be more streamlined than other capacity-enhancing capital projects.

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4.0 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

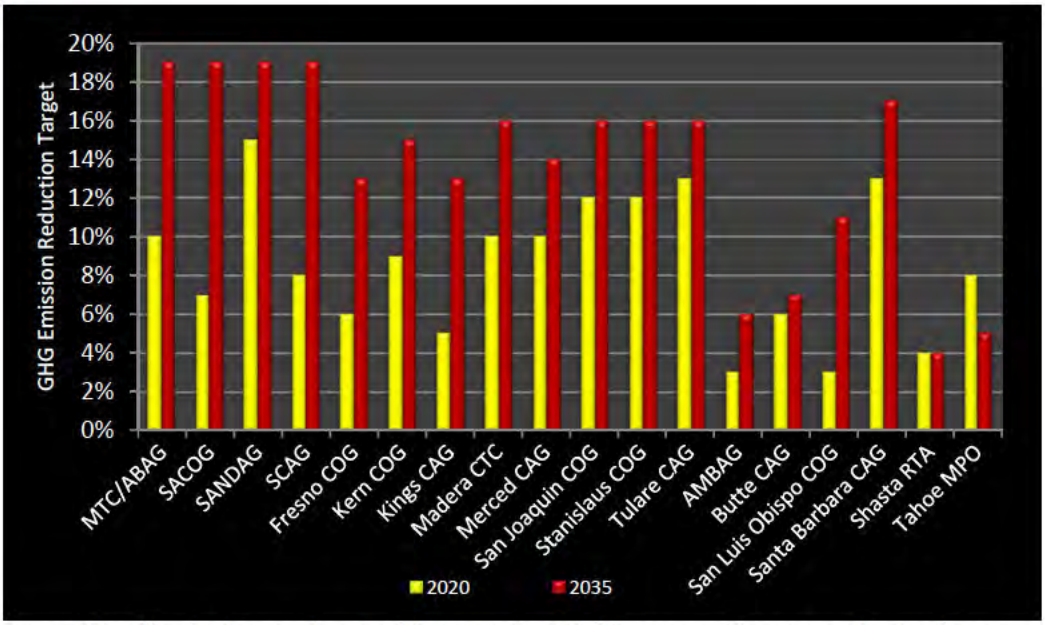
The TA states that SB 743 and all CEQA VMT transportation analyses refer to automobiles. Here, the term automobile refers to on-road passenger vehicles, specifically cars and light duty trucks (page. 4). Heavy-duty trucks can be addressed in other CEQA sections (air quality, greenhouse gas, noise, and health risk assessment analysis) and are subject to regulation in a separate collection of rules under CARB jurisdiction. This approach was amplified by Chris Ganson, Senior Advisor for Transportation at OPR, in a recent presentation at the Fresno COG (October 23, 2019) and by Ellen Greenberg, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Deputy Director for Sustainability, at the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee meeting (January 9, 2020).

The OPR has identified the subject of the thresholds as the primary trips in the home-based typology: specifically, home-based work tours. This includes residential uses, office uses, and retail uses. The home-based work tour type is the primary tourmaking during the peak hours of commuter traffic in the morning and evening periods.

The impact of transportation has shifted from congestion to climate change, and the purpose of the CEQA analysis is to disclose and ultimately reduce GHG emissions by reducing the number and length of automobile trips. As part of the SB 375 land use/transportation integration process and the GHG goal setting, the State and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA) have agreed to reduce GHG through integrated land use and transportation planning by a statewide average of approximately 15 percent by 2035. Figure 8 illustrates the SB 375 regional GHG emission reduction targets for all the 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in California that was established by the CARB in 2018. Furthermore, in its 2017 Scoping Plan-Identified VMT Reductions and Relationship to State Climate Goals, the CARB recommends total VMT per capita rates approximately 15 percent below existing conditions.

The TA therefore recommends:

> *A proposed (residential) project exceeding a level of 15 percent below existing regional average VMT per capita may indicate a significant transportation impact.*
>
> *A similar threshold would apply to office projects (15 percent below existing regional average VMT per employee).*
>
> *VMT generated by retail projects would indicate a significant impact for any net increase in total VMT.*



Source: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/sustainable-communities-program/regional-plan-targets

Figure 8: SB 375 Regional Plan Climate Targets for the 18 California MPOs

It is noted that the aggregate GHG emission reduction sought after by CARB in the SB 375 protocols is 15 percent statewide. This is one reason OPR believes the 15 percent reduction in VMT is appropriate. The aggregate 15 percent GHG emission reduction applies across all land use and transportation activities and would indicate that the State and its individual MPOs are compliant with the SB 375 goals, the overall State climate change strategy, and Scoping Plan objectives.

CARB establishes GHG targets for each of the 18 MPOs in the State, reviews the SCSs and makes a determination whether the SCS would be able to achieve GHG reduction targets if implemented. Fresno COG's 2018 RTP/SCS demonstrated a GHG reduction of 10 percent by 2035 through the integrated land use and transportation initiatives and capital projects listing, which meets targets set by the CARB. Fresno COG's 2018 RTP/SCS was approved by all reviewing Federal and State authorities, including the CARB. In the spring of 2018, CARB adopted new GHG targets for all the 18 MPOs in the State based on the 2017 Scoping Plan and other new data. CARB established a 13 percent GHG reduction target for 2035 for the Fresno region's third RTP/SCS. The State of California recognizes Fresno County's contribution to the aggregate 15 percent statewide GHG emission reduction is 13 percent. Other regions may achieve greater reductions to achieve the aggregate statewide goal.[5] As such, reduction in GHG directly corresponds to reduction in VMT. In order to reach the statewide GHG reduction goal of 15 percent, the City must reduce GHG by 13 percent. The method of reducing GHG by 13 percent is to reduce VMT by 13 percent as well.

[5] The latest GHG targets by region can be found at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/sustainable-communities-program/regional-plan-targets.

Therefore, the City has established a threshold for land use developments, specifically residential and office, of 13 percent or more than the existing regional VMT per capita as indicative of a significant environmental impact.

No other discrete land use types are identified for threshold development. Mixed-use projects should be evaluated for each component of the project independently, or the City may use the predominant land use type for the analysis. The City will make a determination of the predominant land use type on a case-by-case basis based on the project description. Credit for internal trip capture should be made. Internal trip capture may be calculated using the latest edition of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) *Trip Generation Handbook* (for smaller projects), the Fresno COG ABM (for larger projects), or other applicable sources approved by the City. The TA suggests that City may, but is not required to, develop thresholds for any other use.

One approach is to review the City's General Plan and/or the Fresno COG RTP/SCS and identify whether the implementation of the plan would result in a reduction of VMT and GHGs. If it does, the City may conclude the implementation of the plan, including all the other land use types will achieve the regional climate change goals. Therefore, consistency with the plan and no net change in VMT per employee for the other land use types is a rational threshold. However, for projects seeking a GPA, a project exceeding a level of 13 percent than the existing County average VMT per employee would indicate a significant transportation impact.

This approach would require disclosure of substantial evidence, including the General Plan findings, and other supporting traffic and air quality forecasting support. Additionally, if the City wishes to establish some other threshold less stringent than the 13 percent recommended for residential and office projects, a body of substantial evidence would be necessary.

Figure 9 demonstrates the potential development entitlement process to comply with the *State CEQA Guidelines* related to VMT and transportation impacts. It provides the path from application filing through determination of impacts. It is presented as the standard process; each development application is considered unique and may create alternative or modified steps through the process. Each step that diverges from this standard process should be accompanied with substantial evidence demonstrating compliance with other climate change and GHG emission reduction laws and regulations.

4.1 GENERAL TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS PROCEDURE

This process will be refined as the new VMT analysis process is implemented. At the outset of the project development process, the applicant should seek a meeting with City staff to discuss the project description, the transportation study content, and the analysis methodology. Key elements to address include a description of the project in sufficient detail to generate trips and identify the potential catchment area (i.e., trip lengths if no modeling is undertaken), estimate project VMT, discuss project design features that may reduce the VMT from the project development, and discuss the project location and associated existing regional VMT percentages. As a result of the meeting, the applicant or their consultant shall prepare a transportation analysis scope of work for review and approval by the City.

Projects that will influence Caltrans facilities may be subject to the Caltrans Local Development-Intergovernmental Review program. As part of the program, Caltrans may review the VMT analysis methodology, findings, and mitigation measures, with an eye toward statewide consistency.

4.2 PROJECT SCREENING

Once a development application is filed and the meeting is held, project screening is conducted as the initial step. If the project meets any one of the screening criteria, the project may be presumed to create a less than significant impact. No further VMT analysis is necessary. The CEQA document should enumerate the screening criteria and how the project meets or exceeds that threshold. If project screening does not apply, a VMT analysis may be required. The extent of this analysis may be a simple algebraic demonstration or a more sophisticated traffic modeling exercise. This distinction is addressed later.

4.3 PROJECT VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED ANALYSIS

The first step is to identify the project land use type and the appropriate metric to use, i.e., VMT per capita, VMT per employee, or total VMT. The metric should be VMT per capita for residential projects, VMT per employee for office projects, and total VMT for retail projects. For mixed-use projects, after taking credit for internal trip capture, the project VMT can be estimated based on each component of the project independently, or the City may use the predominant land use type for the analysis. For all other uses, the metric used should be VMT per employee.

4.3.1 Small Project Vehicle Miles Traveled Analysis

Project VMT may be calculated using the Fresno COG VMT Calculation Tool[6] for residential projects having less than or equal to 500 dwelling units or office projects having less than or equal to 375 employees. For all other projects, trip lengths can be determined using the Fresno COG ABM.

4.3.2 Large Project Vehicle Miles Traveled Analysis

For large or multi-use projects, use of the Fresno COG ABM is required. For purposes of City review, all projects, other than residential uses with less than or equal to 500 dwelling units or offices with less than or equal to 375 employees, should use the Fresno COG ABM. At this level of trip generation, the probability of trip fulfilment expands to an area greater than the immediate project location and may include a greater regional attraction. The Fresno COG ABM can more accurately define the select links used and the total VMT generated by the project.

Next, the project generated VMT per capita/VMT per employee/total VMT is compared to the appropriate significance threshold. This is either equal to or more than 13 percent of the existing regional average per capita or employment for specific uses, or no net increase in total VMT for retail or other uses that are consistent with the General Plan. For those projects that require a GPA, a threshold of 13 percent or more than existing regional average is appropriate as the project has yet to be evaluated as part of the City's ultimate development vision.

[6] Fresno COG VMT Calculation Tool Link: https://www.fresnocog.org/project/sb743-regional-guidelines-development/

If the project VMT metric is less than the significance threshold, the project is presumed to create a less than significant impact. No further VMT analysis is required. If the project is greater than the significance threshold, mitigation measures are required.

4.4 MITIGATION MEASURES

The applicant is required, per CEQA, to identify feasible offsets to completely mitigate the impact created by the project. These can come from the mitigation strategies provided by the City (Appendices A and B), or selected based on the applicant and their CEQA team experience. The City must approve and accept the ultimate mitigation ascribed to the project and the related VMT percentage reduction.

If the mitigation measures mitigate the project impact to less than the jurisdictional threshold, the project is presumed to have an impact mitigated to a less than significant level. No further VMT analysis is required. If the project's VMT impact cannot be mitigated, the City may 1) request the project be redesigned, relocated or realigned to reduce the VMT impact, or 2) require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) with a Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC) for the transportation impacts associated with the project. All feasible mitigation measures must be assigned to and carried out by the project even if an EIR/SOC is prepared.

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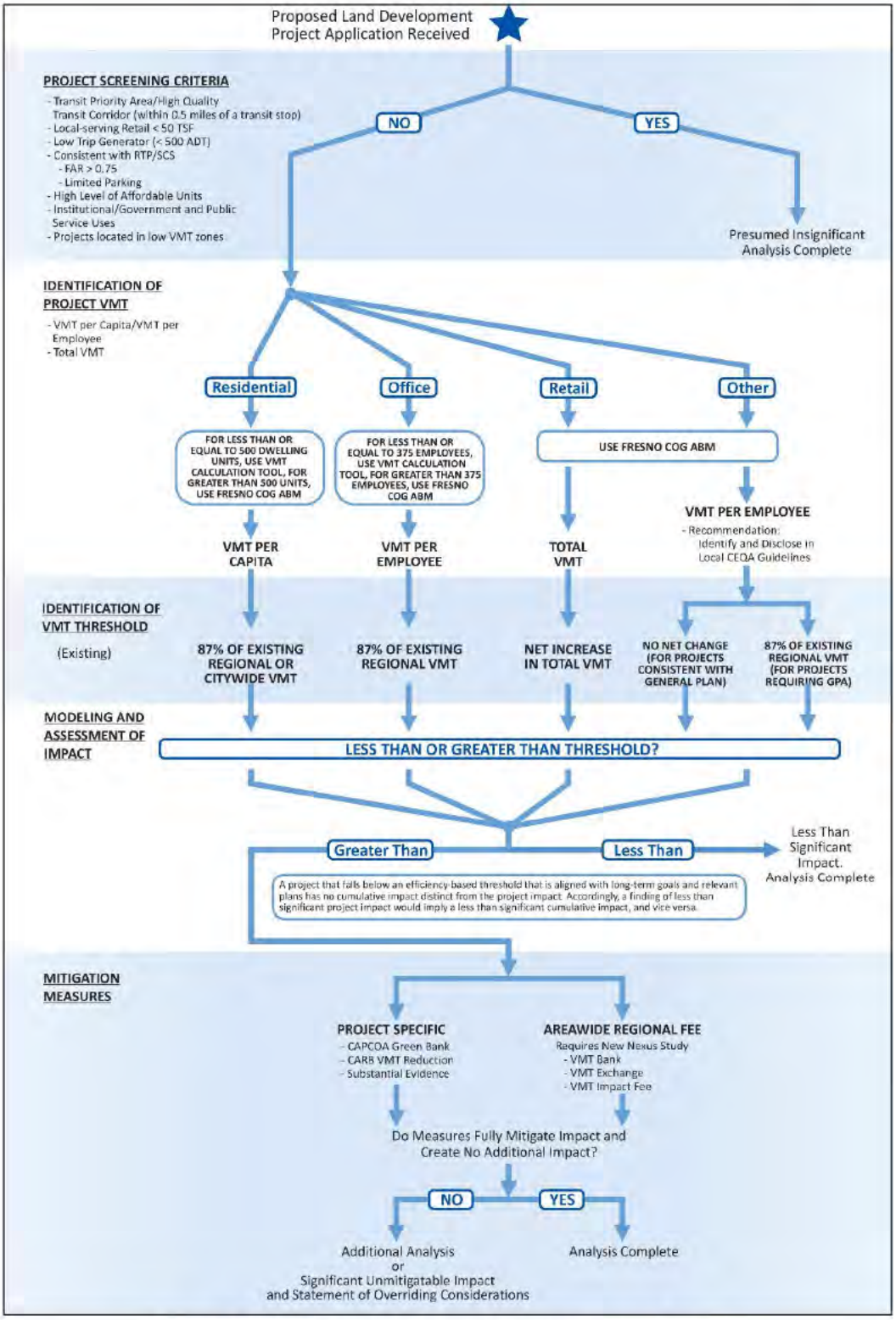


Figure 9: VMT Analysis Process for Development Projects

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5.0 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The 2020 CEQA Guidelines include Section 15064.3.b.(2) to address transportation projects. It reads:

> *For roadway capacity projects, agencies have the discretion to determine the appropriate measure of transportation impact consistent with CEQA and other applicable requirements.*

The City may continue to use delay and LOS for transportation projects for design and traffic operation purposes as long as impacts related to "other applicable requirements" are disclosed. This has generally been interpreted as VMT impacts and other State climate change objectives. These other applicable requirements may be found in other parts of an environmental document (i.e., air quality, GHG), or may be provided in greater detail in the transportation section.

For projects on the State highway system, the Caltrans will use and will require sponsoring agencies to use VMT as the CEQA metric, and Caltrans will evaluate the VMT "attributable to the project" (Caltrans Draft VMT-Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide 2020). Caltrans may review environmental documents for capacity-enhancing projects for the City's analysis of VMT change.

The assessment of a transportation project's VMT should disclose the VMT without the project and the difference in VMT with the project. Any growth in VMT attributable to the transportation project would result in a significant impact.

The primary difference in these two scenarios to OPR is related to induced growth. Current traffic models have limited abilities to forecast induced growth, as their land use or socioeconomic databases are fixed to a horizon date. OPR refers to a limited set of reports that would indicate elasticities.

The most recent major study (Duranton & Turner 2011, p. 24), estimates an elasticity of 1.0, meaning that every 1 percent change in lane miles results in a 1 percent increase in VMT.

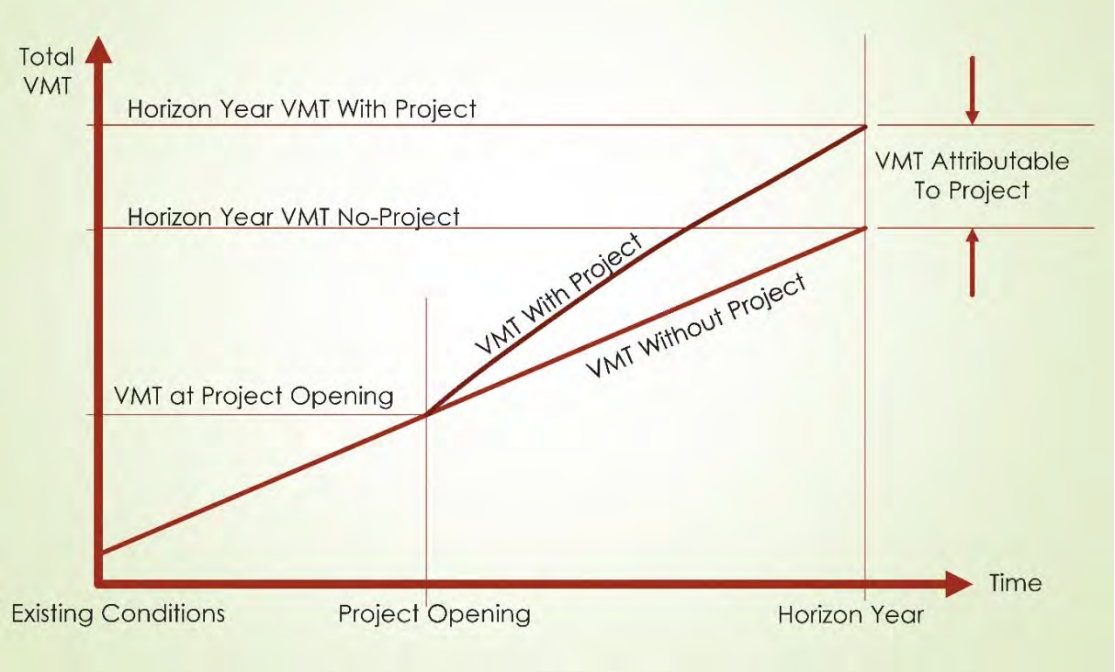
The TA presents one method to identify the induced growth, as follows.

> *To estimate VMT impacts from roadway expansion projects:*
>
> 1. *Determine the total lane-miles over an area that fully captures travel behavior changes resulting from the project (generally the region, but for projects affecting interregional travel look at all affected regions).*
>
> 2. *Determine the percentage change in total lane miles that will result from the project.*
>
> 3. *Determine the total existing VMT over that same area.*

4. *Multiply the percentage increase in lane miles by the existing VMT, and then multiply that by the elasticity from the induced travel literature:*

[% increase in lane miles] x [existing VMT] x [elasticity] =
[VMT resulting from the project]

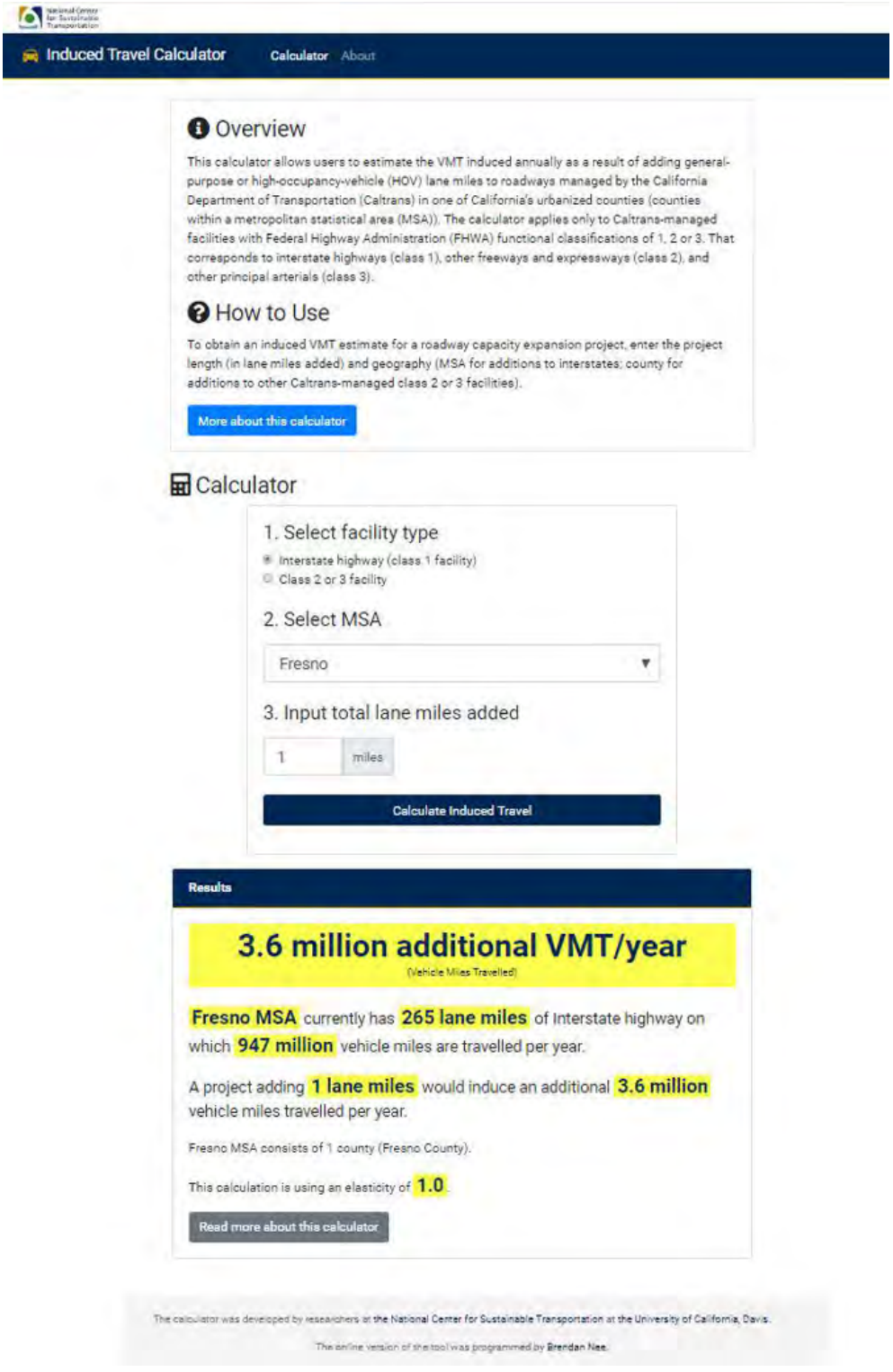
Figure 10 provides a representative illustration of induced VMT attributable to a project.



Source: Presentation: Caltrans Transportation Analysis under CEQA or TAC: Significance Determinations for Induced Travel Analysis (SHCC Pre-Release Session 2 Jeremy Ketchum, Division of Environmental Analysis, Caltrans; March 2, 2020)

Figure 10: Induced Travel – VMT Attributable to Project

Caltrans has identified a computerized tool that estimates VMT generation from transportation projects. It was developed at University of California, Davis and is based on elasticities and the relationship of lane mile additions and growth in VMT. It uses Federal Highways Administration definitions of facility type and ascribes VMT increases to each facility. Output includes increases on million miles of VMT per year. Caltrans is investigating its use for all its VMT analyses of capital projects on the State Highway System. Figure 11 provides an illustration of that tool.



Source: https://blinktag.com/induced-travel-calculator/index.html

Figure 11: Caltrans Induced Travel Calculator

The TA provides other options to identify induced growth- and project-related VMT. These include:

1. Employ an expert panel. *An expert panel could assess changes to land use development that would likely result from the project. This assessment could then be analyzed by the travel demand model to assess effects on vehicle travel. Induced vehicle travel assessed via this approach should be verified using elasticities found in the academic literature.*

2. Adjust model results to align with the empirical research. *If the travel demand model analysis is performed without incorporating projected land use changes resulting from the project, the assessed vehicle travel should be adjusted upward to account for those land use changes. The assessed VMT after adjustment should fall within the range found in the academic literature.*

3. Employ a land use model, running it iteratively with a travel demand model. *A land use model can be used to estimate the land use effects of a roadway capacity increase, and the traffic patterns that result from the land use change can then be fed back into the travel demand model. The land use model and travel demand model can be iterated to produce an accurate result.*

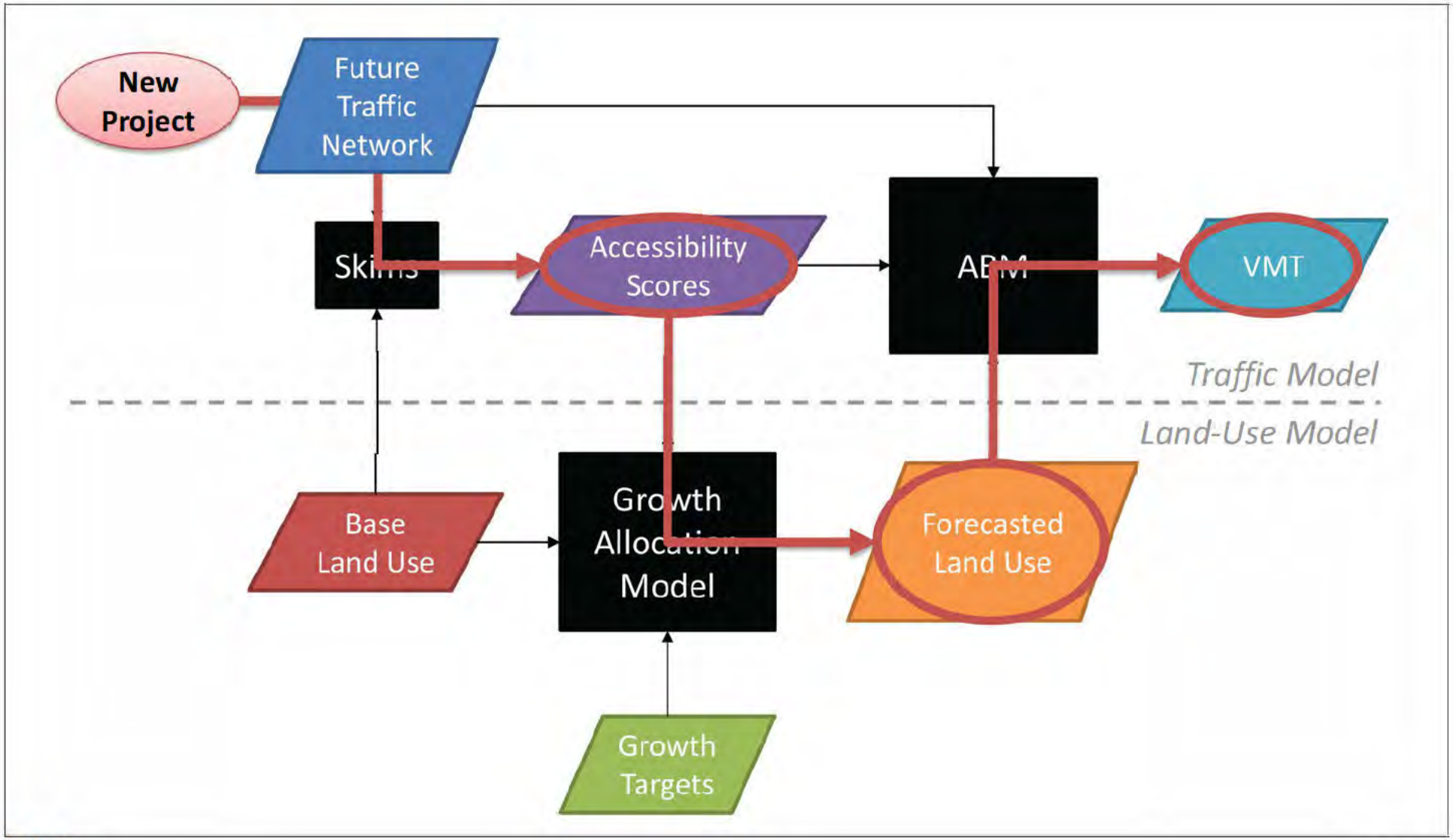
The TA provides a final warning:

> *Whenever employing a travel demand model to assess induced vehicle travel, any limitation or known lack of sensitivity in the analysis that might cause substantial errors in the VMT estimate (for example, model insensitivity to one of the components of induced VMT described above) should be disclosed and characterized, and a description should be provided on how it could influence the analysis results. A discussion of the potential error or bias should be carried into analyses that rely on the VMT analysis, such as greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, energy, and noise.*

Fresno COG ran a few test scenarios of roadway widening projects using the Fresno COG ABM. These results were compared with the results from the Caltrans Induced Travel Calculator. The comparison demonstrated substantial difference in results. As such, it was identified that the ABM was more sensitive to project location, roadway type, surrounding land uses, and localized trip characteristics. Therefore, for most transportation projects that are not under Caltrans jurisdiction, it is recommended that the Fresno COG ABM be utilized to calculate project related induced VMT. As illustrated in Figure 10, VMT attributable to the project must be calculated by evaluating no project and with project conditions under the horizon year scenario using Fresno COG ABM. Net increase in induced VMT will result in a significant impact for the proposed project.

The concept of induced demand and the methodology to be followed is explained in greater detail in the Technical Appendices. Figure 12 illustrates a conceptual overview of the methodology to be followed to calculate induced demand. As illustrated in Figure 12, the effect of induced VMT will be required to be evaluated from both a land use and a travel demand modeling perspective. Fresno COG staff and the Resource Systems Group, Inc. (RSG) have prepared a detailed process that needs

to be conducted for this analysis. The methodology looks at induced VMT from new land uses generated by transportation capacity improvement projects by providing iterative and incremental feedback between the Fresno COG ABM and the land-use growth allocation model such that changes in the traffic network are incorporated into land-use allocation, and vice-versa. The methodology then looks at the impact of increased roadway capacity on increased traffic volumes and congestion using DaySim, the activity-based model component of the Fresno COG ABM. The methodology concludes that roadway capacity increase may lead to increased volumes, which results in increased congestion, which could be close to or the same as the congestion before the roadway capacity increase, albeit with more vehicles and an overall increase in utility.



LSA

FIGURE 12

CEQA Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled Thresholds

Conceptual Methodology for Calculating Induced Demand for Transportation Projects

SOURCE: Fresno Council of Governments

I:\FCG1901\Reports\Traffic\fig13_InducedVMTMethodology_05-28-2020.ai (05/28/2020)

6.0 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS FOR LAND USE PLANS

The OPR guidance has provided guidance on the treatment of CEQA traffic analyses for land use plans in the TA. The TA reiterates previous direction regarding individual land use assessments:

- Analyze the VMT outcomes over the full area over which the plan may substantively affect travel patterns (the definition of region).

- VMT should be counted in full rather than split between origins and destinations (the full impact of the project VMT).

The TA provides a single sentence as consideration for land use plans. It states, "A general plan, area plan, or community plan may have a significant impact on transportation if proposed new residential, office or retail land uses would in aggregate exceed the respective thresholds recommended above." This recommendation refers to a threshold of 13 percent or more than the existing regional average for residential and office uses and no net gain for retail land uses.

To assess a land use plan, use of a traffic-forecasting tool is recommended. Therefore, the City should use the ABM to assess VMT for land use plans. The total VMT for the plan should be identified for all tour types and all potential VMT contributors within the plan area. Model runs should be conducted for the existing base year and the horizon year with project (plan).

The SB 375 process establishes ambitious and achievable GHG reduction targets for the 18 MPOs in the State. The achievements of the targets are provided through the integration of land use planning and transportation planning, not solely through the imposition of regulation on passenger cars and light-duty trucks. The CARB reviews the SCS and the strategies and programs that the regional agencies put in place in the SCS to achieve the GHG reduction. The CARB approved the new GHG reduction targets for all the 18 MPOs in the State in the spring of 2018. The 2018 targets are applicable to the third SCSes for the MPOs.

Other legislative mandates and State policies speak to GHG reduction targets. A sample of these include:

- Assembly Bill 32 (2006) requires statewide GHG emissions reductions to 1990 levels by 2020 and continued reductions beyond 2020.

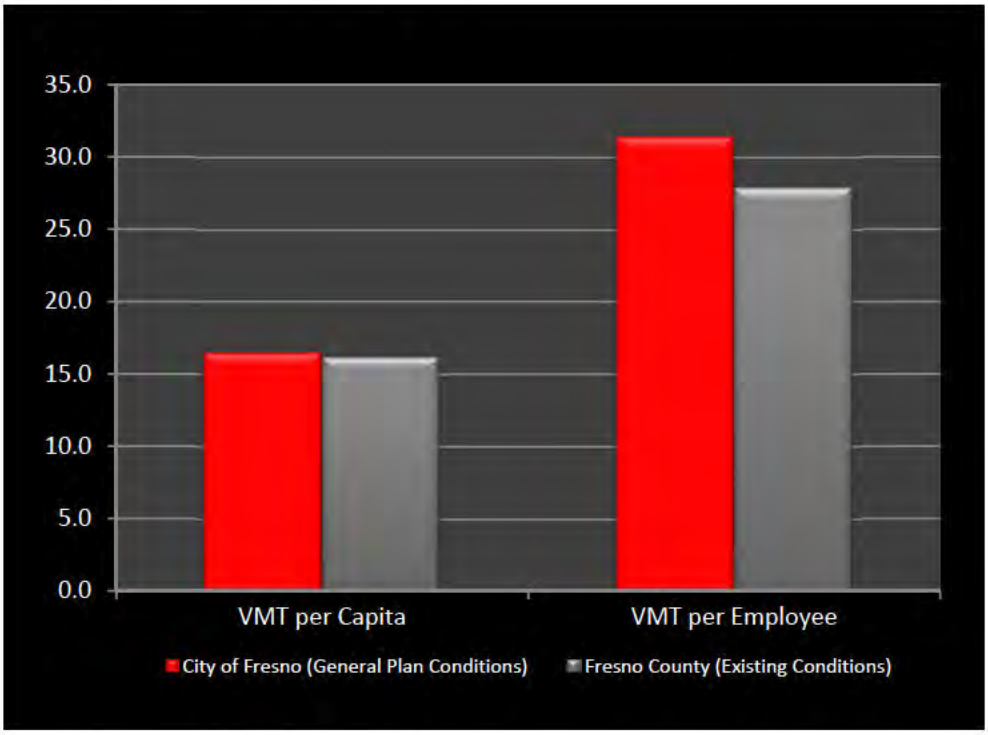
- SB 32 (2016) requires at least a 40 percent reduction in GHG emissions from 1990 levels by 2030.

- Executive Order (EO) B-30-15 (2015) sets a GHG emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

- EO S-3-05 (2005) sets a GHG emissions reduction target of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

- EO B-16-12 (2012) specifies a GHG emissions reduction target of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 specifically for transportation.

Therefore, the recommended methodology for conducting VMT assessments for land use plans is to compare the existing VMT per capita and/or VMT per employee for the region with the expected horizon year VMT per capita and/or VMT per employee for the land use plan. If there is a net increase in the VMT metric under horizon year conditions, then the project will have a significant impact. Figure 13 illustrates the comparison of VMT per capita and VMT per employee under the horizon year for the City of Fresno General Plan compared to the existing regional VMT per capita and existing VMT per employee, respectively.



Source: Fresno COG Activity Based Model

Figure 13: VMT per Capita and VMT per Employee Comparisons – City of Fresno General Plan versus Fresno County under Existing Conditions

7.0 MITIGATION STRATEGIES

When a lead agency identifies a significant CEQA impact according to the thresholds described above, the agency must identify feasible mitigation measures in order to avoid or substantially reduce that impact. Although previous LOS impacts could be mitigated with location-specific LOS improvements, VMT impacts will require mitigation of regional impacts through more behavioral changes. Enforcement of mitigation measures will be still be subject to the mitigation monitoring requirements of CEQA, as well as the regular police powers of the agency. These measures can also be incorporated as a part of plans, policies, regulations, or project designs.

7.1 DEFINITION OF MITIGATION

Section 15370 of the *2020 State CEQA Guidelines* defines mitigations as follows:

> *"Mitigation" includes:*
>
> *a. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.*
>
> *b. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.*
>
> *c. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.*
>
> *d. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.*
>
> *e. Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments, including through permanent protection of such resources in the form of conservation easements.*

Section 15097 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* states that "the public agency shall adopt a program for monitoring or reporting on the revisions which it has required in the project and the measures it has imposed to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects."

VMT mitigations may not be physical improvements; rather, they are complex in nature and will significantly depend on changes in human behavior. Therefore, it will be important that the City develop a proper monitoring program to ensure the implementation of these mitigation measures, throughout the life of a project, in compliance with CEQA. The City must also coordinate with other responsible agencies as part of this monitoring program to determine the feasibility of the mitigations and whether they would last in perpetuity.

Historically, mitigation measures for LOS based transportation impacts have addressed either trip generation reductions or traffic-flow-capacity enhancements. LOS mitigation measures include adding capacity to intersections, roadways, ramps, and freeways. However, transportation demand

management (TDM) actions, active transportation amenities, and other measures to reduce the number of trips creating an impact are also possible mitigation strategies.

LOS based mitigations are mostly physical improvements whose benefits are observable, measurable, and virtually perpetual. The addition of a left-turn lane at an intersection will behave similarly regardless of location and will continue to perform as intended until the lane is removed or modified. A lane mile of roadway will carry a similar volume of traffic if designed consistently across most jurisdictions in California, and it will continue to do so as long as the lane exists.

The definition of VMT mitigation measures is somewhat different. Most VMT mitigations may seem feasible from a theoretical perspective, but practical implementation of these strategies as formal CEQA mitigation measures in perpetuity is yet to be tested. Several of these mitigations are contextual and behavioral in nature. Their success will depend on the size and location of the project as well as expected changes in human behavior. For example, a project providing a bike share program does not necessarily guarantee a behavioral change within the project's population; the level of improvement may be uncertain and subject to the whim of the population affected.

LOS mitigations (such as addition of turn lanes) focus more on rectifying a physical CEQA impact (strategy "c" of *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15370). On the contrary, the majority of VMT mitigations (such as commute trip-reduction programs) will aim at reducing or eliminating an impact over time through preservation and monitoring over the life of the project (strategy "d" of *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15370). Additionally, some VMT mitigations (such as those focused on land use/location-based policies) will aim at minimizing impacts by reducing the number of trips generated by the projects (strategy "b" of *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15370).

Furthermore, it may be that identified VMT impacts cannot be mitigated at the project-specific level. Most VMT impacts are in the context of the region of analysis. The incremental change in VMT associated with a project in the particular setting in which it may be located would suggest a greater VMT deficit than individual strategies can offset. Only a regional solution (e.g., completion of a transit system, purchase of more transit buses, or gap closure of an entire bicycle master plan system) may offer the incremental change necessary to reduce the VMT impact to a level of insignificance. Also, VMT, as a proxy for GHG emissions, may not require locational specificity. A project does not necessarily need to diminish the VMT at the project site to gain benefit in VMT and GHG reduction in the State. Offsets in an area where the benefit would be greater will have a more effective reduction in VMT and GHG and contribute to the State's ultimate climate goals. This is the basis for the cap-and-trade strategies.

These issues of regional scale, partial participation, and geographic ambiguity confound the certainty of the City's identification of VMT mitigation measures. Section 15126.4 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* states, "Where several measures are available to mitigate an impact, each should be discussed and the basis for selecting a particular measure should be identified. **Formulation of mitigation measures shall not be deferred until some future time** [emphasis added]." Certainty does not yet exist that partial participation in VMT mitigation measures is permissible. Regional VMT mitigation is considered the most effective method for large-scale VMT reduction, yet the cost and implementation barriers are greater in most cases than one project can undertake. The only

exception may be where VMT mitigation strategies are provided at a regional level in the form of mitigation banks, fees, and exchanges and the projects are subject to contribute to these fee programs consistent with applicable provision to ensure compliance and consistency with CEQA and other legal requirements.

Section 21099 (b) (4) of the PRC states, "This subdivision [requiring a new transportation metric under CEQA] does not preclude the application of local general plan policies, zoning codes, conditions of approval, thresholds, or any other planning requirements pursuant to the police power or any other authority." Hence, despite the fact that automobile delay will no longer be considered a significant impact under CEQA, the City can still require projects to meet the LOS standards designated in its zoning code or general plan. Therefore, in that case, the project might still be required to propose LOS improvements for congestion relief in addition to VMT strategies as CEQA mitigation measures.

7.2 MITIGATION MEASURES AND PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

7.2.1 Development Projects and Community/General Plans

Mitigations and project alternatives for VMT impacts have been suggested by the OPR and are included in the TA. VMT mitigations can be extremely diverse and can be classified under several categories such as land use/location, road pricing, transit improvements, commute trip reduction strategies, and parking pricing/policy. However, the issue with VMT mitigations is the quantitative measurement of the relief provided by the strategies. How much VMT reduction does a TDM program, a bike share program, a transit route, or 1 mile of sidewalk provide? Improvements related to VMT reduction strategies have been quantified in sources such as the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) report *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* (CAPCOA Green Book) and CARB sources, and are generally presented in wide ranges of potential VMT reduction percentages.



Source: https://abc30.com/3126364/

Bus Rapid Transit in the City of Fresno

Appendix A is a summary of the different VMT mitigation measures and project alternatives stated in the CAPCOA Green Book (only those strategies directly attributed to transportation) and the OPR TA for development projects. It also refers to mitigation measures listed in other sources such as the VMT Measurement Calculator for the City of Los Angeles, the transportation analysis guidelines for the City of San Jose and the San Diego Region, and the memorandum Analysis of VMT Mitigation Measures Pursuant to SB 743, prepared by Iteris, Inc., for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Appendix B provides a list of mitigations for development projects based on the research work performed by Deborah Salon, Marlon G. Boarnet, Susan Handy, Steven Spears, and Gil Tal with the support of CARB. For a few mitigation measures, Fresno COG staff conducted additional research as applicable to the Fresno COG region using the Fresno COG ABM and locally available empirical data. Based on that analysis, specific VMT reduction percentages were developed for these mitigation measures. A detailed description of this analysis is provided in the *Fresno County SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines*. The City recommends applying these values to provide project-related mitigations. For all other mitigation measures, the project applicant will be required to provide substantial evidence while identifying a project-specific value. In case that information is not available, consistent with the Fresno COG's recommendations, the project should apply the low point of provided ranges for VMT reduction. Where a mitigation strategy does not have an identified VMT reduction range, the project applicant would be required to provide a reduction estimate supported by evidence.



Source: https://www.fresno.gov/publicworks/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2016/09/170022FresnoATPFinal012017.pdf

Bike Routes in the City of Fresno

As for land use plans, the potential mitigation measures for community/general plans would be similar to those for development projects, with certain modifications. The OPR TA does not specifically state any VMT mitigations for land use plans. However, the transportation impact study guidelines for the San Diego Region list potential mitigation measures. These measures have been summarized in Appendix C along with corresponding VMT reduction percentages obtained from CAPCOA.

It must be noted that Appendices A–C provide only summaries of the mitigations stated in the sources mentioned above. The reader should refer to the original source for further details and for subsequent updates to the mitigation measures. Also, Appendices A–C do not provide an exhaustive list of mitigation measures to offset the CEQA impacts. Other measures can also be accepted by the City based on provision of substantial evidence.

As additional mitigation measures are developed to offset VMT impacts in the future for the *State CEQA Guidelines* process, linkages between the strategy and the incremental effect and quantified offset must be made. This can be based on other sources' observations and measurements or the City's experience in these practices. The key to mitigation is to base its efficacy on real and substantial evidence.

7.2.2 Transportation Projects

Although OPR provides detailed guidance on how to assess induced-growth impacts associated with transportation projects, it leaves the subject of mitigation measures vague. Only four strategies are suggested as mitigation measures:

- Tolling new lanes to encourage carpools and fund transit improvements
- Converting existing general-purpose lanes to HOV or HOT lanes
- Implementing or funding off-site travel demand management
- Implementing Intelligent Transportation Systems strategies to improve passenger throughput on existing lanes



Source: https://medium.com/@davidcanepa/toll-lanes-good-for-the-rich-bad-for-the-environment-4f1ec24105d3

Toll Lanes

No quantified reduction percentage is allocated to these strategies, and LSA could find no substantial evidence that would provide guidance to levels of significance after implementation of these strategies. Review of the four recommended strategies suggests that OPR is directing strategies away from general-purpose mixed-flow lanes on expressways, freeways, and arterial highways. Inasmuch as these are the project descriptions and Purpose and Need, the project intent and the project mitigation may be at odds. The City would be subject to an SOC for the capital project VMT impact.

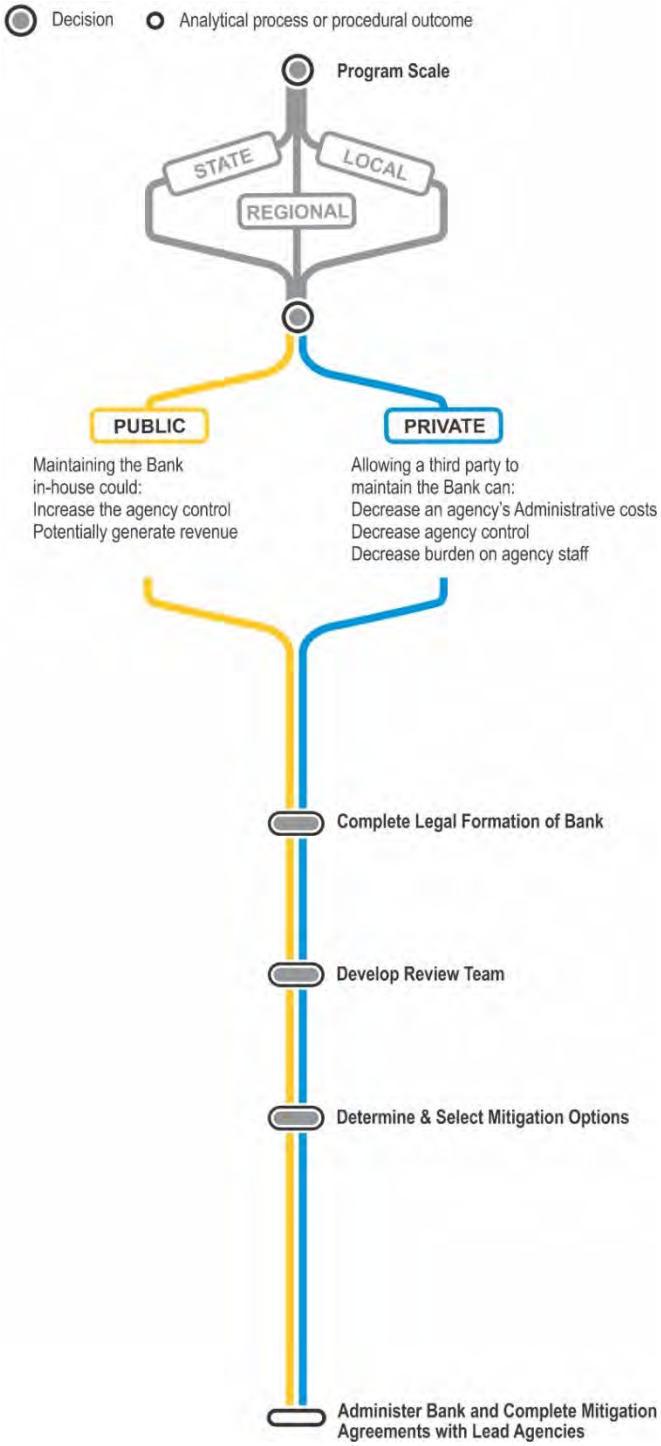
7.3 FUNDING MECHANISMS

The change in the metric for transportation impacts from LOS to VMT will lead to a shift in impacts and mitigation measures from being local and project-specific to being more regional in nature. OPR acknowledges the regional nature of VMT impacts and states that regional VMT reduction programs and fee programs (in-lieu fees and development impact fees) may be appropriate forms of mitigation. Fee programs are particularly useful to address cumulative impacts. It is very important for the City to coordinate with the RTPA or Fresno COG to develop such mitigation programs that would fund transit, develop active transportation plans, etc. These programs are regional in nature and best suited for administration by the regional agency. Regional agencies may also wish to coordinate with appropriate stakeholders, including participating local jurisdictions, developers, and other interests while conducting nexus studies and checking for rough proportionality and compliance with CEQA.

Most of the VMT mitigations included in Appendix A are applicable in urban areas. They are less effective in suburban and rural contexts, where TDM strategies may become diluted or are not applicable. Thus, site-specific strategies are more suitable in urban areas, whereas program-level strategies are more suitable for projects in suburban/rural areas. In the latter approach, cumulative contributions for development mitigations can pay for VMT reduction strategies that would not be feasible for the individual projects to implement themselves. Apart from fee programs, program-based mitigation approaches may include mitigation exchanges and mitigation banks. The mitigation exchange concept requires a developer to implement a predetermined project that would reduce VMT in order to propose a new one. On the other hand, the concept of mitigation banks seeks to establish monetary values for VMT reductions so that developers can purchase VMT reduction credits.

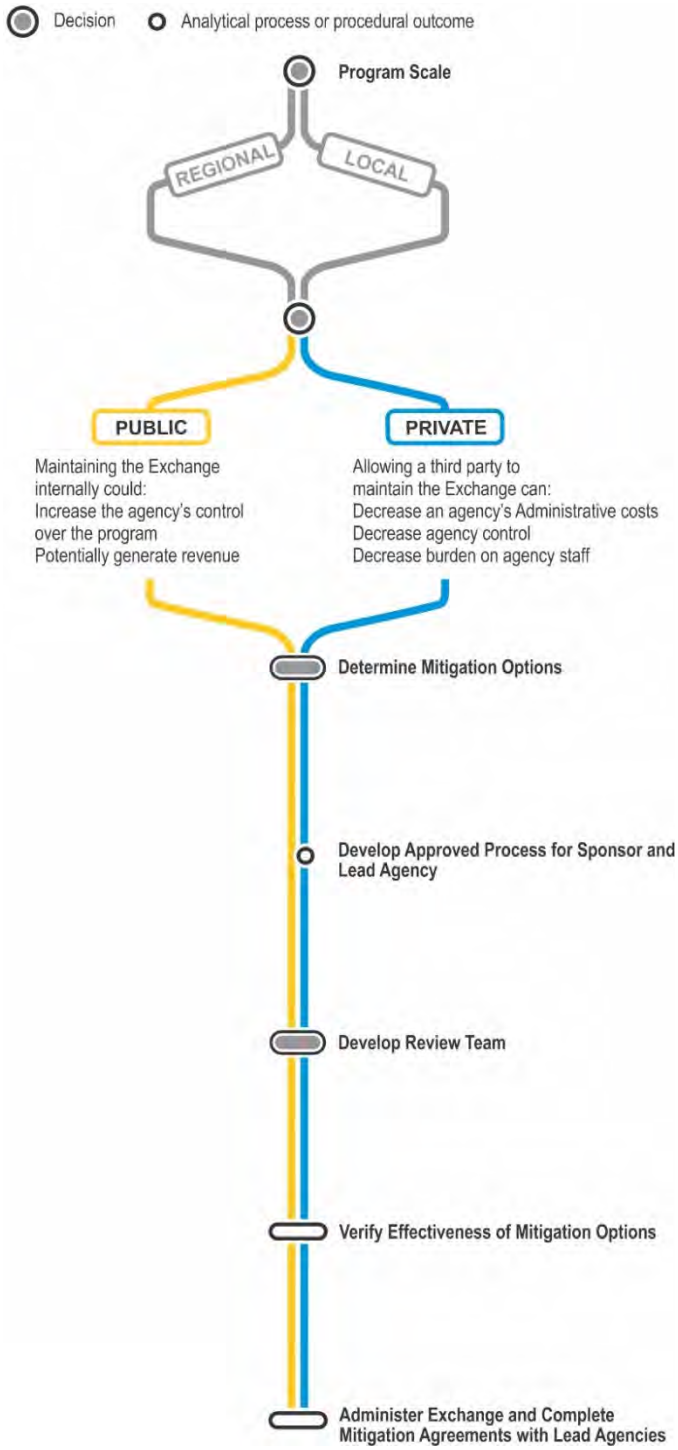
As previously stated, VMT impacts are more regional in nature. Hence, there might be requirements for mitigations outside the control of the City, and without consent from the agency controlling the mitigations, the impacts might remain significant and unavoidable. Additionally, identification of regional improvements where projects can contribute their fair share to mitigate impacts might prove to be difficult. Therefore, LSA recommends that the City work collaboratively within its regions to ultimately establish fee programs, mitigation banks, and exchanges as the most efficient way to establish a regional mitigation pathway where the projects can contribute. Procedural flow charts for VMT banks, exchanges, and impact fees are illustrated at the end of this chapter.

Procedural Flow Chart – VMT Bank



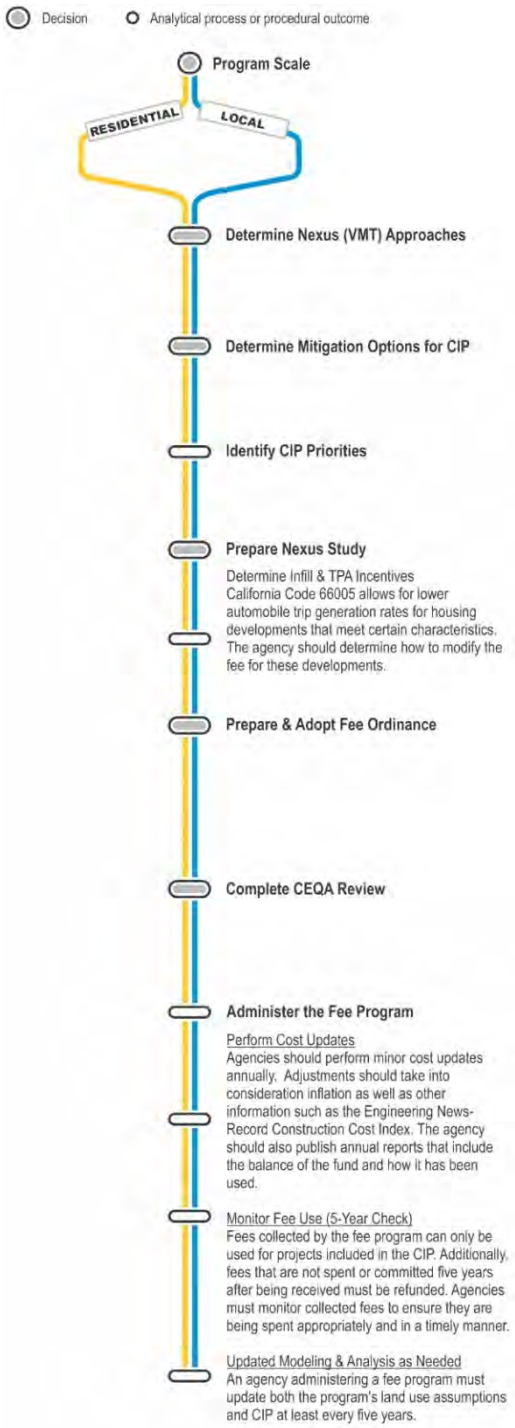
Source: VMT Mitigation Through Banks and Exchanges: Understanding New Mitigation Approaches. A White Paper by Fehr & Peers (January 2020).

Procedural Flow Chart – VMT Exchange



Source: VMT Mitigation Through Banks and Exchanges: Understanding New Mitigation Approaches. A White Paper by Fehr & Peers (January 2020).

Procedural Flow Chart – VMT Impact Fee



Source: Understanding New Mitigation Approaches. A White Paper by Fehr & Peers (January 2020).

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APPENDIX A

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED MITIGATION MEASURES FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (CAPCOA)

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Table A - Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Measures for Development Projects (CAPCOA)

#	Mitigation Measure	VMT Reduction[1]	Local VMT Reduction Calculations (Local Data/Fresno COG ABM)[2]	CAPCOA[3]	OPR TA[4]	Los Angeles Metro[5]	City of San Jose[6]	City of Los Angeles[7]	San Diego Region[8]	Notes
1	Provide a Bus Rapid Transit System (Addition of a New Route)	0.02% – 3.20%	0.33% VMT reduction per 100 miles	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TST-1 (Applicable in urban and suburban context; negligible in rural context; appropriate for specific or general plans). This can be considered under Technical Advisory Measure 'Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service.'
2	Provide a Bus Rapid Transit System (Substitution of an Existing Bus Route with a BRT Route)	0.02% – 3.20%	0.20% VMT reduction per 100 miles	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TST-1 (Applicable in urban and suburban context; negligible in rural context; appropriate for specific or general plans). This can be considered under Technical Advisory Measure 'Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service.'
3	Subsidize vanpool	0.30% - 13.40% commute VMT	0.60%	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Notes: Similar to CAPCOA TRT-11 (Provide Employer-Sponsored Vanpool/Shuttle: applicable in urban, suburban, and rural context; appropriate for office, industrial, and mixed-use projects). The measure is included under the Technical Advisory Measure 'Provide incentives or subsidies that increase the use of modes other than single-occupancy vehicle.'; City of San Jose [Applicable for employment uses only]
4	Shifting single occupancy vehicle trips to carpooling or vanpooling, for example providing ride-matching or shuttle services	0.30% - 13.40% commute VMT reduction (for CAPCOA TRT-11: Provide Employer-Sponsored Vanpool/Shuttle); 7.20% - 15.80% school VMT reduction (for CAPCOA TRT-10: Implement a School Pool Program)	0.60% (for vanpool); x% (for carpool)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: Similar to CAPCOA TRT-11 (Provide employer-sponsored vanpool/shuttle) - the measure is applicable for urban, suburban, and rural context, and is appropriate for office, industrial, and mixed-use projects; Similar measure is CAPCOA TRT-10 (Implement a School Pool Program: Applicable for urban, suburban, and rural context and appropriate for residential and mixed-use projects); City of San Jose [School carpool program - residential uses only)]; City of LA [School carpool program - level of implementation (low, medium, high); Employer sponsored vanpool or shuttle (Degree of implementation (low, medium, high), employees eligible (%), employer size (small, medium, large)]
5	Expand transit network	0.10% – 8.20%	0.07% VMT reduction per 100 miles (for addition of a new transit line)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TST-3; Measure applicable in urban and suburban context, maybe applicable in rural context but no literature documentation available, appropriate for specific or general plans. This can be considered under Technical Advisory Measure 'Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service'; City of San Jose [Increase transit accessibility to improve last-mile transit connections; Improve network connectivity/design to make destinations and low-carbon travel modes accessible; both applicable for both residential and employment uses]; City of LA [Existing transit mode share (as a percent of total daily trips) (%), Lines within project site improved (<50%, >=50%)]
6	Incorporate bike lane street design (on-site)	1% increase in share of workers commuting by bicycle (for each additional mile of bike lanes per square mile) (*Bicycle Commuting and Facilities in Major U.S. Cities: If You Build Them, Commuters Will Use Them – Another Look* by Dill and Carr (2003)); 0.075% increase in bicycle commuting with each mile of bikeway per 100,000 residents (*If You Build Them, Commuters Will Use Them; Cross-Sectional Analysis of Commuters and Bicycle Facilities* by Nelson and Allen (1997))	0.30% VMT reduction per 100 miles (for addition of new bike lane)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA SDT-5 [Grouped strategy, benefits of Bike Lane Street Design are small and should be grouped with the LUT-9 (Improve Design of Development) strategy to strengthen street network characteristics and enhance multi-modal environments], the measure is applicable in urban and suburban contexts and is appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects. This can be considered under Technical Advisory Measure 'Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service'; City of San Jose [Expand the reach of bike access with investment in infrastructure: applicable for both residential and employment uses]; City of LA [Provide bicycle facility along site (Yes/No)]
7	Improve or increase access to transit	CAPCOA TST-2: Not quantified alone, grouped strategy with TST-3 'Expand transit network' and TST-4 'Increase transit service frequency/speed'; CAPCOA LUT-5: 0.50% - 24.60%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TST-2: Implement Transit Access Improvements (applicable in urban and suburban context, and appropriate for residential, retail, office, mixed use, and industrial projects); CAPCOA LUT-5: Increase Transit Accessibility [May be grouped with CAPCOA measures LUT-3 (mixed use development), SDT-2 (traffic calmed streets with good connectivity), and PPT-1 through PPT-7 (parking management strategies); measures are applicable in urban and suburban contexts; appropriate in rural context if development site is adjacent to a commuter rail station with convenient rail service to a major employment center; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects]; City of San Jose [Increase transit accessibility to improve last-mile transit connections; Improve network connectivity/design to make destinations and low-carbon travel modes accessible; both applicable for both residential and employment uses]; City of LA [Existing transit mode share (as a percent of total daily trips) (%), Lines within project site improved (<50%, >=50%)]
8	Increase access to common goods and services, such as groceries, schools, and daycare	Similar to CAPCOA LUT-3 (Increase Diversity of Urban and Suburban Developments (Mixed Use)): 9.00% - 30.00% VMT reduction and CAPCOA LUT-4 (Increase Destination Accessibility): 6.70% - 20.00% VMT reduction	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Notes: Similar to CAPCOA LUT-3 (Increase Diversity of Urban and Suburban Developments (Mixed Use) - Applicable in urban and suburban context; negligible in rural context (unless the project is a master-planned community; appropriate for mixed-use projects) and CAPCOA LUT-4 (Applicable in urban and suburban context, negligible in rural context, appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects); City of San Jose [Access to Neighborhood Schools: Applicable for residential uses only]; City of San Jose [Very similar to measure 'Increase diversity of uses' - Applicable for residential and employment uses]
9	Incorporate affordable housing into the project	0.04% - 1.20%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Notes: Similar measure is CAPCOA LUT-6 [Integrate Affordable and Below Market Rate Housing] - [Applicable in urban and suburban contexts; negligible impact in a rural context unless transit availability and proximity to jobs/services are existing characteristics; appropriate for residential and mixed-use projects]; City of San Jose [Similar to measure 'Integrate affordable and market rate housing] - Measure is applicable for residential uses only

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Table A - Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Measures for Development Projects (CAPCOA)

#	Mitigation Measure	VMT Reduction[1]	Local VMT Reduction Calculations (Local Data/Fresno COG ABM)[2]	CAPCOA[3]	OPR TA[4]	Los Angeles Metro[5]	City of San Jose[6]	City of Los Angeles[7]	San Diego Region[8]	Notes
10	Incorporate neighborhood electric vehicle network	0.50% - 12.70%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Notes: CAPCOA SDT-3 [Neighborhood electric vehicles (NEV) would result in a mode shift and therefore reduce the traditional vehicle VMT and GHG emissions. Range depends on the available NEV network and support facilities, NEV ownership levels, and the degree of shift from traditional; measure is applicable in urban, suburban, and rural context, for small citywide or large multi-use developments, and appropriate for mixed-use projects]
11	Orient project towards transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities	`1) 0.25% - 0.5% (0.25% reduction is attributed for a project oriented towards a planned corridor and 0.5% reduction is attributed for a project oriented towards an existing corridor) (as per the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) *Recommended Guidance for Land Use Emission Reductions*), 2) 0.5% reduction in VMT per 1% increase in transit frequency and per 10% increase in transit ridership (as per the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) *Transportation Emission Guidebook*)	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Notes: CAPCOA LUT-7 [Orient project toward non-auto corridor]; Grouped strategy with LUT-3 (Increase Diversity of Urban and Suburban Developments (Mixed Use) ; there is no sufficient evidence that the measures results in non-negotiable trip reduction unless combined with other measures, including neighborhood design, density and diversity of development, transit accessibility and pedestrian and bicycle network improvements; the measure is applicable for urban or suburban context (may be applicable in a master-planned rural community) and is appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed use projects
12	Provide pedestrian network improvements	0.00% - 2.00%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA SDT-1 [applicable in urban, suburban, and rural context; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects; reduction benefit only occurs if the project has both pedestrian network improvements on site and connections to the larger off-site network]. This can be considered under Technical Advisory Measure 'Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service'; City of San Jose [Provide pedestrian network improvements for active transportation: applicable for both residential and employment uses]; City of LA [Included (within project and connecting off-site/within project only)]
13	Increase transit service frequency/speed	0.02% – 2.50%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TST-4, applicable in urban and suburban context, maybe applicable in rural context but no literature documentation available, appropriate for specific or general plans. This can be considered under Technical Advisory Measure 'Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service'; City of San Jose [Similar to measure 'Subsidize public transit service upgrades']; City of LA [Reduction in headways (increase in frequency) (%)]
14	Required project contributions to transportation infrastructure improvement projects	Not Quantified: Grouped strategy (with RPT-2 and TST-1 through 7)	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA RPT-3 (Applicable in urban, suburban and rural context; appropriate for residential, retail, office, mixed use, and industrial projects); measure similar to some of the measures discussed above. This can be considered under Technical Advisory Measure 'Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service.'
15	Increase destination accessibility	6.70% – 20.00%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA LUT-4 [Destination accessibility measured in terms of the number of jobs or other attractions reachable within a given travel time, which tends to be the highest at central locations and lowest at peripheral ones; the location of the project also increases the potential for pedestrians to walk and bike to these destinations and therefore reduces VMT; applicable for urban and suburban contexts, negligible impact in a rural context; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects]. This can be considered under Technical Advisory Measure 'Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service'; City of San Jose [Increase transit availability to improve last-mile transit connections; Improve network connectivity/design to make destinations and low-carbon travel modes accessible; both applicable for both residential and employment uses]; City of LA [Lines within project site improved (<50%, >=50%)]
16	Provide traffic calming measures	0.25% – 1.00%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA SDT-2 [applicable in urban, suburban, and rural contexts; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects]; City of San Jose [Applicable for both residential and employment uses]; City of LA [Streets with traffic calming improvements (%), intersections with traffic calming improvements (%)]
17	Provide bike parking in non-residential projects	0.625% (as per the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) *Transportation Emission Guidebook*)	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA SDT-6 [Bike Parking in Non-Residential projects has minimal impacts as a standalone strategy and should be grouped with the LUT-9 (Improve Design of Development) strategy to encourage bicycling by providing strengthened street network characteristics and bicycle facilities]; the measure is applicable in urban, suburban, and rural contexts; appropriate for retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects; City of San Jose [Provide bike parking and end-of-trip facilities such as bike parking, bicycle lockers, showers, and personal lockers (Applicable for both residential and employment uses)]; City of LA [Include bike parking/lockers, showers, & repair station (Y/N)]
18	Provide bike parking with multi-unit residential projects	Not Quantified	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA SDT-7 [Grouped Strategy; the benefits of Bike Parking with Multi-Unit Residential Projects have no quantified impacts and should be grouped with the LUT-9 (Improve Design of Development) strategy to encourage bicycling by providing strengthened street network characteristics and bicycle facilities. The measure is applicable in urban, suburban, or rural contexts. It is appropriate for residential projects.]; City of San Jose [Provide bike parking and end-of-trip facilities such as bike parking, bicycle lockers, showers, and personal lockers (Applicable for both residential and employment uses)]; City of LA [Include bike parking/lockers, showers, & repair station (Y/N)]

Table A - Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Measures for Development Projects (CAPCOA)

#	Mitigation Measure	VMT Reduction[1]	Local VMT Reduction Calculations (Local Data/Fresno COG ABM)[2]	CAPCOA[3]	OPR TA[4]	Los Angeles Metro[5]	City of San Jose[6]	City of Los Angeles[7]	San Diego Region[8]	Notes
19	Limit or eliminate parking supply	5.00% - 12.50%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA PDT-1 (applicable in urban and suburban context, negligible in rural context, appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects); reduction can be counted only if spillover parking is controlled (via residential permits and on-street market parking); follow multi-faceted strategy including 1) elimination/reduction of minimum parking requirements, 2) creation of maximum parking requirements, and 3) provision of shared parking; City of San Jose [Decrease project parking supply at the project site to rates lower than the standard parking minimums where allowable in the San Jose Municipal Code (applicable for employment uses)]; City of LA [City code parking provision (spaces), actual parking provision (spaces)]
20	Unbundle parking costs from property costs	2.60% - 13.00%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA PDT-2 (applicable in urban and suburban context, negligible in rural context, appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial and mixed-use projects; complimentary strategies include workplace parking pricing); City of San Jose [Unbundle On-Site Parking Costs: Application for Residential Uses Only]; City of LA [Monthly cost for parking ($)]
21	Provide parking cash-out programs	0.60% – 7.70% commute VMT	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-15 [Implement employee parking "cash-out"; the term “cash out” is used to describe the employer providing employees with a choice of forgoing their current subsidized/free parking for a cash payment equivalent to the cost of the parking space to the employer. The measure is applicable in urban and suburban context; it is not applicable in rural context; it is appropriate for retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects. Restrictions are applied only if complementary strategies are in place: a) Residential parking permits and market rate public on-street parking to prevent spill over parking; b) Unbundled parking - is not required but provides a market signal to employers to forgo paying for parking spaces and “cash-out” the employee instead. In addition, unbundling parking provides a price with which employers can utilize as a means of establishing “cash-out” prices; City of San Jose [Parking cash-out: Employment uses only]; City of LA [Parking cash-out: Employees eligible (%)]
22	Implement or provide access to a commute reduction program - Voluntary	1.00% - 6.20% commute VMT	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-1: Commute Trip Reduction Program – Voluntary, is a multi-strategy program that encompasses a combination of individual measures described CAPCOA measures TRT-3 through TRT-9. It is presented as a means of preventing double-counting of reductions for individual measures that are included in this strategy. It does so by setting a maximum level of reductions that should be permitted for a combined set of strategies within a voluntary program. The main difference between a voluntary and a required program is: A) Monitoring and reporting is not required B) No established performance standards (i.e. no trip reduction requirements). The measure is applicable in urban and suburban contexts, negligible in a rural context, unless large employers exist and suite of strategies implemented are relevant in rural settings. The measure is appropriate for retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects; City of San Jose [Applicable for employment uses only]; City of LA [Employees and residents participating (%)]
23	Provide ride-sharing program	1.00% – 15.00% commute VMT	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-3 [Provide Ride-Sharing Programs: applicable in urban and suburban context; Negligible impact in many rural contexts, but can be effective when a large employer in a rural area draws from a workforce in an urban or suburban area, such as when a major employer moves from an urban location to a rural location; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects]; City of San Jose [Ride share for employment uses only]; City of LA [Measured in terms of employees eligible (%)]
24	Implement car-sharing program	0.40% – 0.70%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-9 [urban and suburban context, negligible in rural context, and appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects]; City of San Jose [Applicable for both residential and employment uses]; City of LA [Car share project setting (urban, suburban, all other)]
25	Implement bike-sharing program	Taking evidence from the literature, a 135-300% increase in bicycling (of which roughly 7% are shifting from vehicle travel) results in a negligible impact (around 0.03% VMT reduction)	N/A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-12 [This measure has minimal impacts when implemented alone. The strategy's effectiveness is heavily dependent on the location and context. Bike-sharing programs have worked well in densely populated areas (examples in Barcelona, London, Lyon, and Paris) with existing infrastructure for bicycling. Bike sharing programs should be combined with Bike Lane Street Design (SDT-5) and Improve Design of Development (LUT-9). The measure is applicable in urban and suburban-center context only; it is negligible in a rural context; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects; City of San Jose [Bike share for employment and residential uses]; City of LA [bike share - within 600 feet of existing bike share station - OR -implementing new bike share station (Y/N)]
26	Provide transit passes	Similar to CAPCOA TRT-4 [Implement Subsidized or Discounted Transit Program]; for TRT-4, commute VMT reduction is 0.30% - 20.00%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: Similar to CAPCOA TRT-4 [Implement Subsidized or Discounted Transit Program]; City of San Jose [Implement Subsidized or Discounted Transit Program]; City of LA [Employees and residents eligible (%), amount of transit subsidy per daily passenger (daily equivalent) ($)]

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27	Implement a school pool program	7.20% - 15.80% school VMT reduction	N/A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-10 [This project will create a ridesharing program for school children. Most school districts provide bussing services to public schools only. School Pool helps match parents to transport students to private schools, or to schools where students cannot walk or bike but do not meet the requirements for bussing. The measure is applicable in urban, suburban, and rural context and is appropriate for residential and mixed-use projects.]; City of San Jose [School carpool program - residential uses only)]. This measure can be considered under the Technical Advisory Measure 'Shifting single occupancy vehicle trips to carpooling or vanpooling, for example providing ride matching services.'; City of LA [School carpool program - level of implementation (low, medium, high)
28	Operate free direct shuttle service	CAPCOA TST-6 (Provide Local Shuttles): Not Quantified; 0.30% - 13.40% commute VMT reduction (for CAPCOA TRT-11: Provide Employer-Sponsored Vanpool/Shuttle)	N/A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TST-6 (Provide Local Shuttles - grouped strategy with TST-5 'Provide Bike Parking Near Transit' and TST-4 'Increase Transit Service Frequency/Speed') - Applicable in urban/suburban context; appropriate for large residential, retail, office, mixed use, and industrial projects; solves the "first mile/last mile" problem; CAPCOA TRT-11 (Provide employer-sponsored vanpool/shuttle) - the measure is applicable for urban, suburban, and rural context, and is appropriate for office, industrial, and mixed-use projects. This measure can be considered under the Technical Advisory Measure 'Shifting single occupancy vehicle trips to carpooling or vanpooling, for example providing ride matching services.'; City of San Jose [Employment uses only]; City of LA [Employer sponsored vanpool or shuttle (Degree of implementation (low, medium, high), employees eligible (%), employer size (small, medium, large)]
29	Provide teleworking options	0.07% - 5.50% commute VMT	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-6 [Applicable in urban, rural, and suburban contexts; appropriate for retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects]; City of San Jose [Alternative work schedules and telecommute (employment land uses only)]; City of LA [Alternative work schedules and telecommute (employees participating (%), type of program)]
30	Subsidize public transit service upgrades	Not Quantified	N/A	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Notes: Similar to CAPCOA TST-2 through TST-4; City of San Jose [Subsidize transit service through contributions to the transit provider to improve transit service to the project (e.g. frequency and number of routes); applicable for both residential and employment uses]. The measure is included under the Technical Advisory Measure 'Provide incentives or subsidies that increase the use of modes other than single-occupancy vehicle.'
31	Implement subsidized or discounted transit program	0.30% – 20.00% commute VMT	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-4 [Implement subsidized or discounted transit program (the measure is applicable in urban and suburban context, negligible in a rural context, appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects); The project will provide subsidized/discounted daily or monthly public transit passes. The project may also provide free transfers between all shuttles and transit to participants. These passes can be partially or wholly subsidized by the employer, school, or development. Many entities use revenue from parking to offset the cost of such a project. The measure is included under the Technical Advisory Measure 'Provide incentives or subsidies that increase the use of modes other than single-occupancy vehicle.'; City of San Jose [Implement Subsidized or Discounted Transit Program]; City of LA [Transit subsidies measured by employees and residents eligible (%), and amount of transit subsidy per passenger (daily equivalent) ($)]
32	Providing on-site amenities at places of work, such as priority parking for carpools and vanpools, secure bike parking, and showers and locker rooms	22% increase in bicycle mode share (UK National Travel Survey)/2%-5% reduction in commute vehicle trips (*Transportation Demand Management Encyclopedia*)/0.625% reduction in VMT (*Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) Emission Guidebook*)	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-5 [Provide End of Trip Facilities]: End-of-trip facilities have minimal impacts when implemented alone. This strategy's effectiveness in reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) depends heavily on the suite of other transit, pedestrian/bicycle, and demand management measures offered. End-of trip facilities should be grouped with Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Programs (TRT-1: Implement Commute Trip Reduction Program - Voluntary through TRT-2: Implement Commute Trip Reduction Program – Required Implementation/Monitoring) and TRT-3 (Provide Ride-Sharing Programs); City of San Jose [Similar measures include 'Provide bike parking/end of trip bike facilities', 'Implement car sharing programs']; City of LA [Include bike parking/lockers, showers, & repair station (Y/N)]
33	Provide employee transportation coordinators at employment sites	Not Quantified	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Included as part of CAPCOA TRT-1 (Implement Commute Trip Reduction Program - Voluntary)
34	Provide a guaranteed ride home service to users of non-auto modes	Not Quantified	N/A	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	
35	Locate project in an area of the region that already exhibits low VMT	10.00% - 65.00%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Notes: CAPCOA LUT-2 (Applicable in urban and suburban contexts; negligible in rural contexts; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects)
36	Locate project near transit	0.50% - 24.60%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Notes: CAPCOA LUT-5 [May be grouped with CAPCOA measures LUT-3 (mixed use development), SDT-2 (traffic calmed streets with good connectivity), and PPT-1 through PPT-7 (parking management strategies); measures are applicable in urban and suburban contexts; appropriate in rural context if development site is adjacent to a commuter rail station with convenient rail service to a major employment center; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects]
37	Increase project/development density	1.50% - 30.00%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Notes: CAPCOA LUT-1 (Applicable in urban and suburban contexts only; negligible in rural context; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects); City of San Jose [Applicable for both residential and employment uses]
38	Increase the mix of uses within the project or within the project's surroundings	9.00% - 30.00%	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Notes: CAPCOA LUT-3: Increase Diversity of Urban and Suburban Developments (Mixed Use) [Applicable in urban and suburban context, negligible in rural context, and appropriate for mixed-use projects]; City of San Jose [Applicable for both residential and employment uses]

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#	Mitigation Measure	VMT Reduction[1]	Local VMT Reduction Calculations (Local Data/Fresno COG ABM)[2]	CAPCOA[3]	OPR TA[4]	Los Angeles Metro[5]	City of San Jose[6]	City of Los Angeles[7]	San Diego Region[8]	Notes
39	Improve network connectivity and/or increase intersection density on the project site	Similar measure is CAPCOA LUT-9 [Improve Design of Development]: 3.0% - 21.3% reduction in VMT	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Notes: Similar measure to CAPCOA LUT-9 (Improve Design of Development); City of San Jose [Build new street connections and/or connect cul-de-sacs to provide pedestrian and bicycle access: applicable for both residential and employment uses]
40	Price workplace parking	0.10% - 19.70% commute VMT	N/A	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-14 [Urban and suburban context; Negligible impact in a rural context; Appropriate for retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects; Reductions applied only if complementary strategies are in place: o Residential parking permits and market rate public on-street parking - to prevent spill-over parking o Unbundled parking - is not required but provides a market signal to employers to transfer over the, now explicit, cost of parking to the employees. In addition, unbundling parking provides a price with which employers can utilize as a means of establishing workplace parking prices; City of San Jose [Price On-Site Workplace Parking (for employment uses only)]; City of LA [Daily parking charge ($), Employees subject to priced parking (%)]
41	Locate project near bike path/bike lane	0.625%	N/A	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA LUT-8 (Grouped strategy with 'Increase Destination Accessibility'; the measure is most effective when applied in combination of multiple design elements that encourage this use; strategy should be grouped with 'Increase Destination Accessibility' strategy to increase the opportunities for multi-modal travel; measure is applicable in urban or suburban context, may be applicable in a rural master planned community; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects
42	Implement Commute Trip Reduction Marketing	0.80% - 4.00% commute VMT	N/A	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-7 (applicable in urban and suburban context; negligible in rural context; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects); City of San Jose [Employment uses only]
43	Education and encouragement - Voluntary travel behavior change program	1.00% - 6.20% commute VMT	N/A	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Notes: Similar to CAPCOA TRT-1 (Implement Commute Reduction Program - Voluntary); City of San Jose [For both residential and employment uses]; City of LA [Employees and residents participating (%)]
44	Education and encouragement - Promotions and marketing	0.80% - 4.00% commute VMT	N/A	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Notes: Similar to CAPCOA TRT-7 [Implement Commute Reduction Marketing]; City of San Jose [Similar measure might be 'Implement commute trip reduction marketing/educational campaign' (applicable for employment uses)]; City of LA [Employees and residents participating (%)]
45	Implement neighborhood shuttle	Not Quantified	N/A	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Notes: CAPCOA TST-6 (Provide Local Shuttles - grouped strategy with TST-5 'Provide Bike Parking Near Transit' and TST-4 'Increase Transit Service Frequency/Speed') - Applicable in urban/suburban context; appropriate for large residential, retail, office, mixed use, and industrial projects; solves the "first mile/last mile" problem; City of San Jose [Similar measure: 'Operate a free direct shuttle service' (applicable for employment uses only)]; City of LA [Degree of Implementation (low/medium/high), employees and residents eligible (%)]
46	Install park-and-ride lots	Two sources: 0.10% - 0.50% VMT reduction (as per 2005 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) study) and 0.50% VMT reduction per day (as per Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT))	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA RPT-4 (Applicable in suburban and rural context; appropriate for residential, retail, office, mixed use, and industrial projects); Grouped strategy with RPT-1, TRT-11, TRT-3, and TRT-1 through 6
47	Electrify loading docks and/or require idling-reduction systems	26% - 71% reduction in Truck refrigeration units (TRU) idling GHG emissions	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA VT-1 (Measure applicability: Truck refrigeration units (TRU))
48	Utilize alternative fueled vehicles	Reduction in GHG emissions varies depending on vehicle type, year, and associated fuel economy	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA VT-2 (Measure applicability: vehicles)
49	Utilize electric or hybrid vehicles	0.40% - 20.30% reduction in GHG emissions	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA VT-3 (Measure applicability: vehicles)
50	Provide bike parking near transit	Not Quantified	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA TST-5 (should be implemented with other two measures as mentioned to encourage multi-modal use in the area and provide ease of access to nearby transit for bicyclists (measure applicable in urban and suburban context; appropriate for residential, retail, office, mixed use, and industrial projects); Grouped strategy (with measures TST-3 'Expand transit network' and TST-4 'Increase transit service frequency/speed')
51	Improve design of development	3.00% - 21.30%	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA LUT-9 (Include design elements to enhance walkability and connectivity; improved street network characteristics within a neighborhood such as street accessibility; design also measured in terms of sidewalk coverage, building setbacks, street widths, pedestrians crossings, presence of street trees, and a host of other physical variables that differentiate pedestrian-oriented environments from auto-oriented environments); measure is applicable in the urban and suburban contexts, negligible impact in rural context; appropriate for residential, retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use projects
52	Provide electric vehicle parking	Not Quantified	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA SDT-8 [This is a grouped strategy and the benefits of electric vehicle parking may be quantified when grouped with the use of electric vehicles and or SDT-3 (Implement a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) Network). This measure is applicable in urban or suburban contexts and is appropriate for residential, retail, office, mixed use, and industrial projects.]

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Table A - Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Measures for Development Projects (CAPCOA)

#	Mitigation Measure	VMT Reduction[1]	Local VMT Reduction Calculations (Local Data/Fresno COG ABM)[2]	CAPCOA[3]	OPR TA[4]	Los Angeles Metro[5]	City of San Jose[6]	City of Los Angeles[7]	San Diego Region[8]	Notes
53	Dedicated land for bike trails	Not Quantified	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA SDT-9 [Larger projects may be required to provide for, contribute to, or dedicate land for the provision of off-site bicycle trails linking the project to designated bicycle commuting routes in accordance with an adopted citywide or countywide bikeway plan. The benefits of Land Dedication for Bike Trails have not been quantified and should be grouped with the LUT-9 (Improve Design of Development) strategy to strengthen street network characteristics and improve connectivity to off-site bicycle networks. The measure is applicable in urban, suburban, or rural contexts and is appropriate for large residential, retail, office, mixed use, and industrial projects.]
54	Implement school bus program	38.00% - 63.00% school VMT reduction	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-13 [Applicable in urban, suburban, and rural context; appropriate for residential and mixed-use projects]
55	Implement preferential parking permit program	Not Quantified	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Notes: CAPCOA TRT-8 [The project will provide preferential parking in convenient locations (such as near public transportation or building front doors) in terms of free or reduced parking fees, priority parking, or reserved parking for commuters who carpool, vanpool, ride-share or use alternatively fueled vehicles. The project will provide wide parking spaces to accommodate vanpool vehicles. The impact of preferential parking permit programs has not been quantified by the literature and is likely to have negligible impacts when implemented alone. This strategy should be grouped with Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Programs (TRT-1 and TRT-2) and TRT-3 (Provide Ride-Sharing Programs) as a complementary strategy for encouraging non-single occupant vehicle travel. This measure is applicable in urban and suburban contexts and is appropriate for residential, retail, office, mixed use, and industrial projects.]

Notes:

VMT = Vehicle Miles Traveled; CAPCOA = California Air Pollution Control Officers Association; ; Fresno COG = Fresno Council of Governments; OPR = Office of Planning and Research; TA = Technical Advisory; HOV = High Occupancy Vehicle; HOT = High Occupancy Toll; ITS = Intelligent Transportation System

CAPCOA Transportation Mitigation Categories (LU = Land Use/Location, SD = Neighborhood/Site Enhancements, PD = Parking Policy/Pricing, TR = Commute Trip Reduction Programs, TS = Transit System Improvements, RP = Road Pricing/Management; V = Vehicles)

[1] VMT reduction numbers obtained from *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* published by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association in August 2010.

[2] Fresno COG VMT reduction recommendation for this measure obtained based on analysis conducted by Fresno COG staff and LSA using local data and/or the COG's Activity Based Model.

[3] *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* published by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association in August 2010.

[4] *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA* published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research State of California in December 2018.

[5] *Analysis of VMT Mitigation Measures Pursuant to SB 743* prepared by Iteris, Inc. in February 2018.

[6] *City of San Jose Transportation Analysis Handbook* (dated April 2018).

[7] *City of Los Angeles VMT Calculator Version 1.2*

[8] *Guidelines for Transportation Impact Studies in the San Diego Region* developed by San Diego Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and the San Diego Traffic Engineers Council (SANTEC) in January 2019.

****Highlighted VMT Reduction Numbers are yet to be Finalized****

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APPENDIX B

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED MITIGATION MEASURES FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (CARB PAPERS)

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Table B - Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Measures for Development Projects (CARB Papers)[1]

#	Mitigation Measure	VMT Reduction[2]	Local VMT Reduction Calculations (Local Data/Fresno COG ABM)[3]	Notes
1	Provide Bicycling Network Improvements	No effect on VMT	0.30% VMT reduction per 100 miles (for addition of new bike lane)	
2	Implement Transit Improvements	No effect on VMT	0.07% VMT reduction per 100 miles (for addition of a new transit line)	
3	Improve or increase access to transit	1.3% - 5.8%	N/A	Variable: Various factors associated with proximity to transit stop (please refer to *How do Local Actions Affect CMT? A Critical Review of the Empirical Evidence* (Salon, D., Boarnet, M.G., Handy, S., Spears, S., and Tal, G.)
4	Land Use Mix	Elasticity: 0.02 - 0.10	N/A	Variable: Entropy - variety and balance of land-use types within a neighborhood
5	Regional Accessibility	Elasticity: 0.05 - 0.25	N/A	Variable: Various factors associated with job accessibility and distance to CBD (please refer to *How do Local Actions Affect CMT? A Critical Review of the Empirical Evidence* (Salon, D., Boarnet, M.G., Handy, S., Spears, S., and Tal, G.)
6	Job-Housing Balance	Elasticity: 0.06 - 0.31 for commute VMT	N/A	Variable: Various factors associated with job accessibility (please refer to *How do Local Actions Affect CMT? A Critical Review of the Empirical Evidence* (Salon, D., Boarnet, M.G., Handy, S., Spears, S., and Tal, G.)
7	Provide Pedestrian Network Improvements	Elasticity: 0.00 - 0.02 for sidewalk length, 0.19 for Pedestrian Environment Factor	N/A	
8	Voluntary Travel Behavior Change (VTBC) Program	5% - 12%	N/A	
9	Implement Employer-Based Trip Reduction (EBTR) Program	1.33% - 6% of commute VMT	N/A	
10	Provide telecommuting options	Home-based telecommuting: 48.1% for household VMT, 66.5% - 76.6% for all personal VMT, and 90.3% for commute VMT only; Center-based telecommuting: 53.7% - 64.8% for all personal VMT and 62.0% - 77.2% for commute VMT only	N/A	
11	Increase Project/Development Density	Elasticity: <=0.07 - 0.19	N/A	Variable: residential density
12	Improve network connectivity and/or increase intersection density on the project site	Elasticity: -0.46 - 0.59	N/A	Variable: Various factors associated with intersection or street density (please refer to *How do Local Actions Affect CMT? A Critical Review of the Empirical Evidence* (Salon, D., Boarnet, M.G., Handy, S., Spears, S., and Tal, G.)
13	Implement Parking Cash-out Programs or Workplace Parking Pricing	12% of commute VMT (parking cash out); 2.3% - 2.9% for $3 per day workplace parking price; 2.8% for price increase equivalent to 60% hourly value of commuter travel time cost	N/A	

Notes:

VMT = Vehicle Miles Traveled

[1] All mitigation measures have been obtained from *How do Local Actions Affect CMT? A Critical Review of the Empirical Evidence* (Salon, D., Boarnet, M.G., Handy, S., Spears, S., and Tal, G.).

[2] All VMT reduction numbers have been obtained from *How do Local Actions Affect CMT? A Critical Review of the Empirical Evidence* (Salon, D., Boarnet, M.G., Handy, S., Spears, S., and Tal, G.).

[3] Fresno COG VMT reduction recommendation for this measure obtained based on analysis conducted by Fresno COG staff and LSA using local data and/or the COG's Activity Based Model.

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APPENDIX C

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED MITIGATION MEASURES FOR COMMUNITY PLANS AND GENERAL PLANS

Table C - Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Measures for Community Plans and General Plans[1]

#	Mitigation Measure	CAPCOA VMT Reduction	Local VMT Reduction Calculations (Local Data/Fresno COG ABM)[2]
1	Shift single occupancy vehicle trips to carpooling or vanpooling by providing ride-matching services or shuttle services	0.30% - 13.40% commute VMT reduction (for CAPCOA TRT-11: (Provide Employer-Sponsored Vanpool/Shuttle)); Grouped strategy (for CAPCOA TST-6 (Provide Local Shuttles))	0.60% (for vanpool); x% (for carpool)
2	Provide enhanced bicycle and/or pedestrian facilities	0.00% - 2.00% (for pedestrian network improvements); Multiple measures for bike facilities, refer to Table A for VMT reduction percentages	0.30% VMT reduction per 100 miles (for addition of new bike lane)
3	Provide incentives or subsidies that increase the use of modes other than a single-occupancy vehicle	0.30% - 13.40% commute VMT reduction (for CAPCOA TRT-11: (Provide Employer-Sponsored Vanpool/Shuttle)); Grouped strategy (for CAPCOA TST-6 (Provide Local Shuttles)); 0.30% - 20.00% commute VMT reduction (for CAPCOA TRT-4 (Implement Subsidized or Discounted Transit Program))	0.60% (for vanpool); x% (for carpool)
4	Modify land use plan to increase development in areas with low VMT/capita characteristics and/or decrease development in areas with high VMT/capita characteristics	Not quantified in CAPCOA	N/A
5	Add roadways to the street network if those roadways would provide shorter travel paths for existing and/or future trips	Not quantified in CAPCOA	N/A
6	Improve or increase access to transit	CAPCOA TST-2 (Implement transit access improvements): Not quantified alone, grouped strategy with TST-3 (Expand transit network) and TST-4 (Increase transit service frequency/speed); CAPCOA LUT-5 (Increase transit accessibility): 0.50% - 24.60%	N/A
7	Increase access to common goods and services, such as groceries, schools, and daycare	Similar to CAPCOA LUT-3 (Increase Diversity of Urban and Suburban Developments (Mixed Use)): 9.00% - 30.00% VMT reduction and CAPCOA LUT-4 (Increase Destination Accessibility): 6.70% - 20.00% VMT reduction	N/A
8	Incorporate a neighborhood electric vehicle network	0.50% - 12.70%	N/A
9	Provide traffic calming	0.25% – 1.00%	N/A
10	Limit or eliminate parking supply	5.00% - 12.50%	N/A

Table C - Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Measures for Community Plans and General Plans[1]

#	Mitigation Measure	CAPCOA VMT Reduction	Local VMT Reduction Calculations (Local Data/Fresno COG ABM)[2]
11	Implement or provide access to a commute reduction program - Voluntary	1.00% - 6.20% commute VMT	N/A
12	Provide car-sharing, bike sharing, and ride-sharing programs	0.40% - 0.70% VMT reduction (for car sharing); 1.00% - 15.00% commute VMT reduction (for ride-sharing); a 135% - 300% increase in biking (of which roughly 7% are shifting from vehicle travel) results in a negligible impact (around 0.03% VMT reduction)	N/A
13	Provide partially or fully subsidized transit passes	Similar to CAPCOA TRT-4 [Implement Subsidized or Discounted Transit Program]; for TRT-4, commute VMT reduction is 0.30% - 20.00%	N/A
14	Provide telework options	0.07% - 5.50% commute VMT	N/A
15	Provide employee transportation coordinators at employment sites	Not quantified in CAPCOA	N/A
16	Provide a guaranteed ride home service to users of non-auto modes	Not quantified in CAPCOA	N/A

Notes:

VMT = Vehicle Miles Traveled; Fresno COG = Fresno Council of Governments; CAPCOA = California Air Pollution Control Officers Association

CAPCOA Transportation Mitigation Categories (LU = Land Use/Location, SD = Neighborhood/Site Enhancements, PD = Parking Policy/Pricing, TR = Commute Trip Reduction Programs, TS = Transit System Improvements, RP = Road Pricing/Management; V = Vehicles)

[1] All mitigation measures have been obtained from the *Guidelines for Transportation Impact Studies in the San Diego Region* developed by San Diego Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and the San Diego Traffic Engineers Council (SANTEC) in January 2019.

[2] Fresno COG VMT reduction recommendation for this measure obtained based on analysis conducted by Fresno COG staff and LSA using local data and/or the COG's Activity Based Model.

****Highlighted VMT Reduction Numbers are yet to be Finalized****

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City of
FRESNO
LSA

2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard

Adopted June 15, 2023









San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

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A. INTRODUCTION

Since 2014, the San Joaquin Valley Air Control District (District) has been in attainment for the revoked 1-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 124 parts per billion (ppb). The District is the first and only region in the nation designated as an extreme nonattainment for an ozone standard to attain that standard, specifically for the 1-hour ozone NAAQS.

Since then, and through the efforts to continue to reduce emissions from stationary, area, and mobile sources, the San Joaquin Valley (Valley) has continued to experience dramatic progress in reducing ozone concentrations, keeping the region in attainment of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS, as well as progressing towards attaining the 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

In order to terminate anti-backsliding provisions for the revoked 1-hour ozone standard, including Section 185 nonattainment fees, the District must meet all five criteria of Section 107(d)(3)(E) of the CAA. This document, the *2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard*, includes such requirements as well as all provisions for a maintenance plan. This Maintenance Plan also includes a demonstration that would ensure the area remains in attainment of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS through 2036. Therefore, the Valley is requesting to be redesignated to attainment for the 1-hour ozone NAAQS and requesting termination of all anti-backsliding obligations.

A.1 BACKGROUND

EPA set the 1-hour ozone NAAQS at 124 ppb on February 8, 1979[1], and later revoked the standard in 2004 to be replaced by a more health-protective 8-hour ozone NAAQS in 1997 of 84 ppb. This standard was lowered again in 2008 to 75 ppb, and then once more in 2015 to 70 ppb.[2] When EPA revoked the 1-hour standard, it identified the revoked requirements applicable to implementation of the 1-hour standard, and those that remained in effect. EPA adopted anti-backsliding provisions to preserve existing 1-hour ozone control measures and emission reductions obligations; therefore, nonattainment areas were still obligated to meet Rate of Progress (ROP) emission reduction targets, adopt mandatory control measures, and meet any extant attainment demonstration obligations.

In October 2004, the District adopted its *Extreme Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan (2004 Ozone Plan)* to address EPA's 1-hour ozone standard. Because EPA had revoked the 1-hour ozone standard in 2004, it did not act on this plan until 2010, when EPA approved the plan and set an attainment deadline of November 15, 2010.[3]

[1] 44 FR 8202

[2] Air Quality Designations for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 83 Fed. Reg. 25776-25848. (2018, June 4). (to be codified 40 CFR Part 81) https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-06-04/pdf/2018-11838.pdf

[3] Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans: 1-Hour Ozone Extreme Area Plan for San Joaquin Valley, CA, 75 Fed. Reg. 44, pp. 10420-10438. (2010, March 8). (to be codified at 40 CFR Part 52) https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-03-08/pdf/2010-4752.pdf

Subsequent litigation against EPA concerning the revocation of the 1-hour ozone standard resulted in court rulings clarifying specific anti-backsliding requirements to be imposed for revoked standards, including Section 185 nonattainment fees and other planning requirements. As a result of EPA's nonattainment action in 2011, the District became subject to Section 185 fees of the CAA, and the District was required to develop and implement a second 1-hour ozone attainment plan.[4] On September 19, 2013, the District submitted the *2013 Plan for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard (2013 Ozone Plan)*, which was approved by EPA on April 6, 2016.[5]

In 2013, the Valley recorded zero exceedances of the revoked 1-hour ozone NAAQS, which was a first for the region, and led to ongoing ozone improvements and further planning actions. Accordingly, on May 5, 2014, the District submitted an *Attainment Determination Request* to EPA based on 2011-2013 data.[6] The District formally requested that EPA determine that the Valley has attained the federal revoked 1-hour ozone standard and included a clean data finding demonstrating that attainment was due to permanent and enforceable emissions reductions.

However, no action was taken by EPA and the District submitted a second *Attainment Determination Request* on July 13, 2015, based on 2012-2014 data.[7] On July 18, 2016, EPA published a final action in the Federal Register to determine that the Valley had attained the 1-hour ozone standard.[8] This determination was based on sufficient, quality-assured, and certified data for the period 2012-2014.

Historically, EPA would not formally redesignate nonattainment areas for revoked NAAQS. Additionally, due to legal challenges and updated court interpretations, extreme nonattainment regions have remained subject to anti-backsliding requirements under the revoked 1-hour ozone NAAQS, such as Section 185 fees. The 2008 ozone NAAQS Implementation Rule addressed how nonattainment areas should submit a redesignation substitute, which was an alternative approach to formal redesignation for lifting anti-backsliding obligations for the revoked standards. A redesignation substitute would allow an area to shift to contingency status requirements, such as penalty fee program requirements under Section 185 of the CAA, to current ozone standards.[9]

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[4] Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Determinations of Failure to Attain the One-Hour Ozone Standard; Final Rule. 76 Fed. Reg. 10, pp. 82133-82146. (2011, December 30). (to be codified 40 CFR Part 52) https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-12-30/pdf/2011-33475.pdf

[5] Clean Air Plans; 1-Hour and 1997 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements; San Joaquin Valley, California; Final Rule. 81 Fed. Reg. 65, pp. 19492-19495. (2016, April 5). https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-05/pdf/2016-07668.pdf

[6] SJVAPCD. *Request for EPA Finding that the San Joaquin Valley has Attained the Federal 1-hour Ozone Standard*. May 5, 2014. Retrieved from: http://www.valleyair.org/Air_Quality_Plans/docs/2013Attainment/Cover-Letter.pdf

[7] SJVAPCD. *Request for EPA Finding that the San Joaquin Valley has Attained the Federal 1-hour Ozone Standard*. July 13, 2015. Retrieved from: http://valleyair.org/Air_Quality_Plans/1hr-Ozone-Attainment-Request-2016/Coverletter.pdf

[8] EPA. *Determination of Attainment of the 1-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard in the San Joaquin Valley Nonattainment Area in California*. July 18, 2016. Retrieved from: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-07-18/pdf/2016-16792.pdf

[9] EPA's *Implementation of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: State Implementation Plan Requirements; Final Rule* (2008 ozone standard SIP requirements rule), was published in the *Federal Register* on March 6, 2015 (80 FR 12264).

However, in *South Coast Air Quality Management District v. EPA,* 882 F.3d 1138 (D.C. Cir. 2018), the court vacated certain parts of the 2008 ozone NAAQS SIP requirements rule, including the redesignation substitute, holding that the only appropriate method for requesting redesignation is to satisfy the elements of the CAA section 107(d)(3)(E).

Under the CAA per Section 185, the District has been required to impose and collect nonattainment penalty fees since the 2010 attainment deadline for the 1-hour ozone standard. In conformance with 2010 EPA guidance, the District adopted Rule 3170 (Federally Mandated Ozone Nonattainment Fee)[10] to meet Section 185 requirements under the CAA. EPA approval of this Maintenance Plan would meet the findings necessary under the CAA to stop collection of Section 185 fees under Rule 3170.

Over the past decades, the District has implemented generations of emissions control measures for stationary and area sources under its jurisdiction. Similarly, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has adopted regulations for mobile sources. Together, these efforts represent the nation's toughest air pollution emissions controls. In addition to having the toughest air regulations in the nation, the District also operates the most effective and efficient incentive grants program, investing over $5 billion in public/private funding towards clean air projects to date that have replaced thousands of vehicles and equipment with the cleanest technologies and achieved over 240,000 tons of emissions reductions. Due to the significant investments made by Valley businesses and residents, the Valley's ozone and PM2.5 precursor emissions are at historically low levels, and air quality has improved significantly, providing Valley residents with associated health benefits.

Ozone Air Quality in the Valley

Despite the significant air quality progress in the Valley, many challenges remain as the District develops new attainment plans to meet increasingly stringent federal standards. The Valley's natural environment (including topography, meteorology, drought and wildfires) favors the formation and retention of ozone air pollution in the Valley. The Valley tends to experience the highest ozone concentrations from June to September, due to the increase in solar radiation and heat during this time of the year, both components of ozone formation, as well as the increased frequency of high pressure systems that create poor atmospheric dispersion conditions across the region. Emissions from wildfires, which often occur during the peak of the Valley's ozone season, can further impact public health and exacerbate the region's attainment challenges.

In addition to these challenges, the Valley is home to major transportation corridors for goods movement, resulting in significant emissions and air pollution impacts from freight activity. State and federal law limits the District's ability to regulate emissions from mobile sources, which represents the vast majority of air pollutant emissions in the region.

[10] SJVAPCD. Rule 3170 Federally Mandated Ozone Nonattainment Fee. Retrieved from: https://www.valleyair.org/rules/currntrules/3-Rule3170-0511.pdf

Despite these challenges, the innovative control measures and strategies adopted by the District and CARB have resulted in substantial emissions reductions and corresponding ozone concentration improvements. Over the last 30 years, the District has observed tremendous reductions in ozone concentrations throughout the Valley.

Required Elements for Redesignation

Section 107(d)(3)(E) of the Federal CAA states that a nonattainment area can be redesignated to attainment if the following conditions are met:

1. EPA has determined that the NAAQS has been attained.
2. EPA has fully approved the applicable implementation plan under Section 110(k) of the Federal CAA.
3. EPA has determined that the improvement in air quality is due to permanent and enforceable emission reductions.
4. The state has met all applicable requirements for the area under Section 110 and Part D.
5. EPA has fully approved a maintenance plan, including a contingency plan, for the area under Section 175(A) of the Federal CAA.

B. ATTAINMENT OF THE STANDARD

As previously stated, EPA published a final action in the Federal Register to determine that the Valley had attained the 1-hour ozone NAAQS through the District's clean data determination for the years 2012-2014. The District has continued to remain in attainment of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS in subsequent years, and is providing supplementary data for the years 2020-2022 to demonstrate continued attainment.

B.1 CONTINUED ATTAINMENT OF THE 1-HOUR OZONE STANDARD (2020-2022)

Expected Number of Exceedances

To demonstrate continued attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard, the District calculated the expected exceedances at each site for 2020-2022. EPA has defined calculation procedures for calculating the expected number of exceedances in 40 CFR 50 Appendix H and in the 1979 document "*Guideline for the Interpretation of Ozone Air Quality Standards*."[11,12] The average number of exceedances for three consecutive years is based on summing the number of exceedances each year and dividing by three. If a site has an average of 1.0 or fewer expected exceedance days per year (i.e., a site averages three or fewer exceedance days over three years), then that site meets the federal 1-hour ozone standard. This calculation is simple when the air monitoring site has 365 valid measurements for the year, i.e., one measurement for each day. However, EPA recognizes that agencies do not collect 365 samples per year either due

[11] 40 CFR 50 Appendix H. Retrieved from: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-50/appendix-Appendix%20H%20to%20Part%2050

[12] EPA. Guideline for the Interpretation of Ozone Air Quality Standards. Retrieved from: https://archive.epa.gov/ttn/ozone/web/html/guide-o3.html

to less frequent sampling schedules or due to either routine maintenance, audits, occasional power outages, or other issues affecting data availability. EPA guidance thus clarifies the attainment test as:

$$\frac{\#\ of\ exceedances}{\#\ of\ valid\ sample\ days} * (\#\ of\ days\ in\ the\ year) = \#\ of\ expected\ exceedances$$

The result of this calculation must be equal to or less than 1.0 days per year when averaged over three consecutive years. Table 1 shows the average number of expected exceedance days per year, per monitoring site in the Valley. This data shows that all Valley sites continue to meet the 1-hour ozone NAAQS based on 2020-2022 data. The 1-hour ozone NAAQS is 0.12 ppm rounded to the closest one hundredth. Thus, 1-hour ozone concentrations at or greater than 0.125 ppm exceed the standard, and 1-hour ozone concentrations at or lower than 0.124 ppm meet the standard. If any hour in a day exceeds the standard, then that day is counted as one exceedance day. The highest hourly concentration on a given day is recorded as the 1-hour ozone concentration for that day (though all hourly concentrations are kept on record and analyzed as well). The EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) database serves as the official repository of ambient ozone data collected by the District's air monitoring network.[13] The expected number of exceedances are available on EPAs iADAM tool from 1973 through 2021.[14] The 2022 expected exceedances are not yet available in the iADAM tool and were thus calculated based on the above formula.

[13] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Technology Transfer Network (TTN), Air Quality System (AQS): *AQS Web Application.* (2013). Retrieved from: http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/aqsweb/

[14] EPA Air Quality Data Statistics tool iADAM. Retrieved from: https://www.arb.ca.gov/adam

Table 1 Average Expected Exceedance Days and Attainment Test

Station ID	Station Name	Measured Exceedances			Expected Exceedances			Average Expected Exceedances	Pass Test?
		2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022		
Bakersfield MSA (SJVAPCD portion of Kern County only)									
0007	Edison	2	0	1	2.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	Yes
0008	Maricopa	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
0014	Bakersfield-California	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
0232	Oildale	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
2012	Bakersfield-Muni	--	0	0	--	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
5002	Arvin-Di Giorgio	1	0	0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.6	Yes
6001	Shafter	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
Fresno MSA									
0007	Fresno-Drummond	0	1	0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.3	Yes
0011	Fresno-Garland	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
0242	Fresno-Sierra Sky Park	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
2009	Tranquility	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
4001	Parlier	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
5001	Clovis	2	0	0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.7	Yes
Hanford-Corcoran MSA									
1004	Hanford	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
Madera MSA									
0004	Madera-Pump	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
2010	Madera-City	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
Merced MSA									
0003	Merced-Coffee	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
Modesto MSA									
0005	Modesto	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
0006	Turlock	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
Stockton MSA									
1003	Stockton	0	0	1	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.3	Yes
3005	Tracy	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes
Visalia-Porterville MSA									
2002	Visalia	1	0	0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	Yes
2010	Porterville	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Yes

*Includes data impacted by exceptional events, such as wildfires.

Missing Data Analysis

The number of valid sample days must meet or exceed a completeness level established by EPA. The data completeness level for the 1-hour ozone standard is defined as collecting 75% of the hourly data between 9 AM and 9 PM during the ozone season. The Arvin-Di Giorgio site was non-operational from December 2019 to June 2020. The District is confident that this site did not exceed the 1-hour ozone standard during this time period because this site typically records its peak ozone concentrations in June through September each year and has only exceeded the 1-hour ozone standard one time (in August 2020) since the site was established in November 2009. The District's data capture rate exceeded the mandated levels for all other sites during 2020-2022.

Even when the data completeness requirements were met for the ozone monitors in the District's network, there were some data unavailability periods that caused some hours or days to be missed. EPA recognizes that it is highly unlikely for an ozone measurement to be available for every day, and that there are many situations which may cause for a missing-value to occur.[15] For example, an ozone analyzer could be taken offline for multiple days for extensive maintenance, typically performed when ozone levels are expected to be low. Additionally, the analyzer may malfunction, experience an extended power outage, or other events out of the District's control. To accommodate these situations, EPA allows the clean data determination documentation to include a meteorological analysis and/or a missing data analysis that shows that no exceedances would have occurred during time periods when air monitoring data is not available.[16]

The District examined sites with missing days in order to show that exceedances would not have occurred on days when insufficient data was collected. The ozone season for California is defined from January to December, but for practical purposes, the District's peak ozone readings are in the afternoon from May through October. When considering incomplete data, one scenario involves having an overall incomplete day while collecting enough afternoon data to either capture an exceedance or show that an exceedance did not happen on that day. Another likely possible scenario that must be considered is when data is not collected during the peak afternoon on a given day even though 75% of the data was collected during the hours between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM. These scenarios were considered when completing the following missing data analysis. The District examined all ozone sites throughout the Valley for missing days to ensure that sites would have not exceeded the 1-hour ozone standard if the data was collected.

For 2020, various sites across multiple counties experienced outages during the May through October period. With the exception of Kings County, 2020 had at least one missing day in each county. Ozone levels remained low in each county and at individual sites on the day before and after the missing days. Due to the available data

[15] EPA. Guideline for the Interpretation of Ozone Air Quality Standards. Retrieved from: https://archive.epa.gov/ttn/ozone/web/html/guide-o3.html
[16] Section 2.2, Guideline for the Interpretation of Ozone Air Quality Standards (EPA, 1979). Retrieved from: https://archive.epa.gov/ttn/ozone/web/html/guide-o3.html

at other sites within each county being below the standard at the time of the outage, it can be concluded that the down sites were under the standard as well. All sites operated by CARB and the District met or exceeded the 75% requirement during this period.

Table 2 through Table 8 summarize missed measurements during peak ozone hours from May-October of 2020. The maximum value columns show the maximum value the day before and the day after the missing data period. The county maximum column shows the highest measured value in each corresponding county during the missing data periods, which in this case are considerably lower than the 1-hour ozone standard. Based on this, it is concluded that these sites would have reported values well below the standard if the analyzers were operating. Even with these missing days, the District collected a minimum of 86% of the required data which is far above the required 75%.

Table 2 2020 Missing Data Analysis for San Joaquin County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Tracy	May 22-27	49	57	56
Tracy	June 1-4	37	50	69

Table 3 2020 Missing Data Analysis for Stanislaus County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Turlock	May 22-26	54	69	71

Table 4 2020 Missing Data Analysis for Merced County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Merced-Coffee	Aug. 30-31	76	65	N/A

Table 5 2020 Missing Data Analysis for Madera County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Madera-Pump	Oct. 12-19	40	78	89

Table 6 2020 Missing Data Analysis for Fresno County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Clovis	Oct. 8	75	47	57
Clovis	Oct. 12	43	64	62
Fresno-Garland	Aug.16-17	73	100	114
Tranquillity	Oct. 17-19	72	53	92
Parlier	July 9-10	73	78	86

Table 7 2020 Missing Data Analysis for Tulare County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Visalia	July 23-30	67	85	89
Visalia	Aug. 9-12	60	61	85
Porterville	Oct. 6-7	71	62	91

Table 8 2020 Missing Data Analysis for Kern County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Edison	July 12-14	91	79	92
Maricopa	Aug. 31-Sep. 1	79	90	97
Bakersfield-California	May 6-7	64	75	87
Bakersfield-California	Sep. 21-22	71	53	99
Bakersfield-Muni	May 2-19	66	53	98
Shafter	Sep. 25-26	57	68	81
Shafter	Oct. 26-28	43	63	62

For 2021, various sites across multiple counties experienced outages during the May through October period. As ozone levels were low throughout each county and at each site on the day before and after the missing days, it is concluded that these days would not have exceeded the standard. Therefore, all sites operated by CARB and the District met or exceeded the 75% requirement during this period.

Table 9 through Table 13 summarize missed measurements during peak ozone hours from May-October. The maximum value columns show the maximum value the day before and the day after the missing data period. The county maximum column shows the highest measured value in each corresponding county during the missing data periods, which in this case are considerably lower than the 1-hour ozone standard. Based on this, it is concluded that these sites would have reported values well below the standard if the analyzers were operating. Even with these missing days, the District collected a minimum of 86% of the required data in every county within the District which is far above the required 75%.

Table 9 2021 Missing Data Analysis for Stanislaus County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Modesto	Oct. 11-15	54	67	65

Table 10 2021 Missing Data Analysis for Fresno County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Parlier	May 21-June 3	51	64	79

Table 11 2021 Missing Data Analysis for Kings County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Hanford	May 5-7	59	58	58
Hanford	June 4-18	67	88	102

Table 12 2021 Missing Data Analysis for Tulare County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Porterville	June 2-3	101	80	85
Porterville	Sep. 19-20	80	49	54

Table 13 2021 Missing Data Analysis for Kern County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Maricopa	Sep. 26-27	63	46	66
Oildale	May 3-5	37	48	79
Oildale	Oct. 25-26	44	50	45

Likewise, during 2022, certain ozone analyzers in Stanislaus, Fresno, and Kern Counties did not operate for a few days during the peak ozone season. Table 14 through Table 16 summarize missed measurements during peak ozone hours from May-October. In every case, the county maximums during the outage are lower than the 1-hour ozone standard, and lower than either the day before or the day after. These sites would have measured values below the standard if the analyzers were operating. All sites operated in the Valley by CARB and the District met or exceeded the 75% requirement during this period.

Table 14 2022 Missing Data Analysis for Stanislaus County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Modesto	Oct. 21-Nov. 9	65	29	68

Table 15 2022 Missing Data Analysis for Fresno County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Tranquillity	Sep. 6-13	68	42	98

Table 16 2022 Missing Data Analysis for Kern County

Site	Date	Maximum Value Day Before Outage (ppb)	Maximum Value Day After Outage (ppb)	County Maximum During Outage (ppb)
Maricopa	June 20-21	51	63	91
Bakersfield-Muni	June 14-15	59	81	91
Arvin-Di Giorgio	Sep. 9-14	74	67	87
Arvin-Di Giorgio	Sep. 24-25	84	83	99

In the few instances that there is missing data at peak locations in the Valley, the District has shown that the county maximum for those time periods were well under the 1-hour ozone standard. Additionally, the ozone concentrations measured for the days before and after the missing hours were well under the standard in all cases. Based on this, the District has continued to show attainment through the 2020-2022 period.

C. STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SIP) APPROVAL

On April 5, 2016, EPA approved a revision to the California state implementation plan (SIP) which consisted of the *2013 Ozone Plan*. EPA approved the following plan elements, with the exception of the attainment contingency provision:

- Reasonably available control measures (RACM) demonstration
- Rate-of-Progress (ROP) demonstration
- Attainment demonstration
- ROP contingency measures
- Provisions for clean fuels or advanced control technologies for boilers
- Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) emissions offset demonstrations

Thus, all applicable requirements have been approved under Section 110(k) for the purposes of redesignation in accordance with Section 107(d)(3)(E).

D. PERMANENT AND ENFORCEABLE IMPROVEMENT IN AIR QUALITY

EPA maintenance plan requirements note that, "the state must be able to reasonably attribute the improvement in air quality to emission reductions which are permanent and enforceable" (Calcagni Memo). EPA further notes that attainment resulting from temporary emission reductions (such as a shutdown or economic downturn) or from "unusually favorable meteorology", would not qualify as resulting from permanent and enforceable emission reductions. In the sections below, the District is providing supplemental information to demonstrate that emission reductions achieved for the Valley to meet the 1-hour ozone standard are permanent and enforceable.

D.1 ENFORCEABLE REGULATIONS HAVE ACHIEVED PERMANENT EMISSION REDUCTIONS

To achieve the District's mission of improving air quality and public health for all Valley residents, the District has developed and implemented several air quality plans to reduce emissions from stationary sources. The control strategies outlined in existing District attainment plans include the adoption of nearly 650 of the most stringent rules in the nation, and strong voluntary incentive programs that have invested more than $5 billion of combined public and private funds in clean-air projects.

Table 17 shows the latest iteration of the adopted rules, including EPA approval dates. Similarly, CARB has adopted stringent regulations for area and mobile sources under their jurisdiction, which are summarized in Table 18. Together, these efforts represent the nation's toughest air pollution control program, and have resulted in a significant reduction in ozone precursor emissions (Figure 1). Emissions will continue to be reduced under the District's current and upcoming ozone and PM2.5 attainment planning efforts.

Table 17 Adopted District Regulations Achieving Permanent and Enforceable Emission Reductions

Adopted District Regulatory Control Measures	Date Last Adopted/ Amended	EPA Approval Date	FR citation
Rule 4103 Open Burning	06/17/2021	06/16/22	87 FR 36222-36224
Rule 4106 Prescribed Burning and Hazard Reduction Burning	06/21/01	02/27/02	67 FR 8894-8897
Rule 4306 Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters-Phase 3	12/17/20	*Pending Approval*	-
Rule 4307 Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters-2.0 MMBtu/hr to 5.0 MMBtu/hr	04/21/16	08/14/17	82 FR 37817-37819
Rule 4308 Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters-0.075 MMBtu/hr to less than 2.0 MMBtu/hr	11/14/13	2/12/15	80 FR 7803-7805
Rule 4309 Dryers, Dehydrators, and Ovens	12/15/05	05/30/07	72 FR 29886-29889
Rule 4311 Flares	12/17/20	12/28/22	87 FR 79806-79808
Rule 4320 Advanced Emission Reduction Options for Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters Greater than 5.0 MMBtu/hr	12/17/20	*Pending Approval*	-
Rule 4352 Solid Fuel Fired Boilers, Steam Generators and Process Heaters	12/16/21	*Pending Approval*	-
Rule 4354 Glass Melting Furnaces	12/16/21	*Pending Approval*	-
Rule 4565 Biosolids, Animal Manure, and Poultry Litter Operations	03/15/07	01/17/12	77 FR 2228-2233
Rule 4566 Organic Material Composting Operations	08/18/11	11/29/12	77 FR 71129-71131
Rule 4570 Confined Animal Facilities	10/21/10	01/17/12	77 FR 2228-2233
Rule 4601 Architectural Coatings	04/16/20	12/22/22	87 FR 78544-78545
Rule 4603 Surface Coating of Metal Parts and Products, Plastic Parts and Products, and Pleasure Crafts	09/17/09	11/01/11	76 FR 67369-67370
Rule 4604 Can and Coil Coating Operations	09/20/07	01/19/10	75 FR 2796-2800
Rule 4605 Aerospace Assembly and Component Coating Operations	06/16/11	11/16/11	76 FR 70886-70887
Rule 4606 Wood Products and Flat Wood Paneling Products Coating Operations	10/16/08	10/15/09	74 FR 52894-52895
Rule 4607 Graphic Arts and Paper, Film, Foil, and Fabric Coatings	12/18/08	10/15/09	74 FR 52894-52895
Rule 4612 Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Coating Operations	10/21/10	02/13/12	77 FR 7536-7537
Rule 4621 Gasoline Transfer into Stationary Storage Containers, Delivery Vessels, and Bulk Plants	12/19/13	02/10/15	80 FR 7345-7347
Rule 4622 Gasoline Transfer into Motor Vehicle Fuel Tanks	12/19/13	02/10/15	80 FR 7345-7347
Rule 4624 Transfer of Organic Liquid	12/20/07	10/15/09	74 FR 52894-52895
Rule 4653 Adhesives and Sealants	09/16/10	02/13/12	77 FR 7536-7537
Rule 4661 Organic Solvents	09/20/07	05/05/10	75 FR 24406-24408
Rule 4662 Organic Solvent Degreasing Operations	09/20/07	07/30/09	74 FR 37948-37949
Rule 4663 Organic Solvent Cleaning, Storage, and Disposal	09/20/07	07/30/09	74 FR 37948-37949

Adopted District Regulatory Control Measures	Date Last Adopted/ Amended	EPA Approval Date	FR citation
Rule 4682 Polystyrene, Polyethylene, and Polypropylene Products Manufacturing	12/15/11	09/20/12	77 FR 58312-58313
Rule 4684 Polyester Resin Operations	08/18/11	02/06/12	77 FR 5709-5710
Rule 4692 Commercial Charbroiling	06/21/18	09/14/20	85 FR 56521-56525
Rule 4694 Wine Fermentation and Storage Tanks	12/15/05	11/29/12	77 FR 71109-71111
Rule 4695 Brandy Aging and Wine Aging Operations	09/17/09	08/04/11	76 FR 47076-47077
Rule 4702 Internal Combustion Engines	08/19/21	*Pending Approval*	-
Rule 4703 Stationary Gas Turbines	09/20/07	10/21/09	74 FR 53888-53889
Rule 4902 Residential Water Heaters	03/19/09	05/05/10	75 FR 24408-24409
Rule 4905 Natural Gas-Fired, Fan-Type Residential Central Furnaces	12/16/21	*Pending Approval*	-
Rule 9310 School Bus Fleets	09/21/06	03/08/10	75 FR 10420-10438
Rule 9410 Employer-Based Trip Reduction	12/17/09	02/09/16	81 FR 6761-6763
Rule 9510 Indirect Source Review (ISR)	12/21/17	06/25/21	86 FR 33542-33544
Rule 9610 State Implementation Plan Credit for Emission Reductions Generated Through Incentive Programs	06/20/13	04/09/15	80 FR 19020-19033

Table 18 Adopted CARB Regulatory Mobile Source Control Measures since 2008

Board Action	Hearing Date
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed In-Use Locomotive Regulation: The Board adopted the Proposed In-Use Locomotive Regulation, which aims to reduce emissions from locomotives operating in California. This is the second of two Board Meetings; the Board also adopted findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations under the California Environmental Quality Act, and certifying the Final Environmental Impact Analysis.	4/27/23
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: The Board adopted the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation, which aims to accelerate the widespread adoption of zero-emission vehicles in the medium- and heavy-duty sector and for light-duty package delivery vehicles. This is the second of two Board Meetings; the Board also adopted findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations under the California Environmental Quality Act, and certifying the Final Environmental Impact Analysis.	4/27/23
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Procedures for Exemption of Add-On and Modified Part(s) for On-Road Vehicles/Engines Specific to Electric Vehicle Conversions: The Board adopted amendments to the Aftermarket Parts Procedure to clarify the process for electric vehicle conversions to receive an exemption from the anti-tampering prohibitions of the California Vehicle Code section 27156.	3/23/23
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation: The Board adopted the Proposed Amendments to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation which will reduce harmful emissions from off-road mobile vehicles.	11/17/22
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Advanced Clean Cars II Regulation: The Board adopted the Advanced Clean Cars II Regulations. This is the second of two Board hearings on this item. The Board also certified the Final Environmental Analysis and approved the written response to comments received on the Draft Environmental Analysis. The regulations will be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for approval as a revision to the California state implementation plan required by the federal Clean Air Act.	8/25/22

Board Action	Hearing Date
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Commercial Harbor Craft Regulation: The Board adopted the Proposed Amendments to the Commercial Harbor Craft Regulation, which aims to further reduce emissions from harbor craft in California. This is the second of two Board hearings on this item; the Board certified the Final Environmental Analysis and approved the written response to comments on the Draft Environmental Analysis.	3/24/22
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Airborne Toxic Control Measure for In-Use Diesel-Fueled Transport Refrigeration Units (TRU) and TRU Generator Sets, and Facilities Where TRUs Operate: The Board adopted amendments to the TRU Airborne Toxic Control Measure. The amendments will achieve additional emission and health risk reductions by requiring zero-emission truck TRUs, a particulate matter (PM) emission standard for newly-manufactured non-truck TRU engines, and the use of lower global warming potential refrigerants. This is the second of two Board hearings on this item; the Board certified the Final Supplemental Environmental Analysis and approved the written response to comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Analysis.	2/24/22
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Small Off-Road Engine Regulation: Transition to Zero Emissions: The Board adopted amended regulations and certification and test procedures for small off-road engines (SORE). The amendments are necessary to accelerate the transition of SORE to zero emissions to reduce emissions. Deployment of zero-emission equipment is key to meeting the expected emission reductions in the 2016 State Implementation Plan Strategy and the goals of California Executive Order N-79-20.	12/9/21
Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Regulation: The Board adopted the Proposed Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Regulation. This new regulation requires owners of non-gasoline heavy-duty vehicles with gross vehicle weight ratings over 14,000 pounds to periodically demonstrate that their vehicles' emissions control systems are properly functioning in order to legally operate within the state. This regulation is designed to achieve criteria emissions reductions by ensuring that malfunctioning emissions control systems are timely repaired. This regulation would replace the California Air Resources Board's existing heavy-duty vehicle inspection programs.	12/9/21
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Revisions to the On-Board Diagnostic System Requirements and Associated Enforcement Provisions for Passenger Cars, Light-Duty Trucks, Medium-Duty Vehicles and Engines, and Heavy-Duty Engines: The Board adopted amendments to the light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty on-board diagnostic (OBD) system regulations to require more data to be stored by the OBD systems, address issues regarding several malfunction monitors, and address manufacturers' implementation concerns.	7/22/21
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Clean Miles Standard: The Board adopted the Clean Miles Standard Regulation, which includes the annual electrification and greenhouse gas targets for transportation network companies (TNC). This regulation is in response to Senate Bill 1014 (Skinner, Stats. 2018, Ch. 369) adopted in 2018.	5/20/21
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Antiperspirants and Deodorants Regulation; Consumer Products Regulation; Aerosol Coating Products Regulation; Alternative Control Plan Regulation; the Tables of Maximum Incremental Reactivity Values; and Test Method 310: The Board adopted amendments to the Consumer Products Program Regulations to help attain federal ozone standards by setting or strengthening volatile organic compound standards for certain product categories. The amendments will reduce public exposure to air toxics emissions and provide other clarifications within the program to improve transparency, clarity, and effectiveness.	3/25/21
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Enhanced Vapor Recovery Regulations: The Board adopted amendments to certification and test procedures for vapor recovery systems at gasoline dispensing facilities. These amendments are necessary to improve cost-effectiveness, preserve emission reductions, and clarify the procedures for better regulatory certainty and enforceability.	12/10/20
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Control Measure for Ocean-Going Vessels At Berth: The Board adopted the Control Measure for Ocean-Going Vessels At Berth (Control Measure). The Board certified the Environmental Analysis prepared for the Control Measure. The Control Measure will supersede the existing At-Berth Regulation, as specified, and is designed to achieve further reductions in emissions from vessels at berth to reduce adverse health impacts to communities surrounding ports and terminals throughout California. Emission reductions will be achieved through the inclusion of new vessel categories (such as vehicle carriers and tanker vessels), new ports, and independent marine terminals. This is the third hearing of three for this item.	8/27/20

Board Action	Hearing Date
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Omnibus Regulation and Associated Amendments: The Board adopted amendments to the exhaust emission standards and test procedures for 2024 and subsequent model year heavy-duty engines, the heavy-duty in-use testing program, the emissions warranty and useful life period requirements, the heavy-duty durability demonstration program, the emissions warranty information and reporting requirements and corrective action procedures, the heavy-duty on-board diagnostic system requirements, the Phase 2 greenhouse gas regulation, and other requirements.	8/27/20
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Procedures for the Exemption of Add-On and Modified Part(s) for On-Road Vehicles/Engines: The Board adopted the Procedures for the Exemption of Add-On and Modified Part(s) for On-Road Vehicles/Engines. The updated aftermarket part procedures incorporate language reflecting current vehicle and engine emissions related technologies and standards. It also clarifies the requirements to improve review, testing, and approval timing to get products to market sooner.	7/23/20
Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation: The Board adopted requirements for truck manufacturers to sell zero-emission trucks in California and a one time requirement for large entities to report about their facilities, types of truck services used, and fleet of vehicles. This is the second of two Board hearings on this item; the Board certified the Final Environmental Analysis, approved the written response to comments received on the Draft Environmental Analysis, and adopted the Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation for submission to the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan.	6/25/20
Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Amendments to the Regulation on the Commercialization of Alternative Diesel Fuels: The Board adopted amendments to the Regulation on the Commercialization of Alternative Diesel Fuels (ADF). Staff proposed to amend the ADF Regulation to reinforce the emissions certification testing requirements and require biodiesel additives and ADF formulations to be certified according to new certification procedures. The amendments reinforce the originally intended efficacy of additives or alternative diesel formulations certified to mitigate potential oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) emissions increases from the use of biodiesel. The Board also adopted an addendum to a previously certified Environmental Analysis in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.	4/23/20
Public Meeting to Consider San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Equipment Incentive Measure: The Board adopted the San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Equipment Incentive Measure for submission to the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP). The measure achieves SIP creditable emission reductions from agricultural equipment incentive projects.	12/12/19
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard: The Board adopted amendments to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Regulation, focusing on strengthening the program's cost containment provisions and ensuring that LCFS residential charging credit revenue value benefits disadvantaged and low-income communities.	11/21/19
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to Certification Procedures for Vapor Recovery Systems for Aboveground Storage Tanks at Gasoline Dispensing Facilities: The Board adopted amendments to Phase II Enhanced Vapor Recovery (EVR) requirements for existing aboveground storage tanks (AST) at gasoline dispensing facilities (GDF). The amendments clarify definitions and improve cost effectiveness of the Phase II EVR equipment upgrade requirements based on annual gasoline throughput at AST GDFs. The Board adopted the environmental analysis set forth in the Initial Statement of Reasons.	7/25/19
Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Zero-Emission Airport Shuttle Regulation: The Board adopted the Zero-Emission Airport Shuttle Regulation. The regulation will transition combustion powered airport shuttles to zero-emission vehicles and will apply to private and public fixed destination shuttles that serve California's commercial airports. The Board certified the Final Environmental Analysis, approving the written response to any environmental comments received, approving findings and statement of overriding considerations, and adopting the regulation at this meeting.	6/27/19
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Alternative Certification Requirements and Test Procedures for Heavy-Duty Electric and Fuel-Cell Vehicles and Proposed Standards and Test Procedures for Zero-Emission Powertrains (Zero-Emission Powertrain Certification Regulation): The Board adopted the Zero-Emission Powertrain Certification Regulation, which establishes a new optional certification pathway for heavy-duty electric and fuel-cell vehicles and the zero-emission powertrains they use. The amendments provided additional market transparency and help ensure effective in-use support for such vehicles and powertrains. This is the second of two Board hearings on this item; the Board certified the Final Environmental Analysis, approved written response to any environmental comments received, and approved findings and statement of overriding considerations.	6/27/19

Board Action	Hearing Date
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Regulation for the Certification of Vapor Recovery Systems for Cargo Tanks: The Board adopted amendments to the Certification of Vapor Recovery Systems on Cargo Tanks Regulation that establish a regulatory mechanism to periodically evaluate program costs and subsequently adjust the certification fee to recover these costs, per the authority under the Health and Safety Code section 41962. In addition, the amendments will establish: (1) a requirement for a public meeting prior to adjusting fees, (2) an effective date of January 1 following a fee revision, (3) the cost of replacement decals, and (4) procedures to request a certification fee refund.	4/25/19
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Red Sticker Program for Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles: The Board adopted amendments to the Red Sticker Program for Off-Highway Recreation Vehicles (OHRV). OHRV are primarily used in public State parks and federally designated lands, as well as on private tracks. The goal of the amendments is to end the current red sticker program which allows for CARB certification of OHRV that do not meet emissions standards. The amendments include provisions that end the certification of new red sticker vehicles, end riding restrictions on public lands for existing red sticker vehicles, establish new OHRV emissions standards, and increase incentives for fleet emissions averaging and zero emission OHRV. The amendments are intended to cause emissions reductions from OHRV in California while ensuring availability for California dealers and riders.	4/25/19
Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Amendments to the On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel-Fueled Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Collection Vehicles Regulation to Include Heavy Cranes: The Board adopted amendments to the On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel-Fueled Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Collection Vehicles (SWCV) regulation. The amendments include two distinct changes to the regulation, (1) to ensure that compliant SWCVs do not experience registration delays at the California Department of Motor Vehicles due to recent changes in California law; (2) to provide a more cost-effective compliance option for specialized heavy cranes.	1/24/19
Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Innovative Clean Transit Regulation, a Replacement of the Fleet Rule for Transit Agencies: The Board adopted the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) Regulation that requires California transit agencies to gradually transition their buses to zero-emission technologies. The ICT regulation is structured to allow transit agencies to take advantage of incentive programs by acting early and in a manner to implement plans that are best suited for their own situations. This is the second of two Board hearings on this item; the Board certified the Final Environmental Analysis, approving the written response to comments received on the Draft Environmental Analysis, and adopting the amendments at this meeting.	12/14/18
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Revisions to On Board Diagnostic System Requirements, Including the Introduction of Real Emissions Assessment Logging, for Heavy Duty Engines, Passenger Cars, Light-Duty Trucks, and Medium-Duty Vehicles and Engine: The Board adopted amendments to the heavy-duty (HD) On Board Diagnostic (OBD) and medium-duty OBD II requirements to update the monitoring requirements for gasoline and diesel vehicles, to require more data parameters to be tracked and reported by the engine/vehicle, and to clarify and improve the regulation where necessary. Staff also update the associated HD OBD enforcement regulation to align with the changes to the HD OBD regulation and to modify the manufacturer self-testing requirements.	11/15/18
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed California Certification Procedures for Light-Duty Engine Packages for Use in New Light-Duty Specially-Produced Motor Vehicles for 2019 and Subsequent Model Years: The Board adopted the California Regulation and Certification Procedures for Light-Duty Engine Packages for Use In New Light-Duty Specially-Produced Motor Vehicles for 2019 And Subsequent Model Years. Staff presented regulations and certification procedures for manufacturers of light-duty engine packages for use in new light-duty specially constructed vehicles which resemble heritage vehicles originally produced at least 25 years ago	10/25/18
Public Meeting to Consider Proposed Amendments to California Specifications for Fill Pipes and Openings of Motor Vehicle Fuel Tanks: The Board adopted amendments to Vehicle Fill Pipe Specifications to help ensure new motor vehicle fill pipes are compatible and form a good seal with Phase II recovery nozzles that are certified for use at California gasoline stations as a means to reduce overpressure.	10/25/18
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to Enhanced Vapor Recovery Regulations to Standardize Gas Station Nozzle Spout Dimensions to Help Address Storage Tank Overpressure: The Board adopted amendments to Enhanced Vapor Recovery Regulations to standardize gas station nozzle spout dimensions to improve compatibility with newer motor vehicle fill pipes. This compatibility is necessary to reduce air ingestion at the nozzle, which will help reduce storage tank overpressure conditions.	10/25/18

Board Action	Hearing Date
Public Meeting to Consider the Proposed Submission of California's Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities into the California State Implementation Plan: The Board adopted a resolution directing staff to submit California's Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities into the California State Implementation Plan (Oil and Gas SIP Submittal). California Air Resources Board submitted the Oil and Gas SIP Submittal to the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan.	10/25/18
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Low-Emission Vehicle III Greenhouse Gas Emission Regulation: The Board adopted amendments to the Low-Emission Vehicle III greenhouse gas emission regulation to clarify that the "deemed to comply" option for model years 2021 through 2025 is applicable only if the currently adopted federal regulations remain in effect.	9/27/18
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard Regulation and to the Regulation on Commercialization of Alternative Diesel Fuels: The Board adopted amendments designed to strengthen the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) regulation through 2030 in line with the Senate Bill 32 greenhouse gas reduction goals. The amendments would enhance LCFS credit for zero-emission vehicle fueling infrastructure per Governor Brown's Executive Order B-48-18, adopt a protocol to enable credit generation for carbon capture and sequestration projects, expand fuel types and vehicle applications to which the LCFS regulation applies (including adding alternative jet fuel), improve crediting for innovative actions at petroleum refineries, and establish an independent third-party verification and verifier accreditation system to ensure accuracy of LCFS reported data. The amendments also include a number of technical changes to improve, simplify, streamline, and clarify the regulation. As part of this rulemaking, the Board will comply with a California court order by considering supplemental environmental analysis related to oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions from biodiesel, and amendments to the Alternative Diesel Fuels regulation based on that analysis. This is the first of two Board hearings on this item; the Board will not vote on the amendments at this meeting.	9/27/18
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to California Emission Control System Warranty Regulations and Maintenance Provisions for 2022 and Subsequent Model Year On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles with Gross Vehicle Weight Rating Greater Than 14,000 Pounds and Heavy-Duty Diesel Engines in Such Vehicles: The Board adopted amendments to the California warranty and maintenance provisions for on-road heavy-duty (HD) diesel vehicles, and the engines used in such vehicles. Currently, because the warranty mileage period is disproportionate to the actual service lives of many modern HD vehicles and engines, vehicle owners have no incentive to pay for repairs of emissions-related problems that do not adversely affect fuel economy or performance, which results in additional emissions. Accordingly, staff presented to lengthen both the existing warranty periods and minimum maintenance intervals so as to reduce emissions by incentivizing vehicle owners to perform required maintenance and to seek more timely repairs, and to encourage manufacturers to design and produce more durable parts. Staff also clarified that the warranty coverage extends to any part that causes the illumination of the HD on-board diagnostic system malfunction indicator light.	6/28/18
Public Meeting to Consider Submission of the 2013 Amendments to the Cargo Tank Vapor Recovery Regulation into the California State Implementation Plan: The Board adopted a resolution directing staff to submit the 2013 Amendments to the Cargo Tank Vapor Recovery Regulations into the California State Implementation Plan (Cargo Tank SIP Submittal). CARB submitted the Cargo Tank SIP Submittal to the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan.	6/28/18
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection Program and Periodic Smoke Inspection Program: The amendments lower the allowable opacity limit for HD vehicles operating in California for both the HDVIP and PSIP, establish reporting requirements for the PSIP and smoke tester training requirements, and allow 2013 model year and newer engines to report on-board diagnostic data in lieu of performing the annual PSIP smoke test.	5/25/18
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Consumer Products Regulation and Method 310: The adopted amendments to the consumer products regulation established an alternate compliance option for multi-purpose lubricant (MPL) products.	5/25/18
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed California Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles, and Proposed Amendments to the Tractor-Trailer Greenhouse Gas Regulation: The adoption creates new, more stringent California Phase 2 GHG emission standards that largely harmonize with the federal Phase 2 standards, and amendments to the Tractor-Trailer GHG regulation to harmonize California's Tractor-Trailer GHG regulation with the Phase 2 trailer standards. The California Phase 2 GHG standards are needed to meet the mandates of both AB 32 and of SB 32, and the California HSC.	2/8/18

Board Action	Hearing Date
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Airborne Toxic Control Measure For Diesel Particulate Matter from Portable Engines Rated at 50 Horsepower and Greater – and to the Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program Regulation: The proposed amendments will provide more time for cleaner engine replacement while preserving the expected emission reductions, and make other improvements to the ATCM. PERP will have corresponding amendments and make other improvements to the program.	11/16/17
Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Amendments to California's Evaluation Procedures for New Aftermarket Catalytic Converters: The proposed amendments are for procedures used to evaluate and approve aftermarket catalytic converters designed for use on California passenger cars and trucks to allow them to be used for Low Emission Vehicle III emission standards.	9/28/17
Public Meeting to Consider the Proposed Amendments to the Evaporative Emission Requirements for Small Off-Road Engines: The proposed amendments will address to non-compliance of small off-road engines (SORE) with existing evaporative emission standards, as well as amendments to streamline the certification process by harmonizing where feasible with federal requirements.	11/17/16
Notice of Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Regulation to Provide Certification Flexibility for Innovative Heavy-Duty Engine and California Certification and Installation Procedures for Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Hybrid Conversion Systems: This proposed regulation's certification flexibility is tailored to encourage development and market launch of heavy-duty engines meeting California's optional low oxides of oxides of nitrogen emission standards, robust heavy-duty hybrid engines, and high-efficiency heavy-duty engines.	10/20/16
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Large Spark-Ignition Engine Fleet Requirements Regulation: The proposed amendment will establish new reporting and labeling requirements and extend existing recordkeeping requirements. The proposed regulatory amendments are expected to improve the reliability of the emission reductions projected for the existing LSI Fleet Regulation by increasing enforcement effectiveness and compliance rates.	7/21/16
Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Evaluation Procedure for New Aftermarket Diesel Particulate Filters Intended as Modified Parts for 2007 through 2009 Model Year On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel Engines: The proposed amendment would establish a path for exempting aftermarket modified part DPFs intended for 2007 through 2009 on-road heavy-duty diesel engines from the prohibitions of the current vehicle code. Staff is also proposing to incorporate a new procedure for the evaluation of such DPFs.	4/22/16
Amendments to the Portable Fuel Container Regulation Amendments to the Portable Fuel Container (PFC) regulation, which include requiring certification fuel to contain 10 percent ethanol, harmonizing aspects of the Board's PFC certification and test procedures with those of the U.S. EPA, revising the ARB's certification process, and streamlining, clarifying, and increasing the robustness of ARB's certification and test procedures.	2/18/16
Technical Status and Proposed Revisions to On-Board Diagnostic System Requirements and Associated Enforcement Provisions for Passenger Cars, Light-Duty Trucks, and Medium-Duty Vehicles and Engines (OBD II) Amendments to the OBD II regulations that update requirements to account for LEV III applications and monitoring requirements for gasoline and diesel vehicles, and clarify and improve the regulation; also, updates to the associated OBD II enforcement regulation to align it with the proposed amendments to the OBD II regulations and a minor amendment to the definition of "emissions-related part" in title 13, CCR section 1900.	9/25/15
2015 Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Amendments (2 of 2) Re-adoption of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, which includes updates and revisions to the regulation now in effect. The proposed regulation was first presented to the Board at its February 2015 public hearing, at which the Board directed staff to make modifications to the proposal.	9/24/15
Proposed Regulation on the Commercialization of Alternative Diesel Fuels (2 of 2) Regulation governing the introduction of alternative diesel fuels into the California commercial market, including special provisions for biodiesel.	9/24/15
Intermediate Volume Manufacturer Amendments to the Zero Emission Vehicle Regulation (2 of 2) Amendments regarding intermediate volume manufacturer compliance obligations under the Zero Emission Vehicle regulation.	5/21/15

Board Action	Hearing Date
2015 Amendments to Certification Procedures for Vapor Recovery Systems at Gasoline Dispensing Facilities—Aboveground Storage Tanks and Enhanced Conventional Nozzles Amendments would establish new performance standards and specifications for nozzles used at fleet facilities that exclusively refuel vehicles equipped with onboard vapor recovery systems, would provide regulatory relief for owners of certain existing aboveground storage tanks, and would ensure that mass-produced vapor recovery equipment matches the specifications of equipment evaluated during the ARB certification process.	4/23/15
Proposed Regulation for the Commercialization of Alternative Diesel Fuels (1 of 2) Regulation governing the introduction of alternative diesel fuels into the California commercial market, including special provisions for biodiesel. This is the first of two hearings on the item, and the Board will not take action to approve the proposed regulation.	2/19/15
Evaporative Emission Control Requirements for Spark-Ignition Marine Watercraft Regulation for controlling evaporative emissions from spark-ignition marine watercraft. The proposed regulation will harmonize, to the extent feasible, with similar federal requirements, while adding specific provisions needed to support California's air quality needs.	2/19/15
2015 Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Amendments (1 of 2) Regulation for a Low Carbon Fuel Standard that includes re- adoption of the existing Low Carbon Fuel Standard with updates and revisions. This is the first of two hearings on the item, and the Board will not take action to approve the proposed regulation.	2/19/15
2014 Amendments to ZEV Regulation Additional compliance flexibility to ZEV manufacturers working to bring advanced technologies to market.	10/23/14
LEV III Criteria Pollutant Requirements for Light- and Medium-Duty Vehicles the Hybrid Electric Vehicle Test Procedures, and the HD Otto-Cycle and HD Diesel Test Procedures Applies to the 2017 and subsequent model years.	10/23/14
Low Carbon Fuel Standard 2014 Update As a result of a California Court of Appeal decision, ARB will revisit the LCFS rulemaking process to meet certain procedural requirements of the APA and CEQA. Following incorporation of any modifications to the regulation, the Board will consider the proposed regulation for adoption at a second hearing held in the spring of 2015.	7/24/14
Truck and Bus Rule Update Amendments to the Regulation to Reduce Emissions of Diesel Particulate Matter, Oxides of Nitrogen, and Other Criteria Pollutants From In-Use On-Road Diesel-Fueled Vehicles: increasing low-use vehicle thresholds, allowing owners to newly opt-in to existing flexibility provisions, adjusting "NOx exempt" vehicle provisions, and granting additional time for fleets in certain areas to meet PM filter requirements.	4/24/14
Heavy-Duty GHG Phase I: On-Road Heavy-Duty GHG Emissions Rule, Tractor-Trailer Rule, Commercial Motor Vehicle Idling Rule, Optional Reduced Emission Standards, Heavy-Duty Hybrid-Electric Vehicles Certification Procedure New GHG standards for MD and HD engines and vehicles identical to those adopted by the USEPA in 2011 for MYs 2014-18.	12/12/13
Zero emission vehicle test procedures Existing certification test procedures for plug-in hybrid vehicles need to be updated to reflect technology developments. The ZEV regulation will require minor modifications to address clarity and implementation issues.	10/24/13
Vapor Recovery for Gasoline Dispensing Facilities Amendments to certification and test procedures for vapor recovery equipment used on cargo tanks and at gasoline dispensing facilities.	7/25/13
Off-highway recreational vehicle evaporative emission control Staff proposes to set evaporative emission standards to control hydrocarbon emissions from Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles. The running loss, hot soak, and diurnal performance standards can be met by using proven automobile type control technology.	7/25/13

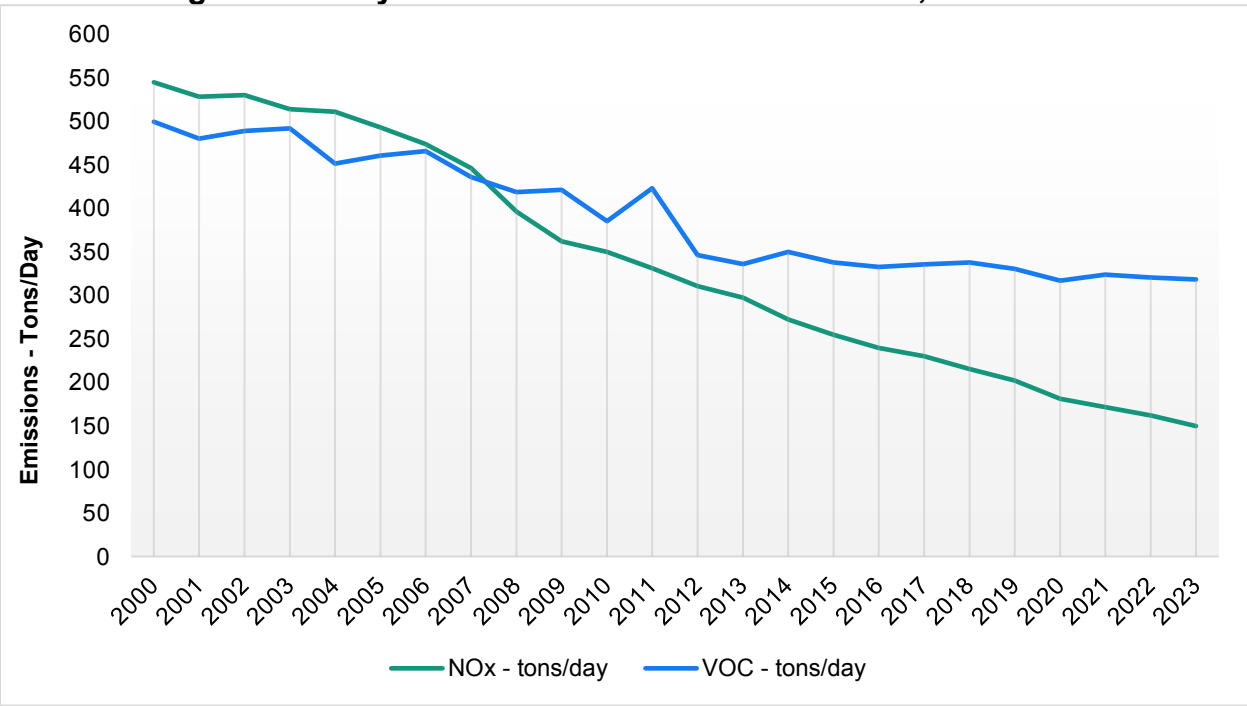
Board Action	Hearing Date
LEV III and ZEV Programs for Federal Compliance Option Adopted amendments to deem compliance with national GHG new vehicle standards in 2017-2025 as compliance with California GHG standards for the same model years.	11/15/12 12/6/12 EO
Amendments to Verification Procedure, Warranty and In-Use Compliance Requirements for In-Use Strategies to Control Emissions from Diesel Engines Approved amendments to the verification procedure used to evaluate diesel retrofits through emissions, durability, and field testing. Amendments will lower costs associated with required in-use compliance testing, streamline the in-use compliance process, and will extend time allowed to complete verifications.	8/23/2012 EO 07/02/13
Amendments to On-Board Diagnostics (OBD I and II) Regulations Approved amendments to the light- and medium-duty vehicle and heavy-duty engine OBD regulations.	8/23/2012 EO 06/26/13
Advanced Clean Cars (ACC) Regulation: Low-Emission Vehicles and GHG Adopted more stringent criteria emission standards for MY 2015-2025 light and medium duty vehicles (LEV III), amended GHG emission standards for model year 2017-2025 light and medium duty vehicles (LEV GHG), amended ZEV Regulation to ensure the successful market penetration of ZEVs in commercial volumes, amended hydrogen fueling infrastructure mandate of the Clean Fuels Outlet regulation, and amended cert fuel for light duty vehicles from an MTBE-containing fuel to an E10 certification fuel.	1/26/12
Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Adopted amendments to increase compliance flexibility, add two new vehicle categories for use in creating credits, increase credits for 300 mile FCVs, increase requirements for ZEVs and TZEVs, eliminate credit for PZEVs and AT PZEVs, expand applicability to smaller manufacturers, base ZEV credits on range, and make other minor changes in credit requirements	1/26/12
Amendments to Low Carbon Fuel Standard Regulation The amendments address several aspects of the regulation, including: reporting requirements, credit trading, regulated parties, opt-in and opt-out provisions, definitions, and other clarifying language.	12/16/11 10/10/12 EO
Amendments to Small Off-Road Engine and Tier 4 Off-Road Compression-Ignition Engine Regulations And Test Procedures; also "Recreational Marine" Spark-Ignition Marine Engine Amendments (Recreational Boats) adopted. Aligns California test procedures with U.S. EPA test procedures and requires off-road CI engine manufacturers to conduct in-use testing of their entire product lines to confirm compliance with previously established Not-To-Exceed emission thresholds.	12/16/2011 10/25/12 EO
Regulations and Certification Procedures for Engine Packages used in Light-Duty Specially Constructed Vehicles (Kit Cars) Ensures that certified engine packages, when placed into any Kit Car, would meet new vehicle emission standards, and be able to meet Smog Check requirements.	11/17/11 9/21/12 EO
Amendments to the California Reformulated Gasoline Regulations Corrects drafting errors in the predictive model, deletes outdated regulatory provisions, updates the notification requirements, and changes the restrictions on blending CARBOB with other liquids.	10/21/11 8/24/12 EO
Amendments to the In-Use Diesel Transport Refrigeration Units (TRU) ATCM Mechanisms to improve compliance rates and enforceability.	10/21/11 8/31/12 EO
Amendments to the Regulation for Cargo Handling Equipment (CHE) at Ports and Intermodal Rail Yards (Port Yard Trucks Regulation) Provides additional compliance flexibility, and maintains anticipated emissions reductions. As applicable to yard trucks and two-engine sweepers.	9/22/11 8/2/12 EO
Amendments to the Enhanced Vapor Recovery Regulation for Gasoline Dispensing Facilities New requirement for low permeation hoses at gasoline dispensing facilities.	9/22/11 7/26/12 EO
Amendments to Cleaner Main Ship Engines and Fuel for Ocean-Going Vessels Adjusts the offshore regulatory boundary. Aligns very low sulfur fuel implementation deadlines with new federal requirements.	6/23/11 9/13/12 EO
Particulate Matter Emissions Measurement Allowance For Heavy-Duty Diesel In-Use Compliance Regulation Emission measurement allowances provide for variability associated with the field testing required in the regulation.	6/23/11

Board Action	Hearing Date
Amendments to Cleaner In-Use Heavy-Duty On-Road Diesel Trucks and LSI Fleets Regulations Amends five regulations to provide relief to fleets adversely affected by the economy, and take into account the fact that emissions are lower than previously predicted.	12/16/10 9/19/11 EO
Amendments to Cleaner In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation Amendments provide relief to fleets adversely affected by the economy, and take into account the fact that emissions are lower than previously predicted.	12/16/10 10/28/11 EO
In-Use On-Road Diesel-Fueled Heavy-Duty Drayage Trucks at Ports and Rail Yard Facilities Amendments add flexibility to fleets' compliance schedules, mitigate the use of noncompliant trucks outside port and rail properties, and provide transition to the Truck and Bus regulation.	12/16/10 9/19/11 EO
Amendment of the ATCM for Diesel Transportation Refrigeration Units (TRU) Amendments expand the compliance options and clarify the operational life of various types of TRUs.	11/18/10 2/2/11 EO
Amendments to the ATCM for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines Approved amendments to closely align the emission limits for new emergency standby engines in the ATCM with the emission standards required by the federal Standards of Performance.	10/21/10 3/25/11 EO
Diesel Vehicle Periodic Smoke Inspection Program Adopted amendments to exempt medium duty diesel vehicles from smoke inspection requirements if complying with Smog Check requirements.	10/21/10 8/23/11 EO
Amendments to Commercial Harbor Craft Regulation Approved amendments to require the use of cleaner engines in diesel-fueled crew and supply, barge, and dredge vessels.	6/24/10 4/11/11 EO
Accelerated Introduction of Cleaner Line-Haul Locomotives Agreement with railroads sets prescribed reductions in diesel risk and target years through 2020 at four major railyards.	6/24/10
Amendments to the Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Regulation and Portable Engine ATCM Approved amendments that extend the deadline for removal of certain uncertified portable engines for one year.	1/28/10 8/27/10 EO 12/8/10 EO
Diesel Engine Retrofit Control Verification, Warranty, and Compliance Regulation Amendments Approved amendments to require per-installation compatibility assessment, performance data collection, and reporting of additional information, and enhance enforceability.	1/28/10 12/6/10 EO
Passenger Motor Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Limits Amendments Approved amendments granting credits to manufacturers for compliant vehicles sold in other states that have adopted California regulations.	9/24/09 2/22/10 EO
Amendments to In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation Approved amendments to implement legislatively directed changes and provide additional incentives for early action.	7/23/09 12/2/09 EO 6/3/10 EO
Amendments to Heavy-Duty On-Board Diagnostics Regulations Approved amendments to the light and medium-duty vehicle and heavy duty engine OBD regulations.	5/28/2009 4/6/10 EO
Smog Check Improvements BAR adopted amendments to implement changes in state law and SIP commitments adopted by ARB between 1996 and 2007.	5/7/09 by BAR 6/9/09 EO
Pesticide Element Reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from the application of agricultural field fumigants in the South Coast, Southeast Desert, Ventura County, San Joaquin Valley, and Sacramento Metro federal ozone nonattainment areas.	4/20/09 10/12/09 EO (2) 8/2/11 EO
Low Carbon Fuel Standard Approved new standards to lower the carbon content of fuels.	4/20/09 11/25/09 EO
Pesticide Element for San Joaquin Valley DPR Director approved pesticide ROG emission limit of 18.1 tpd and committed to implement restrictions on non-fumigant pesticide use by 2014 in the San Joaquin Valley.	4/7/09 DPR
Tire Pressure Inflation Regulation Approved a regulation requiring automotive service providers to perform tire pressure checks as part of every service.	3/26/09 2/4/10 EO

Board Action	Hearing Date
In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Amendments Makes administrative changes to recognize delays in the supply of retrofit control devices.	1/22/09
Aftermarket Critical Emission Parts on Highway Motorcycles Allows for the sale of certified critical emission parts by aftermarket manufacturers.	1/22/09 6/19/09 EO
Cleaner In-Use Heavy-Duty Diesel Trucks (Truck and Bus Regulation) Approved a regulation to reduce diesel particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen through fleet modernization and exhaust retrofits. Makes enforceability changes to public fleet, off-road equipment, and portable equipment regulations.	12/11/08 10/19/09 EO 10/23/09 EO
Large Spark-Ignition Engine Amendments Approved amendments to reduce evaporative, permeation, and exhaust emissions from large spark-ignition (LSI) engines equal to or below 1 liter in displacement.	11/1/08 3/12/09 EO
Small Off-Road Engine (SORE) Amendments Approved amendments to address the excessive accumulation of emission credits.	11/21/08 2/24/10 EO
Portable Outboard Marine Tanks and Components (part of Additional Evaporative Emission Standards) Approved a regulation that establishes permeation and emission standards for new portable outboard marine tanks and components.	9/25/08 7/20/09 EO
Cleaner Fuel in Ocean Going Vessels Approved a regulation that requires use of low sulfur fuel in ocean-going ship main engines, and auxiliary engines and boilers.	7/24/08 4/16/09 EO
Spark-Ignition Marine Engine and Boat Amendments Provides optional compliance path for > 500 hp sterndrive/inboard marine engines.	7/24/08 6/5/09 EO
Zero emission vehicles Updated California's ZEV requirements to provide greater flexibility with respect to fuels, technologies, and simplifying compliance pathways. Amendments give manufacturers increased flexibility to comply with ZEV requirements by giving credit to plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and establishing additional ZEV categories in recognition of new developments in fuel cell vehicles and battery electric vehicles.	3/27/08 12/17/08 EO

**Table provided by the California Air Resources Board*

Figure 1 Valley Summer NOx and VOC Emissions, 1990-2023



D.2 Attainment is Not Due to Unusually Favorable Meteorology

Ozone formation is strongly driven by several factors, including horizontal and vertical ventilation, high pressure, temperature, and solar radiation. These factors contribute to high temperatures on the valley floor. High temperatures can be used as a metric that shows ozone forming potential for a given summer and can be used to compare one ozone season to another. The Valley has maintained attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard from 2013-2022. The analysis in this section shows that the average high temperatures over 2020-2022 were consistent or higher than averages over the 2012-2019 period and that temperatures from 2012-2019 were higher than the temperatures from 1950-2011. Additionally, 2020-2022 did not have lower ozone-forming potential than prior years, and meteorology did not become unusually favorable causing for the Valley to maintain attainment. The Valley is in attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard due to significant investments in cleaner technologies and practices, not because of unusually favorable meteorology.

This section also demonstrates that peak temperature days at Stockton, Modesto, Fresno, and Bakersfield are evenly and normally distributed throughout the May-October ozone season across 2020-2022, similar to the longer 2012-2019 period as shown in the charts below. Furthermore, even when average high temperatures increased, the 1-hour ozone concentrations have decreased in some areas. These results demonstrate that the Valley's improvement in ozone concentrations are not due to unusually favorable meteorology, and that the ozone forming potential during the 2020-2022 period was at least equal to or stronger than longer term averages. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that the reduced ozone concentrations of 2020-2022

and continued attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard are the result of District and CARB emission control programs. For further information on how temperature can effect ozone formation see Appendix B.

Average High Temperatures, 1950-2022

To demonstrate that ongoing and sustained improvements in ozone concentrations are not caused by favorable meteorology, a comparison of daily and average high temperatures was completed for three temperature data sets (1950-2011, 2012-2019, and 2020-2022) over the ozone season each year (May-October). Table 19 reveals that average high temperature and range of daily maximum temperatures over the past three years are greater than (i.e., warmer) or equal to the 62-year average from 1950-2011 and the more recent 8-year average (2012-2019) which covers the period from the District's previous ozone attainment demonstration.

Table 19 Summary of Average High Temperatures and Average Range of Daily Maximum Temperatures during the Ozone Season (May-October)

	1950-2011		2012-2019		2020-2022	
	High Temp (Average)	High Temp (Range)	High Temp (Average)	High Temp (Range)	High Temp (Average)	High Temp (Range)
Stockton	87.2ºF	70.4ºF to 100.4ºF	89.0ºF	76.5ºF to 99.6ºF	90.3ºF	74.1ºF to 98.3ºF
Modesto	87.2ºF	71.7ºF to 100.0ºF	89.2ºF	77.8ºF to 99.9ºF	89.2ºF	73.9ºF to 96.4ºF
Fresno	90.0ºF	72.5ºF to 103.4ºF	92.1ºF	77.2ºF to 102.8ºF	93.4ºF	76.6ºF to 103.3ºF
Bakersfield	90.3ºF	72.6ºF to 102.3ºF	92.0ºF	79.2ºF to 102.8ºF	93.0ºF	77.2ºF to 102.8ºF
Average	88.7ºF	86.7ºF	90.6ºF	89.5ºF	90.5ºF	87.8ºF

Comparing High Temperature Days to 1-hour Ozone Exceedance Days

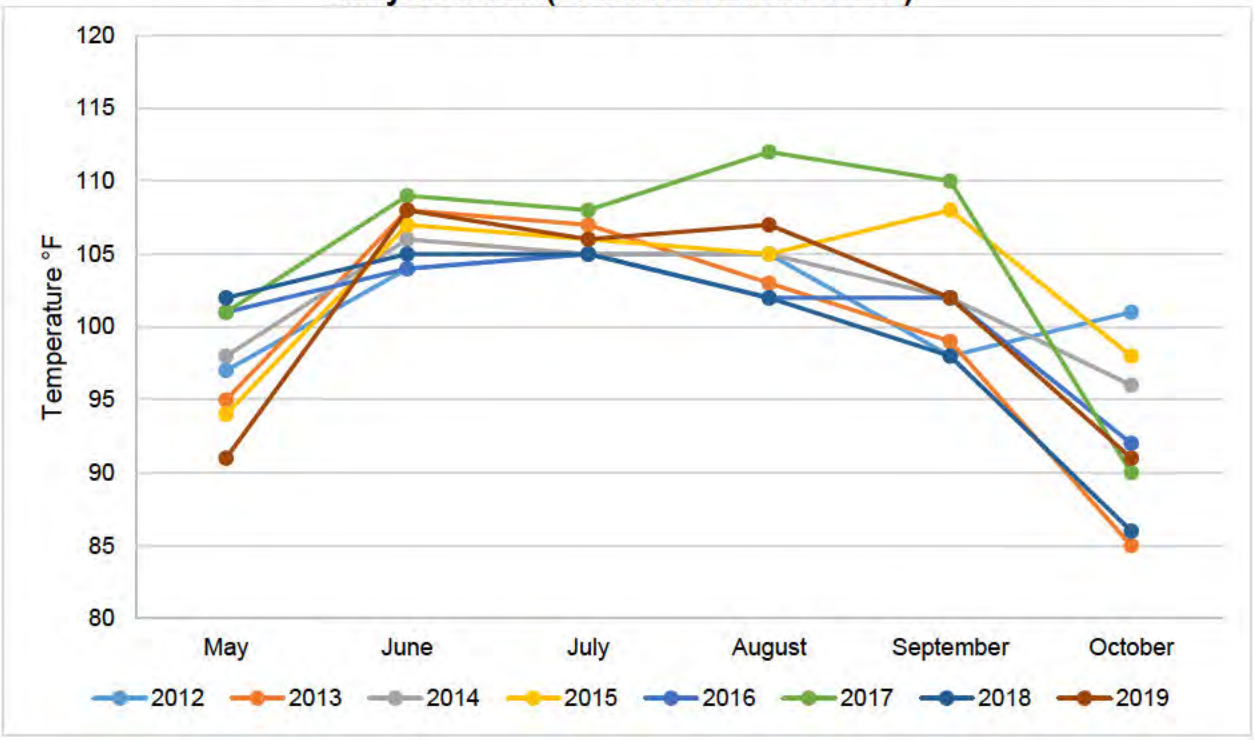
A comparison of two sets of data (2012-2019 and 2020-2022) for the 'average number of high temperature days per year' for days with maximum daily temperatures equal to and greater than 95 degrees Fahrenheit reveals a range of values and their average value (Table 20). This table demonstrates that the 2020-2022 'average number of high temperature days per year' are very similar (with an average slightly higher) than those of the previous years of 2012-2019 and that the number of high temperature days per year would not be a causative factor in reduced ozone concentrations that occurred during that time period. See Appendix B for further analysis on the relationship of high temperatures and ozone concentrations.

Table 20 Average Number of High Temperature Days per Year ≥95°F (May-October)

	2012-2019	2020-2022
Stockton	58	72
Modesto	60	62
Fresno	94	98
Bakersfield	93	97
Average	82	89

In Figure 2 through Figure 5, the maximum daily temperatures from 2020-2022 are distributed throughout the ozone season (May-October) similar to the ozone seasons in the previous years of 2012-2019. Since the distribution analysis shows a normal summer temperature distribution for all sites for all 11 years (2012-2022), it can be concluded that the chances for ozone formation for the 2020-2022 seasons were very similar to past seasons and therefore would not be a factor in the overall reduced ozone concentrations. For further evidence on the maximum temperatures measured in the Valley, see Appendix B.

Figure 2 Stockton Airport Maximum Daily Temperatures (°F), May-October (2012-2019 & 2020-2022)



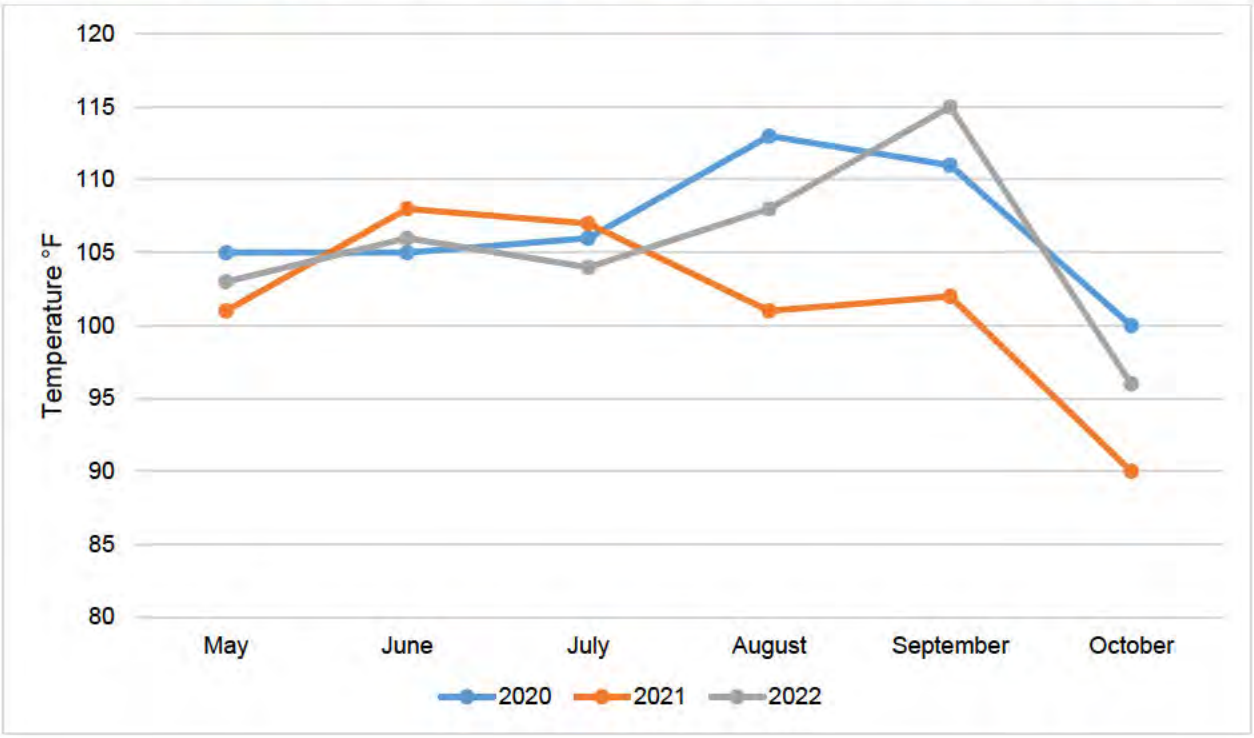
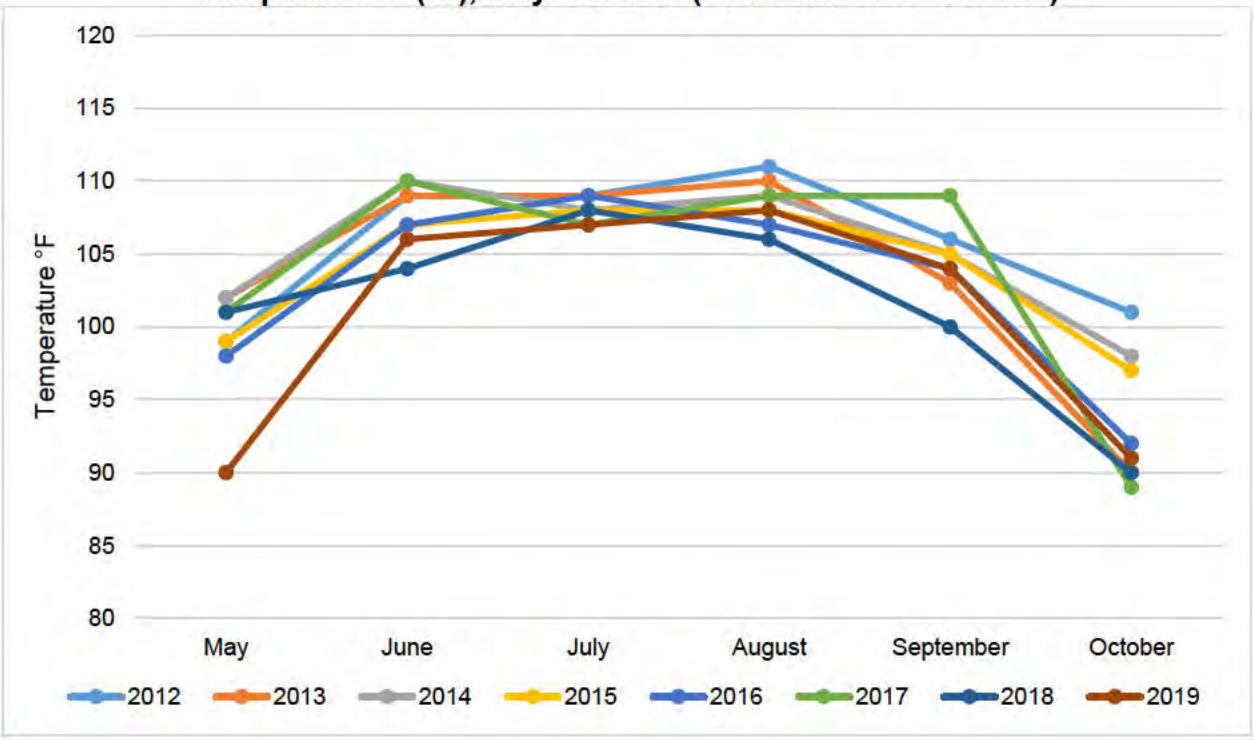


Figure 3 Fresno Yosemite International Airport Maximum Daily Temperatures (°F), May-October (2012-2019 & 2020-2022)



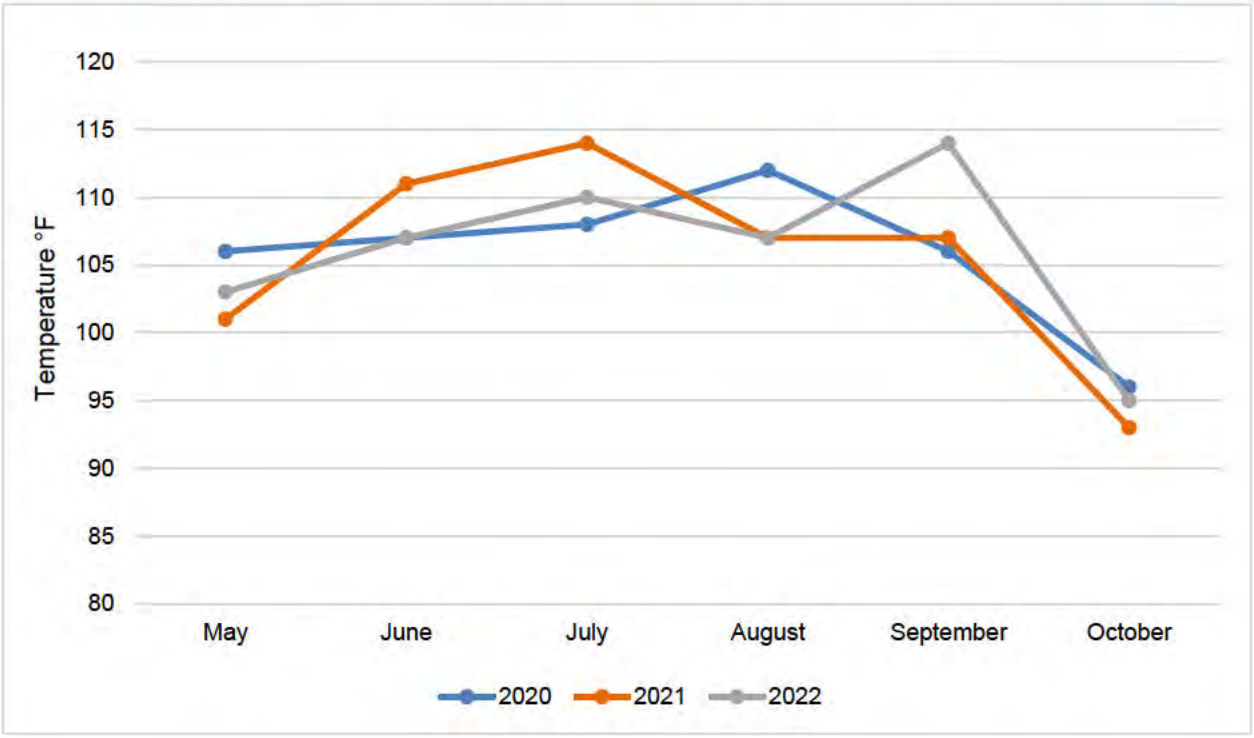
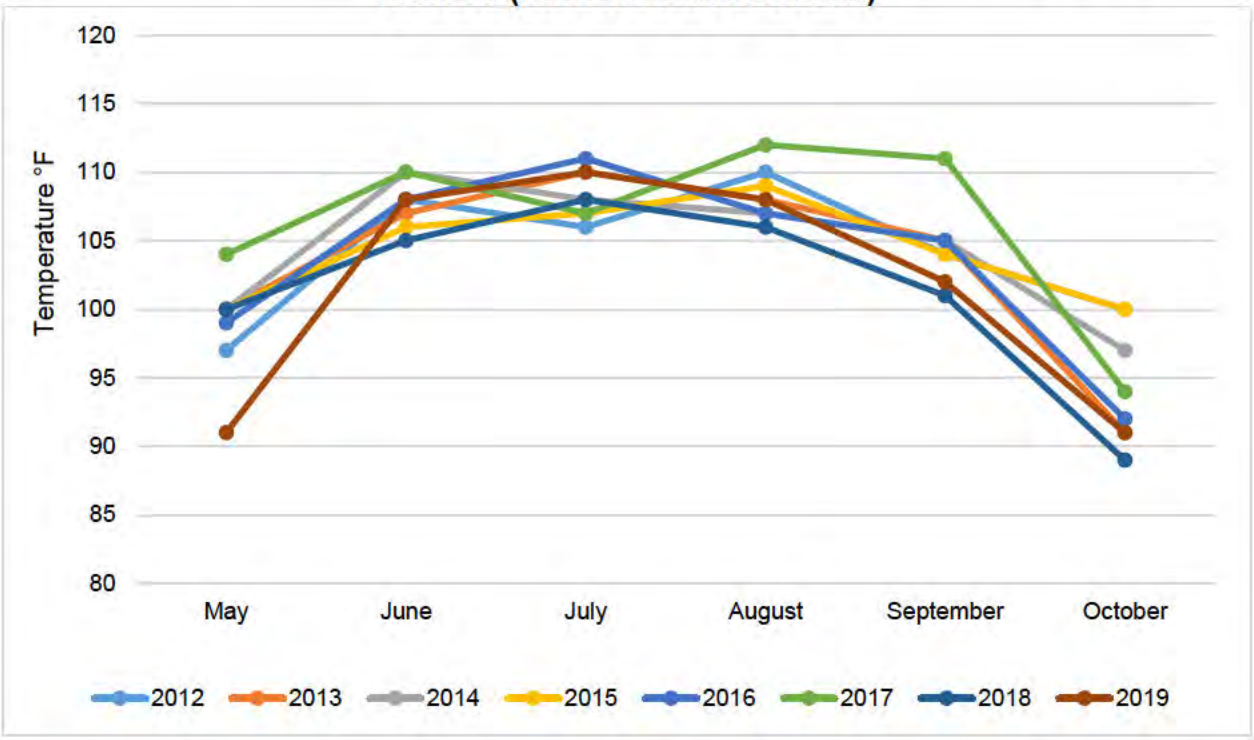


Figure 4 Bakersfield Meadows Airport Maximum Daily Temperatures (°F) May-October (2012-2019 & 2020-2022)



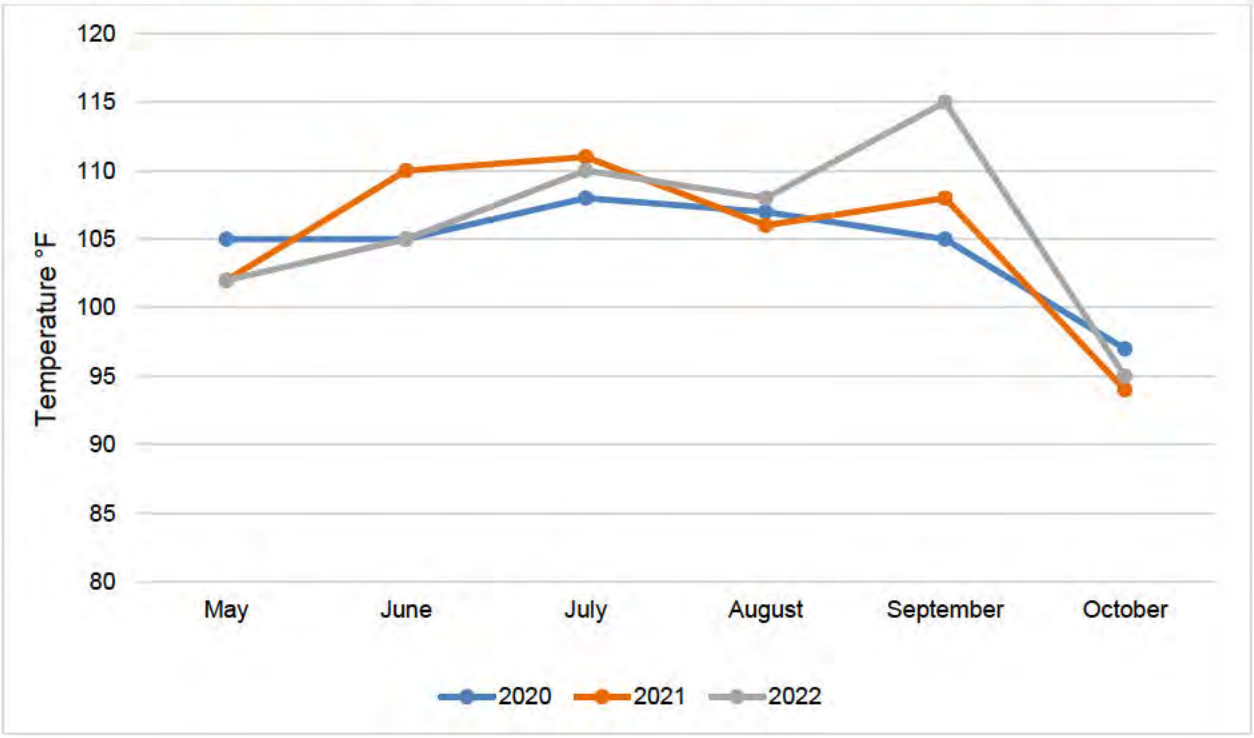
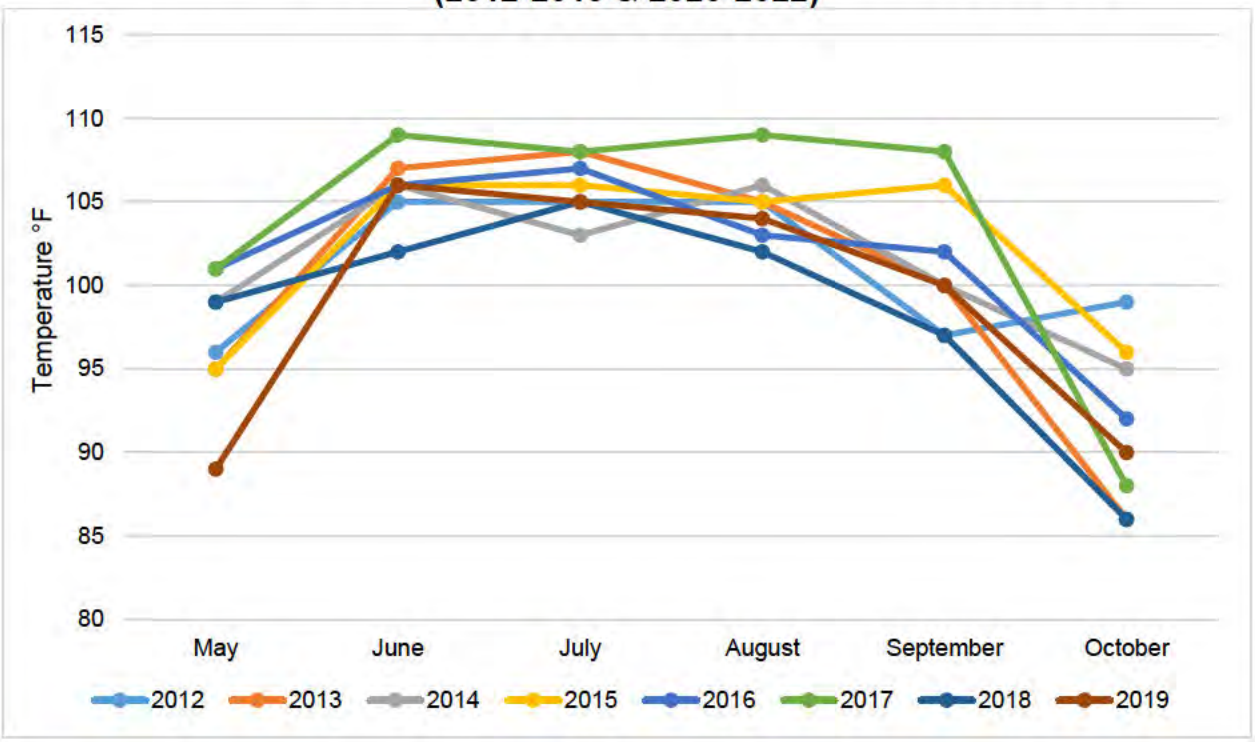
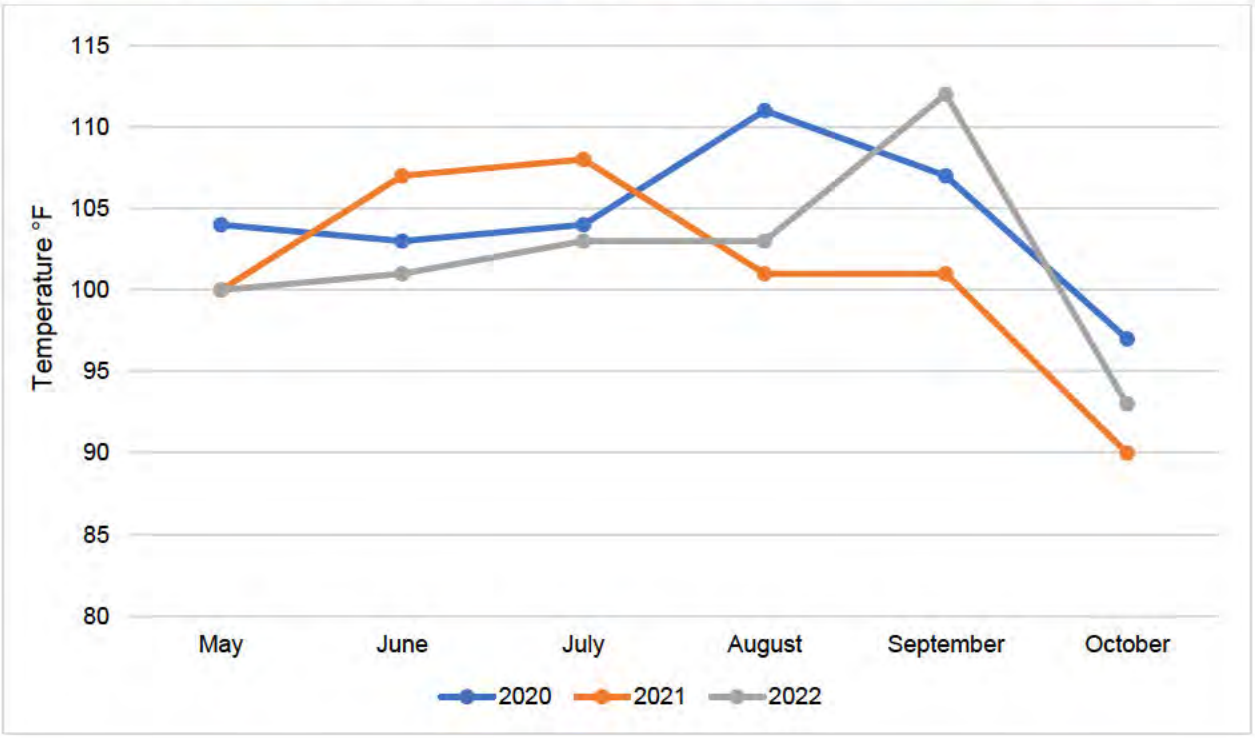


Figure 5 Modesto City Airport Maximum Daily Temperatures (°F) May October (2012-2019 & 2020-2022)





Drought in the San Joaquin Valley

Through daily forecasting and through longer-term analysis, the District tracks the ongoing drought and its impact on air quality across the Valley.[17] In general, drought conditions often bring warmer temperatures and longer periods of poor dispersion, which can lead to higher concentrations of pollutants in the Valley.

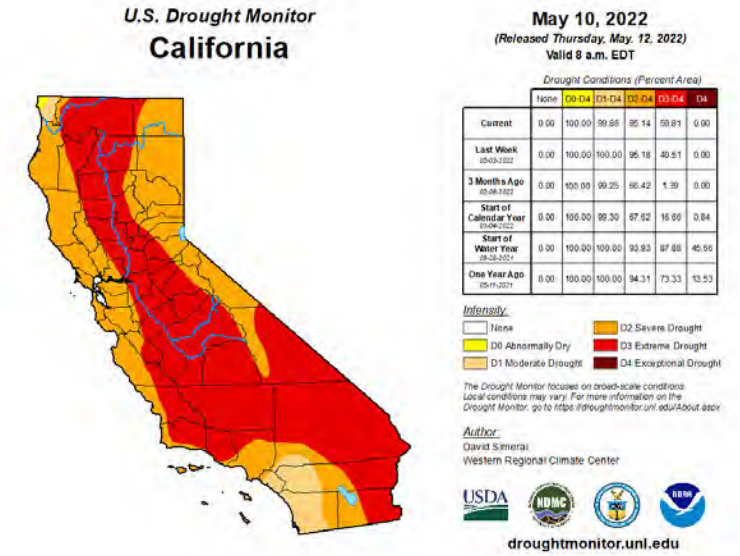
Beginning in April 2021, the Governor of California signed a set of emergency proclamations directing state agencies to take immediate action to bolster drought resilience across the state, and declared a State of Emergency due to severe drought conditions.[18,19,20]

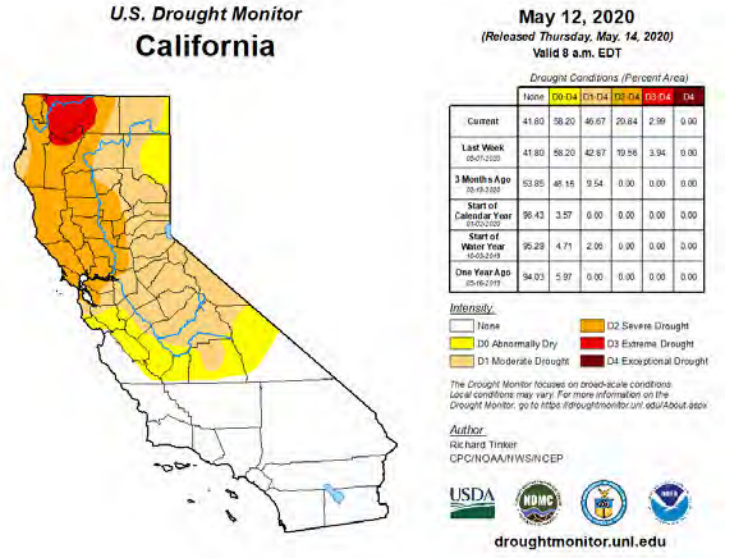
According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) statewide climatological rankings[21], the January 2022 to April 2022 period was the driest on record for California, with a -9.7 inch precipitation deficit. Further, the May 2020 to April 2022 period was the 2nd driest on record. Figure 6 depicts the worsening of the California drought between May 2020 and May 2022.

As drought conditions are often correlated with long periods of poor atmospheric dispersion and warmer temperatures, the District has continued to attain the 1-hour ozone standard through this extreme drought period. This is yet another example that these ongoing improvements are not due to unusually favorable meteorology, but are rather due to permanent emission reductions.

[17] See, for example, the District's April 21, 2022 "Report on the 2021-2022 Winter Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy," (pages A-7 through A-9). Retrieved from: https://www.valleyair.org/Board_meetings/GB/agenda_minutes/Agenda/2022/April/final/11.pdf
[18] Executive Department, State of California. State of Emergency Proclamation. April 2021. Retrieved from: https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/4.21.21-Emergency-Proclamation-1.pdf
[19] Executive Department, State of California. State of Emergency Proclamation. May 2021. Retrieved from: https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/5.10.2021-Drought-Proclamation.pdf
[20] Executive Department, State of California. State of Emergency Proclamation. October 2021. Retrieved from: https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/10.19.21-Drought-SOE-1.pdf
[21] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Centers for Environmental Information. California Precipitation Rankings, April 2022. Retrieved from: https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/statewide/rankings/4/pcp/202204

Figure 6 Drought Extent and Severity in California[22]





[22] National Drought Mitigation Center. U.S. Drought Monitor. Retrieved from: https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA

D.3 Attainment is Not Due to Temporary Emissions Reductions

Since the Valley's ozone precursor emissions are dominated by mobile sources which are a key component of economic activity in California, gasoline and diesel fuel sales were analyzed as indicators of economic activity.[23] This analysis shows that the District has continued to maintain attainment since EPA determined the Valley had attained the 1-hour ozone standard in 2016 and that the improvement in ozone throughout 2020-2022 was not due to a temporary economic downturn.

Analysis of California gasoline and diesel sales from May to October shows some variation from year to year, including slight decreases. Figure 7 demonstrates these variations as well as the vehicles miles traveled (VMT) for both gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicles. Even though California gasoline sales and VMT over 2020-2022 were inconsistent as compared to previous years, diesel sales and VMT continued at a steady rate.

Gasoline sales decreased in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, it did not play a significant role in the District's continued attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard. The District was in continual attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard in the years since EPA's clean data determination (based on 2012-2014 data), as well as during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, the Valley experienced a higher number of exceedances in 2020/2021 as a result of California wildfires. Figure 8 displays acres burned statewide from 2013 to 2022.

The Valley's ozone improvement is not attributable to a temporary economic downturn based on the provided analysis. The improvement in the Valley's ozone levels can be attributed to the implementation of new rules in the years since the District attained the 1-hour ozone standard as well as enforcement of rules throughout the District over the past 10 years.

[23] These were also the economic indicators used in analysis of Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD's 1-hour ozone attainment request. See EPA's proposed approval of their request at 76 FR 28696. Retrieved from: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-05-18/pdf/2011-12063.pdf.

Figure 7 State-Wide Fuel Sales and Vehicle Miles Travelled (May-October)

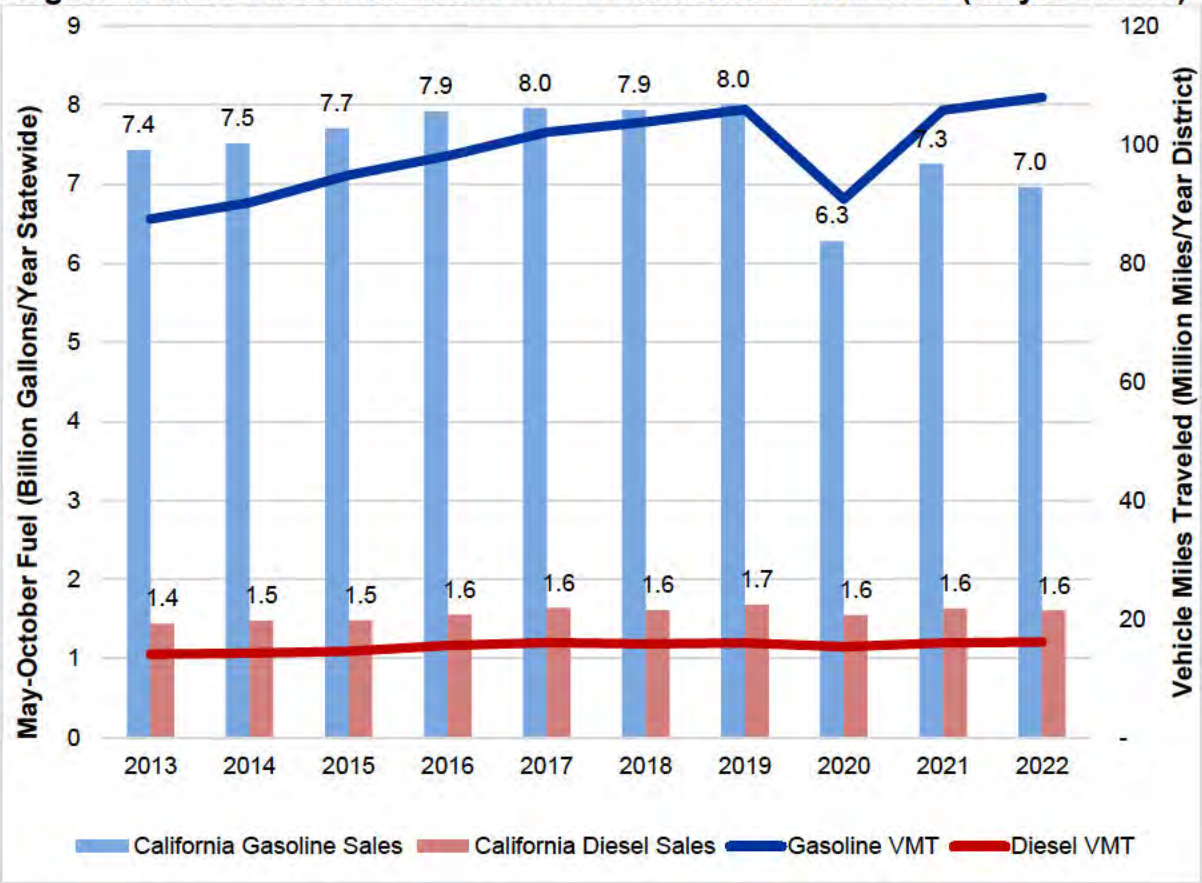
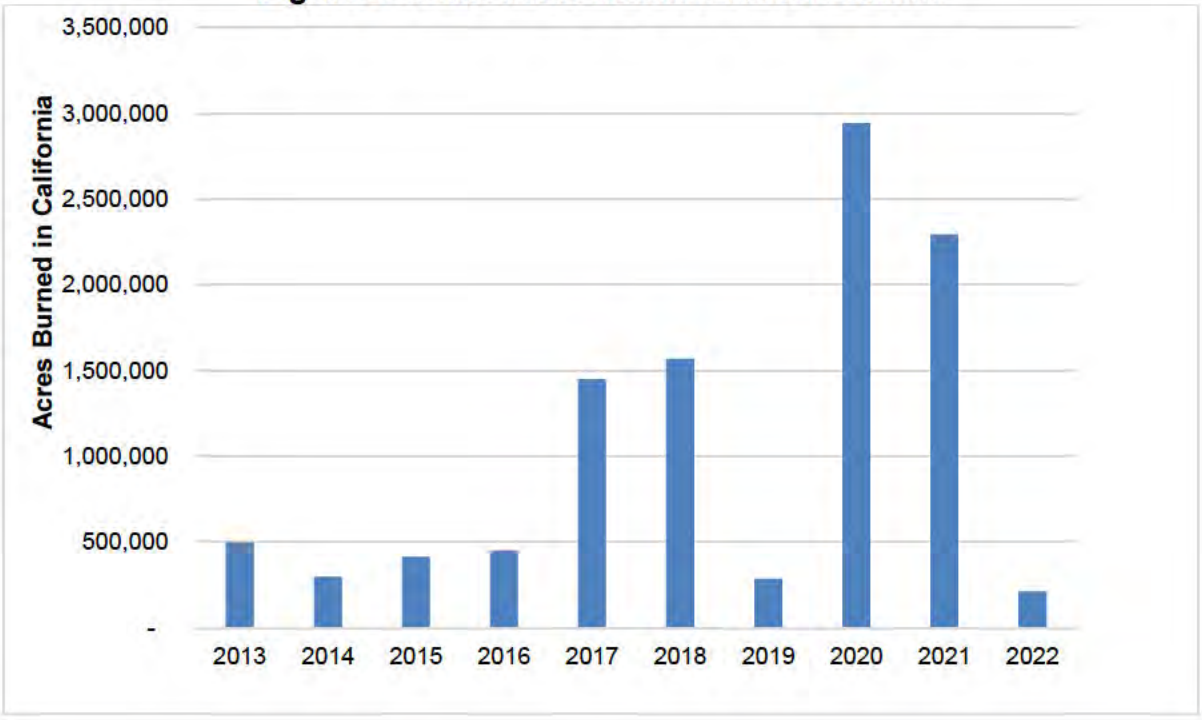


Figure 8 State-Wide Wildfire Acres Burned



D.4 CONCLUSION

The District has continued to attain the 1-hour ozone standard through permanent and enforceable emission reductions. The Valley has achieved this through stringent District and CARB air quality rules and regulations. Despite the high temperature and drought in the Valley, the District has continued to attain the 1-hour ozone standard. Additionally, attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard was not a result of temporary emission reductions such as an economic downturn. As previously mentioned, the District has continued to be in attainment despite the inconsistency in gasoline sales, VMT, the COVID-19 pandemic, and state-wide wildfires through the period. Therefore, attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard is due to permanent and enforceable emission reductions.

E. SECTION 110 AND PART D REQUIREMENTS

The District has met all 1-hour ozone SIP requirements for the purposes of redesignation under Section 110 of the CAA. In addition, EPA has approved the *2013 Ozone Plan* as meeting Section 110 requirements and as meeting applicable requirements under Part D of Title I of CAA. No outstanding 1-hour ozone SIP submittals exist for the District.

F. MAINTENANCE PLAN

The EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) memorandum *Procedures for Processing Requests to Redesignate Areas to Attainment*[24] (Calcagni Memo) also provides guidance of what is expected from a maintenance plan under existing policy. The core provisions of a maintenance plan are as follows:

Attainment Inventory

- Identify the emission reductions sufficient to attain the NAAQS in the Valley.
- The inventory should be consistent with EPA's most recent guidance on emission inventories for nonattainment areas available at the time and should include the emissions during the time period associated with the monitoring data showing attainment.

Maintenance Demonstration

- Demonstrate maintenance of the NAAQS for another period of ten years following EPA redesignation to attainment by either:
    - Showing that future emissions of a pollutant or its precursors will not exceed the level of the attainment inventory; or
    - Modeling to show that the future mix of sources and emissions rates will not cause a violation of the NAAQS; and

[24] Calcagni, John. Memorandum: *Procedures for Processing Requests to Redesignate Areas to Attainment.* (1992, September 8). United States Environmental Protection Agency Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. Retrieved from: https://www.epa.gov/ozone-pollution/procedures-processing-requests-redesignate-areas-attainment

- Show that emission rate projections are based on permanent, enforceable reductions.

Air Monitoring Network

- Demonstrate that the state will continue to operate an appropriate air quality monitoring network to verify the attainment status of the area.
- Discuss provisions for continued operation of air quality monitors that will verify attainment.

Verification of Continued Attainment

- Ensure that the state has the legal authority to implement and enforce all measures needed to maintain the NAAQS, including the acquisition of ambient and source emission data.
- Show how continued maintenance of the standard will be tracked.

Contingency Plan

- Verify implementation of emission control measures in the fully approved implementation plan.
- Identify indicators and provisions to promptly correct any violation occurring after redesignation.

The maintenance plan constitutes a SIP revision. EPA has 18 months to act on the maintenance plan. For the purposes of the *2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard,* the District is assuming that EPA's action would be complete sometime in the 2025/2026 timeframe. Since the maintenance plan must provide for continued attainment 10 years after designation, the District selected 2036 as the target maintenance year. The sections below address the District's fulfillment of the maintenance plan requirements.

F.1 Attainment Inventory

An emissions inventory is a systematic listing of air pollution sources along with the amount of pollution emitted from each source or category over a given time period. Emissions inventory data is used as a primary input to air quality modeling used in attainment demonstrations, developing control strategies, and provide a means to track progress in meeting the emission reduction commitments. Emissions inventories are an estimate of the air pollution emissions that are actually released into the environment—they are not measurements of ambient concentrations. The following are examples of pollution sources grouped by major industry sectors:

- Industrial or stationary point sources – power plants and oil refineries
- Area-wide sources – consumer products and residential fuel combustion
- On-road sources – passenger vehicles and heavy-duty trucks
- Off-road mobile sources – aircraft, trains, ships, recreational boats, construction equipment and farm equipment
- Non-anthropogenic (natural) sources – biogenic (or vegetation), geogenic (petroleum seeps), and wildfires

Emissions Inventory

The emissions inventory for this maintenance plan was generated using the California Emission Projection Analysis Model (CEPAM) 2022, San Joaquin Valley PM2.5 Nonattainment Area - Version 1.00,[25] which is the most comprehensive and current emission inventory for the Valley, and is consistent with EPA's most recent guidance on emissions inventories.

CARB and the District have developed a comprehensive current emissions inventory consistent with the requirements set forth in Section 182(a)-(f) of the CAA[26]. CARB and District staff conducted a thorough review of the inventory to ensure that the emission estimates reflect accurate emissions reports for point sources and that estimates for mobile and areawide sources are based on the most recent approved models and methodologies. CARB also reviewed the growth profiles for point and areawide source categories and updated them as necessary to ensure that the emission projections are based on data that reflect historical trends, current conditions, and recent economic and demographic forecasts.

EPA regulations require that the emissions inventory contains emissions data for precursors; i.e. NOx and VOC[27] for the formation of ozone. The inventory included substitutes VOC with reactive organic gases (ROG), which, in general, represent a slightly broader group of compounds than those in EPA's list of VOCs.

CARB and the District are selecting 2017 as the planning inventory base year for this maintenance plan, and are using the California specific emissions inventory developed through CEPAM.[28] In selecting 2017 as the base year, CARB and the District relied on the Emission Inventory Guidance[29], which allows agencies to consider the availability of data, the implementation of rule requirements, and consistency in the base year across planning and modeling inventories in choosing an appropriate baseline inventory year.

The Emission Inventory Guidance indicates that a common reason for choosing an alternate base year is the desire to have the base year for planning inventories be consistent with the base year for modeling inventories. For modeling purposes, 2019, 2020, and 2021 are not years with representative air quality suitable for modeling future air quality. Modeled attainment demonstrations are based on a five-year weighted design value centered around the base year inventory, giving the base year the most weight. To ensure the model is accurately predicting air quality, it is best to have the base year not be a year of extensive wildfires. Wildfires have become more intense in California. The two largest wildfire years on record occurred in 2020 and 2021. In the

[25] Source: CEPAM 2022 – San Joaquin Valley PM2.5 Nonattainment Area - Version 1.00
[26] Section 182(a)-(f) of the Act. https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2013-title42/html/USCODE-2013-title42-chap85-subchapI-partD-subpart2-sec7511a.htm
[27] Section 182(a)(1) of the Act. https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2013-title42/html/USCODE-2013-title42-chap85-subchapI-partD-subpart2-sec7511a.htm
[28] Criteria Pollutant and Emission Inventory Data. https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/criteria-pollutant-emission-inventory-data
[29] EPA. Emissions Inventory Guidance for Implementation of Ozone and Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and Regional Haze Regulations. Retrieved from: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-07/documents/ei_guidance_may_2017_final_rev.pdf

Valley, these extensive wildfires impacted air quality throughout the Valley for months. 2020 and 2021 are also unusual, non-representative years due to COVID-19 impacts. Furthermore, in 2020, Valley sites collected incomplete speciation data due to laboratory and monitoring site shutdowns because of the pandemic.

Additionally, CARB and the District prefer to use a National Emissions Inventory (NEI) year as the base year for the inventory, where the two most recent NEI years are 2020 and 2017. However, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected a range of industries economy-wide, making 2020 emissions atypical; therefore, 2020 is unsuitable for use as a base year for the inventory. Alternatively, the year 2017 did not experience any similar disruption and reflects typical emissions, while retaining the benefits of being an NEI year based on actual emissions data that has undergone quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) evaluation by EPA.

Using 2017 as the base modeling year ensures that anthropogenic emissions are accurately reflected, speciation data are available and robust, and the model can more accurately reflect the impacts of control strategies; therefore, CARB and the District are using 2017 as the base modeling year. Selecting 2017 for the planning inventory base year would allow for more consistency across the planning and modeling inventories used in this maintenance plan.

Attainment Inventory

EPA requires maintenance plans to present the emissions inventory for the time period used to define attainment for a particular area (Calcagni Memo). As previously mentioned, EPA took final action to determine that the District attained the 1-hour ozone NAAQS through a clean data determination for the period 2012-2014. The final action in the Federal Register states that the District must also, "*submit a demonstration that the area attained the revoked ozone NAAQS due to permanent and enforceable emission reductions and that the area will maintain the revoked NAAQS for 10 years."*

Therefore, the District is submitting such a demonstration to fulfill these requirements for the 1-hour ozone NAAQS. Since the 2014 clean data determination, the District has continued to maintain the 1-hour ozone NAAQS as demonstrated in section B of the document.

The District has selected the year 2020 as its base year inventory for the 10 year maintenance demonstration (from the 2020-2022 attainment period), projected from the 2017 base year in CEPAM. Table 21 shows NOx emissions totaled 181.29 tons per day (tpd) in 2020, and the VOC emission inventory was 317.05 tpd, both of which are precursors to the formation of ozone. Notably, the emission inventory data reflects a "summer day" as required by EPA in the Calcagni Memo. Appendix A provides a detailed summary of the attainment inventory and projected inventory.

Table 21 2020 Ozone Attainment Inventory

Pollutant	Summer Average Emissions (tpd)
NOx	181.29
VOC	317.05

F.2 Maintenance Demonstration

According to the Calcagni Memo, a state may "*demonstrate maintenance of the NAAQS by either showing that future emissions of a pollutant or its precursors will not exceed the level of the attainment inventory or by modeling to show that the future mix of sources and emission rates will not cause a violation of the NAAQS.*"[30] Consistent with the Calcagni Memo, this maintenance plan demonstrates maintenance of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS by showing that future ozone precursor emissions (NOx and VOC) will not exceed the level of the attainment inventory for at least ten years after redesignation to attainment.

Since the future date of redesignation is undetermined, the District has selected 2026-2036 as the ten year maintenance period. EPA is allowed up to 18 months to perform its review under Section 107(d)(3)(D) of the CAA, and therefore redesignation could potentially occur in the 2025/2026 timeframe.

To demonstrate that the Valley will maintain attainment of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS, this plan demonstrates that projected emissions in 2036 will not exceed those established as the 2020 baseline attainment inventory. If the projected precursors for ozone (NOx and VOC) concentrations in 2036 are lower than the 2020 baseline attainment inventory levels for each, then the District has demonstrated that the Valley will maintain attainment status. Specifically, NOx emissions must stay below 181.29 tpd and VOC emissions must stay below 317.05 tpd.

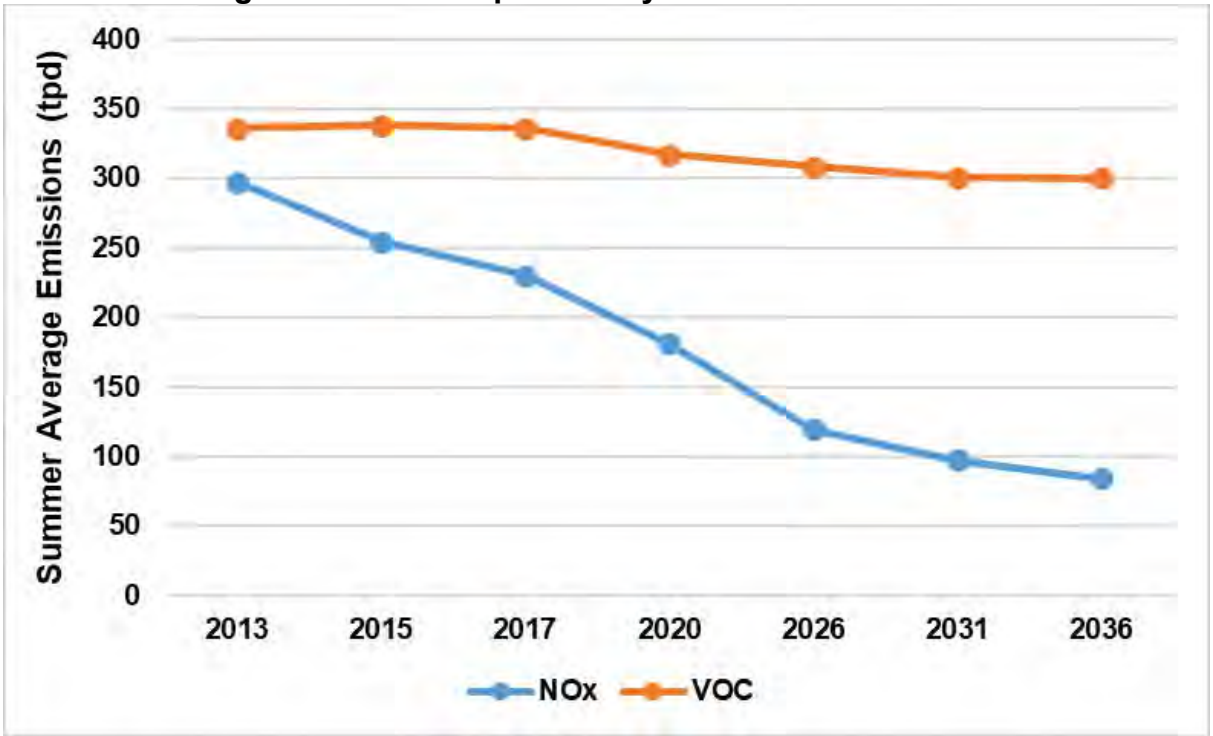
This emissions projection shows that emissions will not increase to a level that would exceed the 1-hour ozone standard. The projected inventory considers future consistent growth, including population and industry, consistent with the attainment inventory, and documents data inputs and assumptions. As demonstrated in Table 22 below, emissions in 2036 are well below the attainment year concentrations. Figure 9 shows that NOx and VOC trends have significantly decreased since the District reached attainment in 2013 and continue to decrease over the ten year demonstration.

Table 22 Ozone Maintenance Demonstration (tpd)

	2020	2026	2031	2036
NOx	181.29	119.5	97.49	84.13
VOC	317.05	308.5	301	300.3

[30] "Procedures for Processing Requests to Redesignate Areas to Attainment," (page 9). Retrieved from: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-03/documents/calcagni_memo_-_procedures_for_processing_requests_to_redesignate_areas_to_attainment_090492.pdf

Figure 9 San Joaquin Valley NOx and VOC Trends



F.3 MONITORING NETWORK

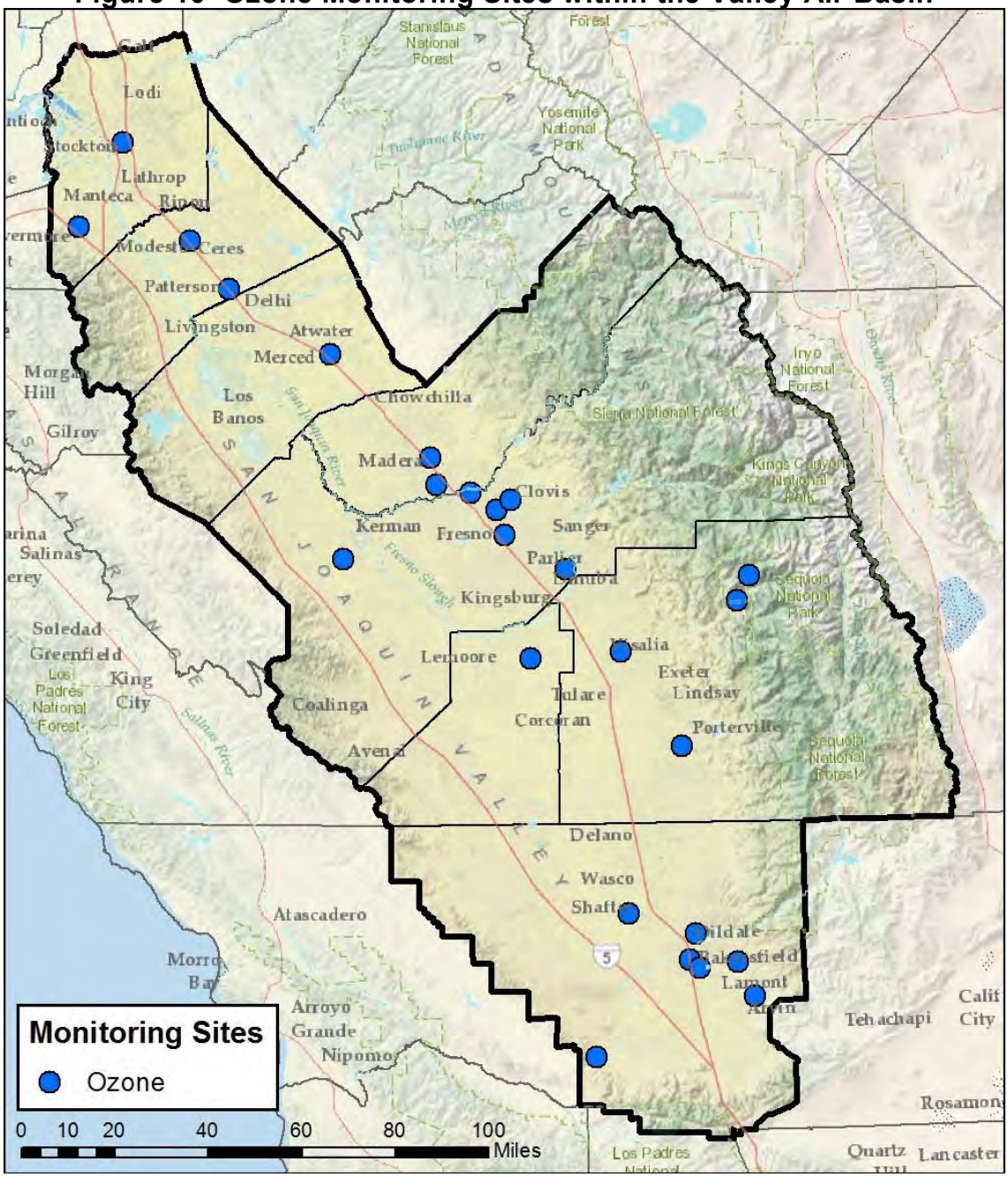
Pursuant to Calcagni Memo requirements, the State shall continue to operate an appropriate air quality monitoring network, in accordance with 40 CFR 58, to verify the attainment status of the area. This maintenance plan contains provisions for continued operation of air quality monitors that will provide such verification.

The District operates and will continue to operate an extensive network of air quality monitors throughout the Valley to support its mission of improving and protecting public health. District staff uses the hourly readings from real-time monitors to communicate the state of the air quality to Valley residents. Through programs and venues such as the EPA AirNow tool, the daily air quality forecast, the District website, and Valley media, residents are able to obtain air quality information that can help them with their activity planning. The District also uses real-time air quality data to manage prescribed burning, agricultural burning, hazard reduction burning, and residential wood combustion to ensure these activities do not result in adverse air quality impacts.

As part of the District's long-term efforts to improve public health, District staff rigorously analyze air monitoring data to ensure the data is of the highest quality. This air monitoring data determines the state of the Valley's air quality and is fundamental in the Valley's effort for continual improvement and to achieve attainment of EPA's health-based ambient air quality standards as quickly as possible.

As a part of this effort, the District and CARB manage the majority of the currently operating 37 air monitoring stations throughout the Valley, 25 of which measure ozone using EPA approved analyzers. The figure below provides a map of the ozone air monitoring stations operating in the Valley. Per requirements outlined in 40 CFR Part 58 Subpart B Section 58.10, the District conducts an assessment of its monitoring network every five years. The assessment includes reevaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the District's ozone air monitoring network.

Figure 10 Ozone Monitoring Sites within the Valley Air Basin



Additionally, the most recent information regarding the Valley's air monitoring network has been made available in the *2022 Air Monitoring Network Plan*[31] and is available on the District's website. This plan summarizes monitoring requirements for various pollutants and demonstrates how air monitoring in the Valley meets or exceeds all applicable requirements for State and Local Air Monitoring Stations (SLAMS).

The number of ozone monitors required is determined by population and measured ozone concentrations in metropolitan statistical areas (MSA). There are eight MSAs in the Valley, with each having the same boundaries as the county.[32] Table 23 shows that the Valley meets or exceeds the minimum number of ozone monitors required in each MSA. Figure 10 shows the location of all Valley air monitoring sites.

Ozone monitoring networks are designed to monitor areas with high population densities, areas with high pollutant concentrations, areas impacted by major pollutant sources, and areas representative of background concentrations. Most air monitoring sites in the District represent population exposures and/or maximum concentrations representative of neighborhood and regional scales. Among the ozone monitors operating in the Valley, the majority are suitably located to measure representative concentrations in areas of high population density. The remaining monitors are mostly located in high ozone concentration areas, regions intended to measure air moving into the District, air moving into larger urban areas, and in remote areas to measure background ozone concentrations.

Table 23 Ozone Monitoring Requirements for the Valley

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	2022 Population	Highest 2022 8-hour Ozone Design Value in MSA (ppb)	≥85% of 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS (75 ppb)	Number of monitors required	Number of active SLAMS ozone monitor sites
Bakersfield[33]	909,813	87	Yes	2	7
Fresno	1,011,273	84	Yes	2	6
Hanford-Corcoran	152,023	78	Yes	1	1
Madera	157,396	78	Yes	1	2
Merced	284,338	76	Yes	1	1
Modesto	549,466	79	Yes	2	2
Stockton	784,298	66	Yes	2	2
Visalia- Porterville	475,014	89	Yes	2	2

[31] SJVAPCD. *2022 Air Monitoring Network Plan*. (October 11, 2022). Retrieved from: https://ww2.valleyair.org/air-quality-information/air-monitoring/

[32] 40 CFR 58 Appendix D, Table D-2. Retrieved from: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-58

[33] Air monitors in the Eastern Kern County Air Pollution Control District would count towards the monitors required for the Bakersfield MSA. However, the "Number of active ozone monitors" listed here includes those only in the Valley Portion of Kern County.

EPA requires air monitoring agencies to include a variety of monitoring site types in their air monitoring networks. The monitoring site types within the District's ozone monitoring network measure concentrations for population exposure, highest concentrations, regional transport, and background levels. Often more than one monitoring site type applies to a given location. Table 24 identifies the monitoring site types for the ozone monitoring sites operating in the Valley.

Table 24 Ozone Monitoring Site Types in 2023

Site Name	Population Exposure	Highest Concentration	Regional Transport	Background Levels
Stockton-University Park*	x	x		
Tracy-Airport			x	
Modesto-14th St*	x	x		
Turlock	x	x		
Merced-Coffee	x	x		
Madera-City		x		x
Madera-Pump Yard		x		x
Tranquility	x			
Fresno-Sky Park	x	x	x	
Clovis-Villa	x	x		
Fresno-Garland*	x	x		
Fresno-Drummond	x	x	x	
Parlier		x	x	
Hanford-Irwin	x	x		
Visalia-Ashland*				x
Porterville	x	x		
Ash Mountain^		x	x	
Lower Kaweah^			x	
Shafter*	x			x
Oildale*		x	x	
Bakersfield-California*		x		x
Edison*		x	x	
Bakersfield-Muni		x		
Arvin-Di Giorgio*	x	x		
Maricopa		x	x	

^Monitor operated by the National Park Service
*Monitor operated by CARB

Additionally, the District annually participates in EPA's enhanced Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS) program. PAMS sites measure ozone precursors, including NOx and VOC, in addition to a variety of meteorological parameters in serious, severe, or extreme ozone nonattainment areas. Table 25 identifies the PAMS monitoring site types operating in the Valley.

Table 25 San Joaquin Valley PAMS Network

MSA	Site	Site Type
Fresno	Madera-Pump Yard	Type 1: Upwind/Background site
	Clovis-Villa	Type 2: Maximum precursor emissions
	Parlier	Type 3: Maximum ozone concentrations
Bakersfield	Shafter	Type 1: Upwind/Background site
	Bakersfield-Muni	Type 2: Maximum precursor emissions
	Arvin-Di Giorgio*	Type 3: Maximum ozone concentrations

*PAMS equipment may be installed for the Type 3 site at the Arvin-Di Giorgio when space becomes available.

F.4 Verification of Continued Attainment

The District is a duly constituted unified district as provided in California Health and Safety Code (CH&SC) sections 40150 to 40161, and as such has regulatory authority under these and other sections of the CH&SC to issue permits, collect fees, impose penalties, develop rules, regulations and plans, and collect air monitoring and emissions data. This authority continues after redesignation to attainment.

The District will continue the operation of the ozone air monitoring to verify ongoing attainment of the 1979 1-hour ozone NAAQS. EPA's Final Rule providing revisions to ambient air quality regulations (71 *FR* 61236) required development and submittal of an annual air monitoring network plan. As such, the District will continue to develop and make available its annual air monitoring network plan document, which includes details of its ozone air monitoring network, and a summary of the previous year's peak ozone concentrations, which can be used to track progress and continued verification of attainment. The District submitted the *2022 Air Monitoring Network Plan* to EPA on October 11, 2022, as available on the District's website.[34]

In addition, to track progress of the San Joaquin Valley toward continued attainment of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS, the District and CARB will continue to develop and submit periodic emissions inventories to the EPA as growth and control projections change and as emission factors are updated. The District and CARB commit to reviewing the emissions inventories to determine whether any changes could affect the maintenance of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS, which will contribute to the verification of continued attainment of this standard for the San Joaquin Valley.

F.5 Contingency Plan

[This section prepared in collaboration with the California Air Resources Board]

For maintenance plans, CAA Section 175A(d) requires contingency provisions to assure

[34] SJVAPCD. *2022 Air Monitoring Network Plan*. (October 11, 2022). Retrieved from: https://www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/Docs/2022-Air-Monitoring-Network-Plan.pdf

prompt correction of any post-redesignation NAAQS violations. As clarified in the Calcagni Memo, the contingency plan for a maintenance plan differs from that of an attainment plan. For the purposes of Section 175A, a State is not required to have fully adopted contingency measures that will take effect without further action by the State in order for the maintenance plan to be approved. The maintenance contingency plan should ensure that the contingency measures are adopted expediently once they are triggered. Maintenance plan contingencies should include specific triggers that will be used to determine when the contingency measures need to be implemented. Possible triggers are emissions inventory "action levels" or NAAQS violations (monitored or modeled) with a specific time limit for appropriate State actions, including a control measure adoption schedule and procedures for adoption and implementation.

The District is selecting an action level equivalent to the attainment test for the 1-hour ozone NAAQS of 124 ppb, where the action level would be triggered should any of the air monitoring sites average above 1.0 expected exceedances over a 3-year period of certified air monitoring data. Should the action level be reached, the District will evaluate the event and take appropriate action within 18 months following a monitored and certified violation of the NAAQS. Should this evaluation conclude that the ozone exceedances leading to a violation of the 1-hour ozone standard were due to impacts from exceptional events, the District will follow EPA's Exceptional Events Initial Notification procedures to determine what documentation would need to be prepared for EPA review and approval.

However, if the air quality monitoring data indicates that the area has violated the 1-hour ozone NAAQS due to ozone readings not influenced by exceptional events as discussed above, the District and CARB commit to evaluating rules and adopting amendments where an opportunity is identified, including but not limited to the rules within Table 26 and Table 27. While EPA has not committed to reviewing federal mobile source measures as a component of contingency, the District and CARB will also continue to advocate for needed assistance and action from EPA to address federal mobile source emissions that contribute significant portions of Valley ozone precursor emissions (see Section G, below).

Since the implementation of potential contingency measures would not be expected to take place until well in the future, the identification of specific detailed measures is not practical. The most appropriate contingency measures may be significantly different from the measures mentioned below due to technological, economic, and other factors in the future.

Table 26 District Rules for Evaluation

Rule	Title
Rule 4306/4320	Boiler, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters > 5 MMBtu/hr
Rule 4307	Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters - 2.0 MMBtu/hr to 5.0 MMBtu/hr
Rule 4308	Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters - 0.075 MMBtu/hr to 2.0 MMBtu/hr
Rule 4309	Dryers, Dehydrators, and Ovens
Rule 4311	Flares
Rule 4352	Solid Fuel Fired Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters
Rule 4354	Glass Melting Furnaces
Rule 4702	Internal Combustion Engines
Rule 4703	Stationary Gas Turbines
Rule 4902	Residential Water Heaters
Rule 4905	Natural Gas Fired, Fan-type Central Furnaces

Table 27 CARB Measures from 2022 State SIP Strategy

Proposed Measure	Agency	Action	Implementation Begins
On-Road Heavy-Duty			
Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation	CARB	2023	2024
Zero-Emissions Trucks Measure	CARB	2028	2030
On-Road Light-Duty			
On-Road Motorcycle New Emissions Standards	CARB	2022	2025
Clean Miles Standard	CARB	2021	2023
Off-Road Equipment			
Tier 5 Off-Road Vehicles and Equipment	CARB	2025	2029
Amendments to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation	CARB	2022	2024
Transport Refrigeration Unit Regulation Part 2	CARB	2026	2028
Commercial Harbor Craft Amendments	CARB	2022	2023
Cargo Handling Equipment Amendments	CARB	2025	2026
Off-Road Zero-Emission Targeted Manufacturer Rule	CARB	2027	2031
Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program	CARB	2025	2027
Spark-Ignition Marine Engine Standards	CARB	2029	2031
Other			
Consumer Products Standards	CARB	2027	2028
Zero-Emission Standard for Space and Water Heaters	CARB	2025	2030
Enhanced Regional Emission Analysis in State Implementation Plans[35]	CARB	2025	2023
Pesticides: 1,3-Dichloropropene Health Risk Mitigation	DPR	2022	2024
Primarily-Federally and Internationally Regulated Sources – CARB Measures			
In-Use Locomotive Regulation	CARB	2023	2024
Future Measures for Aviation Emissions reductions	CARB	2027	2029

**Table provided by the California Air Resources Board*

[35] Proposed CARB finalization

G. FEDERAL MOBILE SOURCE OPPORTUNITIES

The District has promulgated and implemented measures to reduce emissions from sources of air pollution under its regulatory authority. The District has also deployed innovative measures to reduce emissions from mobile and indirect sources of air pollution that fall outside its traditional regulatory authority with stationary sources. CARB's primary regulatory authority is the regulation of mobile sources of emissions. Mobile sources are the largest contributor to criteria pollutant and air toxic emissions (e.g. diesel particulate matter) in the Valley and throughout the State. District and CARB efforts in developing and implementing emission reduction measures has contributed to the substantial improvements in Valley air quality, and will continue to do so in the future.

Although CARB has promulgated stringent mobile source measures for vehicles and fleets in California, emissions from interstate heavy-duty trucks, locomotives, and other federal mobile sources have not been reduced as significantly. To provide context on the make-up of the remaining sources of emissions in the Valley, mobile sources now account for over 80% of NOx emissions in the region, with statewide mobile source emissions under federal jurisdiction now surpassing those under California jurisdiction. As the District and CARB's ongoing efforts have significantly improved air quality in the San Joaquin Valley, it is becoming critically important for the EPA to be strong partners in reducing emissions in California and the Valley. The District and CARB are committed to continued partnership with EPA to identify opportunities to further reduce emissions from federal sources in the San Joaquin Valley.

H. SUMMARY CHECKLIST

As described in section B of the document, the air monitoring data provided demonstrates that the District continues to be in attainment of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS. Section C and E demonstrate that the District has met all applicable Section 110 requirements of the CAA. Additionally, the District shows in section D that the emission reductions achieved are permanent and enforceable.

Table 28 summarizes the status of the elements that need to be satisfied in order to meet CAA requirements for Section 175A as outlined in the Calcagni Memo. Sections F.1 and F.2 of the document demonstrates continued attainment of the 1-hr ozone NAAQS through 2036. Section F.3 commits the District to maintain the ongoing ozone air monitoring network. Section F.4 commits the District to verify continued attainment of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS by reviewing information and assumptions used for the emission inventory when new information becomes available. If the District finds that this information has changed significantly, the District will update the existing emissions inventory in coordination with CARB, evaluate the revised inventory against the inventories presented in this maintenance plan, and evaluate the potential impacts. Section F.5 commits to establish a contingency plan that is triggered by a measured violation of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS.

Table 28 Summary Checklist of Document References

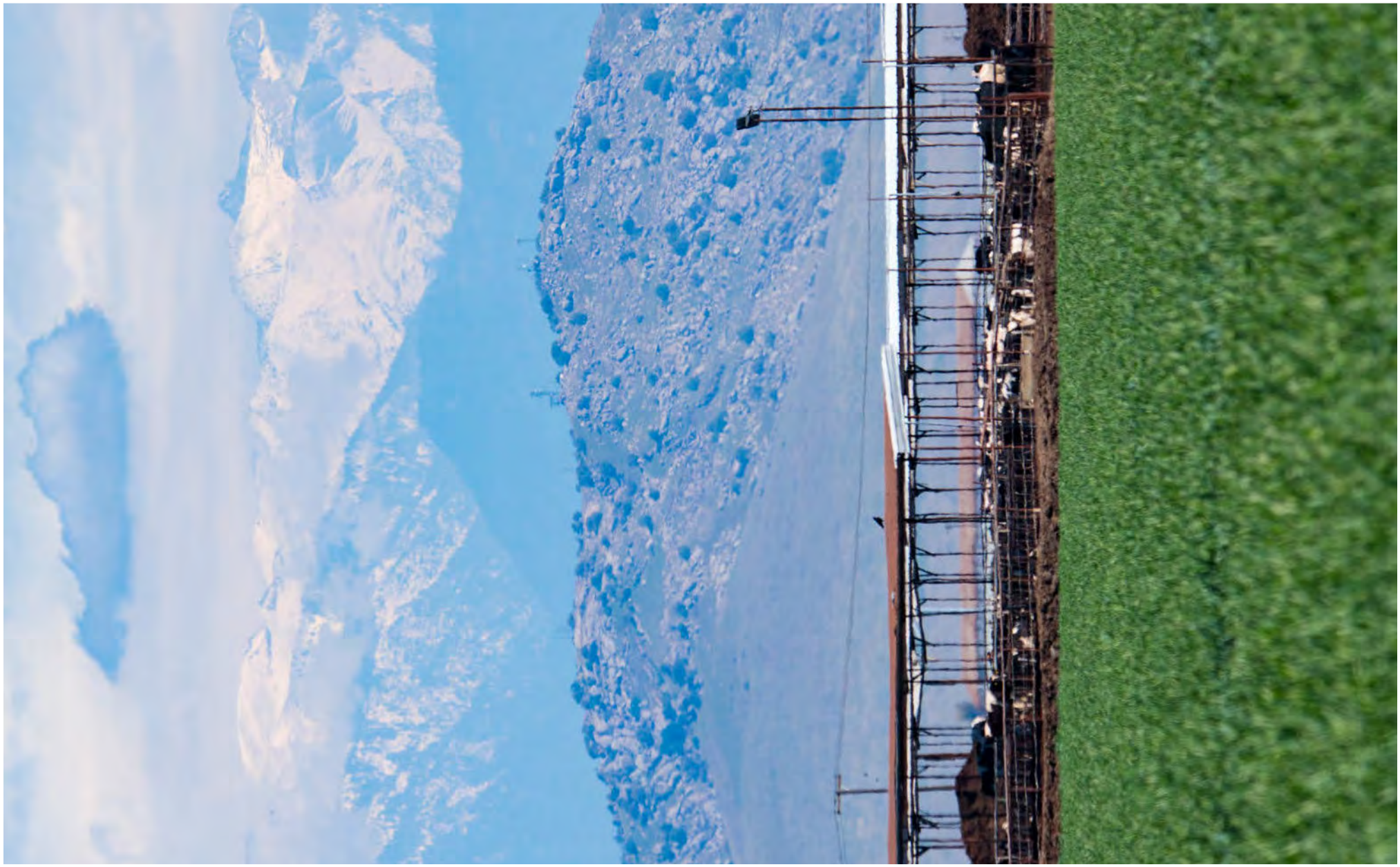
CAA/U.S. EPA Requirements	Status	Document Reference
Attainment inventory	Conditions met	Section F.1
Maintenance demonstration	Conditions met	Section F.2
Monitoring network	Commitment established	Section F.3
Verification of continued attainment	Commitment established	Section F.4
Contingency Plan	Commitment established	Section F.5

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Appendix A

Emissions Inventory

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APPENDIX A: EMISSIONS INVENTORY

This Appendix contains the following emissions inventory tables:

- Table A-1 NOx Inventories, Summer Daily Averages (tons/day)
- Table A-2 VOC Inventories, Summer Daily Averages (tons/day)

These tables include summer average tons per day emissions for the years 2013, 2015, 2017, 2020, 2026, 2031, and 2036. The base year (the year from which the inventory is projected forward and backward) for these inventories is 2017. The year 2020 is the base year used in the maintenance demonstration to project forward to the year 2036.

Table A-1 NOx Emissions (Summer Daily Averages in Tons per Day)

NOX SUMMER AVERAGE (tons/day)							
SUMMARY CATEGORY NAME	**2013**	**2015**	**2017**	**2020**	**2026**	**2031**	**2036**
STATIONARY SOURCES							
FUEL COMBUSTION							
ELECTRIC UTILITIES	3.89	4.11	2.84	2.69	2.48	2.23	2.19
COGENERATION	1.62	0.88	0.74	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.83
OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION (COMBUSTION)	3.44	3.32	2.75	2.42	1.75	1.38	1.19
PETROLEUM REFINING (COMBUSTION)	0.19	0.14	0.24	0.22	0.18	0.16	0.16
MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL	1.82	1.78	1.59	1.61	1.48	1.46	1.52
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING	14.95	10.35	7.12	6.23	4.71	3.74	3.46
SERVICE AND COMMERCIAL	7.47	4.27	4.26	4.39	3.80	3.66	3.58
OTHER (FUEL COMBUSTION)	0.84	0.72	0.68	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57
*** TOTAL FUEL COMBUSTION**	**34.22**	**25.57**	**20.20**	**18.82**	**15.68**	**13.91**	**13.48**
WASTE DISPOSAL							
SEWAGE TREATMENT	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04
LANDFILLS	0.18	0.18	0.23	0.24	0.15	0.16	0.17
INCINERATORS	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
SOIL REMEDIATION	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER (WASTE DISPOSAL)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
*** TOTAL WASTE DISPOSAL**	**0.27**	**0.27**	**0.32**	**0.33**	**0.23**	**0.24**	**0.25**

NOX SUMMER AVERAGE (tons/day)							
SUMMARY CATEGORY NAME	**2013**	**2015**	**2017**	**2020**	**2026**	**2031**	**2036**
CLEANING AND SURFACE COATINGS							
LAUNDERING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DEGREASING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COATINGS AND RELATED PROCESS SOLVENTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRINTING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ADHESIVES AND SEALANTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER (CLEANING AND SURFACE COATINGS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*** TOTAL CLEANING AND SURFACE COATINGS**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND MARKETING							
OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION	0.27	0.24	0.23	0.21	0.10	0.09	0.08
PETROLEUM REFINING	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
PETROLEUM MARKETING	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05
OTHER (PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND MARKETING)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
*** TOTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**	**0.31**	**0.31**	**0.30**	**0.28**	**0.17**	**0.15**	**0.13**
INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES							
CHEMICAL	0.34	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.32	0.34	0.37
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MINERAL PROCESSES	0.22	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.24	0.24	0.24
METAL PROCESSES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WOOD AND PAPER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GLASS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5.70	2.95	3.08	3.16	2.79	1.75	1.75
ELECTRONICS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER (INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES)	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
*** TOTAL INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES**	**6.26**	**3.46**	**3.66**	**3.71**	**3.36**	**2.33**	**2.37**
**** TOTAL STATIONARY**	**41.06**	**29.61**	**24.49**	**23.14**	**19.43**	**16.63**	**16.23**

NOX SUMMER AVERAGE (tons/day)							
SUMMARY CATEGORY NAME	**2013**	**2015**	**2017**	**2020**	**2026**	**2031**	**2036**
AREAWIDE SOURCES							
SOLVENT EVAPORATION							
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ARCHITECTURAL COATINGS AND RELATED PROCESS SOLVENTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PESTICIDES/FERTILIZERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASPHALT PAVING / ROOFING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*** TOTAL SOLVENT EVAPORATION**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
MISCELLANEOUS PROCESSES							
RESIDENTIAL FUEL COMBUSTION	3.58	2.94	3.15	3.03	2.73	2.57	2.36
FARMING OPERATIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PAVED ROAD DUST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNPAVED ROAD DUST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FUGITIVE WINDBLOWN DUST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRES	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04
MANAGED BURNING AND DISPOSAL	0.84	2.65	4.65	4.30	1.38	1.37	1.36
COOKING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS PROCESSES)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
*** TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS PROCESSES**	**4.46**	**5.63**	**7.83**	**7.37**	**4.14**	**3.98**	**3.77**
**** TOTAL AREAWIDE**	**4.46**	**5.63**	**7.83**	**7.37**	**4.14**	**3.98**	**3.77**
MOBILE SOURCES							
ON-ROAD MOTOR VEHICLES							
LIGHT DUTY PASSENGER (LDA)	10.03	8.29	6.47	4.20	2.69	1.87	1.17
LIGHT DUTY TRUCKS - 1 (LDT1)	2.60	2.12	1.73	1.24	0.65	0.34	0.17
LIGHT DUTY TRUCKS - 2 (LDT2)	7.12	6.36	5.20	3.14	2.02	1.46	1.04
MEDIUM DUTY TRUCKS (MDV)	8.60	7.70	6.86	4.66	2.45	1.45	0.95

NOX SUMMER AVERAGE (tons/day)							
SUMMARY CATEGORY NAME	**2013**	**2015**	**2017**	**2020**	**2026**	**2031**	**2036**
LIGHT HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS - 1 (LHDT1)	9.45	8.67	7.94	5.73	3.87	2.27	1.31
LIGHT HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS - 2 (LHDT2)	2.26	2.17	2.02	1.49	1.09	0.72	0.48
MEDIUM HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS (MHDT)	11.63	10.11	9.22	5.01	2.01	1.30	0.90
HEAVY HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS (HHDT)	90.01	67.33	56.65	34.51	12.28	9.53	9.09
MOTORCYCLES (MCY)	0.34	0.32	0.29	0.22	0.20	0.17	0.15
BUSES	1.86	1.68	1.50	0.91	0.54	0.37	0.22
MOTOR HOMES (MH)	0.31	0.28	0.26	0.19	0.16	0.12	0.09
*** TOTAL ON-ROAD MOTOR VEHICLES**	**144.20**	**115.02**	**98.14**	**61.28**	**27.95**	**19.57**	**15.57**
OTHER MOBILE SOURCES							
AIRCRAFT	2.54	2.54	2.53	4.62	4.60	4.59	4.59
TRAINS	10.58	12.86	13.12	14.56	15.69	16.58	14.93
OCEAN GOING VESSELS	0.37	0.14	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
COMMERCIAL HARBOR CRAFT	0.11	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.03
RECREATIONAL BOATS	3.70	3.53	3.42	3.29	3.09	2.99	2.92
OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLES	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.10
OFF-ROAD EQUIPMENT	24.48	24.49	24.01	21.59	14.52	11.18	9.58
OFF-ROAD EQUIPMENT (PERP)	6.83	6.32	5.87	4.28	2.55	2.16	2.10
FARM EQUIPMENT	58.91	54.44	50.45	40.97	27.35	19.64	14.27
FUEL STORAGE AND HANDLING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
*** TOTAL OTHER MOBILE SOURCES**	**107.61**	**104.47**	**99.59**	**89.50**	**67.97**	**57.31**	**48.56**
**** TOTAL MOBILE**	**251.81**	**219.48**	**197.73**	**150.78**	**95.92**	**76.88**	**64.14**

GRAND TOTAL FOR SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY	**297.32**	**254.72**	**230.04**	**181.29**	**119.50**	**97.49**	**84.13**

Table A-2 VOC Emissions (Summer Daily Averages in Tons per Day)

VOC SUMMER AVERAGE (tons/day)							
SUMMARY CATEGORY NAME	**2013**	**2015**	**2017**	**2020**	**2026**	**2031**	**2036**
STATIONARY SOURCES							
FUEL COMBUSTION							
ELECTRIC UTILITIES	0.30	0.24	0.19	0.17	0.15	0.12	0.09
COGENERATION	0.52	0.47	0.43	0.41	0.41	0.42	0.48
OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION (COMBUSTION)	1.22	1.39	1.15	1.05	0.88	0.76	0.66
PETROLEUM REFINING (COMBUSTION)	0.10	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL	0.30	0.28	0.23	0.24	0.19	0.19	0.20
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING	1.30	1.12	0.82	0.74	0.65	0.62	0.63
SERVICE AND COMMERCIAL	0.73	0.54	0.54	0.57	0.55	0.54	0.55
OTHER (FUEL COMBUSTION)	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
*** TOTAL FUEL COMBUSTION**	**4.52**	**4.11**	**3.43**	**3.26**	**2.91**	**2.73**	**2.68**
WASTE DISPOSAL							
SEWAGE TREATMENT	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06
LANDFILLS	1.54	1.56	1.51	1.55	1.61	1.70	1.77
INCINERATORS	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
SOIL REMEDIATION	0.16	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.10
OTHER (WASTE DISPOSAL)	21.00	21.30	21.54	22.13	23.02	24.56	26.50
*** TOTAL WASTE DISPOSAL**	**22.75**	**22.98**	**23.19**	**23.83**	**24.79**	**26.41**	**28.44**

VOC SUMMER AVERAGE (tons/day)							
SUMMARY CATEGORY NAME	**2013**	**2015**	**2017**	**2020**	**2026**	**2031**	**2036**
CLEANING AND SURFACE COATINGS							
LAUNDERING	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.09
DEGREASING	1.60	1.82	1.79	1.79	1.95	2.08	2.27
COATINGS AND RELATED PROCESS SOLVENTS	7.55	8.45	8.84	9.64	10.14	10.63	11.66
PRINTING	4.74	5.81	5.61	5.09	5.34	5.40	5.60
ADHESIVES AND SEALANTS	0.59	0.59	0.62	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.64
OTHER (CLEANING AND SURFACE COATINGS)	5.56	6.30	7.03	7.37	8.05	8.15	8.64
*** TOTAL CLEANING AND SURFACE COATINGS**	**20.11**	**23.06**	**23.98**	**24.59**	**26.20**	**26.98**	**28.90**
PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND MARKETING							
OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION	13.52	13.01	11.46	10.49	8.75	7.55	6.52
PETROLEUM REFINING	0.41	0.50	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44
PETROLEUM MARKETING	5.63	5.13	5.09	4.64	4.05	3.82	3.77
OTHER (PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND MARKETING)	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
*** TOTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**	**19.56**	**18.65**	**17.00**	**15.58**	**13.24**	**11.82**	**10.74**
INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES							
CHEMICAL	2.09	2.39	2.63	2.51	2.63	2.78	3.02
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE	11.42	12.96	12.76	12.97	13.92	15.17	16.77
MINERAL PROCESSES	0.18	0.20	0.22	0.20	0.21	0.20	0.21
METAL PROCESSES	0.17	0.15	0.17	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.23
WOOD AND PAPER	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
GLASS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
ELECTRONICS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER (INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES)	0.80	0.50	0.49	0.48	0.52	0.56	0.61
*** TOTAL INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES**	**14.68**	**16.22**	**16.28**	**16.37**	**17.50**	**18.94**	**20.86**
**** TOTAL STATIONARY**	**81.61**	**85.01**	**83.88**	**83.61**	**84.65**	**86.87**	**91.61**

VOC SUMMER AVERAGE (tons/day)							
SUMMARY CATEGORY NAME	**2013**	**2015**	**2017**	**2020**	**2026**	**2031**	**2036**
AREAWIDE SOURCES							
SOLVENT EVAPORATION							
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	24.34	25.29	25.78	28.74	28.66	30.93	33.15
ARCHITECTURAL COATINGS AND RELATED PROCESS SOLVENTS	6.54	6.62	6.74	6.92	7.28	7.69	8.01
PESTICIDES/FERTILIZERS	19.56	15.41	20.81	18.86	18.71	18.46	18.23
ASPHALT PAVING / ROOFING	0.92	0.97	1.04	1.13	1.25	1.31	1.38
*** TOTAL SOLVENT EVAPORATION**	**51.35**	**48.29**	**54.37**	**55.66**	**55.90**	**58.39**	**60.76**
MISCELLANEOUS PROCESSES							
RESIDENTIAL FUEL COMBUSTION	0.48	0.40	0.42	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41
FARMING OPERATIONS	93.99	93.86	93.76	93.63	93.45	93.37	93.32
CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PAVED ROAD DUST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNPAVED ROAD DUST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FUGITIVE WINDBLOWN DUST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRES	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.16
MANAGED BURNING AND DISPOSAL	1.06	14.31	16.38	7.46	14.84	14.83	14.83
COOKING	0.59	0.59	0.61	0.62	0.65	0.68	0.71
OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS PROCESSES)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
*** TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS PROCESSES**	**96.24**	**109.30**	**111.30**	**102.25**	**109.50**	**109.45**	**109.43**
**** TOTAL AREAWIDE**	**147.59**	**157.59**	**165.67**	**157.91**	**165.40**	**167.84**	**170.19**
MOBILE SOURCES							
ON-ROAD MOTOR VEHICLES							
LIGHT DUTY PASSENGER (LDA)	15.22	13.14	10.82	8.61	6.20	4.86	3.82
LIGHT DUTY TRUCKS - 1 (LDT1)	4.03	3.37	2.89	2.50	1.35	0.84	0.56
LIGHT DUTY TRUCKS - 2 (LDT2)	6.45	5.99	5.26	4.00	3.26	2.70	2.28

VOC SUMMER AVERAGE (tons/day)							
SUMMARY CATEGORY NAME	**2013**	**2015**	**2017**	**2020**	**2026**	**2031**	**2036**
MEDIUM DUTY TRUCKS (MDV)	6.91	6.65	6.42	5.49	3.92	2.91	2.32
LIGHT HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS - 1 (LHDT1)	1.85	1.88	1.75	1.45	1.05	0.70	0.50
LIGHT HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS - 2 (LHDT2)	0.32	0.31	0.32	0.27	0.22	0.16	0.12
MEDIUM HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS (MHDT)	1.11	0.90	0.77	0.34	0.11	0.07	0.05
HEAVY HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS (HHDT)	5.63	3.03	2.19	1.10	0.64	0.66	0.71
MOTORCYCLES (MCY)	2.79	2.73	2.55	2.27	2.09	1.90	1.80
BUSES	0.16	0.17	0.14	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.04
MOTOR HOMES (MH)	0.22	0.18	0.16	0.11	0.06	0.04	0.02
*** TOTAL ON-ROAD MOTOR VEHICLES**	**44.68**	**38.36**	**33.27**	**26.21**	**18.95**	**14.88**	**12.22**
OTHER MOBILE SOURCES							
AIRCRAFT	3.00	3.01	3.01	3.89	3.91	3.91	3.92
TRAINS	0.58	0.64	0.61	0.65	0.65	0.67	0.57
OCEAN GOING VESSELS	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMERCIAL HARBOR CRAFT	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RECREATIONAL BOATS	24.67	22.37	20.37	17.72	13.65	11.19	9.32
OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLES	2.80	2.51	2.35	2.19	1.80	1.33	1.03
OFF-ROAD EQUIPMENT	16.87	15.66	14.95	14.56	11.70	7.85	5.88
OFF-ROAD EQUIPMENT (PERP)	0.53	0.51	0.49	0.39	0.30	0.30	0.32
FARM EQUIPMENT	11.15	10.00	9.03	7.79	5.60	4.28	3.35
FUEL STORAGE AND HANDLING	2.67	2.45	2.29	2.11	1.90	1.85	1.91
*** TOTAL OTHER MOBILE SOURCES**	**62.30**	**57.17**	**53.10**	**49.32**	**39.51**	**31.38**	**26.32**
**** TOTAL MOBILE**	**106.97**	**95.52**	**86.38**	**75.53**	**58.46**	**46.26**	**38.54**

GRAND TOTAL FOR SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY	**336.18**	**338.13**	**335.92**	**317.05**	**308.50**	**300.97**	**300.33**

Appendix B

Analysis of Meteorology Affecting Ozone Levels

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APPENDIX B: ANALYSIS OF METEOROLOGY AFFECTING OZONE LEVELS

Introduction

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) has been in attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard for a decade, and though meteorology is not the driving force behind the attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard, it can have a significant influence on ozone concentrations. This appendix presents a summary of temperature and rainfall totals analyses that support the influence of meteorological conditions on ozone formation and concentrations.

Ambient Air Temperature

High temperatures can intensify and increase ozone formation, and as such ozone concentrations typically become elevated during the summer months. The Valley experiences very hot summers with an average of 36 days over 100°F, and months that typically have maximum temperatures over 100°F are highlighted yellow in the tables below. The Modesto, Fresno, and Bakersfield monthly temperature data shown in Table B-1, Table B-2, and Table B-3 provides the comparison of maximum temperatures recorded for the period 2000-2022. Table B-1, Table B-2, and Figure B-3 show the correlation between maximum temperatures and 1-hour maximum ozone concentrations during the summer season. Surface ozone is driven by the photochemical reactions between volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight. In general, surface ozone is linearly and positively correlated with temperature depending on emissions and meteorological conditions.

Table B-1 Modesto, CA temperature data for the period 2000-2022 (°F)[1]

Month	Maximum Monthly Temperature					
	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	70	73	66	67	74	66
February	76	77	67	80	73	76
March	87	87	78	79	81	85
April	99	93	94	91	89	92
May	107	101	89	104	100	100
June	111	109	106	103	107	101
July	113	108	105	104	108	103
August	107	109	104	111	101	103
September	105	108	100	107	101	112
October	99	99	90	97	90	93
November	82	82	79	81	72	67
December	70	71	68	71	73	60

[1] Source: Western Region Climate Data Center https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?ca5738

Table B-2 Fresno, CA temperature data for the period 2000 - 2022 (°F)[2]

Month	Maximum Monthly Temperature					
	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	70	78	67	67	70	67
February	77	80	69	83	73	82
March	87	91	83	82	84	90
April	98	96	96	91	95	96
May	106	102	90	106	101	103
June	110	110	106	107	111	107
July	113	109	107	108	114	110
August	110	111	108	112	107	107
September	106	109	104	106	107	114
October	99	101	91	96	93	95
November	90	90	81	82	75	71
December	77	73	68	69	73	-----

Table B-3 Bakersfield, CA temperature data for the period 2000 - 2022 (°F)[3]

Month	Maximum Monthly Temperature					
	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	75	82	72	66	71	70
February	85	85	73	83	75	85
March	94	93	82	85	88	91
April	99	98	96	92	94	97
May	107	104	91	105	102	102
June	110	110	108	105	110	105
July	112	111	110	108	111	110
August	111	112	108	107	106	108
September	105	111	102	105	108	115
October	98	100	91	97	94	95
November	94	94	82	87	75	79
December	81	75	74	74	77	-----

[2] Source: Western Region Climate Data Center https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?ca3257
[3] Source: Western Region Climate Data Center https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?ca0442

Figure B-1 Turlock 1-hour Ozone Max Concentrations and Modesto City Airport Temperatures

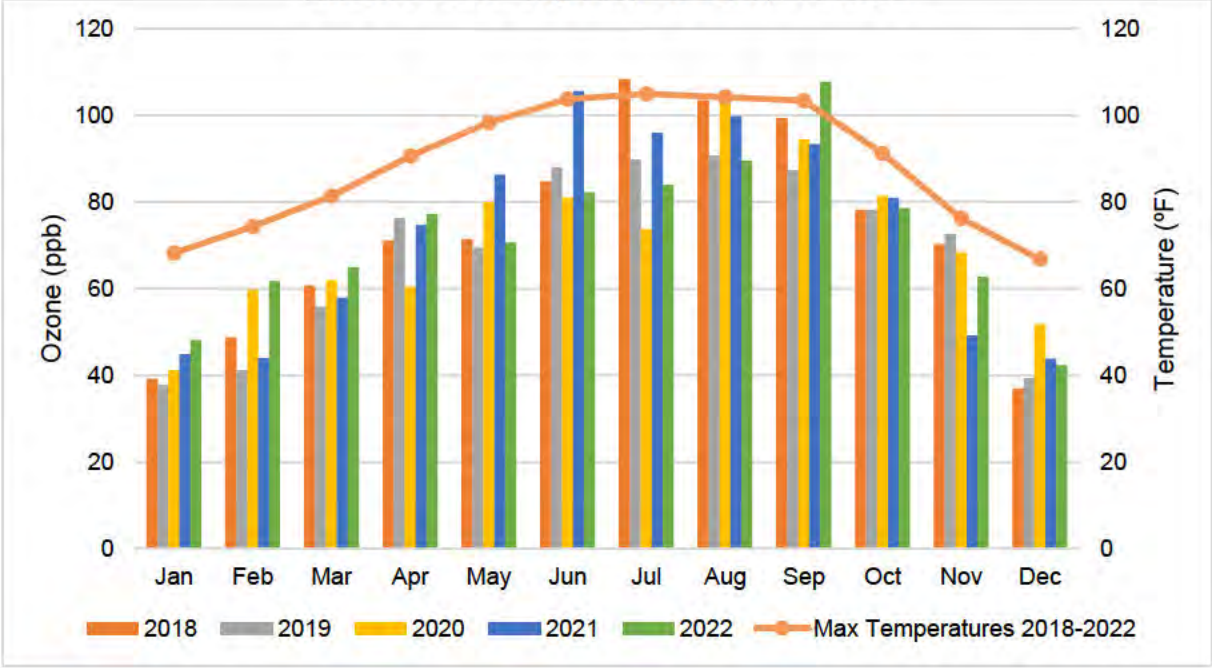


Figure B-2 Fresno-Garland 1-hour Ozone Max Concentrations and Fresno Air Terminal Temperatures

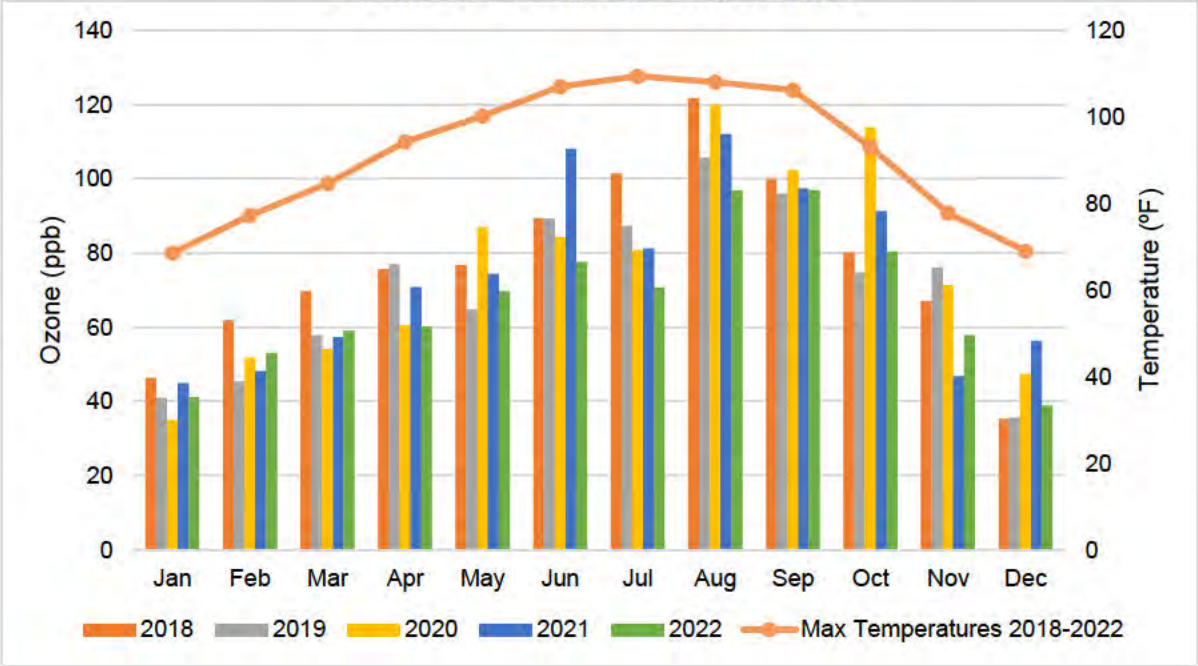
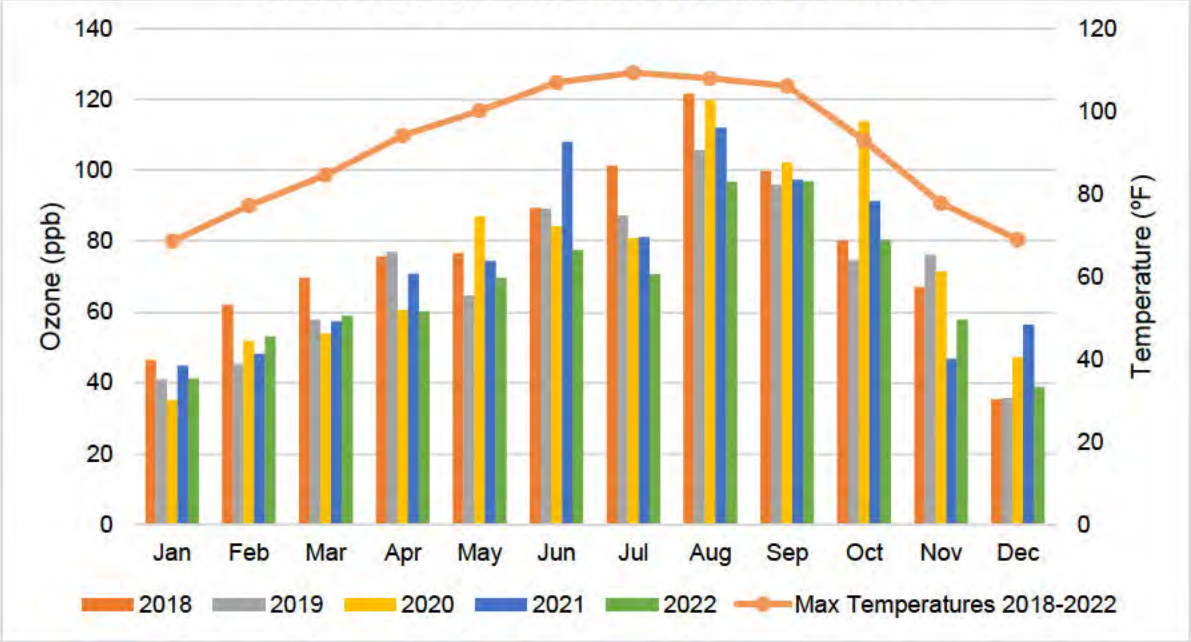


Figure B-3 Edison 1-hour Ozone Max Concentrations and Bakersfield Meadows Airport Temperatures



Distribution of High Temperature Days

Figure B-4 through Figure B-6 illustrate that the 2012-2019 and 2020-2022 average daily maximum temperatures at the Stockton Airport, Fresno Yosemite International (FYI) Airport, and Bakersfield Meadows (BM) Airport are close to the 62-year average (1950-2011). The daily maximum temperatures in Stockton, Fresno, and Bakersfield have all either slightly increased over time, or remained consistent, thus providing evidence that the 2020-2022 years were not unusually conducive to lower ozone concentrations and that the District maintained the 1-hour ozone standard without the influence of improved meteorology.

Figure B-4 Ozone Season Average Range of Daily Maximum Temperatures – Stockton Airport, Averaged May-October (2012-2022)

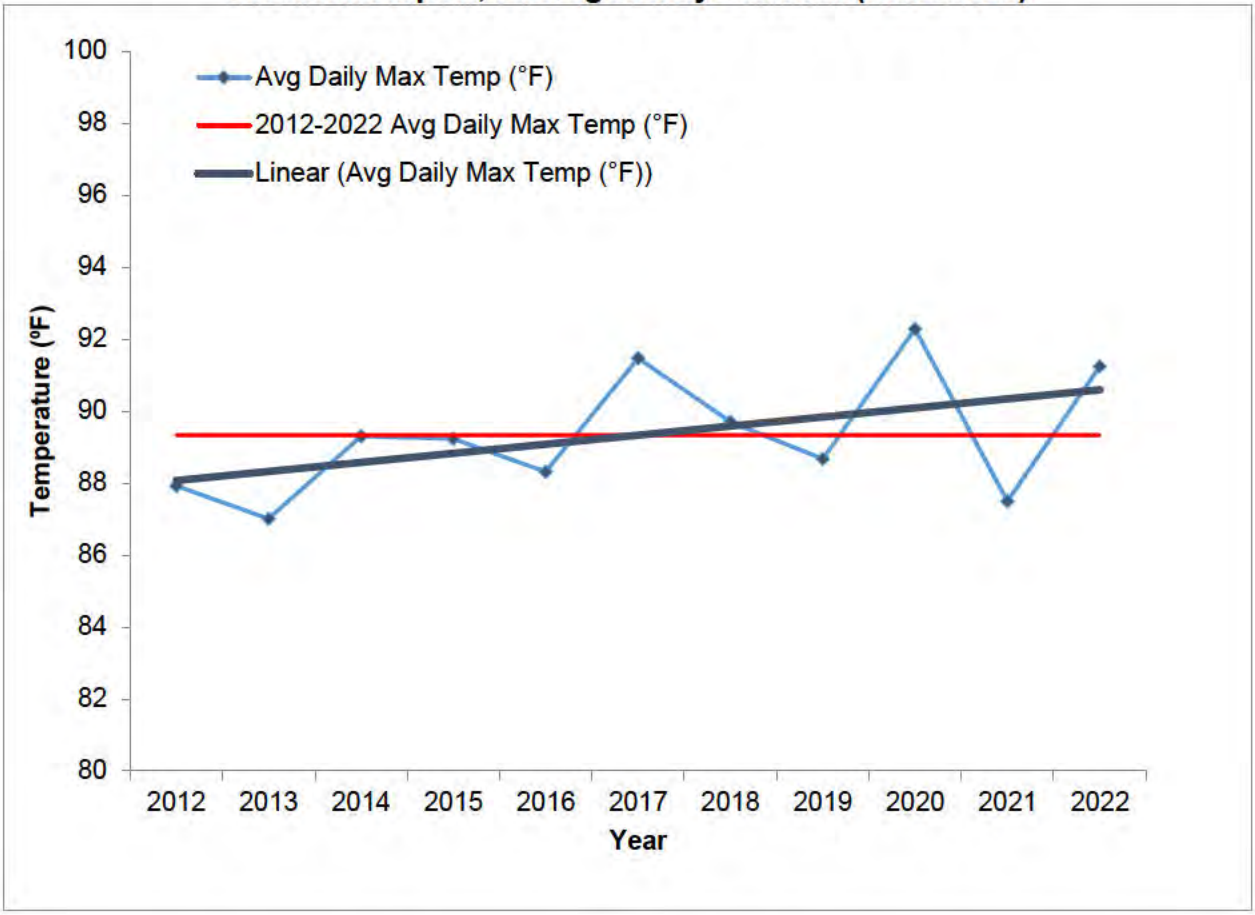


Figure B-5 Ozone Season Average Range of Daily Maximum Temperatures – Fresno Yosemite International Airport, Averaged May-October (2012-2022)

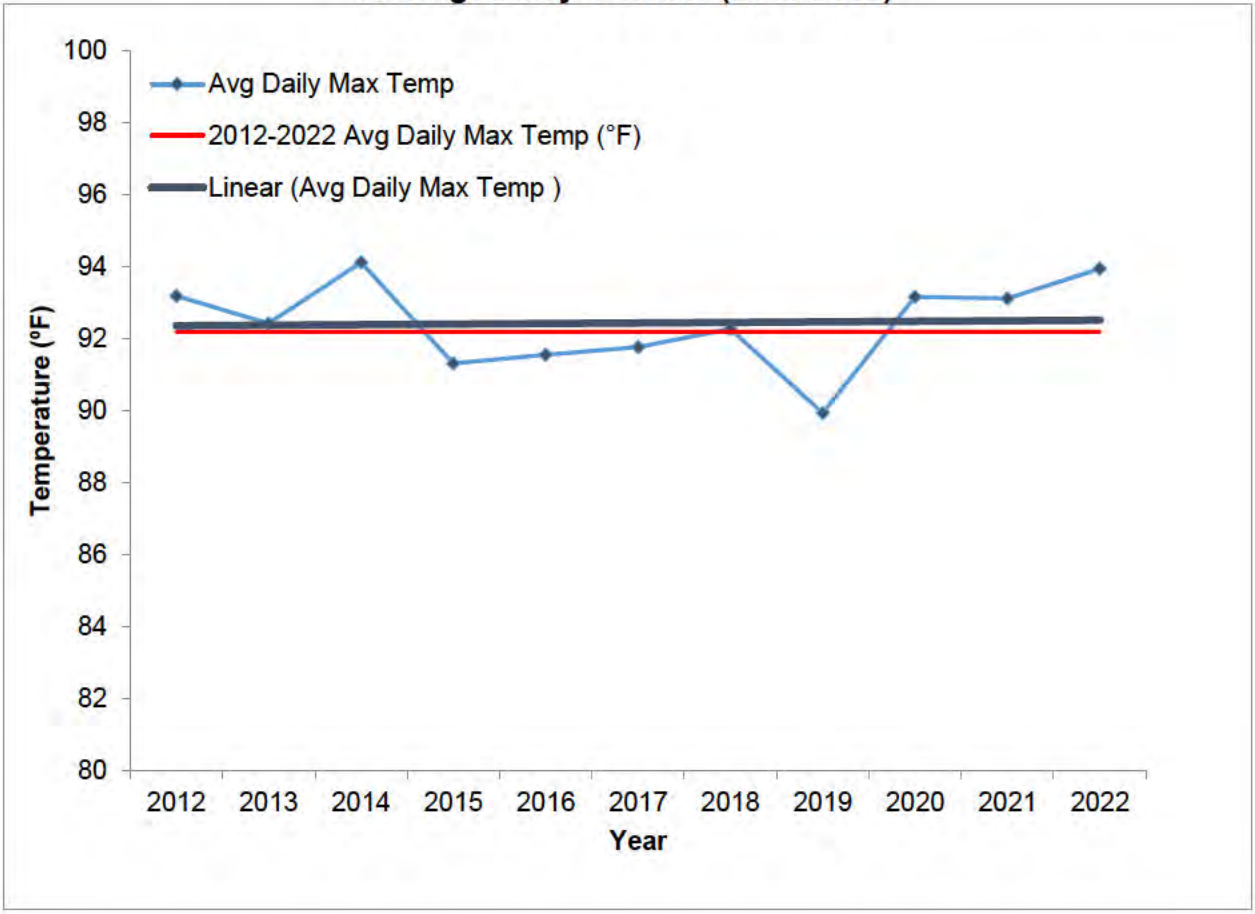


Figure B-6 Ozone Season Average Range of Daily Maximum Temperatures – Bakersfield Meadows Airport, Averaged May-October (2012-2022)

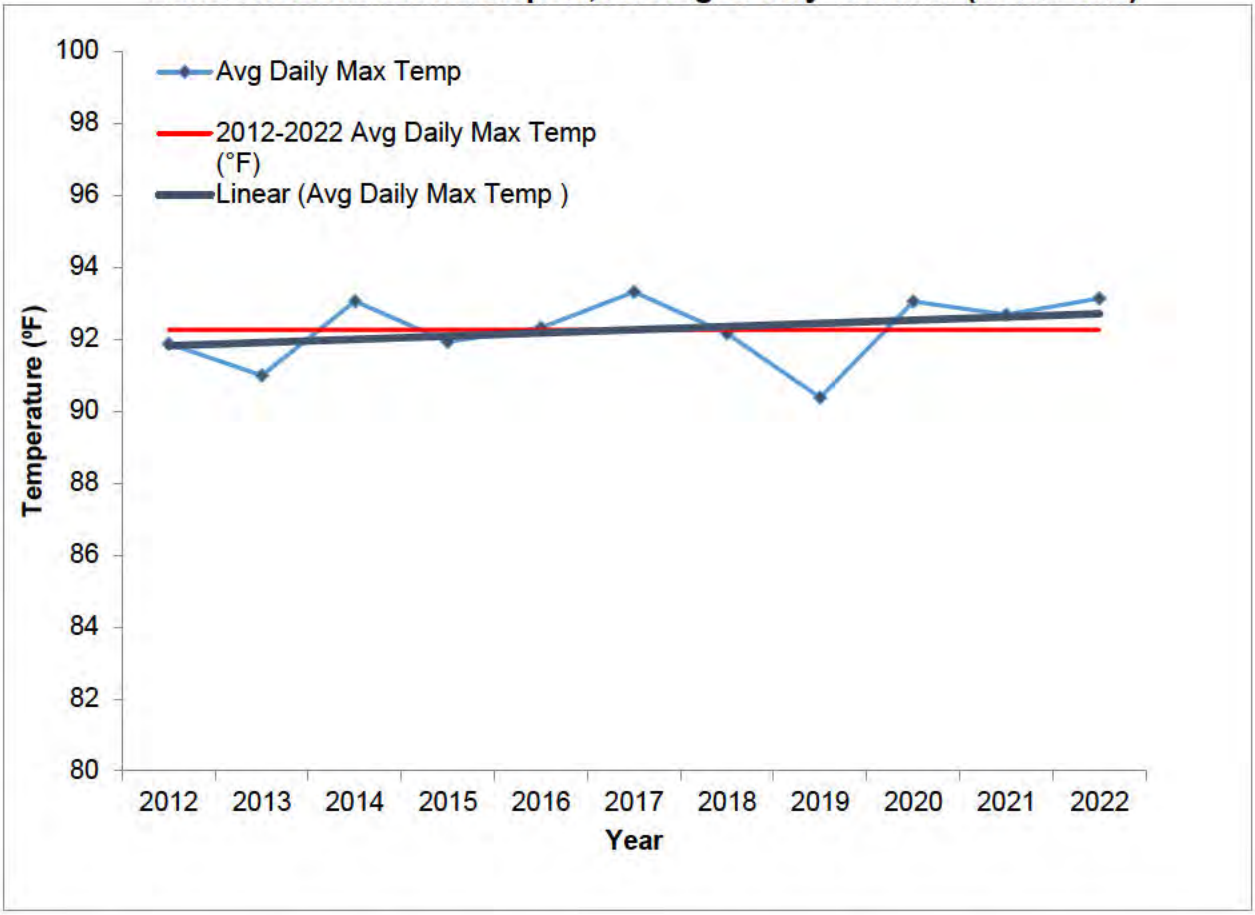


Figure B-7 through Figure B-9 compare the annual number of days with high temperatures (≥95˚F) at the Stockton, FYI, and the BM Airports to the annual number of days exceeding the 1-hour ozone standard locally (County) for 2012 to 2022.

Figure B-7 Number of Days per Year with High Temperatures ≥ 95ºF at Stockton Airport (May-October) and Days Exceeding the 1-hour Ozone NAAQS (2012-2022)

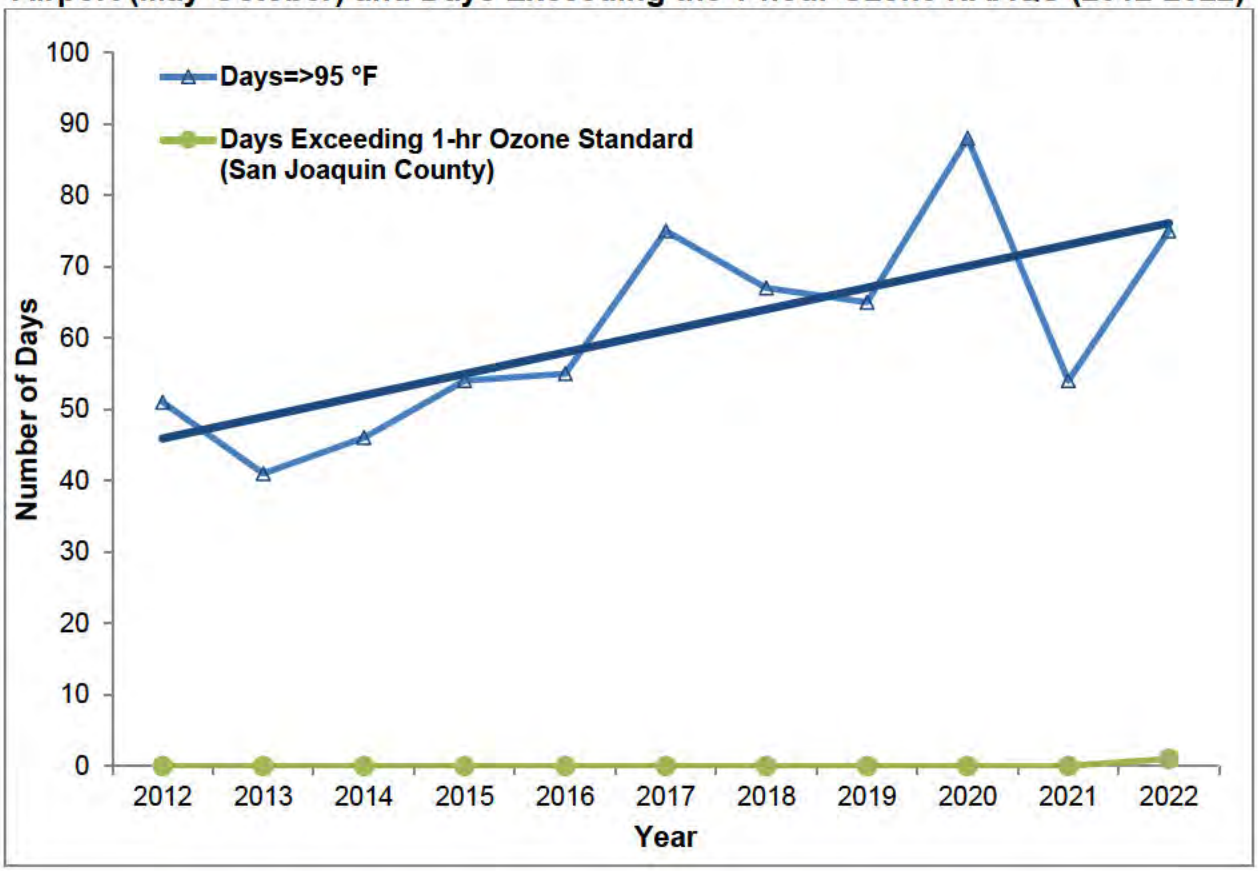


Figure B-8 Number of Days per Year with High Temperatures ≥ 95ºF at Fresno Yosemite International Airport (May-October) and Days Exceeding the 1-hour Ozone NAAQS (2012-2022)

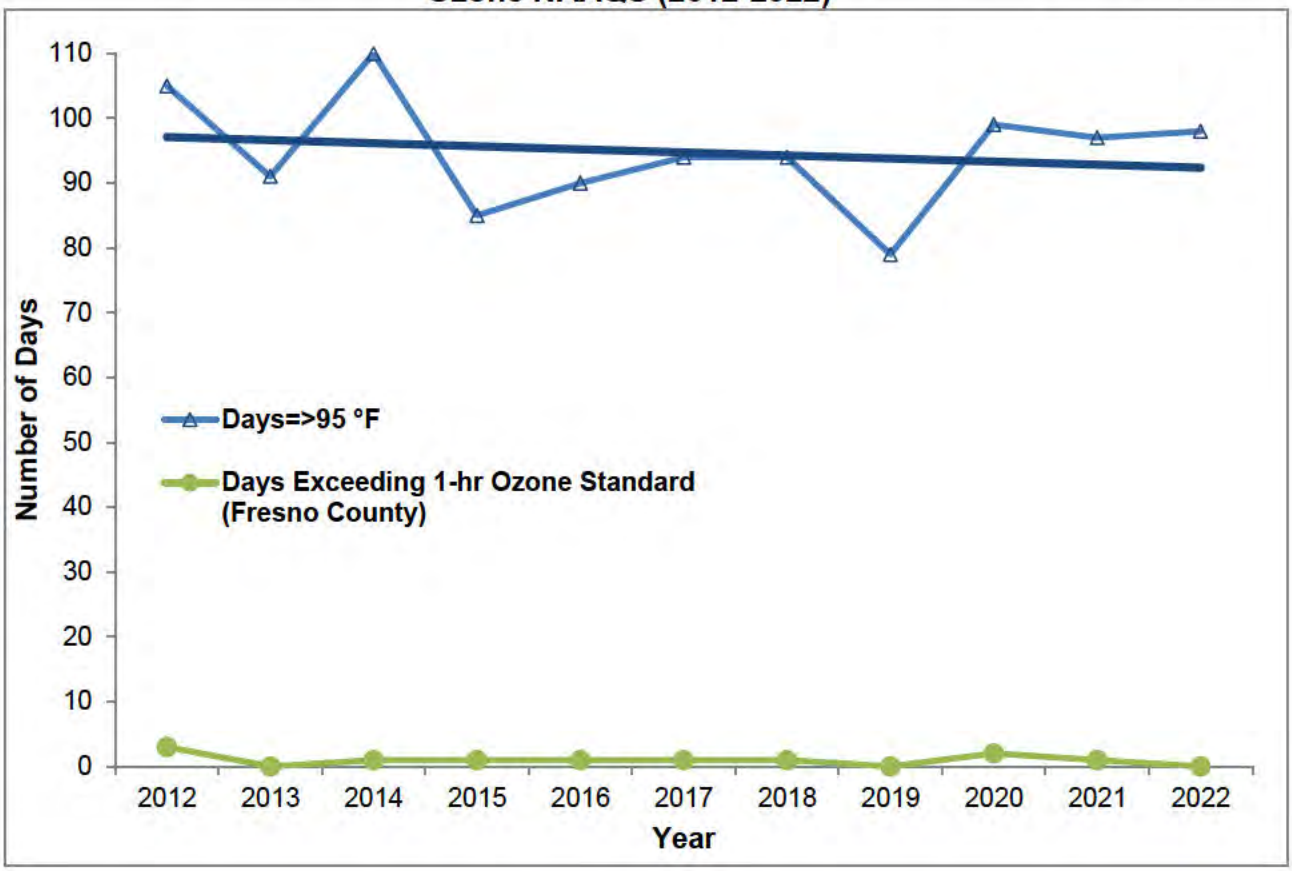
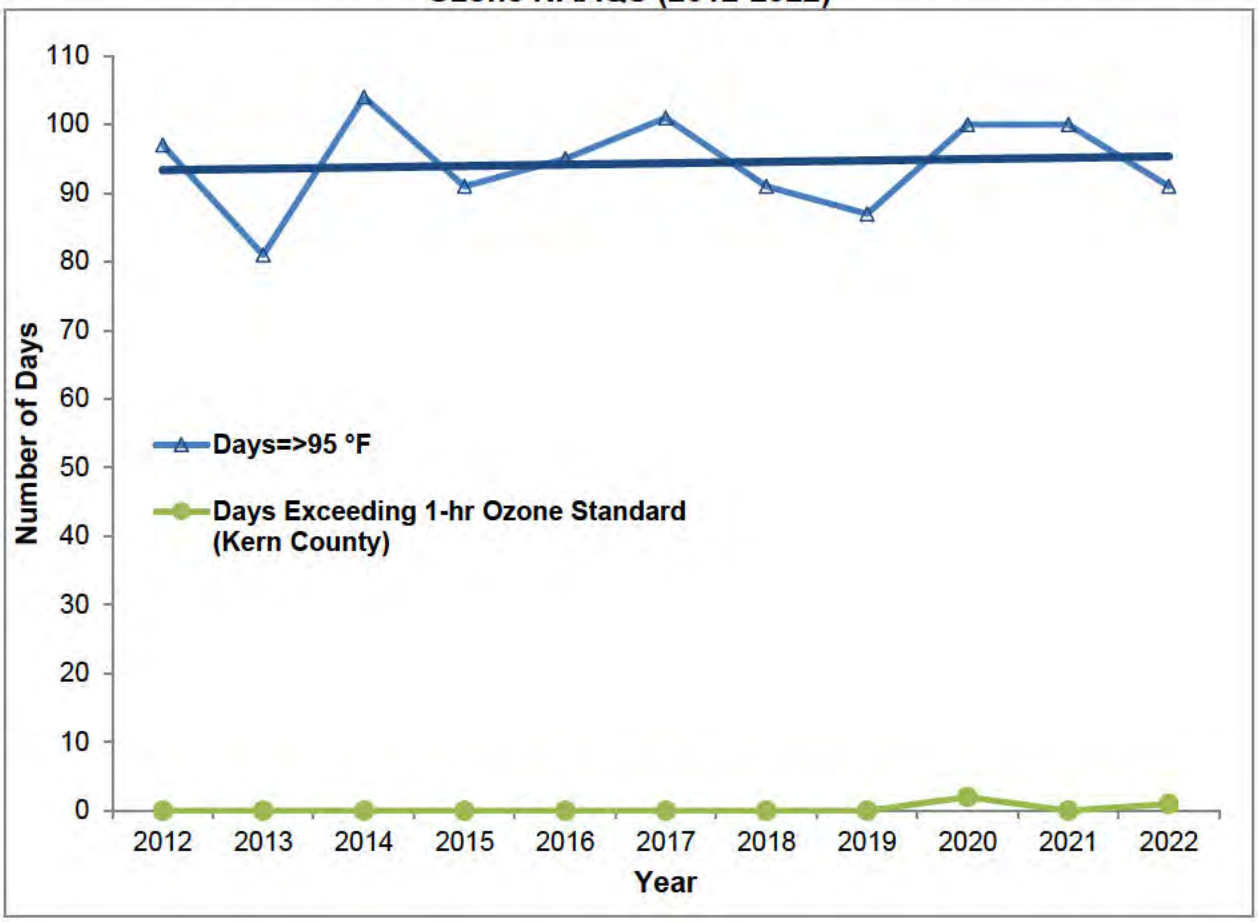


Figure B-9 Number of Days per Year with High Temperatures ≥ 95ºF at Bakersfield Meadows Airport (May-October) and Days Exceeding the 1-hour Ozone NAAQS (2012-2022)



Drought in the San Joaquin Valley

As described in Section 4, the San Joaquin Valley was declared in a State of Emergency due to severe drought conditions in 2021. The District is located in an arid climate with hot, dry summers, and cool, wet winters. Sunlight is necessary in order to form ozone and increased cloud cover can deter the ozone life cycle. Additionally, precipitation generally accompanies dispersive low pressure systems that move through the region and reduce ozone concentrations. During the winter and early spring the Valley tends to receive the most precipitation, with the highest rainfall in January, March, and December. Likewise the lowest ozone concentrations are typically measured during these periods, due to increased dispersion and cloud cover.

Drought conditions are often coupled with warmer temperatures, and longer periods of poor dispersion. Periods with minimal precipitation can be correlated with poor dispersion and increased ozone concentrations. Months with minimal to no precipitation are highlighted yellow in Table B-4, Table B-5, and Table B-6 below. High pressure systems and drought conditions tend to dominate during the summer season with hot

temperatures and stagnation. The lack of dispersion coupled with the dry conditions easily exacerbates ozone formation and contributes to elevated ozone concentrations throughout the summer months, as shown in Figure B-10, Figure B-11, and Figure B-12.

Even with the described drought conditions, which could cause for elevated ozone concentrations, the District has maintained the 1-hour ozone standard for nearly a decade. This provides further assurance that unusually favorable meteorology did not cause for the attainment nor maintenance of the 1-hour ozone standard.

Table B-4 Modesto, CA monthly precipitation for the period 2000-2022[4]

Month	Monthly Precipitation (Inches)					
	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	2.4	2.3	2.0	0.7	3.9	0.0
February	2.2	1.6	2.9	0.0	0.9	0.0
March	1.3	1.9	2.6	1.9	0.7	0.6
April	1.2	1.3	0.2	1.0	0.0	0.2
May	0.5	0.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
June	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
July	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
August	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
September	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
October	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0
November	0.9	1.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.2
December	2.6	2.2	2.6	1.4	5.1	6.9

Table B-5 Fresno, CA monthly precipitation for the period 2000-2022[5]

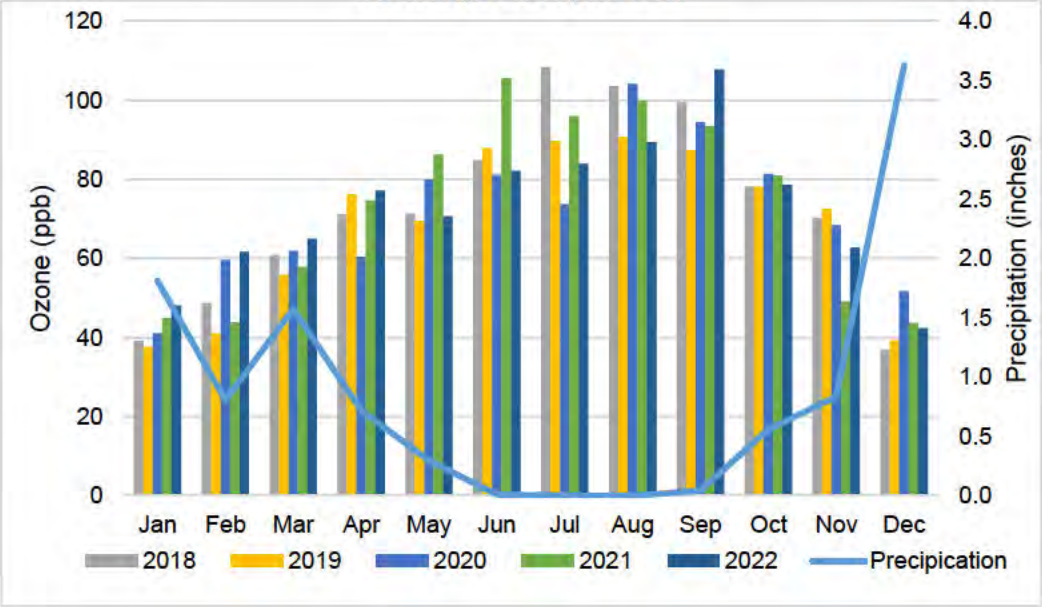
Month	Monthly Precipitation (Inches)					
	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	1.9	2.0	2.2	0.7	3.4	0.0
February	2.2	1.4	3.3	0.0	0.3	0.0
March	1.4	1.8	1.3	2.3	1.3	0.7
April	1.2	1.3	0.4	1.7	0.2	0.3
May	0.4	0.2	2.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
June	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
July	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
August	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
September	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
October	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0
November	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.7
December	2.3	1.8	2.2	1.1	3.6	-----

[4] Source: Western Region Climate Center https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?ca5738
[5] Source: Western Region Climate Center https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?ca3257

Table B-6 Bakersfield, CA monthly precipitation for the period 2000-2022[6]

Month	Monthly Precipitation (Inches)					
	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	1.1	2.3	2.0	0.7	3.9	0.0
February	1.4	1.6	2.9	0.0	0.9	0.0
March	0.8	1.9	2.6	1.9	0.7	0.6
April	0.8	1.3	0.2	1.0	0.0	0.2
May	0.2	0.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
June	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
July	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
August	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
September	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
October	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0
November	0.6	1.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.2
December	1.1	2.2	2.6	1.4	5.1	6.9

Figure B-10 Turlock 1-hour Ozone Max Concentrations and Modesto City Airport Monthly Precipitation



[6] Source: Western Region Climate Center https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?ca0442

Figure B-11 Fresno-Garland 1-hour Ozone Max Concentrations and Fresno Air Terminal Airport Monthly Precipitation

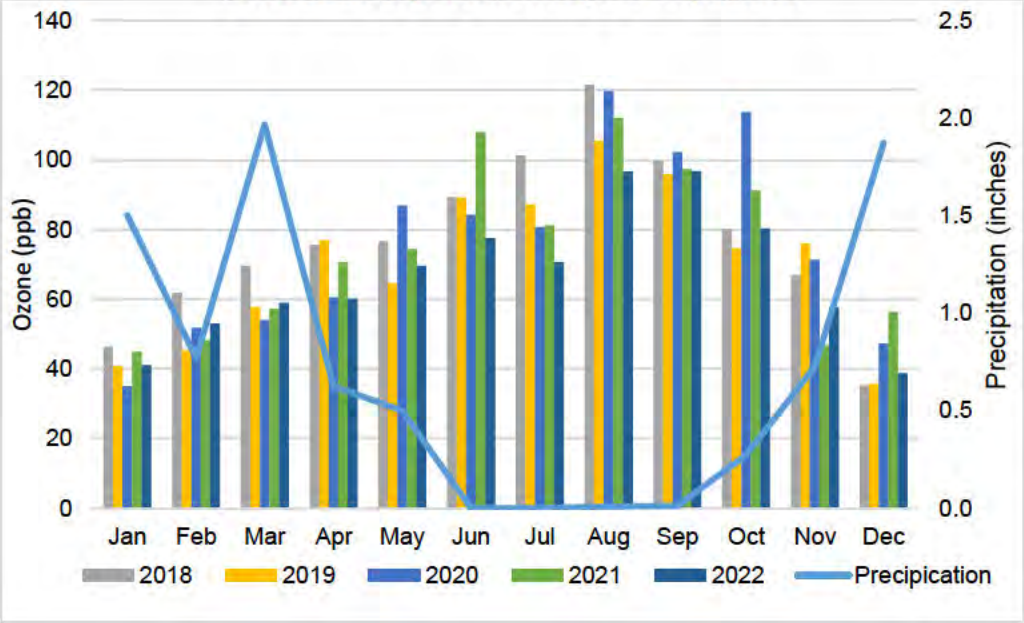
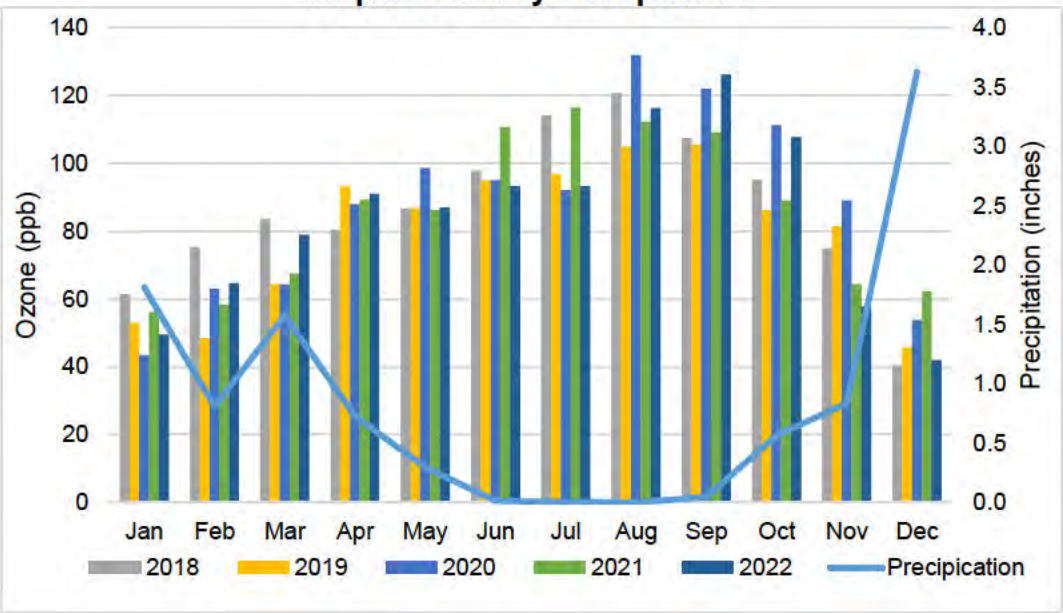


Figure B-12 Edison 1-hour Ozone Max Concentrations and Bakersfield Meadows Airport Monthly Precipitation



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Fresno County 2023-2060 Growth Projections

Prepared by:

Fresno Council of Governments
Applied Development Economics, Inc

October 17, 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This report updates the growth projections for Fresno County and the spheres of influence of each of its cities previously published in 2020. The new projections utilize a base year of 2022. This report developed by the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) is to assist with updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as well as the Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS).

Applied Development Economics, Inc collaborated with Fresno COG staff to revise the county's projections to the 2022 to 2060 timeframe, using latest population estimation and projection from California Department of Finance(DOF), detailed demographics data from 2020 Census, and vital statistics in last decade.

In September 2024, the DOF Demographic Research Unit released the Population Projections, 2020-2070, indicating slower growth compared to earlier projections. The 2023 Baseline release (2024.09.23) suggests that Fresno County's population will be 7% lower in 2035 and 9% lower in 2050 than projected in 2019. FCOG staff has revised the county-level population projection to align with DOF's most recent release.

The updated projection anticipate a population increase of 117,980 in Fresno County from 2022 to 2060, with the total population peaking at 1,131,120 in 2055 before declining to 1,128,530 by 2060.

Regarding job growth, the updated forecast predicts the addition of 77,170 wage and salary jobs in the county between 2022 and 2060, translating to an average annual growth of approximately 2,030 jobs over the 38-year period.

In addition to the population and employment projections, the report includes projections of demographic characteristics and housing demand, including the following:

- Households
- Average Household Size
- Group Quarters Population
- Average Income
- Housing
- House Unit Type
- Age Distribution
- Race/Ethnicity
- School Enrollment

Table 1 – Population and Employment Projections by Jurisdiction Sphere of Influence

Jurisdiction	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Total Population									
County Total	1,010,550	1,017,950	1,041,670	1,066,610	1,090,820	1,111,570	1,125,490	1,131,120	1,128,530
Clovis SOI	126,960	129,050	136,500	142,490	148,310	153,300	156,650	158,000	157,380
Coalinga SOI	17,290	17,300	17,530	17,770	17,990	18,190	18,320	18,370	18,350
Firebaugh SOI	8,420	8,410	8,670	8,830	8,990	9,120	9,210	9,250	9,230
Fowler SOI	7,310	7,660	8,240	8,910	9,550	10,110	10,480	10,630	10,560
Fresno SOI (incl. county islands)	592,280	595,370	605,800	617,840	629,520	639,540	646,260	648,980	647,730
Huron SOI	6,170	6,230	6,260	6,390	6,520	6,630	6,710	6,740	6,720
Kerman SOI	16,830	17,360	18,510	19,650	20,750	21,700	22,340	22,600	22,480
Kingsburg SOI	12,750	13,210	13,750	14,550	15,340	16,010	16,460	16,650	16,560
Mendota SOI	12,500	12,530	13,070	13,400	13,710	13,980	14,170	14,240	14,210
Orange Cove SOI	9,590	9,600	9,670	9,780	9,890	9,990	10,050	10,070	10,060
Parlier SOI	15,030	15,040	15,060	15,200	15,340	15,450	15,530	15,560	15,550
Reedley SOI	25,290	25,830	25,900	26,740	27,550	28,250	28,710	28,900	28,820
Sanger SOI	27,040	27,040	27,540	27,940	28,330	28,670	28,900	28,990	28,940
San Joaquin SOI	3,670	3,610	3,640	3,670	3,700	3,720	3,740	3,750	3,740
Selma SOI	26,540	26,650	28,250	29,150	30,030	30,790	31,290	31,490	31,400
Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs)	102,880	103,050	103,280	104,290	105,280	106,120	106,680	106,910	106,800
Total Jobs									
County Total	414,750	421,140	432,740	442,600	454,800	466,150	476,330	484,780	491,920
Clovis SOI	40,550	41,260	43,220	44,860	46,580	48,130	49,430	50,390	51,050
Coalinga SOI	5,010	5,020	5,100	5,170	5,250	5,320	5,380	5,420	5,460
Firebaugh SOI	2,230	2,160	2,320	2,450	2,590	2,720	2,840	2,950	3,050
Fowler SOI	3,990	4,190	4,390	4,680	5,000	5,290	5,590	5,810	6,010
Fresno SOI (incl. county islands)	260,210	260,420	265,950	271,760	277,970	283,670	288,820	293,150	296,870
Huron SOI	1,080	1,140	1,170	1,230	1,280	1,340	1,390	1,430	1,460
Kerman SOI	4,320	4,560	4,860	5,160	5,470	5,760	5,990	6,170	6,280
Kingsburg SOI	5,240	5,320	5,580	5,880	6,210	6,500	6,760	6,970	7,140
Mendota SOI	1,830	1,820	1,960	2,060	2,160	2,250	2,330	2,390	2,430
Orange Cove SOI	960	970	990	1,020	1,050	1,080	1,100	1,120	1,130
Parlier SOI	2,550	2,540	2,610	2,700	2,790	2,880	2,970	3,040	3,100
Reedley SOI	8,120	8,400	8,520	8,800	9,100	9,370	9,610	9,800	9,940
Sanger SOI	9,800	9,720	10,050	10,340	10,660	10,960	11,240	11,480	11,700
San Joaquin SOI	650	630	640	650	660	670	680	690	690
Selma SOI	9,280	11,510	12,490	11,320	11,670	12,000	12,290	12,520	12,710
Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs)	58,920	61,480	62,890	64,580	66,360	68,210	69,910	71,450	72,900

2060 GROWTH PROJECTIONS

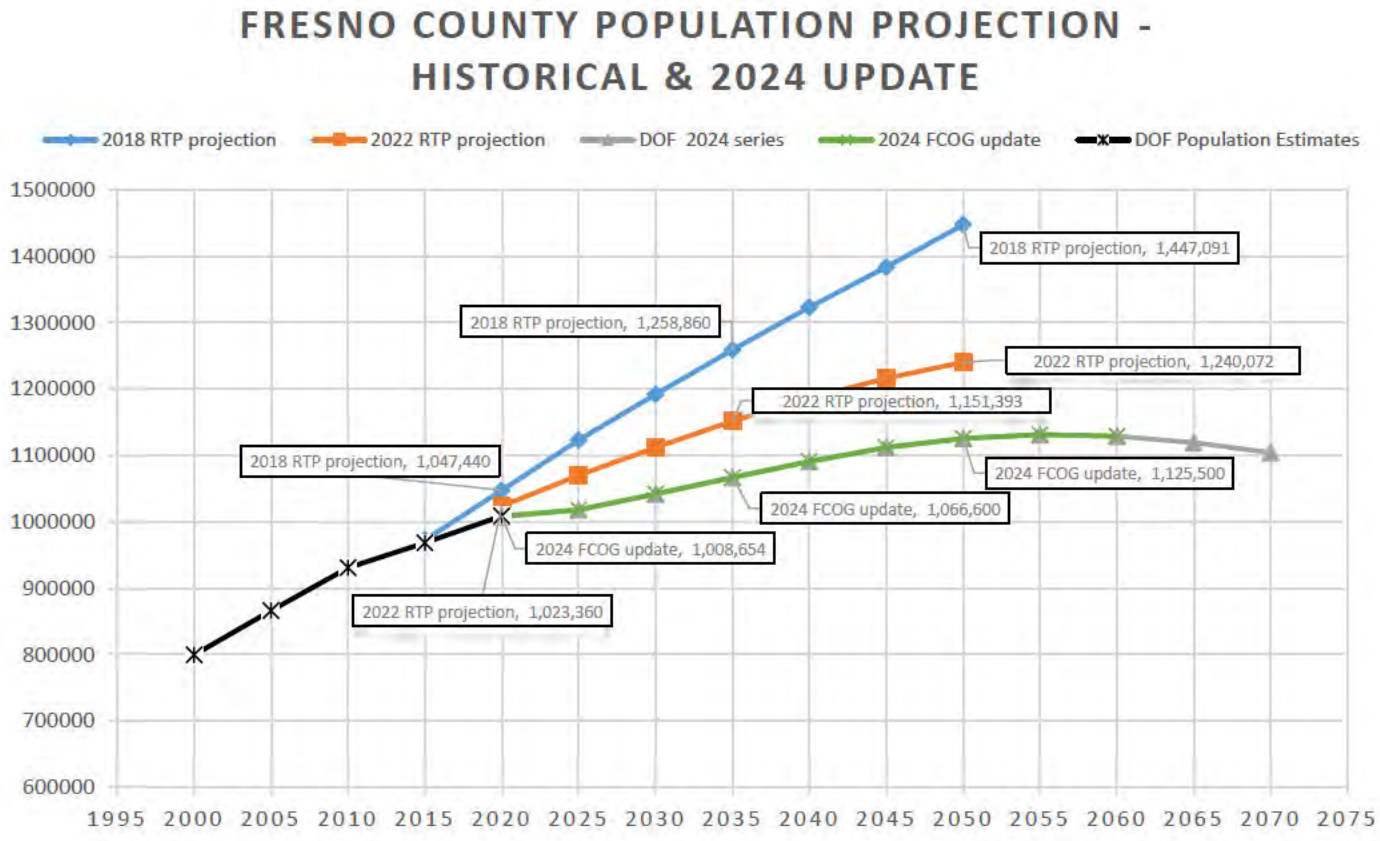
INTRODUCTION

This report presents updated projections for employment, population, housing and demographic characteristics for the Fresno County region. The current projections update the base year to 2022 and extend the projections to 2060. And the age group, sex, race, and ethnicity data for each jurisdiction have been updated based on the 2020 Census. The study process included outreach to the jurisdictions in the county to review local planning policies and development trends.

COMPARISON TO PRIOR PROJECTIONS

The updated projection indicates slower population growth, primarily due to revised vital statistics showing that the birth rate has been steadily declining since the early 2000s. Compared to the projection used in 2022 RTP, the updated forecast projects that Fresno County would have 7% less population in 2035, 9% less population in 2050, and 53% less population growth from 2020 to 2035, 45% less population growth from 2020 to 2050.

Figure below shows the population estimations since year 2000, and comparison to prior projections applied in Fresno COG' 2018 and 2022 RTPs, which aligned with historical DOF projections.



2060 GROWTH PROJECTIONS

POPULATION

Fresno County is projected to gain nearly 118,000 residents by 2060. The City of Fresno would experience the largest increase of 55,450 people, followed by Clovis with 30,420. In terms of growth rates, Fowler and Kerman are projected to see faster growth compared to other areas.

Table 2 – Total Population Projections by Jurisdiction, 2022-2060

Jurisdiction	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060	2022-2060 change	2022-2060 annual growth rate
Fresno County	1,010,550	1,017,950	1,041,670	1,066,610	1,090,820	1,111,570	1,125,490	1,131,120	1,128,530	117,980	0.3%
Clovis and SOI	126,960	129,050	136,500	142,490	148,310	153,300	156,650	158,000	157,380	30,420	0.6%
Coalinga and SOI	17,290	17,300	17,530	17,770	17,990	18,190	18,320	18,370	18,350	1,050	0.2%
Firebaugh and SOI	8,420	8,410	8,670	8,830	8,990	9,120	9,210	9,250	9,230	810	0.2%
Fowler and SOI	7,310	7,660	8,240	8,910	9,550	10,110	10,480	10,630	10,560	3,250	1.0%
Fresno and SOI (incl. county islands)	592,280	595,370	605,800	617,840	629,520	639,540	646,260	648,980	647,730	55,450	0.2%
Huron and SOI	6,170	6,230	6,260	6,390	6,520	6,630	6,710	6,740	6,720	560	0.2%
Kerman and SOI	16,830	17,360	18,510	19,650	20,750	21,700	22,340	22,600	22,480	5,650	0.8%
Kingsburg and SOI	12,750	13,210	13,750	14,550	15,340	16,010	16,460	16,650	16,560	3,810	0.7%
Mendota and SOI	12,500	12,530	13,070	13,400	13,710	13,980	14,170	14,240	14,210	1,710	0.3%
Orange Cove and SOI	9,590	9,600	9,670	9,780	9,890	9,990	10,050	10,070	10,060	470	0.1%
Parlier and SOI	15,030	15,040	15,060	15,200	15,340	15,450	15,530	15,560	15,550	520	0.1%
Reedley and SOI	25,290	25,830	25,900	26,740	27,550	28,250	28,710	28,900	28,820	3,520	0.3%
Sanger and SOI	27,040	27,040	27,540	27,940	28,330	28,670	28,900	28,990	28,940	1,910	0.2%
San Joaquin and SOI	3,670	3,610	3,640	3,670	3,700	3,720	3,740	3,750	3740	80	0.0%
Selma and SOI	26,540	26,650	28,250	29,150	30,030	30,790	31,290	31,490	31,400	4,860	0.4%
Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs)	102,880	103,050	103,280	104,290	105,280	106,120	106,680	106,910	106,800	3,920	0.1%

HOUSEHOLDS

As of 2022, there are 991,830 individuals living in households and 18,720 in group quarters, which include correctional facilities, dormitories, and nursing facilities. Fresno County had approximately 327,030 households in 2022, with an average household size of 3.03 people. The number of households in the county is expected to increase by 42,790, reaching a total of 369,820 by 2060. The average household size is projected to remain around 3.00.

Table 3 – Projections of Household and Group Quarters Populations

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	1,010,550	991,830	18,720	327,030	3.03
2025	1,017,950	999,150	18,800	331,990	3.01
2030	1,041,670	1,022,250	19,420	343,200	2.98
2035	1,066,610	1,047,050	19,560	351,590	2.98
2040	1,090,820	1,071,120	19,700	357,300	2.99
2045	1,111,570	1,091,630	19,940	362,970	3.00
2050	1,125,490	1,105,380	20,110	367,580	3.00
2055	1,131,120	1,110,930	20,190	370,670	2.99
2060	1,128,530	1,108,390	20,140	369,820	2.99
2022-2060 change	117,980	116,560	1,420	42,790	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.30%	

Table 4 – Household Projections by Jurisdiction, 2022 - 2060

Jurisdiction	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060	2022-2060 change
Fresno County	327,027	331,896	343,198	351,580	357,305	362,973	367,576	370,674	369,819	42,792
Clovis and SOI	45,318	46,841	49,705	51,888	53,645	55,264	56,470	57,149	56,924	11,607
Coalinga and SOI	4,304	4,372	4,517	4,660	4,760	4,812	4,859	4,890	4,883	579
Firebaugh and SOI	2,238	2,280	2,358	2,401	2,427	2,455	2,479	2,497	2,492	255
Fowler and SOI	2,271	2,421	2,614	2,825	3,009	3,173	3,289	3,348	3,326	1,055
Fresno and SOI (incl. county islands)	195,577	197,366	203,870	207,914	210,426	213,059	215,297	216,928	216,511	20,934
Huron and SOI	1,588	1,635	1,647	1,682	1,705	1,728	1,747	1,761	1,757	169
Kerman and SOI	4,705	4,947	5,293	5,619	5,896	6,145	6,325	6,420	6,386	1,681
Kingsburg and SOI	4,441	4,692	4,899	5,187	5,430	5,650	5,809	5,893	5,863	1,422
Mendota and SOI	2,851	2,909	3,045	3,121	3,173	3,225	3,267	3,295	3,288	437
Orange Cove and SOI	2,439	2,480	2,506	2,535	2,546	2,562	2,578	2,593	2,590	151
Parlier and SOI	3,768	3,825	3,844	3,879	3,888	3,904	3,924	3,945	3,941	173
Reedley and SOI	7,244	7,506	7,549	7,793	7,976	8,150	8,285	8,368	8,343	1,099
Sanger and SOI	7,815	7,962	8,133	8,252	8,312	8,382	8,448	8,503	8,491	676
San Joaquin and SOI	902	913	922	929	930	934	938	943	942	39
Selma and SOI	7,614	7,809	8,303	8,569	8,768	8,958	9,104	9,195	9,167	1,553
Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs)	33,951	33,938	33,992	34,324	34,414	34,573	34,756	34,947	34,913	962

HOUSING UNITS

Considering population projections, household projections, vacant stock, and other factors such as healthy vacancy rates, overcrowding levels and residential replacement units, we anticipate a demand for 69,470 new residential units from 2022 to 2060. Based on statistics of new units constructed in the last decade, building permit information from the past 5 years , and the general plans of each city in Fresno County, we estimate that 49,900 (72 percent) will be single-family units, while the remaining 19,560 units (28 percent) will be multi-family dwellings.

Table 5 – Projected Market Demand for New Housing Units by Unit Building Type, 2022-2060

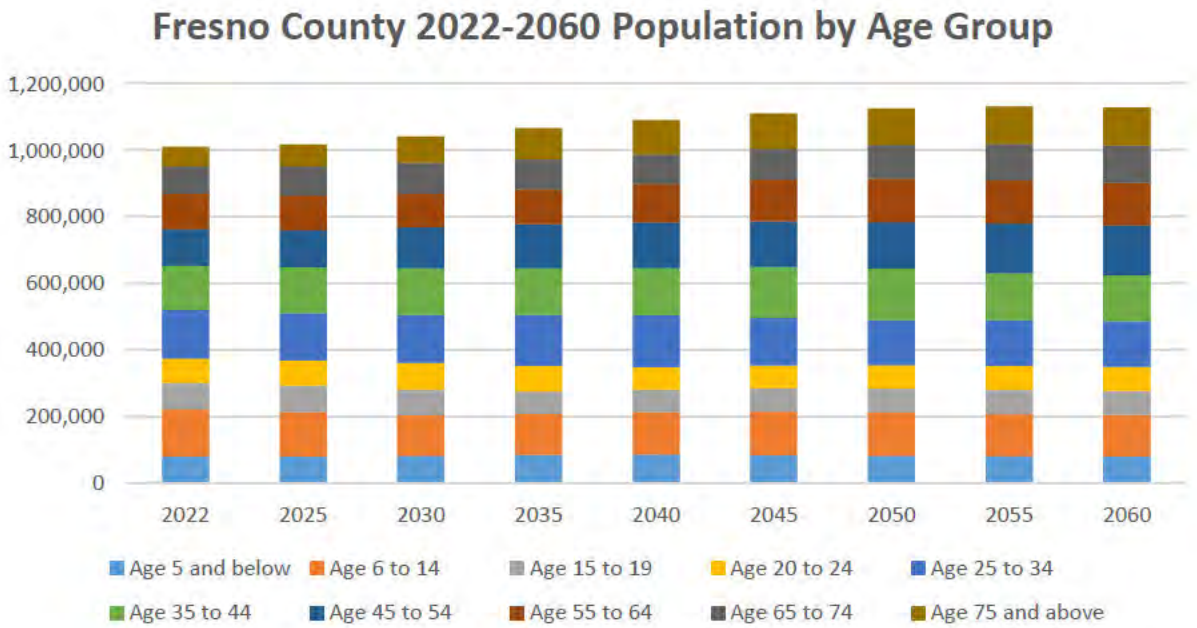
Jurisdiction	New Units Demand 2022-2060	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
County Total	69,470	49,900	19,560
Clovis SOI	12,700	10,740	1,960
Coalinga SOI	930	480	450
Firebaugh SOI	570	400	170
Fowler SOI	1,180	920	270
Fresno SOI (incl. county islands)	37,600	24,070	13,530
Huron SOI	620	240	390
Kerman SOI	2,620	2,330	290
Kingsburg SOI	1,630	1,200	440
Mendota SOI	1,350	1,190	160
Orange Cove SOI	580	330	240
Parlier SOI	650	500	150
Reedley SOI	1,990	1,250	740
Sanger SOI	1,620	1,140	480
San Joaquin SOI	220	210	10
Selma SOI	2,360	2,240	120
Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs)	2,850	2,690	160

AGE GROUP

As shown in the table below, while the overall population is projected to grow at an annual rate of 0.29 percent between 2022 and 2060, older age cohorts aged 45 and above are projected to grow at a faster rate. Specifically, the number of individuals aged 65 to 74 is anticipated to increase by 0.8 percent each year, while those aged 75 and older are projected to grow by 1.8 percent annually. By 2060, individuals aged 65 and over will make up 20.0 percent of the total population, compared to their current share of 13.9 percent. In contrast, younger age groups between 6 and 34 years are expected to experience a decline in population.

Table 6 – Population Projections by Age Group

Age Group	2022	2060	2022-2060 Change	2022-2060 annual growth rate	2022 Share	2060 Share
Fresno County Total	1,010,550	1,128,530	117,980	0.29%	100.00%	100.00%
5 and below	81,330	81,740	410	0.01%	8.05%	7.24%
6 to 14	142,420	124,450	-17,970	-0.35%	14.09%	11.03%
15 to 19	78,900	71,820	-7,080	-0.25%	7.81%	6.36%
20 to 24	72,980	71,990	-990	-0.04%	7.22%	6.38%
25 to 34	145,360	138,070	-7,290	-0.14%	14.38%	12.23%
35 to 44	132,560	136,810	4,250	0.08%	13.12%	12.12%
45 to 54	109,310	149,950	40,640	0.84%	10.82%	13.29%
55 to 64	106,800	127,760	20,960	0.47%	10.57%	11.32%
65 to 74	83,250	112,500	29,250	0.80%	8.24%	9.97%
75 and above	57,650	113,440	55,790	1.80%	5.70%	10.05%



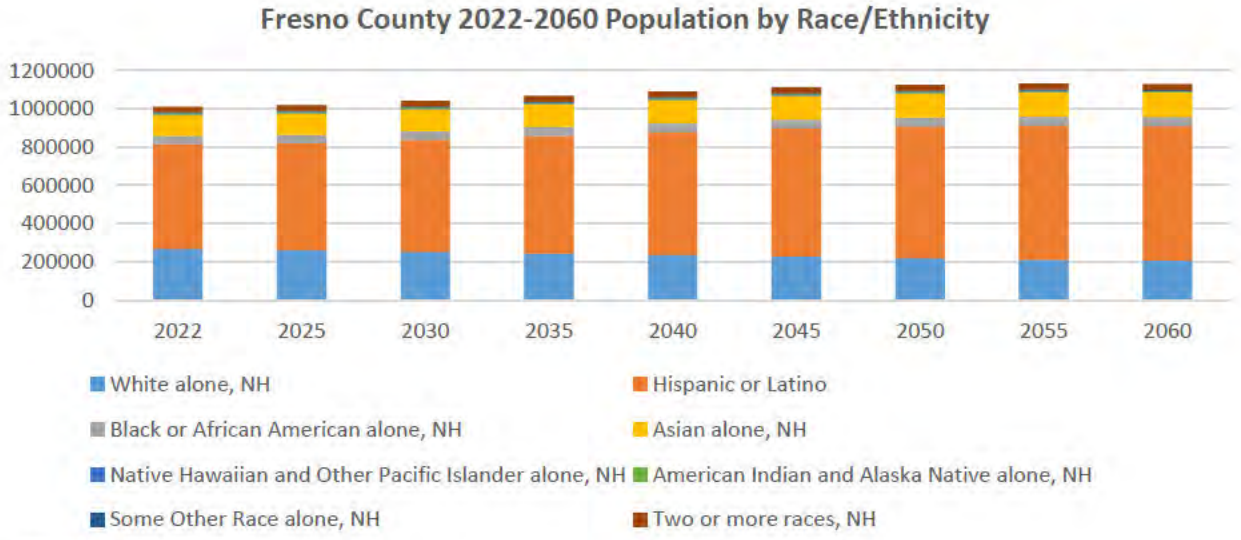
RACE/ETHNICITY

In Fresno County, out of a total population of 1,010,550, Hispanic or Latino individuals represent the largest racial/ethnic group, totaling 546,390 (54.1 percent). White individuals who are not Hispanic or Latino are the second largest group, with a population of 267,220 (26.4 percent). The Hispanic or Latino population is projected to grow to 703,260 (62.3 percent) by 2060, an increase of 156,870 individuals between 2022 and 2060. In contrast, the White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population is expected to decline to 207,040, a decrease of 60,180 from its current level.

Table 7 – Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	2022	2060	2022-2060 Change	2022-2060 annual growth rate	2022 Share	2060 Share
Fresno County	1,010,550	1,128,530	117,980	0.29%	100.00%	100.00%
White alone, NH	267,220	207,040	-60,180	-0.67%	26.44%	18.35%
Hispanic or Latino	546,390	703,260	156,870	0.67%	54.07%	62.32%
Black or African American alone, NH	44,260	47,400	3,140	0.18%	4.38%	4.20%
Asian alone, NH	110,640	127,170	16,530	0.37%	10.95%	11.27%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	1,250	1,250	0	0.00%	0.12%	0.11%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	6,060	5,640	-420	-0.19%	0.60%	0.50%
Some Other Race alone, NH	5,240	5,770	530	0.25%	0.52%	0.51%
Two or more races, NH	29,500	31,010	1,510	0.13%	2.92%	2.75%

NH: not Hispanic or Latino



NH: not Hispanic or Latino

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

In 2022, Fresno County is estimated to have approximately 220,496 school-aged children. This projection combines the school-aged youth population from Fresno COG's estimates with the K-12 participation rate from the California Department of Finance (DOF). It anticipates that K-12 public school enrollment will decrease to 192,984 by 2050, which is 11,170 fewer than the 2022 enrollment figure of 204,154

Table 8 - Fresno County Public School Enrollment of School-Age Children

Year	Total School-Age Youth (5 to 18)	K-12 Enrollment Projections	Participation Rate
2022	220,496	204,154	92.59%
2025	210,190	199,521	94.92%
2030	196,569	189,999	96.66%
2035	190,295	185,207	97.33%
2040	196,001	192,689	98.31%
2045	200,145	197,717	98.79%
2050	201,629	199,182	98.79%
2055	198,102	195,699	98.79%
2060	195,354	192,984	98.79%
2022-2060 change	-25,141	-11,170	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	-0.32%	-0.15%	

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The income projection indicates a steady increase in average household income over the coming decades. The projected average household incomes declines in 2022 to 2024, then recover in 2026. The growth accelerates in subsequent years, reaching approximately $102,970 by 2035. By 2060, the average household income is projected to reach $128,920, demonstrating consistent growth throughout the period. Overall, this projection suggests a positive economic outlook for households, with an overall increase of nearly $34,490 from 2022 to 2060.

Table 9 - Fresno County Household Income Projection

	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Mean Household Income (In 2022 Dollar)	$94,430	$93,570	$97,840	$102,970	$108,650	$114,230	$119,440	$124,150	$128,920
Annual Growth Rate		-0.30%	0.90%	1.03%	1.08%	1.01%	0.90%	0.78%	0.76%

EMPLOYMENT

The total employment have recovered to the pre-pandemic level since fall of 2022. Total jobs in Fresno County are projected to increase by 77,170 jobs, from 414,750 in 2022 to 491,920 in 2060. This reflects a 0.45 percent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the entire period. The industrial sector is projected to have the highest growth rate.

Table 10 - Fresno County Employment Projections by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	68,200	67,870	71,460	74,920	78,790	82,460	86,330	90,300	94,570
Retail	39,390	39,800	41,200	42,400	43,300	44,200	44,800	45,100	45,300
Office	50,350	50,800	52,400	54,200	56,200	58,000	59,700	61,300	62,800
Education	38,880	39,190	40,180	41,060	42,040	42,810	43,390	43,570	43,460
Health/Medical	75,170	75,780	76,960	78,250	79,540	80,630	81,420	81,810	81,800
Services	18,700	19,000	20,000	20,950	21,950	22,750	23,350	23,750	23,750
Food	32,360	32,710	33,420	34,380	35,090	35,800	36,320	36,630	36,740
Other	67,250	71,200	71,800	70,600	71,400	72,500	73,500	74,500	75,500
Government	24,450	24,800	25,300	25,900	26,500	27,000	27,500	27,800	28,000
Total	**414,750**	**421,150**	**432,720**	**442,660**	**454,810**	**466,150**	**476,310**	**484,760**	**491,920**
Total Annual Growth Rate		0.51%	0.54%	0.46%	0.54%	0.49%	0.43%	0.35%	0.29%

Table 11 – Employment Projections by Jurisdiction, 2022-2060

Jurisdiction	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060	2022 Share	2060 Share
County Total	414,750	421,140	432,740	442,600	454,800	466,150	476,330	484,780	491,920	100.00%	100.00%
Clovis SOI	40,550	41,260	43,220	44,860	46,580	48,130	49,430	50,390	51,050	9.8%	9.8%
Coalinga SOI	5,010	5,020	5,100	5,170	5,250	5,320	5,380	5,420	5,460	1.2%	1.2%
Firebaugh SOI	2,230	2,160	2,320	2,450	2,590	2,720	2,840	2,950	3,050	0.5%	0.5%
Fowler SOI	3,990	4,190	4,390	4,680	5,000	5,290	5,590	5,810	6,010	1.0%	1.0%
Fresno SOI (incl. county islands)	260,210	260,420	265,950	271,760	277,970	283,670	288,820	293,150	296,870	62.7%	61.8%
Huron SOI	1,080	1,140	1,170	1,230	1,280	1,340	1,390	1,430	1,460	0.3%	0.3%
Kerman SOI	4,320	4,560	4,860	5,160	5,470	5,760	5,990	6,170	6,280	1.0%	1.1%
Kingsburg SOI	5,240	5,320	5,580	5,880	6,210	6,500	6,760	6,970	7,140	1.3%	1.3%
Mendota SOI	1,830	1,820	1,960	2,060	2,160	2,250	2,330	2,390	2,430	0.4%	0.4%
Orange Cove SOI	960	970	990	1,020	1,050	1,080	1,100	1,120	1,130	0.2%	0.2%
Parlier SOI	2,550	2,540	2,610	2,700	2,790	2,880	2,970	3,040	3,100	0.6%	0.6%
Reedley SOI	8,120	8,400	8,520	8,800	9,100	9,370	9,610	9,800	9,940	2.0%	2.0%
Sanger SOI	9,800	9,720	10,050	10,340	10,660	10,960	11,240	11,480	11,700	2.4%	2.3%
San Joaquin SOI	650	630	640	650	660	670	680	690	690	0.2%	0.1%
Selma SOI	9,280	11,510	12,490	11,320	11,670	12,000	12,290	12,520	12,710	2.2%	2.7%
Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs)	58,920	61,480	62,890	64,580	66,360	68,210	69,910	71,450	72,900	14.2%	14.6%

METHODOLOGY

The study process began by developing a range of total population and employment projections for the county as a whole, reflecting varying assumptions about Fresno County's future share of regional growth as well as trends in industry growth. The employment projection methodology used an economic base approach, forecasting export industry sectors, while local serving business sectors follow growth in the economic base and in the population.

This report consulted a variety of data sources on employment, population and demographic data. A brief description of these sources is provided below. A more complete description of the underlying methodology may be found in the Fresno COG Projections 2015-2050 Report published in 2017.

CA Employment Development Department (EDD). Data includes historical labor force and wage and salary jobs by industry from the Census of Employment and Wages (CEW). This report used the 2022 countywide figures as the baseline for employment projections and the Fresno COG SOI data as the baseline for city projections.

CA Department of Finance (DOF). This report utilizes the total population estimates for 2022 and 2023 from the DOF as the baseline for our population projections. We adjusted our forecast to align with the most recent DOF projections(Sep. 2024) for Fresno county. Additionally, we incorporated DOF's historical estimates related to population and housing into our forecast.

Decennial Census & American Community Survey (ACS)

We gathered 2020 Census Decennial population data by age, sex and race at city-level. And information on vacancy rate and overcrowding rate was obtained from 2018-2022 5-year ACS, while average household income was sourced from 2022 1-year ACS.

Woods and Poole (W&P)

W&P is an independent economic forecasting firm that provides projections for all counties in the U.S. based on an econometric model that forecasts US economic conditions and creates state, regional and county forecasts based on changing conditions. The 2023 -2060 projections including population, employment by major industry and a number of other economic indicators. W&P uses the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) definition of employment which includes self-employed and other non-employer jobs. The job figures therefore are always higher than wage and salary employment, but the growth rates provide a good basis for projected economic growth in the county.

Wide-ranging ONline Data for Epidemiologic Research (CDC WONDER).

An essential component of the population cohort survival model we applied for projecting future population was birth and death rate data. We derived race- and age-specific birth rates from the CDC WONDER database. For the mortality rates, we generated sex-, race-, and age-specific rates from the same database and adjusted them to reflect pre-COVID levels.

DETAILED PROJECTIONS

The following sections provide the detailed projections for each jurisdiction. All data reflect the sphere of influence (SOI) for each jurisdiction.

Clovis and SOI

Table 12 – Population Projection for Clovis SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	126,960	126,530	430	45,318	2.79
2025	129,050	128,620	430	46,841	2.78
2030	136,500	136,020	480	49,705	2.77
2035	142,490	142,000	490	51,888	2.76
2040	148,310	147,800	510	53,645	2.77
2045	153,300	152,770	530	55,264	2.78
2050	156,650	156,100	550	56,470	2.78
2055	158,000	157,450	550	57,149	2.76
2060	157,380	156,830	550	56,924	2.75
2022-2060 change	30,420	30,300	120	11,607	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.57%	0.57%	0.65%	0.60%	

Table 13 – Job Projection for Clovis SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	3,910	3,890	4,090	4,290	4,510	4,710	4,930	5,150	5,390
Retail	6,920	7,050	7,290	7,540	7,800	8,060	8,270	8,430	8,570
Office	4,170	4,280	4,950	5,260	5,600	5,830	5,960	5,960	5,850
Education	4,830	4,900	5,090	5,270	5,460	5,630	5,780	5,880	5,940
Health/Medical	7,390	7,510	7,720	7,950	8,180	8,390	8,580	8,720	8,830
Services	2,490	2,550	2,720	2,880	3,050	3,200	3,320	3,420	3,460
Food	5,710	5,810	6,000	6,220	6,430	6,630	6,810	6,950	7,050
Other	3,650	3,760	3,790	3,840	3,880	3,940	3,990	4,050	4,100
Government	1,480	1,510	1,560	1,620	1,670	1,730	1,780	1,820	1,860
Total	**40,550**	**41,260**	**43,220**	**44,860**	**46,580**	**48,130**	**49,430**	**50,390**	**51,050**

Table 14 – Housing Unit Projection for Clovis SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	2,057	1,760	297
2022-2030	5,082	4,348	733
2022-2035	7,382	6,291	1,091
2022-2040	9,238	7,847	1,391
2022-2045	10,948	9,276	1,672
2022-2050	12,220	10,338	1,881
2022-2055	12,936	10,936	2,000
2022-2060	12,699	10,738	1,961

Table 15 – Population Projection for Clovis SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	126,960	129,054	136,500	142,494	148,314	153,303	156,648	158,002	157,381	30,420	0.6%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	9,330	9,401	9,974	10,590	11,157	11,226	10,921	10,688	10,634	1,304	0.3%	7.3%	6.8%
6 to 14	16,949	15,828	14,834	15,350	16,076	17,030	17,421	16,983	16,634	-315	0.0%	13.4%	10.6%
15 to 19	9,676	9,858	9,701	8,427	8,774	9,051	9,571	9,884	9,805	129	0.0%	7.6%	6.2%
20 to 24	8,284	9,132	10,212	9,955	8,656	9,000	9,227	9,662	9,757	1,473	0.4%	6.5%	6.2%
25 to 34	16,041	15,849	17,585	20,130	20,928	19,309	18,172	18,520	18,555	2,513	0.4%	12.6%	11.8%
35 to 44	17,535	17,495	16,996	16,694	18,371	21,018	21,680	19,685	18,975	1,440	0.2%	13.8%	12.1%
45 to 54	15,063	15,622	17,550	18,207	17,536	17,214	18,810	21,177	21,533	6,470	0.9%	11.9%	13.7%
55 to 64	14,130	14,080	14,450	15,724	17,524	18,159	17,346	16,758	16,814	2,684	0.5%	11.1%	10.7%
65 to 74	11,685	12,080	13,115	13,242	13,499	14,698	16,271	16,574	16,247	4,562	0.9%	9.2%	10.3%
75 and above	8,267	9,708	12,083	14,175	15,792	16,598	17,228	18,071	18,427	10,159	2.13%	6.51%	11.71%

Table 16 – Population Projection for Clovis SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	126,960	129,054	136,500	142,494	148,314	153,303	156,648	158,002	157,381	30,420	0.6%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	62,082	62,150	63,958	64,834	65,465	65,691	65,308	64,268	63,450	1,368	0.1%	48.9%	40.3%
Hispanic or Latino	38,395	39,807	43,611	47,197	50,861	54,297	57,138	59,186	59,533	21,138	1.2%	30.2%	37.8%
Black or African American alone, NH	2,981	3,017	3,173	3,293	3,407	3,497	3,557	3,588	3,577	596	0.5%	2.3%	2.3%
Asian alone, NH	15,627	16,084	17,290	18,277	19,237	20,088	20,710	21,041	21,001	5,374	0.8%	12.3%	13.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	275	277	287	292	295	294	287	273	265	-11	-0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	793	803	843	870	886	893	889	872	860	66	0.2%	0.6%	0.5%
Some Other Race alone, NH	698	706	739	773	815	850	868	866	857	159	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
Two or more races, NH	6,108	6,210	6,600	6,957	7,347	7,693	7,891	7,908	7,838	1,730	0.7%	4.8%	5.0%

Coalinga and SOI

Table 17 – Population Projection for Coalinga SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	17,290	12,780	4,510	4,304	2.97
2025	17,300	12,780	4,520	4,372	2.94
2030	17,530	13,160	4,370	4,517	2.93
2035	17,770	13,580	4,190	4,660	2.93
2040	17,990	13,960	4,030	4,760	2.95
2045	18,190	14,160	4,030	4,812	2.95
2050	18,320	14,300	4,020	4,859	2.95
2055	18,370	14,340	4,030	4,890	2.94
2060	18,350	14,320	4,030	4,883	2.93
2022-2060 change	1,060	1,550	-490	579	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.16%	0.30%	-0.30%	0.33%	

Table 18 – Job Projection for Coalinga SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	260	260	270	280	300	310	330	340	360
Retail	320	320	330	330	340	340	340	340	340
Office	200	180	180	180	190	200	210	240	280
Education	1,140	1,150	1,170	1,180	1,200	1,210	1,210	1,210	1,190
Health/Medical	450	450	460	460	460	470	470	460	460
Services	40	40	40	40	50	50	50	50	50
Food	260	260	260	270	270	270	270	270	270
Other	250	260	260	270	270	270	280	280	290
Government	2,080	2,100	2,120	2,150	2,180	2,200	2,220	2,220	2,220
Total	**5,010**	**5,020**	**5,100**	**5,170**	**5,250**	**5,320**	**5,380**	**5,420**	**5,460**

Table 19 – Housing Unit Projection for Coalinga SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	348	157	191
2022-2030	512	231	281
2022-2035	675	320	354
2022-2040	788	388	400
2022-2045	847	427	420
2022-2050	900	461	439
2022-2055	935	484	451
2022-2060	927	479	448

Table 20 – Population Projection for Coalinga SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	17,294	17,299	17,534	17,767	17,993	18,187	18,317	18,370	18,345	1,051	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	1,073	1,089	1,122	1,170	1,172	1,151	1,126	1,137	1,148	75	0.2%	6.2%	6.3%
6 to 14	1,977	1,757	1,614	1,646	1,727	1,785	1,782	1,750	1,738	-239	-0.3%	11.4%	9.5%
15 to 19	1,073	1,121	1,031	892	905	953	1,012	1,019	1,011	-63	-0.2%	6.2%	5.5%
20 to 24	1,209	1,095	1,112	1,027	895	914	967	1,027	1,035	-174	-0.4%	7.0%	5.6%
25 to 34	3,209	2,955	2,322	2,181	2,133	1,937	1,838	1,916	1,956	-1,253	-1.3%	18.6%	10.7%
35 to 44	2,908	3,041	3,246	2,883	2,295	2,189	2,165	1,976	1,886	-1,021	-1.1%	16.8%	10.3%
45 to 54	2,031	2,196	2,571	2,926	3,160	2,845	2,296	2,205	2,225	194	0.2%	11.7%	12.1%
55 to 64	2,060	1,923	1,867	2,039	2,412	2,780	3,037	2,742	2,497	437	0.5%	11.9%	13.6%
65 to 74	1,153	1,417	1,691	1,649	1,623	1,807	2,159	2,493	2,620	1,468	2.2%	6.7%	14.3%
75 and above	601	705	958	1,354	1,671	1,826	1,935	2,104	2,229	1,628	3.51%	3.47%	12.15%

Table 21 – Population Projection for Coalinga SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	17,294	17,299	17,534	17,767	17,993	18,187	18,317	18,370	18,345	1,051	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	4,717	4,615	4,481	4,325	4,160	3,989	3,810	3,631	3,557	-1,160	-0.7%	27.3%	19.4%
Hispanic or Latino	11,069	11,200	11,604	12,033	12,474	12,883	13,236	13,513	13,581	2,512	0.5%	64.0%	74.0%
Black or African American alone, NH	607	592	563	533	503	474	446	420	409	-198	-1.0%	3.5%	2.2%
Asian alone, NH	362	362	366	367	359	357	358	359	358	-4	0.0%	2.1%	2.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	24	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	-8	-1.0%	0.1%	0.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	110	106	100	94	87	81	72	64	61	-49	-1.6%	0.6%	0.3%
Some Other Race alone, NH	65	63	60	56	53	50	47	44	42	-23	-1.1%	0.4%	0.2%
Two or more races, NH	340	338	338	337	336	334	329	323	320	-19	-0.2%	2.0%	1.7%

Firebaugh and SOI

Table 22 – Population Projection for Firebaugh SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	8,420	8,400	20	2,238	3.75
2025	8,410	8,400	10	2,280	3.71
2030	8,670	8,660	10	2,358	3.70
2035	8,830	8,820	10	2,401	3.69
2040	8,990	8,970	20	2,427	3.70
2045	9,120	9,100	20	2,455	3.72
2050	9,210	9,190	20	2,479	3.71
2055	9,250	9,230	20	2,497	3.70
2060	9,230	9,210	20	2,492	3.69
2022-2060 change	810	810	0	255	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.24%	0.24%	0.00%	0.28%	

Table 23 – Job Projection for Firebaugh SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	1,310	1,300	1,370	1,430	1,510	1,580	1,650	1,720	1,800
Retail	100	90	100	110	110	120	120	130	130
Office	60	10	30	50	80	100	110	110	100
Education	270	270	290	300	310	330	340	350	360
Health/Medical	130	130	140	150	150	160	160	170	170
Services	50	50	60	60	70	70	80	80	80
Food	100	100	110	110	120	120	130	130	140
Other	140	140	140	150	150	150	150	150	160
Government	80	70	80	80	90	90	100	100	100
Total	**2,230**	**2,160**	**2,320**	**2,450**	**2,590**	**2,720**	**2,840**	**2,950**	**3,050**

Table 24 – Housing Unit Projection for Firebaugh SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	328	217	110
2022-2030	418	277	141
2022-2035	468	314	154
2022-2040	498	337	160
2022-2045	530	364	166
2022-2050	557	386	171
2022-2055	578	403	175
2022-2060	573	399	174

Table 25 – Population Projection for Firebaugh SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	8,417	8,413	8,671	8,831	8,987	9,120	9,209	9,246	9,229	812	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	692	676	727	773	777	747	707	679	679	-13	-0.1%	8.2%	7.4%
6 to 14	1,376	1,201	1,055	1,026	1,097	1,146	1,130	1,077	1,049	-327	-0.7%	16.3%	11.4%
15 to 19	762	779	685	595	542	579	627	631	624	-139	-0.5%	9.1%	6.8%
20 to 24	695	726	769	668	583	535	574	621	624	-71	-0.3%	8.3%	6.8%
25 to 34	1,206	1,253	1,334	1,445	1,387	1,218	1,096	1,089	1,119	-87	-0.2%	14.3%	12.1%
35 to 44	975	970	1,121	1,196	1,265	1,386	1,342	1,183	1,091	116	0.3%	11.6%	11.8%
45 to 54	916	903	900	916	1,051	1,133	1,210	1,330	1,357	441	1.0%	10.9%	14.7%
55 to 64	915	903	835	824	814	839	972	1,049	1,065	150	0.4%	10.9%	11.5%
65 to 74	527	629	769	771	710	709	705	731	781	254	1.0%	6.3%	8.5%
75 and above	353	373	477	618	761	829	846	856	840	487	2.31%	4.19%	9.10%

Table 26 – Population Projection for Firebaugh SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	8,417	8,413	8,671	8,831	8,987	9,120	9,209	9,246	9,229	812	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	522	506	496	484	475	467	462	449	443	-79	-0.4%	6.2%	4.8%
Hispanic or Latino	7,786	7,804	8,075	8,245	8,409	8,554	8,658	8,715	8,708	922	0.3%	92.5%	94.4%
Black or African American alone, NH	30	28	25	22	19	16	14	12	11	-19	-2.6%	0.4%	0.1%
Asian alone, NH	16	15	14	13	12	10	9	7	7	-9	-2.3%	0.2%	0.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	-2	-2.2%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	0	-3	-5.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race alone, NH	27	26	30	38	46	49	47	46	45	17	1.3%	0.3%	0.5%
Two or more races, NH	30	28	26	24	22	20	17	15	14	-16	-2.0%	0.4%	0.2%

Fowler and SOI

Table 27 – Population Projection for Fowler SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	7,310	7,250	60	2,271	3.19
2025	7,660	7,600	60	2,421	3.21
2030	8,240	8,180	60	2,614	3.18
2035	8,910	8,840	70	2,825	3.18
2040	9,550	9,480	70	3,009	3.19
2045	10,110	10,030	80	3,173	3.19
2050	10,480	10,400	80	3,289	3.18
2055	10,630	10,550	80	3,348	3.16
2060	10,560	10,480	80	3,326	3.15
2022-2060 change	3,250	3,230	20	1,055	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.97%	0.97%	0.76%	1.01%	

Table 28 – Job Projection for Fowler SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	1,260	1,320	1,380	1,500	1,640	1,780	1,920	2,060	2,200
Retail	130	140	150	160	170	180	200	210	220
Office	310	370	440	510	590	640	650	630	580
Education	330	340	350	360	370	380	390	400	410
Health/Medical	380	380	390	410	430	450	480	500	520
Services	70	80	80	90	100	110	120	130	140
Food	220	240	260	290	320	350	400	430	460
Other	1,240	1,270	1,280	1,300	1,310	1,330	1,350	1,370	1,390
Government	50	50	60	60	70	70	80	80	90
Total	**3,990**	**4,190**	**4,390**	**4,680**	**5,000**	**5,290**	**5,590**	**5,810**	**6,010**

Table 29 – Housing Unit Projection for Fowler SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	215	206	10
2022-2030	422	403	19
2022-2035	647	578	69
2022-2040	844	714	130
2022-2045	1,019	819	200
2022-2050	1,143	893	250
2022-2055	1,205	931	275
2022-2060	1,182	917	266

Table 30 – Population Projection for Fowler SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	7,306	7,658	8,245	8,909	9,555	10,108	10,479	10,629	10,560	3,254	1.0%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	528	560	633	715	775	776	762	751	746	217	0.9%	7.2%	7.1%
6 to 14	1,013	948	859	974	1,086	1,198	1,225	1,182	1,155	142	0.3%	13.9%	10.9%
15 to 19	628	624	619	481	556	612	678	701	685	57	0.2%	8.6%	6.5%
20 to 24	518	628	652	650	504	579	630	685	696	178	0.8%	7.1%	6.6%
25 to 34	922	904	1,149	1,371	1,395	1,231	1,132	1,234	1,253	331	0.8%	12.6%	11.9%
35 to 44	987	1,045	1,011	985	1,253	1,483	1,480	1,266	1,168	182	0.4%	13.5%	11.1%
45 to 54	920	967	1,034	1,124	1,089	1,052	1,315	1,508	1,529	609	1.3%	12.6%	14.5%
55 to 64	798	823	925	1,005	1,078	1,162	1,102	1,035	1,096	299	0.8%	10.9%	10.4%
65 to 74	588	672	753	802	903	973	1,025	1,071	1,042	454	1.5%	8.1%	9.9%
75 and above	403	487	610	800	917	1,041	1,130	1,196	1,190	787	2.89%	5.52%	11.26%

Table 31 – Population Projection for Fowler SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	7,306	7,658	8,245	8,909	9,555	10,108	10,479	10,629	10,560	3,254	1.0%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	1,246	1,268	1,297	1,335	1,371	1,393	1,393	1,354	1,323	77	0.2%	17.1%	12.5%
Hispanic or Latino	4,881	5,161	5,645	6,192	6,731	7,205	7,543	7,731	7,712	2,831	1.2%	66.8%	73.0%
Black or African American alone, NH	94	98	104	113	121	128	134	138	137	43	1.0%	1.3%	1.3%
Asian alone, NH	926	969	1,035	1,105	1,168	1,211	1,234	1,235	1,223	297	0.7%	12.7%	11.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	28	29	30	31	31	31	31	29	28	0	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%
Some Other Race alone, NH	41	42	42	42	41	39	36	33	31	-10	-0.8%	0.6%	0.3%
Two or more races, NH	89	91	92	92	91	100	106	109	105	16	0.4%	1.2%	1.0%

Fresno and SOI

The projection for Fresno SOI contains approximately 38,000 population of county islands.

Table 32 – Population Projection for Fresno SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	592,280	581,180	11,100	195,577	2.97
2025	595,370	584,200	11,170	197,366	2.97
2030	605,800	594,040	11,760	203,870	2.93
2035	617,840	605,820	12,020	207,914	2.93
2040	629,520	617,280	12,240	210,426	2.94
2045	639,540	627,100	12,440	213,059	2.95
2050	646,260	633,690	12,570	215,297	2.95
2055	648,980	636,360	12,620	216,928	2.94
2060	647,730	635,130	12,600	216,511	2.93
2022-2060 change	55,450	53,960	1,490	20,934	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.24%	0.23%	0.33%	0.27%	

Table 33 –Job Projection for Fresno SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	40,480	40,240	42,380	44,400	46,650	48,790	51,040	53,360	55,850
Retail	25,660	25,820	26,240	26,650	27,050	27,440	27,640	27,650	27,600
Office	39,760	38,630	39,250	40,170	41,220	42,320	43,630	45,200	46,990
Education	23,700	23,810	24,260	24,640	25,080	25,390	25,580	25,530	25,310
Health/Medical	59,070	59,340	59,890	60,510	61,120	61,570	61,780	61,680	61,280
Services	13,400	13,560	14,180	14,730	15,330	15,790	16,100	16,270	16,170
Food	21,580	21,720	22,040	22,430	22,740	23,040	23,220	23,260	23,170
Other	18,950	19,500	19,670	19,900	20,120	20,430	20,710	20,990	21,280
Government	17,620	17,800	18,040	18,350	18,660	18,890	19,110	19,200	19,210
Total	**260,210**	**260,420**	**265,950**	**271,760**	**277,970**	**283,670**	**288,820**	**293,150**	**296,870**

Table 34 – Housing Unit Projection for Fresno SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	16,282	11,704	4,578
2022-2030	23,527	16,912	6,615
2022-2035	28,025	19,546	8,478
2022-2040	30,823	20,999	9,824
2022-2045	33,758	22,328	11,430
2022-2050	36,247	23,454	12,793
2022-2055	38,062	24,276	13,786
2022-2060	37,598	24,066	13,532

Table 35 – Population Projection for Fresno SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	592,284	595,370	605,799	617,835	629,523	639,541	646,258	648,977	647,729	55,446	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	50,339	50,435	50,503	49,991	49,602	49,017	48,381	48,006	47,853	-2,485	-0.1%	8.5%	7.4%
6 to 14	83,674	78,940	74,001	74,963	74,735	74,451	73,722	72,455	71,815	-11,859	-0.4%	14.1%	11.1%
15 to 19	44,581	45,921	44,807	40,135	41,456	41,505	41,323	40,874	40,493	-4,088	-0.3%	7.5%	6.3%
20 to 24	43,761	42,490	45,072	44,337	39,906	41,321	41,314	40,976	40,705	-3,055	-0.2%	7.4%	6.3%
25 to 34	92,318	89,311	84,116	85,600	88,148	83,441	80,469	81,495	81,087	-11,231	-0.3%	15.6%	12.5%
35 to 44	78,821	83,345	87,265	85,896	81,952	84,005	86,589	81,535	79,576	755	0.0%	13.3%	12.3%
45 to 54	61,597	62,907	70,551	79,196	83,985	83,238	79,506	81,094	82,316	20,719	0.8%	10.4%	12.7%
55 to 64	59,394	57,861	55,726	57,763	65,689	74,233	78,777	77,603	75,365	15,971	0.6%	10.0%	11.6%
65 to 74	46,361	48,515	50,411	49,529	48,397	50,623	57,734	64,847	66,891	20,529	1.0%	7.8%	10.3%
75 and above	31,438	35,644	43,348	50,425	55,652	57,705	58,443	60,092	61,630	30,192	1.79%	5.31%	9.51%

Table 36 – Population Projection for Fresno SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	592,284	595,370	605,799	617,835	629,523	639,541	646,258	648,977	647,729	55,446	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	142,319	138,680	133,694	128,622	123,246	117,925	112,940	108,406	106,482	-35,837	-0.8%	24.0%	16.4%
Hispanic or Latino	303,595	309,286	322,138	336,621	351,117	364,132	374,287	381,156	382,314	78,718	0.6%	51.3%	59.0%
Black or African American alone, NH	38,479	38,450	38,679	39,067	39,529	39,977	40,293	40,404	40,318	1,839	0.1%	6.5%	6.2%
Asian alone, NH	82,027	83,086	85,155	87,008	88,707	90,298	91,559	92,229	92,126	10,099	0.3%	13.8%	14.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	810	818	830	837	841	842	837	824	817	7	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	3,886	3,864	3,856	3,842	3,818	3,771	3,691	3,583	3,528	-358	-0.3%	0.7%	0.5%
Some Other Race alone, NH	3,183	3,200	3,248	3,309	3,374	3,436	3,473	3,466	3,445	262	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%
Two or more races, NH	17,984	17,985	18,198	18,529	18,892	19,161	19,179	18,910	18,699	715	0.1%	3.0%	2.9%

Huron and SOI

Table 37 – Population Projection for Huron SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	6,170	6,170	0	1,588	3.89
2025	6,230	6,230	0	1,635	3.85
2030	6,260	6,260	0	1,647	3.81
2035	6,390	6,390	0	1,682	3.81
2040	6,520	6,520	0	1,705	3.84
2045	6,630	6,630	0	1,728	3.85
2050	6,710	6,710	0	1,747	3.85
2055	6,740	6,740	0	1,761	3.83
2060	6,720	6,720	0	1,757	3.82
2022-2060 change	550	550	0	169	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.22%	0.22%	-	0.27%	

Table 38 – Job Projection for Huron SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	250	250	260	270	290	300	310	330	340
Retail	90	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160
Office	10	40	30	40	50	60	60	40	30
Education	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	30	30
Health/Medical	100	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170
Services	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	20	20
Food	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Other	570	580	590	600	600	610	620	630	640
Government	40	40	50	50	60	60	70	70	80
Total	**1,080**	**1,140**	**1,170**	**1,230**	**1,280**	**1,340**	**1,390**	**1,430**	**1,460**

Table 39 – Housing Unit Projection for Huron SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	469	175	294
2022-2030	484	180	303
2022-2035	527	197	330
2022-2040	555	209	347
2022-2045	584	220	364
2022-2050	608	230	378
2022-2055	625	237	388
2022-2060	621	235	385

Table 40 – Population Projection for Huron SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	6,167	6,235	6,258	6,392	6,521	6,632	6,707	6,737	6,723	556	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	601	523	528	584	614	608	555	516	507	-94	-0.4%	9.7%	7.5%
6 to 14	1,119	1,006	819	723	800	868	894	852	820	-299	-0.8%	18.1%	12.2%
15 to 19	578	661	562	496	373	412	461	487	489	-89	-0.4%	9.4%	7.3%
20 to 24	458	524	631	545	482	363	404	453	464	6	0.0%	7.4%	6.9%
25 to 34	865	826	893	1,096	1,122	984	816	746	778	-87	-0.3%	14.0%	11.6%
35 to 44	790	831	820	760	834	1,030	1,065	941	872	83	0.3%	12.8%	13.0%
45 to 54	642	658	672	755	757	705	783	974	988	346	1.1%	10.4%	14.7%
55 to 64	579	568	563	578	600	677	685	643	649	71	0.3%	9.4%	9.7%
65 to 74	355	417	485	464	471	487	510	578	596	241	1.4%	5.8%	8.9%
75 and above	182	222	285	391	468	499	533	548	559	377	3.00%	2.95%	8.32%

Table 41 – Population Projection for Huron SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	6,167	6,235	6,258	6,392	6,521	6,632	6,707	6,737	6,723	556	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	154	154	153	154	154	155	155	156	156	2	0.0%	2.5%	2.3%
Hispanic or Latino	5,904	5,975	6,001	6,130	6,256	6,365	6,445	6,481	6,470	566	0.2%	95.7%	96.2%
Black or African American alone, NH	26	25	23	21	19	17	15	13	13	-14	-1.9%	0.4%	0.2%
Asian alone, NH	44	43	46	53	60	66	63	60	59	15	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	11	11	10	9	9	8	8	7	7	-4	-1.3%	0.2%	0.1%
Some Other Race alone, NH	8	8	7	7	7	7	6	6	6	-2	-0.6%	0.1%	0.1%
Two or more races, NH	20	20	19	18	16	15	14	13	13	-8	-1.2%	0.3%	0.2%

Kerman and SOI

Table 42 – Population Projection for Kerman SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	16,830	16,820	10	4,705	3.57
2025	17,360	17,350	10	4,947	3.57
2030	18,510	18,500	10	5,293	3.54
2035	19,650	19,640	10	5,619	3.54
2040	20,750	20,740	10	5,896	3.55
2045	21,700	21,690	10	6,145	3.56
2050	22,340	22,330	10	6,325	3.55
2055	22,600	22,590	10	6,420	3.53
2060	22,480	22,470	10	6,386	3.51
2022-2060 change	5,650	5,650	0	1,681	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.76%	0.77%	0.00%	0.81%	

Table 43 – Job Projection for Kerman SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	460	460	480	510	530	560	580	610	640
Retail	680	710	760	810	870	920	980	1,030	1,080
Office	230	350	440	510	590	630	620	560	460
Education	630	660	700	750	810	860	910	960	1,000
Health/Medical	460	480	510	540	570	610	640	670	700
Services	70	80	80	90	100	110	120	120	130
Food	350	360	380	410	440	470	490	520	550
Other	1,200	1,230	1,240	1,260	1,270	1,290	1,310	1,330	1,340
Government	240	250	260	280	300	320	340	360	380
Total	**4,320**	**4,560**	**4,860**	**5,160**	**5,470**	**5,760**	**5,990**	**6,170**	**6,280**

Table 44 – Housing Unit Projection for Kerman SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	964	910	54
2022-2030	1,363	1,286	77
2022-2035	1,737	1,613	125
2022-2040	2,056	1,879	177
2022-2045	2,343	2,109	234
2022-2050	2,550	2,274	276
2022-2055	2,659	2,361	298
2022-2060	2,620	2,330	290

Table 45 – Population Projection for Kerman SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	16,826	17,356	18,507	19,647	20,754	21,703	22,340	22,597	22,479	5,653	0.8%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	1,403	1,432	1,573	1,743	1,832	1,800	1,708	1,664	1,658	255	0.4%	8.3%	7.4%
6 to 14	2,708	2,441	2,231	2,313	2,557	2,764	2,785	2,633	2,545	-164	-0.2%	16.1%	11.3%
15 to 19	1,575	1,659	1,475	1,281	1,270	1,394	1,531	1,564	1,534	-41	-0.1%	9.4%	6.8%
20 to 24	1,344	1,517	1,692	1,499	1,302	1,290	1,405	1,522	1,534	190	0.3%	8.0%	6.8%
25 to 34	2,243	2,331	2,733	3,283	3,261	2,860	2,623	2,681	2,742	499	0.5%	13.3%	12.2%
35 to 44	2,341	2,328	2,340	2,395	2,798	3,357	3,305	2,838	2,714	373	0.4%	13.9%	12.1%
45 to 54	1,837	1,985	2,276	2,364	2,368	2,420	2,806	3,295	3,203	1,367	1.5%	10.9%	14.3%
55 to 64	1,464	1,505	1,636	1,951	2,227	2,308	2,292	2,294	2,390	926	1.3%	8.7%	10.6%
65 to 74	1,241	1,328	1,403	1,386	1,504	1,791	2,026	2,052	2,012	771	1.3%	7.4%	8.9%
75 and above	671	831	1,149	1,432	1,634	1,721	1,859	2,054	2,148	1,477	3.11%	3.99%	9.56%

Table 46 – Population Projection for Kerman SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	16,826	17,356	18,507	19,647	20,754	21,703	22,340	22,597	22,479	5,653	0.8%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	2,024	2,016	2,028	2,025	2,010	1,974	1,912	1,838	1,797	-227	-0.3%	12.0%	8.0%
Hispanic or Latino	13,198	13,713	14,798	15,878	16,957	17,920	18,624	18,985	18,932	5,734	1.0%	78.4%	84.2%
Black or African American alone, NH	66	64	61	68	75	78	73	69	66	0	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%
Asian alone, NH	1,217	1,241	1,290	1,333	1,358	1,368	1,361	1,334	1,316	99	0.2%	7.2%	5.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	42	41	40	38	36	34	31	28	26	-15	-1.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Some Other Race alone, NH	90	89	90	97	103	109	115	119	120	29	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%
Two or more races, NH	189	191	199	206	214	219	222	223	221	32	0.4%	1.1%	1.0%

Kingsburg and SOI

Table 47 – Population Projection for Kingsburg SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	12,750	12,670	80	4,441	2.85
2025	13,210	13,110	100	4,692	2.85
2030	13,750	13,650	100	4,899	2.81
2035	14,550	14,450	100	5,187	2.82
2040	15,340	15,230	110	5,430	2.83
2045	16,010	15,900	110	5,650	2.84
2050	16,460	16,350	110	5,809	2.83
2055	16,650	16,530	120	5,893	2.81
2060	16,560	16,440	120	5,863	2.80
2022-2060 change	3,810	3,780	30	1,422	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.69%	0.69%	1.07%	0.74%	

Table 48 – Job Projection for Kingsburg SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	1,690	1,680	1,770	1,850	1,950	2,040	2,130	2,230	2,330
Retail	810	830	870	910	960	1,000	1,040	1,080	1,110
Office	450	450	480	560	650	710	740	730	690
Education	450	460	480	510	530	560	580	600	610
Health/Medical	520	530	550	570	600	620	650	670	680
Services	110	110	120	130	140	150	160	160	170
Food	510	520	550	570	600	630	650	680	700
Other	590	600	610	620	620	630	640	650	660
Government	130	130	140	150	150	160	170	170	180
Total	**5,240**	**5,320**	**5,580**	**5,880**	**6,210**	**6,500**	**6,760**	**6,970**	**7,140**

Table 49 – Housing Unit Projection for Kingsburg SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	381	265	116
2022-2030	602	419	184
2022-2035	910	644	266
2022-2040	1,170	839	330
2022-2045	1,404	1,020	384
2022-2050	1,574	1,151	423
2022-2055	1,664	1,220	444
2022-2060	1,632	1,195	437

Table 50 – Population Projection for Kingsburg SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	12,754	13,206	13,746	14,555	15,340	16,013	16,464	16,647	16,563	3,809	0.7%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	913	956	1,025	1,102	1,161	1,160	1,145	1,144	1,145	232	0.6%	7.2%	6.9%
6 to 14	1,679	1,572	1,473	1,576	1,702	1,811	1,835	1,779	1,742	63	0.1%	13.2%	10.5%
15 to 19	974	1,005	947	852	903	973	1,031	1,052	1,034	60	0.2%	7.6%	6.2%
20 to 24	838	967	1,027	988	888	938	1,000	1,044	1,048	210	0.6%	6.6%	6.3%
25 to 34	1,575	1,614	1,800	2,096	2,141	1,987	1,907	1,983	2,004	428	0.6%	12.4%	12.1%
35 to 44	1,602	1,662	1,677	1,706	1,940	2,251	2,267	2,048	1,972	370	0.5%	12.6%	11.9%
45 to 54	1,442	1,502	1,606	1,735	1,786	1,810	2,032	2,293	2,299	856	1.2%	11.3%	13.9%
55 to 64	1,486	1,501	1,438	1,516	1,653	1,778	1,805	1,783	1,781	295	0.5%	11.6%	10.8%
65 to 74	1,285	1,336	1,401	1,418	1,387	1,457	1,566	1,640	1,639	354	0.6%	10.1%	9.9%
75 and above	960	1,090	1,351	1,566	1,780	1,848	1,876	1,881	1,899	939	1.81%	7.53%	11.46%

Table 51 – Population Projection for Kingsburg SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	12,754	13,206	13,746	14,555	15,340	16,013	16,464	16,647	16,563	3,809	0.7%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	5,593	5,680	5,712	5,841	5,954	6,028	6,021	5,924	5,833	239	0.1%	43.9%	35.2%
Hispanic or Latino	6,115	6,437	6,892	7,506	8,127	8,695	9,136	9,418	9,438	3,323	1.1%	47.9%	57.0%
Black or African American alone, NH	46	45	42	40	38	36	32	29	27	-20	-1.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Asian alone, NH	409	431	464	499	526	542	555	564	564	155	0.8%	3.2%	3.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	-1	-0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	47	47	45	43	41	38	35	31	29	-18	-1.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Some Other Race alone, NH	89	96	107	119	132	135	138	144	144	55	1.3%	0.7%	0.9%
Two or more races, NH	442	458	473	494	510	527	535	526	517	74	0.4%	3.5%	3.1%

Mendota and SOI

Table 52 – Population Projection for Mendota SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	12,500	12,500	0	2,851	4.38
2025	12,530	12,530	0	2,909	4.34
2030	13,070	13,070	0	3,045	4.33
2035	13,400	13,400	0	3,121	4.31
2040	13,710	13,710	0	3,173	4.33
2045	13,980	13,980	0	3,225	4.35
2050	14,170	14,170	0	3,267	4.35
2055	14,240	14,240	0	3,295	4.33
2060	14,210	14,210	0	3,288	4.32
2022-2060 change	1,710	1,710	0	437	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.34%	0.34%	-	0.38%	

Table 53 – Job Projection for Mendota SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	330	330	350	370	380	400	420	440	460
Retail	180	180	190	200	210	220	220	230	240
Office	30	10	50	70	90	100	90	90	70
Education	450	450	480	500	520	540	560	570	580
Health/Medical	180	180	190	190	200	210	210	220	220
Services	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Food	130	130	140	140	150	150	160	160	170
Other	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	80	80
Government	450	460	480	500	520	540	560	580	600
Total	**1,830**	**1,820**	**1,960**	**2,060**	**2,160**	**2,250**	**2,330**	**2,390**	**2,430**

Table 54 – Housing Unit Projection for Mendota SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	880	809	71
2022-2030	1,049	964	85
2022-2035	1,144	1,041	103
2022-2040	1,209	1,090	119
2022-2045	1,274	1,135	139
2022-2050	1,326	1,172	154
2022-2055	1,361	1,196	165
2022-2060	1,351	1,189	162

Table 55 – Population Projection for Mendota SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	12,497	12,529	13,069	13,396	13,712	13,984	14,166	14,239	14,206	1,709	0.3%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	1,285	1,092	1,116	1,191	1,250	1,237	1,160	1,086	1,065	-220	-0.5%	10.3%	7.5%
6 to 14	2,276	2,186	1,840	1,571	1,665	1,773	1,818	1,755	1,703	-572	-0.8%	18.2%	12.0%
15 to 19	1,123	1,172	1,230	1,121	828	873	939	989	991	-132	-0.3%	9.0%	7.0%
20 to 24	1,073	1,106	1,160	1,197	1,092	810	855	921	945	-128	-0.3%	8.6%	6.7%
25 to 34	1,883	1,824	2,024	2,188	2,259	2,200	1,834	1,613	1,648	-235	-0.4%	15.1%	11.6%
35 to 44	1,655	1,710	1,751	1,741	1,901	2,063	2,145	2,096	1,930	275	0.4%	13.2%	13.6%
45 to 54	1,269	1,345	1,511	1,614	1,625	1,623	1,784	1,943	1,959	690	1.1%	10.2%	13.8%
55 to 64	1,020	1,042	1,099	1,226	1,355	1,453	1,472	1,475	1,578	557	1.2%	8.2%	11.1%
65 to 74	591	674	836	887	923	1,036	1,151	1,240	1,210	619	1.9%	4.7%	8.5%
75 and above	322	377	501	659	813	916	1,007	1,122	1,176	855	3.47%	2.57%	8.28%

Table 56 – Population Projection for Mendota SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	12,497	12,529	13,069	13,396	13,712	13,984	14,166	14,239	14,206	1,709	0.3%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	294	285	284	286	298	312	321	322	318	25	0.2%	2.4%	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino	12,079	12,126	12,671	13,002	13,313	13,577	13,758	13,838	13,810	1,731	0.4%	96.7%	97.2%
Black or African American alone, NH	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	-1	-0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Asian alone, NH	14	13	13	12	10	9	8	7	6	-8	-2.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	-0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	22	20	19	17	15	13	11	10	9	-12	-2.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Some Other Race alone, NH	37	36	35	34	32	31	29	27	26	-11	-1.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Two or more races, NH	44	43	42	40	38	36	34	31	30	-14	-1.0%	0.4%	0.2%

Orange Cove and SOI

Table 57 – Population Projection for Orange Cove SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	9,590	9,590	0	2,439	3.93
2025	9,600	9,600	0	2,480	3.89
2030	9,670	9,670	0	2,506	3.87
2035	9,780	9,780	0	2,535	3.87
2040	9,890	9,890	0	2,546	3.89
2045	9,990	9,990	0	2,562	3.90
2050	10,050	10,050	0	2,578	3.90
2055	10,070	10,070	0	2,593	3.89
2060	10,060	10,060	0	2,590	3.88
2022-2060 change	470	470	0	151	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.13%	0.13%	-	0.16%	

Table 58 – Job Projection for Orange Cove SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	50	50	50	60	60	60	60	70	70
Retail	130	130	130	140	140	140	150	150	150
Office	30	30	30	30	40	50	50	60	60
Education	220	220	230	230	240	250	250	250	250
Health/Medical	290	290	300	310	310	320	320	320	330
Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	20	20	20	30	30	30	30	30	30
Other	120	120	120	120	120	130	130	130	130
Government	100	100	100	100	110	110	110	110	110
Total	**960**	**970**	**990**	**1,020**	**1,050**	**1,080**	**1,100**	**1,120**	**1,130**

Table 59 – Housing Unit Projection for Orange Cove SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	447	250	197
2022-2030	479	268	211
2022-2035	512	289	224
2022-2040	525	297	228
2022-2045	543	309	234
2022-2050	562	322	240
2022-2055	580	334	246
2022-2060	576	332	245

Table 60 – Population Projection for Orange Cove SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	9,589	9,601	9,672	9,784	9,892	9,985	10,047	10,073	10,061	472	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	900	835	886	928	918	860	802	770	765	-135	-0.4%	9.4%	7.6%
6 to 14	1,695	1,516	1,265	1,207	1,290	1,327	1,289	1,209	1,178	-517	-1.0%	17.7%	11.7%
15 to 19	986	997	843	709	618	674	715	712	697	-289	-0.9%	10.3%	6.9%
20 to 24	849	900	951	808	684	600	658	700	704	-144	-0.5%	8.8%	7.0%
25 to 34	1,277	1,392	1,555	1,731	1,653	1,416	1,231	1,214	1,255	-22	0.0%	13.3%	12.5%
35 to 44	1,183	1,129	1,150	1,262	1,425	1,605	1,553	1,340	1,256	73	0.2%	12.3%	12.5%
45 to 54	974	1,006	1,053	1,012	1,042	1,158	1,325	1,502	1,499	525	1.1%	10.2%	14.9%
55 to 64	812	849	841	873	922	896	936	1,047	1,094	282	0.8%	8.5%	10.9%
65 to 74	551	596	660	690	691	728	777	759	767	216	0.9%	5.7%	7.6%
75 and above	364	382	467	563	651	721	761	819	847	483	2.25%	3.80%	8.42%

Table 61 – Population Projection for Orange Cove SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	9,589	9,601	9,672	9,784	9,892	9,985	10,047	10,073	10,061	472	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	323	309	290	275	261	245	233	224	220	-103	-1.0%	3.4%	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino	9,112	9,147	9,253	9,394	9,531	9,652	9,737	9,781	9,776	664	0.2%	95.0%	97.2%
Black or African American alone, NH	23	21	17	14	11	10	8	6	6	-17	-3.5%	0.2%	0.1%
Asian alone, NH	62	58	51	43	37	32	27	24	23	-39	-2.6%	0.6%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	-2	-1.6%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	6	5	-6	-2.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Some Other Race alone, NH	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	-2	-2.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Two or more races, NH	49	47	44	41	37	34	31	28	27	-22	-1.6%	0.5%	0.3%

Parlier and SOI

Table 62 – Population Projection for Parlier SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	15,030	15,030	0	3,768	3.99
2025	15,040	15,040	0	3,825	3.95
2030	15,060	15,060	0	3,844	3.92
2035	15,200	15,200	0	3,879	3.93
2040	15,340	15,340	0	3,888	3.95
2045	15,450	15,450	0	3,904	3.96
2050	15,530	15,530	0	3,924	3.96
2055	15,560	15,560	0	3,945	3.95
2060	15,550	15,550	0	3,941	3.94
2022-2060 change	520	520	0	173	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.09%	0.09%	-	0.12%	

Table 63 – Job Projection for Parlier SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	760	760	800	830	880	920	960	1,000	1,050
Retail	180	180	180	180	190	190	200	200	200
Office	130	100	90	110	130	150	160	180	190
Education	480	480	490	510	520	530	530	540	540
Health/Medical	390	390	400	400	410	420	420	420	420
Services	50	50	50	50	60	60	60	60	60
Food	120	120	120	120	120	130	130	130	130
Other	320	330	340	340	340	350	350	360	360
Government	140	140	140	150	150	150	150	160	160
Total	**2,550**	**2,540**	**2,610**	**2,700**	**2,790**	**2,880**	**2,970**	**3,040**	**3,100**

Table 64 – Housing Unit Projection for Parlier SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	511	400	112
2022-2030	533	417	116
2022-2035	575	448	127
2022-2040	585	455	130
2022-2045	604	468	135
2022-2050	627	485	142
2022-2055	652	502	149
2022-2060	647	499	148

Table 65 – Population Projection for Parlier SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	15,029	15,038	15,062	15,202	15,337	15,454	15,532	15,563	15,549	520	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	1,359	1,291	1,319	1,357	1,356	1,292	1,222	1,179	1,174	-184	-0.4%	9.0%	7.6%
6 to 14	2,554	2,334	1,907	1,839	1,911	1,959	1,926	1,835	1,796	-758	-0.9%	17.0%	11.6%
15 to 19	1,494	1,432	1,341	1,051	959	1,010	1,056	1,064	1,047	-447	-0.9%	9.9%	6.7%
20 to 24	1,152	1,327	1,364	1,290	1,016	934	989	1,036	1,045	-107	-0.3%	7.7%	6.7%
25 to 34	2,089	2,165	2,303	2,520	2,507	2,197	1,878	1,863	1,903	-186	-0.2%	13.9%	12.2%
35 to 44	2,006	1,884	1,869	1,965	2,123	2,351	2,369	2,091	1,969	-38	0.0%	13.3%	12.7%
45 to 54	1,630	1,620	1,749	1,691	1,704	1,814	1,984	2,214	2,251	621	0.9%	10.8%	14.5%
55 to 64	1,381	1,453	1,378	1,406	1,541	1,506	1,539	1,649	1,682	301	0.5%	9.2%	10.8%
65 to 74	854	952	1,080	1,180	1,138	1,179	1,306	1,283	1,304	450	1.1%	5.7%	8.4%
75 and above	510	579	753	903	1,082	1,212	1,263	1,350	1,378	867	2.65%	3.39%	8.86%

Table 66 – Population Projection for Parlier SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	15,029	15,038	15,062	15,202	15,337	15,454	15,532	15,563	15,549	520	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	210	204	196	189	182	176	170	165	163	-47	-0.7%	1.4%	1.1%
Hispanic or Latino	14,675	14,701	14,748	14,908	15,063	15,195	15,286	15,329	15,320	644	0.1%	97.6%	98.5%
Black or African American alone, NH	33	31	27	24	22	20	19	17	17	-16	-1.8%	0.2%	0.1%
Asian alone, NH	47	43	37	32	28	24	22	19	18	-29	-2.5%	0.3%	0.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	-1	-2.0%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	9	9	7	6	6	5	4	3	3	-6	-2.7%	0.1%	0.0%
Some Other Race alone, NH	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	8	7	-7	-1.7%	0.1%	0.0%
Two or more races, NH	39	37	32	29	26	23	21	20	19	-19	-1.8%	0.3%	0.1%

Reedley and SOI

Table 67 – Population Projection for Reedley SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	25,290	25,050	240	7,244	3.46
2025	25,830	25,580	250	7,506	3.45
2030	25,900	25,640	260	7,549	3.40
2035	26,740	26,470	270	7,793	3.42
2040	27,550	27,270	280	7,976	3.43
2045	28,250	27,960	290	8,150	3.45
2050	28,710	28,420	290	8,285	3.44
2055	28,900	28,610	290	8,368	3.43
2060	28,820	28,520	300	8,343	3.42
2022-2060 change	3,530	3,480	50	1,099	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.34%	0.34%	0.59%	0.37%	

Table 68 – Job Projection for Reedley SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	950	940	990	1,040	1,090	1,140	1,190	1,250	1,310
Retail	500	510	520	540	560	570	590	600	600
Office	260	420	300	350	410	450	480	490	490
Education	1,620	1,650	1,700	1,760	1,820	1,870	1,920	1,940	1,960
Health/Medical	1,900	1,920	1,970	2,020	2,080	2,130	2,170	2,200	2,220
Services	150	150	160	170	180	190	190	200	200
Food	510	520	530	550	570	580	600	610	620
Other	2,010	2,070	2,080	2,110	2,130	2,160	2,190	2,220	2,250
Government	240	240	250	260	270	270	280	290	290
Total	**8,120**	**8,400**	**8,520**	**8,800**	**9,100**	**9,370**	**9,610**	**9,800**	**9,940**

Table 69 – Housing Unit Projection for Reedley SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	1,043	772	271
2022-2030	1,092	808	284
2022-2035	1,366	966	401
2022-2040	1,573	1,067	506
2022-2045	1,769	1,155	615
2022-2050	1,921	1,223	698
2022-2055	2,014	1,262	752
2022-2060	1,985	1,250	735

Table 70 – Population Projection for Reedley SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	25,293	25,831	25,902	26,739	27,551	28,248	28,715	28,904	28,817	3,524	0.3%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	1,929	2,030	2,159	2,318	2,362	2,277	2,164	2,114	2,117	188	0.2%	7.6%	7.3%
6 to 14	3,790	3,388	2,895	3,087	3,362	3,532	3,498	3,318	3,231	-560	-0.4%	15.0%	11.2%
15 to 19	2,222	2,270	2,026	1,585	1,651	1,819	1,952	1,968	1,928	-294	-0.4%	8.8%	6.7%
20 to 24	2,000	2,170	2,202	2,020	1,583	1,653	1,819	1,940	1,955	-45	-0.1%	7.9%	6.8%
25 to 34	3,366	3,599	3,942	4,279	4,195	3,592	3,227	3,439	3,539	173	0.1%	13.3%	12.3%
35 to 44	3,064	3,070	3,187	3,448	3,887	4,238	4,160	3,536	3,364	300	0.2%	12.1%	11.7%
45 to 54	2,833	2,925	2,868	2,907	3,107	3,376	3,810	4,124	4,070	1,237	1.0%	11.2%	14.1%
55 to 64	2,592	2,681	2,666	2,678	2,700	2,748	2,940	3,174	3,314	722	0.6%	10.2%	11.5%
65 to 74	1,820	1,968	2,115	2,302	2,353	2,380	2,397	2,421	2,414	594	0.7%	7.2%	8.4%
75 and above	1,676	1,730	1,841	2,115	2,352	2,633	2,747	2,868	2,885	1,209	1.44%	6.63%	10.01%

Table 71 – Population Projection for Reedley SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	25,293	25,831	25,902	26,739	27,551	28,248	28,715	28,904	28,817	3,524	0.3%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	3,846	3,678	3,340	3,155	2,998	2,859	2,734	2,614	2,561	-1,286	-1.1%	15.2%	8.9%
Hispanic or Latino	20,129	20,830	21,277	22,305	23,283	24,128	24,743	25,082	25,066	4,937	0.6%	79.6%	87.0%
Black or African American alone, NH	73	76	79	76	71	66	61	66	67	-6	-0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Asian alone, NH	653	645	610	593	573	551	524	505	496	-157	-0.7%	2.6%	1.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	-3	-4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	45	45	43	42	40	38	36	33	32	-14	-0.9%	0.2%	0.1%
Some Other Race alone, NH	172	176	176	187	202	216	229	230	228	56	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%
Two or more races, NH	370	377	373	378	383	387	386	374	367	-4	0.0%	1.5%	1.3%

Sanger and SOI

Table 72 – Population Projection for Sanger SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	27,040	26,890	150	7,815	3.44
2025	27,040	26,890	150	7,962	3.40
2030	27,540	27,380	160	8,133	3.38
2035	27,940	27,780	160	8,252	3.38
2040	28,330	28,170	160	8,312	3.39
2045	28,670	28,510	160	8,382	3.41
2050	28,900	28,730	170	8,448	3.41
2055	28,990	28,820	170	8,503	3.39
2060	28,940	28,780	160	8,491	3.39
2022-2060 change	1,900	1,890	10	676	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.18%	0.18%	0.17%	0.22%	

Table 73 – Job Projection for Sanger SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	2,730	2,710	2,850	2,990	3,140	3,290	3,440	3,590	3,760
Retail	750	750	770	780	800	810	820	820	820
Office	1,720	1,600	1,680	1,750	1,820	1,880	1,940	1,990	2,030
Education	1,100	1,110	1,130	1,160	1,180	1,200	1,210	1,210	1,210
Health/Medical	980	990	1,000	1,010	1,030	1,040	1,050	1,050	1,040
Services	140	140	140	150	160	160	170	170	170
Food	690	690	700	720	730	740	750	760	750
Other	950	980	990	1,000	1,010	1,030	1,040	1,060	1,070
Government	750	760	770	780	800	810	820	830	830
Total	**9,800**	**9,720**	**10,050**	**10,340**	**10,660**	**10,960**	**11,240**	**11,480**	**11,700**

Table 74 – Housing Unit Projection for Sanger SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	1,023	702	321
2022-2030	1,216	835	381
2022-2035	1,351	933	418
2022-2040	1,418	984	435
2022-2045	1,498	1,045	453
2022-2050	1,573	1,102	470
2022-2055	1,635	1,150	485
2022-2060	1,621	1,139	481

Table 75 – Population Projection for Sanger SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	27,039	27,044	27,538	27,941	28,334	28,670	28,895	28,986	28,944	1,906	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	2,131	2,168	2,304	2,432	2,450	2,328	2,189	2,125	2,124	-7	0.0%	7.9%	7.3%
6 to 14	4,183	3,679	3,193	3,261	3,451	3,595	3,540	3,339	3,257	-926	-0.7%	15.5%	11.3%
15 to 19	2,430	2,432	2,171	1,720	1,730	1,835	1,958	1,982	1,944	-486	-0.6%	9.0%	6.7%
20 to 24	1,976	2,203	2,379	2,118	1,684	1,705	1,814	1,936	1,958	-18	0.0%	7.3%	6.8%
25 to 34	3,800	3,589	3,972	4,412	4,336	3,693	3,317	3,451	3,534	-265	-0.2%	14.1%	12.2%
35 to 44	3,612	3,768	3,577	3,396	3,763	4,222	4,188	3,578	3,385	-227	-0.2%	13.4%	11.7%
45 to 54	3,061	3,153	3,329	3,523	3,347	3,211	3,594	4,046	4,102	1,041	0.8%	11.3%	14.2%
55 to 64	2,589	2,532	2,675	2,851	3,013	3,218	3,082	2,971	3,074	485	0.5%	9.6%	10.6%
65 to 74	1,878	2,004	2,134	2,144	2,270	2,446	2,609	2,791	2,698	821	1.0%	6.9%	9.3%
75 and above	1,379	1,517	1,804	2,085	2,290	2,418	2,603	2,768	2,867	1,488	1.94%	5.10%	9.91%

Table 76 – Population Projection for Sanger SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	27,039	27,044	27,538	27,941	28,334	28,670	28,895	28,986	28,944	1,906	0.2%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	3,200	3,092	2,962	2,823	2,704	2,603	2,507	2,413	2,372	-828	-0.8%	11.8%	8.2%
Hispanic or Latino	22,370	22,506	23,141	23,698	24,216	24,663	25,002	25,220	25,236	2,866	0.3%	82.7%	87.2%
Black or African American alone, NH	174	170	169	167	165	164	163	162	160	-14	-0.2%	0.6%	0.6%
Asian alone, NH	776	771	769	761	762	765	769	761	755	-22	-0.1%	2.9%	2.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	29	27	25	23	21	19	16	14	13	-16	-2.1%	0.1%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	76	72	68	63	58	54	49	44	42	-34	-1.6%	0.3%	0.1%
Some Other Race alone, NH	82	79	81	86	90	93	88	83	81	-1	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%
Two or more races, NH	333	327	323	321	316	309	301	291	286	-47	-0.4%	1.2%	1.0%

San Joaquin and SOI

Table 77 – Population Projection for San Joaquin SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	3,670	3,670	0	902	4.07
2025	3,610	3,610	0	913	3.97
2030	3,640	3,640	0	922	3.96
2035	3,670	3,670	0	929	3.95
2040	3,700	3,700	0	930	3.98
2045	3,720	3,720	0	934	3.99
2050	3,740	3,740	0	938	3.99
2055	3,750	3,750	0	943	3.98
2060	3,740	3,740	0	942	3.97
2022-2060 change	70	70	0	39	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.05%	0.05%	-	0.11%	

Table 78 – Job Projection for San Joaquin SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	50	50	60	60	60	70	70	70	70
Retail	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Office	40	20	30	30	30	40	50	50	60
Education	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
Health/Medical	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	310
Services	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Food	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Other	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Government	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Total	**650**	**630**	**640**	**650**	**660**	**670**	**680**	**690**	**690**

Table 79 – Housing Unit Projection for San Joaquin SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	182	182	-
2022-2030	193	193	-
2022-2035	202	199	3
2022-2040	203	200	3
2022-2045	207	202	5
2022-2050	212	204	8
2022-2055	218	207	11
2022-2060	217	206	11

Table 80 – Population Projection for San Joaquin SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	3,668	3,615	3,638	3,668	3,698	3,723	3,739	3,746	3,743	75	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	316	289	337	368	362	329	294	289	292	-24	-0.2%	8.6%	7.8%
6 to 14	659	579	450	443	496	520	499	453	434	-225	-1.1%	18.0%	11.6%
15 to 19	409	364	327	247	219	253	281	278	271	-138	-1.1%	11.2%	7.2%
20 to 24	336	391	346	310	237	212	247	275	278	-58	-0.5%	9.2%	7.4%
25 to 34	470	498	628	679	609	515	429	443	468	-3	0.0%	12.8%	12.5%
35 to 44	393	387	401	446	566	623	571	487	441	47	0.3%	10.7%	11.8%
45 to 54	447	405	366	343	358	404	524	582	580	133	0.7%	12.2%	15.5%
55 to 64	317	357	367	346	315	301	320	365	400	83	0.6%	8.6%	10.7%
65 to 74	217	223	242	286	296	285	264	256	262	45	0.5%	5.9%	7.0%
75 and above	103	122	175	201	241	280	309	320	318	215	3.00%	2.82%	8.50%

Table 81 – Population Projection for San Joaquin SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	3,668	3,615	3,638	3,668	3,698	3,723	3,739	3,746	3,743	75	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	87	86	88	90	84	78	73	73	75	-12	-0.4%	2.4%	2.0%
Hispanic or Latino	3,511	3,462	3,489	3,522	3,561	3,596	3,622	3,633	3,630	119	0.1%	95.7%	97.0%
Black or African American alone, NH	30	28	26	24	23	21	20	19	18	-12	-1.3%	0.8%	0.5%
Asian alone, NH	7	7	6	5	5	4	3	2	2	-5	-3.3%	0.2%	0.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	-1	-4.0%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	-3	-3.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Some Other Race alone, NH	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	-8	-1.4%	0.5%	0.3%
Two or more races, NH	8	7	7	7	6	6	6	5	5	-2	-1.0%	0.2%	0.1%

Selma and SOI

Table 82 – Population Projection for Selma SOI, 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	26,540	26,350	190	7,614	3.46
2025	26,650	26,460	190	7,809	3.42
2030	28,250	28,030	220	8,303	3.42
2035	29,150	28,930	220	8,569	3.40
2040	30,030	29,800	230	8,768	3.41
2045	30,790	30,550	240	8,958	3.43
2050	31,290	31,050	240	9,104	3.42
2055	31,490	31,260	230	9,195	3.41
2060	31,400	31,160	240	9,167	3.40
2022-2060 change	4,860	4,820	40	1,553	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.44%	0.44%	0.62%	0.49%	

Table 83 – Job Projection for Selma SOI by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	1,260	1,250	1,320	1,380	1,450	1,520	1,590	1,660	1,740
Retail	1,780	1,820	2,390	2,770	2,840	2,920	2,990	3,040	3,090
Office	300	350	540	570	610	620	610	580	530
Education	800	820	850	890	920	960	990	1,010	1,020
Health/Medical	1,010	1,030	1,060	1,100	1,130	1,170	1,200	1,230	1,250
Services	150	160	170	230	240	250	260	270	270
Food	850	870	900	1,090	1,130	1,160	1,190	1,220	1,240
Other	2,880	4,960	4,990	3,020	3,050	3,100	3,140	3,190	3,230
Government	250	260	270	280	290	300	310	320	330
Total	**9,280**	**11,510**	**12,490**	**11,320**	**11,670**	**12,000**	**12,290**	**12,520**	**12,710**

Table 84 – Housing Unit Projection for Selma SOI, 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	852	787	64
2022-2030	1,401	1,296	105
2022-2035	1,697	1,581	117
2022-2040	1,919	1,798	121
2022-2045	2,130	2,008	123
2022-2050	2,294	2,169	124
2022-2055	2,394	2,269	125
2022-2060	2,364	2,239	125

Table 85 – Population Projection for Selma SOI by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	26,541	26,651	28,248	29,153	30,032	30,785	31,290	31,495	31,401	4,860	0.4%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	2,194	2,137	2,370	2,507	2,557	2,496	2,402	2,344	2,336	141	0.2%	8.3%	7.4%
6 to 14	3,932	3,669	3,355	3,415	3,660	3,817	3,801	3,649	3,569	-363	-0.3%	14.8%	11.4%
15 to 19	2,214	2,220	2,199	1,886	1,840	1,990	2,104	2,125	2,090	-124	-0.2%	8.3%	6.7%
20 to 24	2,091	2,138	2,264	2,189	1,883	1,841	1,986	2,087	2,103	12	0.0%	7.9%	6.7%
25 to 34	3,726	3,710	4,105	4,412	4,422	4,057	3,706	3,782	3,859	133	0.1%	14.0%	12.3%
35 to 44	3,355	3,477	3,686	3,734	4,044	4,366	4,375	3,981	3,779	424	0.3%	12.6%	12.0%
45 to 54	2,924	2,925	3,244	3,459	3,586	3,652	3,956	4,235	4,206	1,282	1.0%	11.0%	13.4%
55 to 64	2,682	2,693	2,668	2,815	3,053	3,270	3,384	3,421	3,524	842	0.7%	10.1%	11.2%
65 to 74	1,986	2,049	2,319	2,426	2,355	2,501	2,710	2,874	2,887	901	1.0%	7.5%	9.2%
75 and above	1,438	1,633	2,038	2,309	2,632	2,795	2,866	2,996	3,048	1,610	2.00%	5.42%	9.71%

Table 86 – Population Projection for Selma SOI by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	26,541	26,651	28,248	29,153	30,032	30,785	31,290	31,495	31,401	4,860	0.4%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	2,964	2,820	2,726	2,564	2,425	2,306	2,195	2,086	2,038	-926	-1.0%	11.2%	6.5%
Hispanic or Latino	21,638	21,909	23,539	24,609	25,644	26,548	27,204	27,571	27,553	5,915	0.6%	81.5%	87.7%
Black or African American alone, NH	156	152	153	151	150	149	149	149	148	-8	-0.1%	0.6%	0.5%
Asian alone, NH	1,132	1,125	1,165	1,166	1,154	1,131	1,107	1,080	1,066	-66	-0.2%	4.3%	3.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	4	4	-2	-1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	96	92	88	82	75	69	62	55	52	-45	-1.6%	0.4%	0.2%
Some Other Race alone, NH	132	132	139	142	144	146	148	148	148	16	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Two or more races, NH	417	415	431	434	434	431	421	401	392	-25	-0.2%	1.6%	1.2%

Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs)

Table 87 – Population Projection for Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs) , 2022-2060

Year	Total Population	Household Population	Group Quarter Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
2022	102,880	100,970	1,910	33,951	2.98
2025	103,050	101,130	1,920	33,938	2.98
2030	103,280	101,300	1,980	33,992	2.98
2035	104,290	102,280	2,010	34,324	2.99
2040	105,280	103,250	2,030	34,414	3.00
2045	106,120	104,070	2,050	34,573	3.01
2050	106,680	104,620	2,060	34,756	3.01
2055	106,910	104,850	2,060	34,947	3.00
2060	106,800	104,740	2,060	34,913	3.00
2022-2060 change	3,920	3,770	150	962	
2022-2060 annual growth rate	0.10%	0.10%	0.20%	0.07%	

Table 88 – Job Projection for Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs) by Sector, 2022-2060

Job Sector	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Industrial	12,460	12,380	13,040	13,660	14,360	15,020	15,710	16,420	17,190
Retail	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,120	1,110	1,090	1,050	1,000	930
Office	2,660	4,010	3,870	3,980	4,100	4,250	4,340	4,380	4,390
Education	2,720	2,740	2,820	2,870	2,930	2,970	2,990	2,970	2,930
Health/Medical	1,600	1,740	1,960	2,190	2,410	2,630	2,830	3,010	3,170
Services	1,930	1,990	2,130	2,270	2,430	2,560	2,670	2,750	2,790
Food	1,330	1,350	1,380	1,420	1,440	1,460	1,470	1,470	1,450
Other	34,300	35,300	35,600	36,010	36,420	36,980	37,490	38,000	38,510
Government	790	850	950	1,050	1,160	1,260	1,360	1,450	1,530
Total	**58,920**	**61,480**	**62,890**	**64,580**	**66,360**	**68,210**	**69,910**	**71,450**	**72,900**

Table 89 – Housing Unit Projection for Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs), 2022-2060

Periods	New Units Demand	Single-family Housing Units	Multi-family Housing Units
2022-2025	1,715	1,604	111
2022-2030	1,779	1,663	116
2022-2035	2,165	2,029	135
2022-2040	2,270	2,130	140
2022-2045	2,455	2,307	148
2022-2050	2,669	2,512	157
2022-2055	2,892	2,726	166
2022-2060	2,852	2,688	164

Table 90 – Population Projection for Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs) by Age, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Age Group	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	102,882	103,050	103,285	104,295	105,275	106,116	106,679	106,907	106,803	3,921	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%
5 and below	6,340	6,185	6,949	7,874	8,375	8,153	7,685	7,480	7,498	1,158	0.4%	6.2%	7.0%
6 to 14	12,831	11,449	9,894	10,062	11,347	12,476	12,706	12,092	11,780	-1,052	-0.2%	12.5%	11.0%
15 to 19	8,176	8,116	6,852	5,793	5,435	6,132	6,899	7,252	7,175	-1,001	-0.3%	7.9%	6.7%
20 to 24	6,396	7,752	8,128	6,923	5,865	5,510	6,220	6,955	7,141	745	0.3%	6.2%	6.7%
25 to 34	10,369	10,828	13,414	15,933	15,173	12,976	11,593	11,890	12,375	2,007	0.5%	10.1%	11.6%
35 to 44	11,331	11,022	10,648	11,079	13,536	16,014	15,339	13,133	12,432	1,101	0.2%	11.0%	11.6%
45 to 54	11,721	11,436	11,219	10,835	10,656	11,146	13,547	15,890	15,834	4,112	0.8%	11.4%	14.8%
55 to 64	14,584	13,178	11,150	10,644	10,556	10,316	10,312	10,789	11,438	-3,146	-0.6%	14.2%	10.7%
65 to 74	12,156	12,941	13,059	11,443	9,770	9,364	9,363	9,208	9,133	-3,023	-0.7%	11.8%	8.6%
75 and above	8,977	10,144	11,971	13,709	14,562	14,029	13,015	12,218	11,997	3,020	0.77%	8.73%	11.23%

Table 91 – Population Projection for Unincorporated Areas (excl. SOIs) by Race and Ethnicity, 2022-2060

	Year									22-60 Change	Annual growth rate	2022 share	2060 share
Race/Ethnicity	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060				
Total	102,881	103,050	103,285	104,295	105,275	106,116	106,679	106,907	106,803	3,921	0.1%	100.0%	100.0%
White alone, NH	37,641	35,625	31,670	28,116	24,724	21,640	19,002	16,884	16,250	-21,391	-2.2%	36.6%	15.2%
Hispanic or Latino	51,927	53,804	57,695	62,111	66,444	70,306	73,384	75,632	76,182	24,255	1.0%	50.5%	71.3%
Black or African American alone, NH	1,433	1,564	1,798	1,947	2,060	2,181	2,314	2,407	2,421	988	1.4%	1.4%	2.3%
Asian alone, NH	7,320	7,527	7,704	7,819	7,856	7,906	8,001	8,122	8,147	827	0.3%	7.1%	7.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, NH	74	76	79	84	90	98	107	116	118	44	1.2%	0.1%	0.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, NH	878	887	892	900	921	940	956	959	954	76	0.2%	0.9%	0.9%
Some Other Race alone, NH	572	578	587	575	562	565	573	576	574	2	0.0%	0.6%	0.5%
Two or more races, NH	3,036	2,989	2,858	2,744	2,618	2,480	2,343	2,210	2,156	-880	-0.9%	3.0%	2.0%

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SUBJECT: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2022020486)

This comment letter is being submitted on behalf of our client, the County of Fresno (the "County") Department of Public Works and Planning regarding the City of Fresno's (the "City") Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project (the "Specific Plan"), which is intended to govern future development of the area commonly referred to as SEDA (the "Project"). Please ensure this letter and its referenced enclosures are included in the Record of Proceedings regarding the consideration of the Project by the City of Fresno (the "City").[1]

A. <u>The Specific Plan Fails to Address the Requirements of LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, and Thereby Omits Discussion of Important Policies Intended to Mitigate the Environmental Consequences of the Project</u>.

Preparation of the Specific Plan for SEDA development is a requirement of the Fresno County LAFCO approval that incorporated SEDA into the City Sphere of Influence, as set forth in LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, a copy of which is attached for convenience of reference. Therefore, the City needs to assure that the Specific Plan incorporates the details intended by Resolution USOI-144. Those elements require a master service delivery plan, and an implementation program for annexing open space areas and rural residential neighborhoods. These items were highlighted in Resolution USOI-144 because they involve significant environmental impacts of the intended development of SEDA. However, those requirements have not been adequately

[1] This letter is being submitted after the 45 day comment period based upon arrangements previously confirmed between the City and the County.

addressed in the Specific Plan. As a result, its companion DEIR fails to adequately evaluate how the Specific Plan's implementation will mitigate the environmental impacts that would be addressed by the intended requirements of Resolution USOI-144.

Resolution USOI-144 does not simply require that those intended programs apply to properties within the boundaries of SEDA. Resolution USOI-144 requires development of a program that addresses annexing rural residential neighborhoods within the City's existing sphere of influence in the vicinity of SEDA, as well as within SEDA. That program, as specified in the Resolution, must address "logical and reasonable development, discourage urban sprawl, preserve open-space and prime agricultural lands, and efficiently provide for government services and encourage orderly development."

Additionally, the intended rural residential neighborhood annexation program is required to "emphasize the retention of characteristics that make the neighborhoods desirable places to live, while making provision for appropriate improvement needed to incorporate characteristics into the urban landscape." These are not programs or policies that were to be deferred to some subsequent time, or to some subsequent SEDA Development Code amendments. Resolution USOI-144 specifically requires that they be reflected in the Specific Plan prepared by the City.

Resolution USOI-144 further requires adoption of policies that address the matters concerning lands subject to Williamson Act contracts. Such policies should address the City's intended approaches to any option the City may hold to terminate such contracts under Government Code section 51243.5, and the policy the City intends apply with respect to nonrenewal of such contracts under Government Code section 51246.

The Specific Plan, unfortunately, does not incorporate any such policies. In fact, it makes no reference to Williamson Act Contracts. The DEIR does make reference to Williamson Act contracts, but simply for the purpose of noting that the Specific Plan is not consistent with existing Williamson Act Contracts, and that it will result in significant impacts on those existing contracts. It further adopts no mitigation measures concerning this impact, and simply confirms this is a significant and unavoidable impact with no available mitigations. It therefore intends to adopt a statement of overriding considerations on such matters.

Regarding the requirements of Resolution USOI-144 that the SEDA Specific Plan incorporate a master service delivery plan, the proposed Plan simply asserts that a "pending SEDA Public Facilities Financing Plan", will address important elements of the Plan. It defers that financing plan, and thereby fails to satisfy the requirement of Resolution USOI-44 that these arrangements be incorporated into the Specific Plan. (See Specific Plan-Planning Context, Complete A Public Facilities Financing Plan, p.3; Policy RC-3.3, Water Recycling-Residential Landscaping and Small Farms and Community Farming, p.104; Policy RC-4.1, Minimizing Groundwater Extraction, p. 105; Policy RC-4.2, Replacement of Extracted Groundwater, p.105; Policy RC-4.3, Maximizing

Groundwater Recharge, p.105; Policy RC-6, Water Supply and Delivery, p. 107; Policy RC-6.1, Site Development-Level Water Supply and Delivery Systems, p. 107; Policy RC-6.3, Flood Control and Stormwater Management-Sub-Area or Development Proposal delivery, p. 108; Policy RC-6.4, Flood Control and Stormwater Management-Shared Resources and Infrastructure, p. 109). The plan to finance these public facilities, which are so important to addressing environmental impacts, were intended to be addressed in the Specific Plan. This has not been done. The DEIR simply notes that the Financing Plan will be a subsequent element of the Project, and assumes its components will adequately address the Specific Plan's requirements, including intended elements of intended environmental mitigations (See DEIR Policy RC-3.3, Small Farms and Community Farming, at p. 3.18-48).

Because the Specific Plan does not conform to the express requirements of Resolution USOI-144, which identified important environmental impacts of developing the SEDA lands, the DEIR violates the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") that the environmental consequences of a government decision on whether to approve a project will be considered before, not after, that decision is made. (*Stanislaus Natural Heritage Project v. County of Stanislaus* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 182, 190). It also violates the requirement that an EIR "should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences." (CEQA Guidelines section 15151)

B. <u>The Project Lacks Sufficient Planning Details to Permit in an Adequate DEIR Analysis of Its Potential Environmental Impacts</u>.

A fundamental purpose of CEQA is to "inform the public and responsible officials of the environmental consequences of their decisions before they are made. (*Stanislaus Natural Heritage Project v. County of Stanislaus, supra*, 48 Cal.App.4th at 190). In addition, an EIR "should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences." (CEQA Guidelines section 15151). It is true that the degree of specificity required in an EIR will correspond to the degree of specificity involved in the underlying activity which is described in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines section 15146). In this instance, the project is a specific plan, and the City's Specific Plan fails to provide the information generally required for specific plans under Government Code section 65451.2 The DEIR therefore fails to satisfy CEA's

[2] Because the City is a Charter City, the requirements of Government Code Section 65451 do not apply to it unless it has otherwise confirmed, by ordinance or resolution, an intention to comply with such provisions. (Government Code sections 65700 and 65803). However, in this instance the requirement of preparing the Specific Plan is an element of LAFCO Resolution USOI-144. By accepting the benefits of that Resolution, the City has committed to be bound by its requirements. Whether Resolution USOI-144 intended that the Specific Plan satisfy the minimum thresholds established in Government Code Section 65151 is a matter of interpretation for LAFCO to address. However, in addition to not satisfying the

requirements because the Project which it evaluates is too vague to permit sufficient environmental impact evaluation. (*County of Inyo v. City of Los Angeles* (1977) 71 Cal.App.3d 185, 192-193, *Save Our Capitol! v. Department of General Services* (2023) 87 Cal.App.5th 655, 674).

Standard provisions of a specific plan should include details for the proposed distribution, location, and extent and intensity of major components of public and private transportation, sewage, water, drainage, solid waste disposal, energy, and other essential facilities needed to support the land uses described in the plan. (Government Code section 65451(a)(2)). In addition, a specific plan generally includes a program of implementation measures including regulations, programs, public works projects, and financing measures necessary to carry out the development of the land uses intended by the plan. (Government Code section 65451(a)(4)). However, the Specific Plan lacks sufficient detail concerning such matters. As noted above and below, the Specific Plan defers preparation of both its intended infrastructure financing plan, and its zoning standards, which will subsequently establish the intended development densities and other regulations for its land use designations.

Where, as here, a specific plan does not incorporate the information, in sufficient detail, generally required for such a plan, and instead defers such matters to future preparation, the CEQA document cannot meaningfully evaluate the environmental impacts of the intended project. An insufficiently detailed project cannot be adequately subjected to appropriate environmental review (*Santiago County Water District v. County of Orange* (1981) 118 Cal.App.3d 818, 829). The DEIR thereby fails to satisfy its fundamental purpose of CEQA, to "inform the public and responsible officials of the environmental consequences of their decisions before they are made". (*Stanislaus Natural Heritage Project v. County of Stanislaus Court of Appeal, supra*, 48 Cal.App.4th at 190).

For example, the Specific Plan attempts to address the qualities of the size, density, composition and building character of its extensive complement of new Mixed-Use Districts, by requiring that they be consistent with new zone district standards to be adopted in the future, as part of a SEDA Development Code update. (Specific Plan, at Policy UF-2.2 Development Code Update, p. 27). Some density standards are described for some of the new land use categories. However, the Plan confirms that those density standards, and other aspects of the development standards and regulations, are to be set forth in the presently undefined Development Code update. That updated code will replace all previous zoning designations and will supersede the General Plan and all applicable Specific Plans, including the SEDA Specific Plan. (Specific Plan, page 39). The failure to incorporate meaningful details of those standards in the Specific Plan fails

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minimum statutory requirements of a specific plan, as noted in Section A, the Specific Plan also does not satisfy the express requirements of Resolution USOI-144, resulting in its failure to address important environmental consequences of the Specific Plan.

to address these important aspects of the Specific Plan's intended scope of development, and results in an inadequate CEQA evaluation of its environmental impacts.

Public Resources Code section 21155.4 provides that any future project consistent with an adopted specific plan, and which implements certain transit oriented development projects, may obtain exemptions from compliances with CEQA. Here, the Specific Plan lacks appropriate details. As a result, the CEQA evaluations are incomplete. Nevertheless, further CEQA compliances for future projects might not later occur. This adds additional importance to the need to assure that the Specific Plan is sufficiently detailed so its CEQA evaluations are conducted appropriately as part of its adoption.

C. The Project Is Inconsistent With Relevant Provisions of the City's General Plan - The Impacts of This Inconsistency Was Not Analyzed in the DEIR.

Government Code section 65454 mandates that a specific plan must be consistent with the relevant general plan. This provision of the State Planning and Zoning Law is applicable to Charter cities. (Government Code section 65700). In addition, CEQA requires that any inconsistency of a Project with relevant land use policies should be evaluated as a potentially significant impact. (Guidelines, appen. G, section XI, subd. (b).

The Specific Plan intends to assure its consistency with the General Plan by the City later adopting amendments to the General Plan to incorporate its new land use designations. While that is not unusual, what is unusual is that the zoning standards applicable to the implementation of the new land use designations are also being deferred until sometime into the future. As a result, the environmental impacts of the new Specific Plan's land use designations cannot be meaningfully evaluated unless and until those zoning standards are available for public review and comment.

In addition, the City of Fresno General Plan, at Section 1.3 (Development Under the Plan – Dwellings, Population, and Jobs) confirms that the Specific Plan for SEDA is required to include a "comprehensive provision of public infrastructure". However, the Specific Plan does not contain the required comprehensive policies, programs or plans necessary for any comprehensive provision.

Instead, the Specific Plan states that its goal is simply "to set a clear vision for how Southeast Development Area will develop over time". (Specific Plan, page 16, at "Next Steps: Setting the Stage for Implementation"). The Specific Plan's required program for comprehensive provision of public infrastructure is instead deferred by proposing that the City Council will, at some subsequent time, "direct which financing options to pursue", and will then complete a Public Facilities Financing Plan. (Specific Plan, page 17, at "Complete a Public Facilities Financing Plan").

The Specific Plan, while it intends to identify major infrastructure requirements, fails to include the comprehensive provision of public infrastructure required by the

terms of the General Plan. Because the Specific plan does not satisfy these requirements of the General Plan, it is inconsistent with the General Plan. The DEIR, at Table 3.11-1 lists what it perceives to be a Consistency Determination of the various policies of the Specific Plan with the General Plan. However, that listing fails to reference Section 1.3 of the General Plan. The DEIR therefore fails to identify the impacts of this inconsistency with the General Plan. As a result, it violates the requirements of CEQA that an EIR evaluate the impacts of any inconsistency in the Project and land use policies of the lead agency.

In addition, the General Plan, in its commentary under Implementing Policy UF-13.a, confirms that a Specific Plan is intended to further define the requirements and regulations of the General Plan "to coordinate more discreet land use and transportation design integration and intensity with necessary public facilities, maintenance, and services financing" for the relevant development area. Though the Specific Plan does identify some major infrastructure requirements, it does not indicate how such infrastructure is designed to integrate with the intensity of the intended development, because important facets of that density is deferred to a future SEDA Development Code update.

For example, table 2.1 of the Specific Plan identifies types of streets that will be included in various land use districts. However, there is no discussion about how the delineation of those transportation facilities is intended to accommodate the development and uses reflected in the Specific Plan.

The DEIR takes the limited information included in the Specific Plan and makes the conclusion that the Project will be consistent with the General Plan policy that calls for planning and design of roadway systems to meet LOS D on major roadways. The sole assurance of this is the statement that "Roadway improvements to increase capacity and maintain LOS standards would be planned and programmed based on the total overall needs of the roadway system, recognizing the priority of maintenance, rehabilitation, and operation of the existing road system." (DEIR at p. 3.17-30). However, the actual impact on existing roadways is nowhere detailed in either the Specific Plan or its DEIR. This is presumably because, without any understanding of the density of developments in the land use designations, the projected traffic demands on specific roadways cannot be fairly estimated. As a result, the queuing analysis for impacts on the State High system interchanges, requested by Caltrans in its Comment Letter dated August 25, 2023, was not prepared.

The intended density of development that the public facilities will be required to support is not included in the Specific Plan. Those important elements of a legally compliant specific plan are simply deferred to a future adoption of a SEDA Development code update. As a result, the DEIR fails to evaluate the environmental impacts of the Project.

D. The Specific Plan Intends for an Undefined SEDA Specific Plan Development Code to Supersede Its Development Standards (Including Relevant Density Standards) - the DEIR's Analysis of the Environmental Impacts of These Unknown Development Standards Is Therefore Inadequate.

The Specific Plan intends to defer the designation and adoption of density and land use standards until adoption of the SEDA Specific Plan Development Code. (Specific Plan, page 39). This is not simply the deferral of refinements to the Specific Plan's intended policies. These undefined Development Code updates are instead intended to have such importance to the intended development area that they will replace all previous zoning designations and will supersede the General Plan and all applicable Specific Plans, including the SEDA Specific Plan. (Specific Plan, page 39). Where, as here, the most consequential elements the Specific Plan's standards of development are not disclosed to the public or other agencies, no meaningful environmental evaluation of its environmental impacts can be sufficiently conducted.

These deferred Specific Plan elements are not simply limited to the intended density standards of the proposed land use designations. As an example, Section 2.3.2 of the DEIR discusses locations of open space and institutional features intended by the Specific Plan. However, it states that those locations, as well as roadway configurations and transit alignments, are more closely specified in an Infrastructure Plan. That Infrastructure Plan referenced in the DEIR is nowhere identified or disclosed in the Specific Plan (or otherwise in the DEIR).

Deferral of fully binding density standards for the Specific Plan's land uses, and intended location of key public facilities, significantly diminishes the ability of the DEIR to evaluate the project's environmental impacts. This causes the DEIR to fail its obligation to provide information to the public and the elected officials as to the Specific Plan's potential environmental impacts.

E. The Specific Plan Abolishes the "Permanent Buffer" Along Its Eastern Border Intended to Separate and Preserve Long-Term Agricultural Uses Outside Its Borders – the Consequences of Which Are Nowhere Disclosed in the DEIR.

An important public policy goal for the Specific Plan is to minimize its impacts on various classes of agricultural lands. (See LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3). In furtherance of this goal, the Specific Plan states that the Plan will create an agricultural buffer between developed areas of SEDA and the agricultural lands to its east. (Specific Plan, p. 60).

However, the existing land uses allocated to SEDA in the General Plan already establishes a buffer. The General Plan states that this is to be a permanent buffer area, designed to separate and preserve long-term agriculture outside of the eastern SOI boundary from urban uses inside the SOI Boundary. (General Plan, p.3-25). Table 15-802 of the City Development Code sets forth the limited uses that can be conducted

within that Buffer zone, with manufactured housing, and secondary units, being the sole housing type permitted.

The Specific Plan proposes to abolish this existing adopted Buffer zone in the SEDA area. It instead intends to allow Rural Cluster Residential uses in the area of lands previously designated with the Buffer Zone. The DEIR states that this Rural Cluster Residential uses will serve as a transitional buffer, and states that this area will provide average gross density of 0.1 to 0.5 units per acre.[3] This change in the uses permitted in the Buffer can be seen by comparing Map 2.4, SEDA General Plan Land Use (Existing), with Map 2.5, SEDA Proposed Land Use Map, at pages 21 and 22 of the Specific Plan.

The Specific Plan therefore relaxes the existing restrictions that the General Plan established for development within the existing Buffer Zone, and diminishes from permanent to transitional status. The Specific Plan instead intends to allow a greater extent of housing, and potentially other uses. However, this change in the existing Buffer zone is nowhere discussed in the DEIR, and the impacts of allowing greater development within those areas is therefore nowhere analyzed in the DEIR. This is a significant change to an existing land use designation that was previously adopted to help diminish in conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses.

The DEIR asserts that no feasible mitigation measures to address this impact are available. However, the proposed Specific Plan's change in the General Plan's Buffer zone exacerbates the impact. One feasible mitigation measure would therefore be the retention of the General Plan's established Buffer zone. Where, as here, the DEIR is intending to amend a prior mitigation measure of the existing General Plan, the DEIR must discuss the reasons that justify any change to the Buffer zone, and the potential consequences of allowing new Rural Cluster Residential uses within its environs. That discussion is particularly important where the DEIR otherwise determines this impact is significant, and unavoidable. The DEIR should be updated to include this discussion, and should then be recirculated.

F. Rather Than Rely Upon the Undefined Standards of Mitigation Measure MM Ag-2, the City Should Defer Adoption of the Specific Plan Until It Adopts the Farmland Preservation Program Intended by General Plan Policy Rc-9-C.

The DEIR, at p. 3.2-17, details the intention of the General Plan Policy RC-9-b to implement a Farmland Preservation Program. It seeks to assure that such a program, when adopted, will ensure mitigation of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Until the program is adopted, the DEIR intends to implement, through MM AG-2, an ad hoc mitigation program whose standards are entirely undefined.

[3] As noted above, the Specific Plan provides that the densities stated in the Plan can be overridden by whatever standards are set forth in the yet to be developed SEDA Development Code.

The City adopted General Plan Policy RC-9-b nearly a decade ago, on December 18, 2014. It has had much time to prepare an appropriate program that addresses the intentions of that mitigation standard. Continuing in place an arrangement for ad hoc mitigations, based upon undefined standards, is not an acceptable alternative to a defined and adopted uniform program and policy that General Plan Policy RC-9-b intended. (See *Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation v. County of El Dorada* (2012) 202 Cal.App.4th 1156). This is particularly true given the amount of time that has been available to adopt such a program.

Rather than adopting MM AG-2 as a new mitigation measure, the City should defer finalizing this Specific Plan until after the program intended by General Plan Policy RC-9-b is fully adopted. Only then can both the agricultural community and the development community understand the requirements for development within the Plan where relevant farmland is being impacted. MM AG-2, standing alone, has insufficient performance standards to satisfy appropriate standards for deferred mitigation. It includes no mitigation ratio, does not address potentially appropriate exemptions and exclusions, or the locations of lands covered by conservation easements. It thereby leaves too many aspects of the arrangement too ill defined to fully assess its efficacy.

The fact that the impacts on relevant farmlands are identified as an unavoidable and mitigatable significant impact does not allow the DEIR to fail to adopt feasible mitigation measures. The adoption of General Plan Policy RC-9-b intended to allow appropriate deliberation of a comprehensive program to address such impacts. That program should be adopted before annexations within SEDA begin and before the Specific Plan is adopted.

G. <u>The Specific Plan and Its DEIR Should Address Phasing Policies and Assure That Lands in the City's Sphere Adjacent to, but Outside SEDA, Are Prioritized For Development Before SEDA Lands</u>.

The Specific Plan's implementation objectives provides that development of SEDA is to occur in an organized and phased manner. (Specific Plan, p.12, DEIR p. 2-12). The DEIR also states that annexations will be "strategic and proactive to facilitate infrastructure development by the City." (DEIR at p. 2-3). An important value of a phasing plan is that it can help diminish the pressure on early conversion of farmlands and impacts on existing rural residential uses within the Specific Plan boundaries. It may also help extend the period before the development within the Specific Plan pressures conversion of farmlands outside the Specific Plan, or rural residential uses in proximity to the Specific Plan boundaries.

A phasing program is therefore a tool that can help achieve many of the objectives of the Specific Plan's requirements set forth in LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3, regarding the Project's impacts on existing rural residential neighborhoods. It is also an important tool to mitigate the impact on farmland conversions, which is

particularly important where, as here, the DEIR finds that such impacts cannot be mitigated and are otherwise a significant an unavoidable circumstance. Even where that circumstance exists, CEQA nevertheless requires that all feasible mitigation measures are adopted. Yet, in this instance the Phase plan, while promised, is not adopted and is therefore not available as a mitigation tool.

One easy phasing strategy we recommended is a policy of the City to help insure that the unincorporated lands west of Temperance Avenue within the City Sphere of Influence are timely annexed before annexation begins with SEDA. However, an even broader phasing strategy would provide a greater extent of mitigation on the premature conversion of farmlands and impacts of development on existing rural residential uses.

Unfortunately, the Specific Plan does not include any phasing strategies. The accompanying DEIR therefore does not assess all potential mitigations that can be provided by a thoughtful phasing program. Such a program might include advancing construction of relevant public facilities necessary to support development. It might also include milestones before lands in various phases can have development commence.

The Specific Plan should be updated to incorporate the phasing plan that would allow the DEIR to assess the extent to which a proposed phasing will help mitigate the impacts of the project on rural residential neighborhoods and the conversion of farmlands. Such an assessment should be included in a recirculated DEIR.

H. <u>The DEIR Does Not Assess the Adequacy of Existing City Ordinances to Support the Existing Rural Residential Neighborhoods Within the Plan</u>.

LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3, confirms that the Specific Plan is to, among other aspects, emphasize the retention of characteristics in rural residential neighborhoods within the Plan's environs after their annexation into the City. This policy concerns an important environmental impact of the Specific Plan.

The Plan and the DEIR simply state that the existing uses on those parcels will remain protected under the Annexation Overlay Ordinance approved in City of Fresno Bill 2008-10. (Specific Plan, p. 29, DEIR, p. 2-8). Unfortunately, the text of bill 2008-10 is not set forth in the Specific Plan or the DEIR, and it is not a document that is readily available for public review. However, the City's Development Code includes Section 15-1606, that establishes an Annexed Rural Residential Transitional (ANX) Overlay District, which was codified as part of the adoption of the City's most recent comprehensive update to its Development Code in Ordinance 2015-39, effective January 9, 2016. It is unclear whether the provisions in Municipal Code Section 15-1606 is what was intended to be referenced in the DEIR and Specific Plan, or whether other provisions were intended.

The Annexation Overlay Zone in Municipal Code Section 15-1606 does protect a range of existing uses. However, it allocates such uses and their structures to legal

nonconforming status. That status may create difficulties with lenders and buyers of property, and the imposition of those constraints are not consistent with protecting the maintenance of such rural residential uses. That legal nonconforming status will also hinder appropriate expansion of existing legal nonconforming structures that may be reasonable and desirable to maintain thriving rural residential neighborhoods.

In fact, LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3, intends that the Specific Plan's program for retention of rural residential neighborhoods in annexed lands would allow for appropriate improvements needed to incorporate their characteristics into the urban landscape. While the City's legal nonconforming regulations at Municipal Code sections 15-404 and 15-405 allow some expansion in single family residential structures, similar expansion of other ancillary structures is not permitted except with the attainment of subsequent entitlements. In addition, expansions of single-family residential structures requires that the improvements conform to the standards of the newly allocated Base District. (Municipal Code Section 15-405-E-1).

LAFCO Resolution USOI-144, Section 8-3 has emphasized the importance of a program for annexation that is intended to emphasize the retention of characteristics of rural residential neighborhoods that make them desirable places to live. The Specific Plan does not include such a program. Further, the DEIR does not evaluate the characteristics of the existing rural residential neighborhoods. Nor does it evaluate the adequacy of the provisions of Municipal Code Section 15-1606, and the associated noncomforming legal use standards of the City, to assess whether those annexed rural neighborhoods will be able to effectively maintain their qualities intended by LAFCO Resolution USOI-144.

The DEIR should be updated to include an assessment of the existing City ordinances that will govern existing residential neighborhoods within the Plan after annexation, and whether those standards adequately protect their retention. It should also recommend any refinements to the existing City Ordinances where necessary. That information should be included in an updated and recirculated DEIR.

I. <u>Elements of the DEIR's Mitigations of Water Supply Impacts Need Clarification</u>.

The Specific Plan, at p. 105, under Policy RC-4.2, states that the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Plan was approved in 2019. The Plan approval was subject to subsequent review and approval by the Department of Water Resources, and that plan was conditionally approved by the Department of Water Resources in 2023.

More importantly, Policy RC-4.2 states that all groundwater drawn to serve development in the SEDA will be replaced "with at least an equal volume via infiltration, pumping or other means". However, both the Specific Plan and the DEIR fail to explain how groundwater is to be replaced by pumping, or what the other means are that it intends to reference.

Policy RC-4.2 also states that the necessary recharge may not necessarily occur the same year as withdrawals, but asserts that over time total recharge will match total withdrawals. While all of those goals and intentions are desirable, some maximum period of mismatch between withdrawal and recharge should be identified. Consideration of impacts to sustainable management criteria should also be considered.

The City is situated on top of a single unconfined aquifer. To offset groundwater pumping, recharge must occur within a reasonable distance that demonstrates effectiveness. We are not opposed to regional recharge provided the groundwater pumping does not cause widespread regional impacts. Recharge outside of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency would not be considered reasonable.

The DEIR includes, as an appendix, a Water Technical Study prepared by Blair, Church, and Flynn Consulting Engineers (the "Water Study"). The Water Study identifies surface water supplied from both the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) through existing agreements for groundwater recharge and potable use after treatment. According to the Water Study, the most recent FID agreement signed in 2016 provided for a maximum of 29% of FID's Kings River water supply to be available to the City. It is unclear per the FID agreement whether the water supply was intended for use within the Specific Plan boundary. The FID agreement, specifically Section 13.(c), states that "City and District mutually agree that the increase in percentages reflected in this Section 13 include allowances for moderate growth in Growth Area 1 of City's Sphere of Influence as shown in Exhibit C (as depicted as Figure IM-2 of the Fresno General Plan)." The DEIR should be revised to clarify this issue.

Mitigation Measure HYD-2b requires that the City must, prior to exceeding existing water supply capacities, evaluate the water supply system and not approve development in the Specific Plan until additional capacity is provided through water system improvements in accordance with the City Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan. We recommend that some threshold be adopted to confirm that there is a trigger, prior to the actual point of exceeding existing water supply capacity, when the evaluations will be performed, and when the improvements will be required.

The DEIR, at page 3.10-9, advises that the City is in the process of updating its Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan (the "Metro Plan"). Mitigation Measure HYD-2d provides that new and expanded groundwater recharge facilities will be in accordance with that plan, and that those measures will be completed prior to new applications for future development in the Specific Plan. However, because the Metro Plan has not yet been updated, it is unclear how HYD-2d can be an effective mitigation measure when the standards that may be included in that Metro Plan update have not yet been determined. It is also unclear whether full construction of all intended recharge facilities within the Specific Plan, as identified by the Metro Plan, will be completed as part of the requirement that new and expanded recharge facilities will be completed prior to new applications for future development. This element of the Mitigation Measure

should be clarified. These requirements could also be better assured if the Specific Plan incorporated a phasing program that focused development of necessary public facilities on the areas intended for priority development.

J. County as a Responsible Agency.

Section 2.5.2 of the DEIR should be updated to identify Fresno County as a Responsible Agency. That is because the County will be required to issue encroachment permits for construction within the County's road right-of-way, coordinate Williamson Act Contract cancellations, and approve required property exchange agreement(s) associated with future annexations in SEDA.

K. Conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully request that the City not consider the Project DEIR until after there have been appropriate updates to the Specific Plan and the DEIR, to address the matters detailed above.

Sincerely,
McCORMICK, BARSTOW, SHEPPARD,
WAYTE & CARRUTH LLP

Jeffrey M. Reid

cc: Bernard Jimenez, Planning & Resource Management Officer
Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning

Enc. LAFCO Resolution USOI-144

RESOLUTION NO. USOI-144

FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

REQUEST FOR REVISION TO THE CITY OF FRESNO SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	)))	ADOPTED FINDINGS AND APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, in order to carry out its purposes and responsibilities for planning and shaping the logical and orderly development and coordination of local governmental agencies so as to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of the County and its communities, this Commission has the authority under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (the "Act") to develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local governmental agency within the County and enact policies designed to promote the logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere (California Government Code Section 56425(a); and

WHEREAS, this Commission has the authority to establish spheres of influence, or to revise or amend adopted spheres of influence of local governmental agencies after a noticed public hearing called and held for that purpose (California Government Code Section 56427); and

WHEREAS, a proposal for a revision to a local government's adopted sphere of influence may be made by the adoption of a resolution of application by the legislative body of an affected local agency (California Government Code Section 56654(a); and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fresno, California, adopted a resolution of application (Resolution No. 2005-507) on the 6th day of December 2005, applying to the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) for consideration of an amendment (hereafter referred to as the "Proposal" or "proposed SOI revision") to the City's Sphere of Influence to include the "Southeast Growth Area", consisting of approximately 8,863 acres, as identified in the Fresno 2025 General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno filed a certified copy of said resolution of application with the Executive Officer pursuant to California Government Code Section 56756; and

WHEREAS, the affected territory is generally described as an area bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, to the east by McCall, Highland and Temperance Avenues, on the south by Jensen, and North Avenues, and on the west by the existing Fresno Sphere of Influence boundary along Minnewawa, Temperance, and Locan Avenues, as depicted in "Exhibit A" attached to this resolution and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, said resolution of application (Resolution No. 2005-507) stated that Article VI of the City / County Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as the "MOU" or "tax sharing agreement") requires the City to meet various conditions before proceeding with development within the Southeast Growth Area; and

WHEREAS, said resolution of application states that the City has met all the conditions identified in Article VI of the MOU with the exception of the preparation and approval of the Southeast Industrial Growth Area Business Park Specific Plan and attainment of the 60% residential development build-out in selected Community Plan Areas, and that provided the SOI amendment is approved, the City will move forward with the preparation and adoption of various Community and Specific Plans; and

WHEREAS, at its March 16, 2005 hearing the Local Agency Formation Commission requested more detailed environmental analysis, especially with respect to issues related to the preservation of agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, in response to the request for more detailed environmental information, the City caused to be prepared a more detailed initial study to support a new Environmental Assessment (No. SOI-05-01, Finding of Conformity to the 2025 Fresno General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR 10130) dated September 29, 2005); and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed the more detailed environmental information and found that the information supports and reaffirms the original finding and made a new finding based on the new information that there is no substantial evidence in the record that the "Southeast Growth Area SOI Amendment" may have an adverse impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, as commended by Section 56425 (b) of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, the City of Fresno presented the proposal to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and requested them to support and concur with the City's request; and

WHEREAS, at its January 31, 2006 hearing, by a vote of three to two, the Board of Supervisors approved its support of a resolution of reapplication to LAFCo for an amendment to the City's SOI to include the Southeast Growth Area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 56425 (b), when there is an agreement between the County and a city seeking an SOI amendment the Commission shall give great weight to the agreement in its final determination of the city's SOI; and

WHEREAS, said application for an SOI revision was deemed complete and accepted for filing by the Interim Executive Officer and a Certificate of Filing was issued pursuant to California Government Code Sections 56651 and 56658(g), and accordingly Commission proceedings were deemed initiated; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer set this matter for hearing on April, 12, 2006, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., and caused notice of said hearing to be published in accordance with California Government Code Section 56153 in a newspaper of general circulation which is circulated within the territory affected by the sphere of influence proposed to be amended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 56665 the Executive Officer reviewed said application and all supporting materials and prepared a report to this Commission, including a recommendation for approval with specified conditions, said report having been mailed to the Commission, the officers or persons designated in the application, each local agency whose boundaries or sphere of influence would be changed by the Proposal, and each affected local

agency that has filed a request for a report with the executive officer, at least five days before said hearing; and

WHEREAS, this Commission reviewed the Executive Officer's report and recommendation and all supporting materials, including Initial Study No. SOI-05-01, Finding of Conformity to the 2025 Fresno General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR 10130) dated September 29, 2005, the Master Environmental Impact Report, and all other documents that were incorporated by reference into said report, pursuant to Government Code Section 56665(d), which report was duly considered by this Commission pursuant to State law; and

WHEREAS, said Proposal was considered by this Commission at said hearing on the 12th day of April, 2006, at which the Executive Officer presented staff's report and recommended approval of the Proposal with specified conditions, and testimony was presented in favor and against the Proposal; and

WHEREAS, this Commission considered all relevant factors and evidence and heard all affected agencies and interested parties wishing to speak on said application; and

WHEREAS, as Responsible Agency, this Commission independently reviewed and considered the information in the Draft and Final MEIR for the Fresno 2025 General Plan and the City's subsequent "Environmental Assessment / Initial Study" and the City's "Finding of Conformity" issued pursuant to Section 21157.1 of the California Public Resources Code (California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA") prior to taking its action, and determined that the City's finding is appropriate, pursuant to State law, and that the Proposal is consistent with these documents and that these documents are sufficient on which to make a determination on the proposed sphere of influence revision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission does HEREBY STATE, FIND, RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER as follows:

SECTION #1 – This Commission hereby adopts the findings required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) listed below:

1. Acting as a Responsible Agency under CEQA Guidelines, the Final Master Environmental Impact Report prepared for the 2025 Fresno General Plan by the Lead Agency, the City of Fresno, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of CEQA Guidelines (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 *et seq.*) and the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines – California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq.*).

2. This Commission considered the information in the Final Master Environmental Impact Report and the Initial Study upon which the Lead Agency determined said project to be within the scope of the "Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) No. 10130" prepared and certified for the 2025 Fresno General Plan, prior to making a determination about the Proposal, together with any and all comments received during the public review process pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and finds on the basis of the whole public record before the Commission, including the Final Master Environmental Impact Report and the Initial Study and any comments received, that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, and that the Lead Agency's determination pursuant to Section 21151.1 of the California Public Resources

Code (California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA") reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis pursuant to CEQA Section 15074, *et seq.* (Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087).

3. Acting as Responsible Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the Commission hereby finds that the Lead Agency's determination is appropriate, pursuant to Section 21151.1 of the California Public Resources Code (California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA"), and finds that that Final Master Environmental Impact Report and the subsequent Initial Study are sufficient on which to make a determination on the proposed change of organization.

SECTION #2 – This Commission hereby finds that the proposed change of organization is consistent with LAFCo Policies, Standards and Procedures Section 330, "Sphere of Influence Updates and Revisions," and the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000.

SECTION #3 – This Commission hereby finds that the April 12, 2006 public hearing and consideration of the proposed SOI revision were legally noticed pursuant to California Government Code sections 56427 and 56153, and that all notices related to this matter were duly given in accordance with State law, including, but not limited to, the Act and CEQA Guidelines and governing laws.

SECTION #4 – This Commission finds that, pursuant to California Government Code section 56426.5(b)(1)(2) the proposed SOI revision will facilitate planned, orderly, and efficient patterns of land use and provision of services. The public interest in the change of organization substantially outweighs the public interest in the continuation of existing Williamson Act Contracts in the affected territory beyond the current expiration date of said Contracts. Additionally, the change of organization is not likely to adversely affect the continuation of said Contracts beyond their current expiration date. In making this determination, the Commission considered all relevant factors pursuant to California Government Code section 56426.5(b)(2)(A-C).

SECTION #5 - This Commission Determines that the MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SERVICES PLAN dated December 2005 prepared by the City of Fresno conforms to the requirements of Section 56430 of the California Government Code, and hereby adopts the proposed Written Determinations contained therein with the following addition:

Government Structure Options (Page 61) – Add: *4. As the provider of a full range of urban services the City is the logical agency to provide these services in the subject area.*

SECTION #6 – This Commission hereby makes the following determinations pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(e):

1. The proposed Sphere of Influence expansion will accommodate anticipated growth needs of the City of Fresno in the affected area, and, with certain recommended conditions for future annexations therein, will provide for all existing and planned uses.

2. The present and probable needs for public facilities and services in the area will be provided for as identified in the MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SERVICES PLAN

prepared by the City of Fresno. The need for additional facilities will be identified and addressed during the preparation and adoption of the Community or Specific plan for the Southeast Growth Area as required in conditions 1 and 2 of Section 8, below.

3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the City provides or is authorized to provide have been adequately identified in the MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SERVICES PLAN prepared by the City of Fresno, and additional facilities needs will be identified and addressed during the preparation and adoption of the Community or Specific Plan for the Southeast Growth Area as required in conditions 1 and 2 of Section 8, below.

4. No social or economic communities of interest have been identified in the subject area that are deemed relevant to the Commission.

SECTION #7 – This Commission hereby approves the proposed revision to the City of Fresno Sphere of Influence to include the "Southeast Growth Area" (approximately 8,863 acres) within the City's adopted sphere of influence (LAFCo File No. USOI -144), as depicted in Exhibit "A".

SECTION #8 – If and when the City submits an application for annexation for any affected parcels within the amended SOI, the City shall complete the following plans and programs prior to the Commission's approval of such an application:

1. Prepare and adopt a Community or Specific Plan for the Southeast Growth Area, including the preparation, public review, and certification of environmental documents and findings pursuant to CEQA. This plan shall include, but not be limited to, policies to address the requirements of Section 56426.5 of the California Government Code for lands subject to Williamson Act contracts.

2. Prepare and adopt a Master Service Delivery Plan for the Southeast Growth Area.

3. Prepare, adopt and begin to implement a program for annexing the designated open space areas in the approach corridor of the Fresno Air Terminal (areas designated with an "R" on the 2025 General Plan map), and for rural residential neighborhoods within the City's existing Sphere of Influence in the vicinity of the Southeast Growth Area. This program shall provide for logical and reasonable development, discourage urban sprawl, preserve open-space and prime agricultural lands, efficiently provide for government services, and encourage orderly development.

   The rural residential neighborhood annexation program should emphasize the retention of characteristics that make the neighborhoods desirable places to live, while making provisions for appropriate improvements needed to incorporate such characteristics into the urban landscape. The program should include an outreach effort demonstrating to residents that annexation into the City would provide for an enhanced living environment preferable to staying in an unincorporated enclave, surrounded or substantially surrounded by the City. This program shall also be applicable within the Southeast Growth Area, and shall be reflected in the Specific Plan prepared by the City as required by condition 1, above.

The annexation program for the designated Open Space areas in the Fresno Air Terminal approach corridor should be undertaken as a means to preserving open space lands that would otherwise not be proposed for annexation; thereby providing for the efficient extension of government services to areas beyond the approach corridor, and providing for orderly boundaries that will facilitate annexation of other properties proposed for urban development.

SECTION #9 - The Executive Officer is hereby authorized and directed to mail certified copies of this resolution as provided in Government Code Section 56882 and to file, as appropriate, in the office of the Fresno County Clerk all environmental documents, if any, pertaining to the approval of this Proposal, as required by state law.

* *

ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF APRIL, 2006, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Lopez, Rodriguez, Fortune, Alternate County Commissioner Larson, and Waterston.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Anderson

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO)

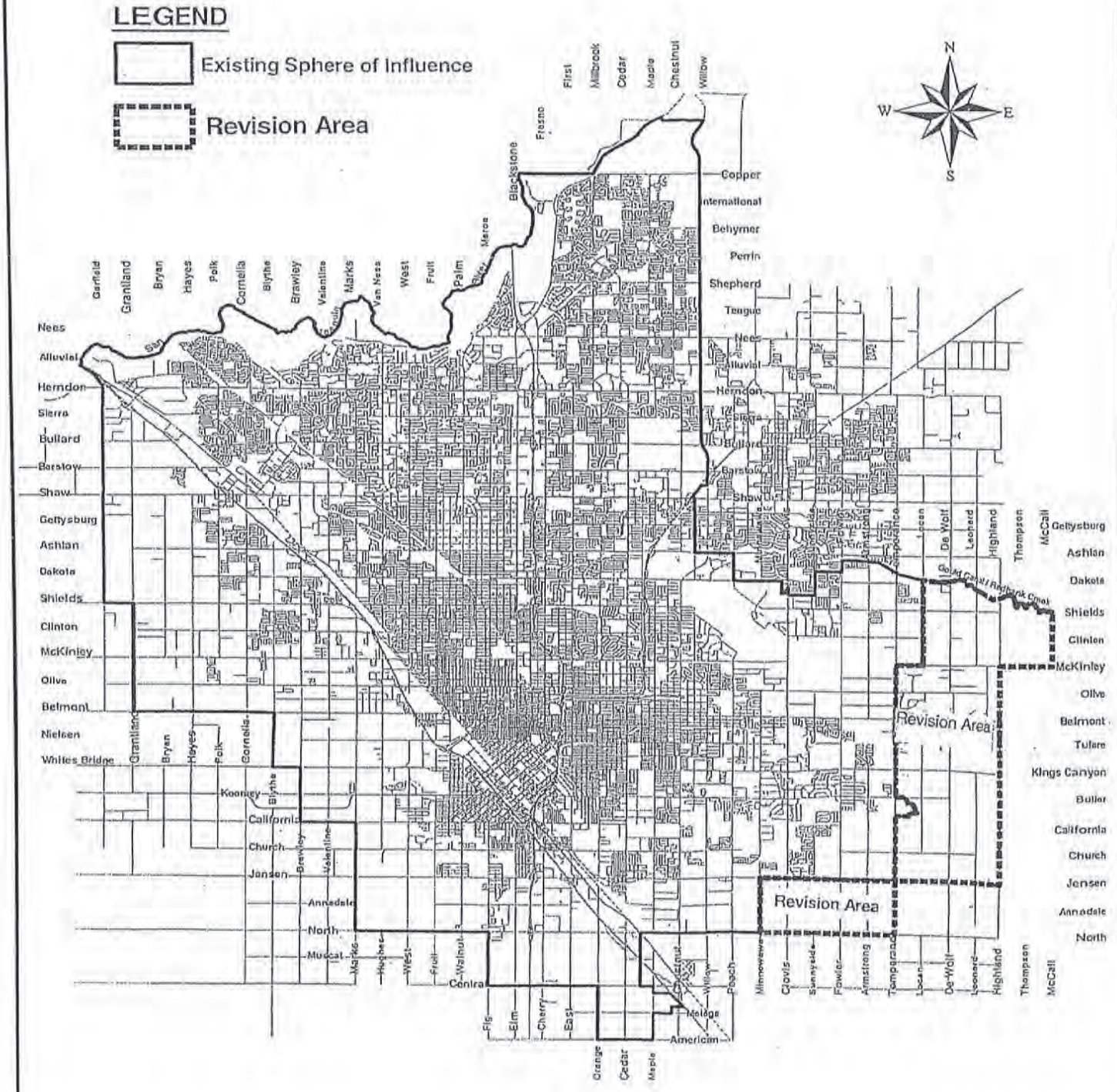
CERTIFICATION OF CHAIRMAN

I, Bob Waterston, Chairman of the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission, Fresno County, State of California, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Commission at a regular meeting held on the 12th day of April, 2006.

Bob Waterston, Chairman
Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission

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EXHIBIT "A"
RESOLUTION NO. USOI-144





RESEARCH REPORT

Patterns of Sprawl in Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley

Confronting Past, Present, and Future Housing Development Trends

Yonah Freemark *Samantha Fu* *Annie Rosenow* *Yipeng Su*

May 2024

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Acknowledgments

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Executive Summary

Urban areas in the United States have been developing outwardly for more than a century. The availability of relatively cheap automobile transportation, massive investments in highways, construction of single-family homes, and a growing population have contributed to the systematic urban sprawl of metropolitan regions from their historic centers into what once was agricultural or natural land. This sprawl has been accompanied by disinvestment in city cores, increasing social and racial segregation, degradation of ecosystems, and pollution and other environmental harms. Though sprawl is a fact of life for many Americans, some urban planners and policymakers have promoted policy alternatives for decades that support denser development in urbanized areas.

To understand these opposing forces and study how living patterns have changed in one US metropolitan area, we explore patterns of development over time in Fresno and the broader Central San Joaquin Valley of California (comprising Fresno, Madera, Kings, and Tulare Counties). We evaluate the location of new housing development, its relationship to local demographic indicators, and the change in share of land devoted to agricultural and natural uses.

Fresno's downtown has faced decades of disinvestment and underprovision of important local resources, like well-funded public services and retail options (Yung et al. 2022).[1] But, thanks to the forthcoming arrival of the state's new high-speed rail system along with a preliminary infrastructure investment in downtown from the state government, the region has a new opportunity to revitalize its historic city center and adjacent neighborhoods. Understanding past trends is critical for local and regional stakeholders to effectively leverage this opportunity to move the region toward an equitable and sustainable future.

This report paints a portrait of how patterns of sprawl in the region have changed over time. We find the following:

- Urban sprawl has continued unabated for decades in the Central San Joaquin Valley, consuming land at a greater rate than population growth. Overall, the region's urbanized land area has grown by 226 percent since 1970, while its population has grown by 153 percent over the same period. Similarly, developed land in Fresno County has grown by 175 percent—while

the county's population has only grown by 144 percent. This has led to an overall reduction in the average neighborhood density.

- Once they are developed into subdivisions of single-family homes, neighborhoods in the region rarely change their built form. After communities reach between 1,800 and 2,500 housing units per square mile—the density of many such subdivisions—they generally fail to add additional units. This is likely a consequence of restrictive zoning, homeowners' associations' policies, and limited demand for—or willingness to build—multifamily units. As a result, less than 30 percent of additional housing each decade has been added in infill locations, meaning neighborhoods that are already developed. The region has primarily accommodated growth through greenfield construction, meaning housing built on land that was previously used for natural or agricultural purposes, which tends to be on the periphery of urban areas. Meanwhile, communities near the region's center in downtown Fresno—whose inhabitants are predominantly people of color—have experienced limited investment over time.
- The sprawling growth of the region's urban areas has been associated with the loss of agricultural land on the edges of developed areas. In part because of a lack of adequate protections, new agricultural land has been added elsewhere in the region, displacing natural grasslands, forests, and other sensitive ecologies.

Our analysis also shows, however, that Fresno's sprawling development patterns were not inevitable. We compare the region with other parts of the US, showing that Fresno County could have accommodated its entire housing growth from 1990 to 2019 in central, already developed neighborhoods if it had adopted the patterns of infill construction that some other West Coast counties have pursued. If Fresno's residents and real-estate investors had chosen to invest in existing neighborhoods instead of creating new, sprawling subdivisions—and local and state officials had encouraged that approach—the region may have been able to avoid the racialized patterns of disinvestment and decay that we observe today. We estimate that such concentration of growth in infill areas would have not only substantially reduced the need to dislocate agricultural and natural land, but also likely reduced vehicle miles driven, carbon emissions, and public expenditures on infrastructure and services.

State investments in new infrastructure offer Fresno—and the broader Central San Joaquin Valley region—a key opportunity to change these harmful development patterns and support denser and more equitable growth. Developers and even some policymakers, however, continue to promote sprawling development as the path forward, even though the results are higher greenhouse gas emissions, reduced access, and the neglect of central neighborhoods. To support more equitable and sustainable outcomes, stakeholders throughout the region must learn from past failures to constrain sprawl and build consensus on how to establish new patterns of development.

Patterns of Sprawl in Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley

Over the course of the twentieth century, the primary growth pathway for metropolitan areas throughout the United States has been building housing and other infrastructure in previously undeveloped areas, often described as greenfields (Barrington-Leigh and Millard-Ball 2015). This process required the massive conversion of natural and agricultural land into space used for urban development (Arellano, Roca, and Ros 2011). Though this outward expansion has slowed over the past several decades (Richter 2020; Sarzynski, Galster, and Stack 2014), most regions continue to accommodate a majority of their population growth not in already developed neighborhoods, but rather in newly built subdivisions and other neighborhood types at the metropolitan edge (Landis 2017). This pattern of development is known as urban sprawl, and is widely recognized as the de-facto pattern of development in the United States (Hamidi and Ewing 2014).

Urban sprawl is characterized by low-density, noncontiguous development spiraling outward from urban centers (see, for example, Burchell and Shad 1999). Brody (2013) describes six key characteristics of the phenomenon: low-density, single-family dwellings in monofunctional neighborhoods; automobile dependency in fulfilling daily activities; spiraling outward growth, rather than intensification of building in already-developed neighborhoods (infill growth); leapfrogging development patterns with growth in rural areas; commercial development in the form of strip malls and office parks along arterial highways; and undefined edges between urban and rural areas.

Sprawl is the result of a complex set of interconnected factors, but land value is often considered to be a primary driver; sprawl tends to occur at the fastest rate in regions where growth is occurring (e.g., because of new jobs) and where property values are substantially lower on the periphery than in the center (Brody 2013). The growing demand for housing combined with the relative affordability of land on the periphery results in new building on the edges of cities and towns rather than in the center (Baum-Snow 2023). Other sprawl-inducing factors include rising incomes, which allow more households to purchase and use cars; reductions in the costs of using cars (e.g., because of lower gas prices); physical constraints on adding density (e.g., steep terrain or areas prone to flooding); incentivizing land-use policies (e.g., zoning that places limits on adding density in existing areas while enforcing freedom of development elsewhere); investments in new highway infrastructure and lack of support for alternative investments, such as public transportation; and racial strife and "white flight" (non-Hispanic white residents moving out of previously developed neighborhoods) that are produced by cultural and

societal trends (OECD 2018). Overall, sprawl increases as people and society at large become increasingly dependent on automobiles to travel between their homes and other destinations (Glaeser and Kahn 2004).

Researchers catalogue numerous negative consequences that result from urban sprawl. Environmentally, sprawling housing development infringes on open spaces, including sensitive areas like wetlands, wildlife corridors, and other natural habitats, as well as agricultural land, threatening a region's ecological sustainability and often resulting in a loss of biodiversity (Syphard, Brennan, and Keeley 2018). Sprawl can lead to increased air and noise pollution (as a result of automobile and truck use), water pollution, and increased flooding risks (Nechyba and Walsh 2004). The social and economic impacts of sprawl include increased racial and income segregation, expanded urban blight, social isolation, health conditions such as obesity, traffic congestion, and higher costs of providing infrastructure and public services (Bray, Vakil, and Elliott 2005; Brueckner and Helsley 2011; Carruthers and Ulfarsson 2008; Frumkin, Frank, and Jackson 2004). As sprawl redirects growth from one part of a metropolitan area to another, one additional consequence is that housing development becomes rare in jurisdictions and neighborhoods with low incomes and low demand, since developers can respond to demand for homes by building at the far edge of regions, where there are low land costs and high demand (Freemark 2022). This may lead to low-income neighborhoods experiencing disinvestment and decay, while high-income, suburban neighborhoods benefit from the majority of private and public investment.

For these and other reasons, some city planners have for decades promoted alternatives to sprawl, often described as "smart growth" policies, through infill development, meaning development in areas that already have buildings and that are relatively more densely populated (Knaap et al. 2022; US Environmental Protection Agency 2014). The New Urbanist movement, for example, has since the 1980s promoted the construction of mixed-use, higher-density neighborhoods.[2] The related concept of transit-oriented development is premised on the idea that in areas with access to public transportation options, higher densities can provide people the opportunity to reduce automobile dependence.[3] In the last decade, the Yes in My Backyard, or YIMBY, movement has explicitly encouraged changes to local land-use policies to encourage these types of developments.[4] Metropolitan areas thus experience contradictory forces: On the one hand, decades of outward sprawl due to a combination of political, economic, and social factors, and on the other, efforts to encourage dense infill construction.

To understand these opposing forces and study how living patterns have changed in one US metropolitan area, we examined development over time in Fresno and the broader Central San Joaquin Valley, California. Urban Institute researchers have partnered closely with stakeholders in the area

since 2018 on a broad range of topics including upward mobility, equitable development, and climate action. This report was inspired by conversations with regional partners, particularly leaders at the Central Valley Community Foundation, who lead several initiatives in the area.

With about 550,000 residents as of 2022, the city of Fresno is the largest in California's Central Valley; the city is also at the core of Fresno County, which is coterminus with the census-designated metropolitan area and has a population of about 1 million. Despite its position as the heart of one of the nation's most important agricultural zones, Fresno suffers from some major economic challenges. In 2016, it ranked 253 of 274 among cities nationwide in terms of economic and racial inclusion (Poethig et al. 2018).[5] Like many Rust Belt cities, it has a large amount of vacant land, particularly near the historic city core. Its per capita incomes are only two-thirds of those across the state of California, and its poverty rate is more than 50 percent higher.[6] Its unemployment rate is consistently about two times as high as that in the San Francisco metropolitan area,[7] in part because, unlike many of California's coastal regions—where booming service industries, such as technology, predominate—Fresno's economy is more focused on agricultural and industrial pursuits.

Disinvestment in Fresno's core neighborhoods has also resulted in health and environmental disparities. A recent analysis by ECONorthwest for the Greenfield Coalition, for instance, demonstrates clear disparities in environmental, health, and socioeconomic indicators between neighborhoods in the city's south and southwest (which encompass the downtown area and adjacent neighborhoods) and wealthier neighborhoods to the north.[8] These disparities are often discussed in the region and across the state—advocates often cite the 20-year difference in life expectancy between wealthy zip codes in the northern part of the city and poorer zip codes in the south.[9]

As with many other cities in the US, the disparities in Fresno are extremely racialized. The majority of both the city and county's residents are Hispanic or Latino (53 percent of the city's residents and 55 percent of the county's residents in 2022). Non-Hispanic white people account for 26 percent of the populations of both Fresno County and the four-county Central San Joaquin Valley region. Fresno County is home to a slightly larger Asian and Black population (11 and 4 percent, respectively), compared to the four-county region.[10]

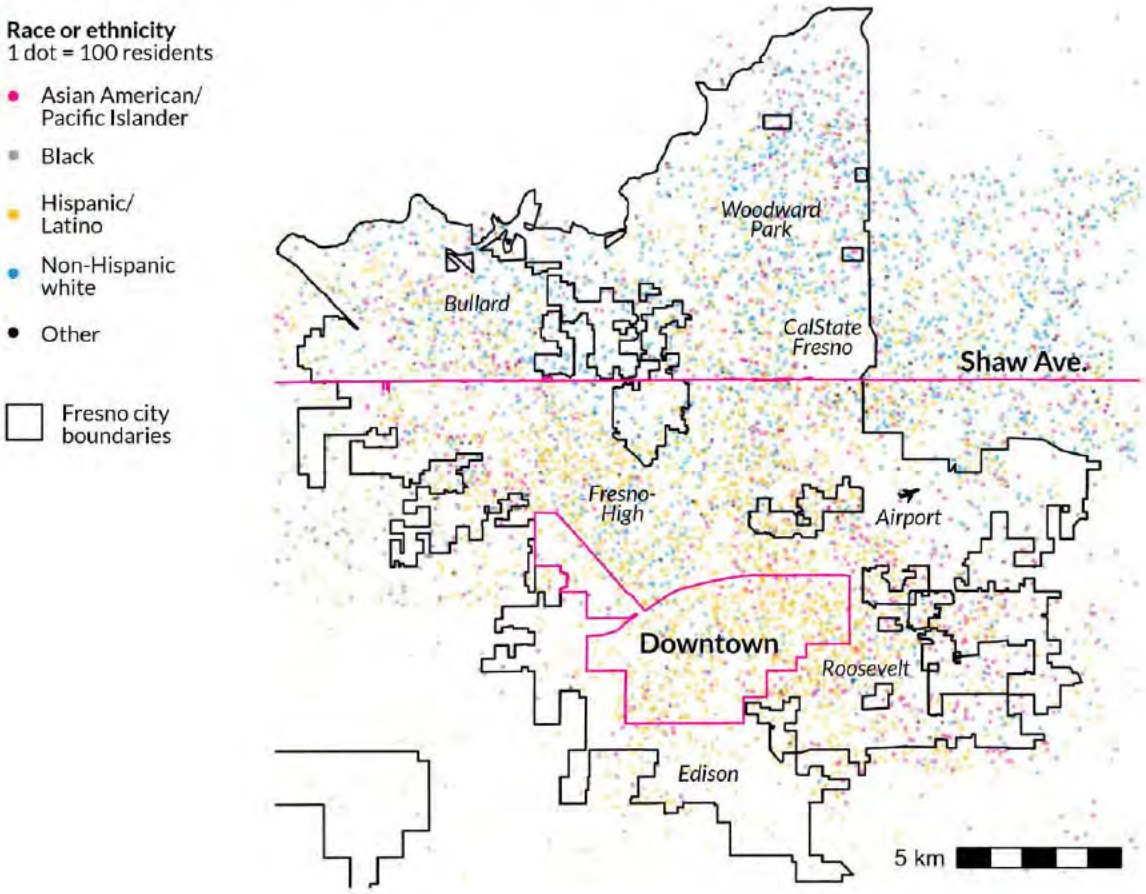
In the city of Fresno, as figure 1 shows, residents in the south and southwest, including in the lower-income neighborhoods surrounding downtown, are primarily people of color. White people tend to be concentrated on the wealthier north side of the city. Fresno's north-south divide is so stark that observers frequently refer to Shaw Avenue, an east-west thoroughfare, as the area's Mason-Dixon line.[11] Notwithstanding these disparities, the city's density is relatively similar across its geography,

with most residential neighborhoods averaging between 5,000 and 10,000 residents per mile. No tract averages more than 4,000 housing units per square mile, and most have between 1,000 and 3,000 units per square mile.

FIGURE 1

Residents of Fresno's Disinvested South and Southwest Neighborhoods are Primarily People of Color

Density of residents in the city of Fresno, by race or ethnicity



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Source: Author analysis, based on American Community Survey 2015–19 five year data, and City of Fresno Community Plan Areas, with OpenStreetMap background.

Notes: White residents are defined as non-Hispanic white. Downtown boundaries as defined by the City of Fresno Community Plans, updated in 2020, found on the Fresno GIS Hub.

One explanation for Fresno's present-day inequities is a legacy of economic decay that has been exacerbated by decades of urban sprawl. Applying a sprawl index to more than 200 of the largest US metropolitan areas, Ewing and Hamidi (2014) found that the Fresno metropolitan area was more

sprawling than about two-thirds of the nation's large regions. ECONorthwest's analysis further documents how higher-income households have progressively moved from the city core to lower-density areas, primarily in the north, over the last several decades, challenging the city's ability to maintain investment in previously developed areas and resulting in numerous negative economic, health, and environmental outcomes.[12] Yet there has not yet been a detailed analysis of how patterns of sprawl have changed in the region over time, including in terms of their impacts on environmentally sensitive areas and implications for communities of color; this is the gap we attempt to fill here.

Understanding the present circumstances of the Central San Joaquin Valley—and how they came to be—is especially important in light of the region's present opportunity to forge a new path. The state is planning a high-speed rail system to link the Bay Area and Los Angeles, which will include a high-speed rail station in downtown Fresno.[13] The state also recently committed millions of dollars of funding for infrastructure improvements downtown.[14] These investments have the potential to help revitalize neighborhoods that have historically been neglected in favor of suburban and exurban development. However, to ensure that these investments benefit Fresno's most disadvantaged communities, stakeholders in the region must first have a common understanding of historical patterns of development and their consequences.

In this report, we detail those patterns and illustrate the consequences of the region's sprawling development by offering an alternative history in which less sprawl could have occurred. This comparison enables us to consider what the region could have looked like had it pursued a different development pattern, and it suggests what the region could look like in the future if it changes its trajectory. We conclude by exploring present-day tensions in the region, and suggest that to confront harmful historical development patterns and move beyond sprawl toward more equitable and sustainable outcomes, stakeholders in Frenso must first build consensus on the specific local drivers of sprawling development, including by asking who benefits and who is harmed.

Measuring Patterns of Sprawl in the Central San Joaquin Valley

We developed a research agenda focused on evaluating how housing conditions have changed over time in Fresno and the broader Central San Joaquin Valley. Our primary goal was to identify where new housing growth occurred over the past 80 years and to compare that growth with existing patterns of settlement.

Research Questions

We explore changes in housing conditions in the region by answering three questions:

1. What patterns of urban growth have Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley region followed since 1940? Have there been periods of increasing sprawl or increasing infill development during that period?
2. How do patterns of growth compare with the residential locations of people of color and people with low incomes? In other words, has development concentrated in areas that feature specific demographic characteristics?
3. Has growth been associated with the destruction of environmentally sensitive areas and reduced access to public transportation?

Data

To investigate these questions, we collect a series of data that enable us to explore the relationships between geography and new housing development. We examine two levels of geography: first, Fresno County (which is coterminus with the local Fresno Council of Governments, the federally designated metropolitan planning organization) and, second, the broader Central San Joaquin Valley region, which also encompasses Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties (which contain the cities of Hanford, Madera, Tulare, and Visalia, among others). We selected this larger geography in consultation with local stakeholders, and with reference to regional collaboration between the four counties, including through the California Jobs First program (formerly known as the Community Economic Resilience Fund).[15]

The key data source we use to examine changes in housing availability is the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010 (HHUUD10).[16] The HHUUD10 estimates housing units by census tract across the United States between 1940 and 2019. The advantage of the HHUUD10 data is that it uses standardized geographies (with 2010 tract limits) and provides information at the tract level nationwide at an earlier date than available in standard census datasets. For each tract in our analysis, we collect data on the number of housing units at the beginning of each decade from 1940 to 2010, as well as in 2019, and also calculate the housing unit densities (units per square mile) for each of those points in time. We collect data for the Central San Joaquin Valley, but also for several comparable locations elsewhere in the United States, in order to construct an alternative history of land development.

Second, we amass census data at the tract level on income, race, and ethnicity for 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2019. For data from 1980 to 2000, as well as 2019, we use areal interpolation to estimate

tract-level data at the 2010 tract geometries.[17] These data are useful because they enable us to compare trends in housing growth (or decline) with neighborhood demographics. This can thus provide information about whether housing development is more likely in certain neighborhoods than others.

Third, we collect data on land utilization from the National Land Cover Database for 2001 to 2021.[18] These data classify land into more than a dozen categories based on satellite images. The categories include barren land, forested land, planted or cultivated land, developed land, and more. To perform spatial analysis on these data, we convert raster images into vector layers, then determine land change at the tract level.

Finally, we assemble data on the location of bus stops throughout the Central San Joaquin Valley region and several similar areas elsewhere in the country from the National Transit Map.[19] We use this point-based information to assess the degree to which housing units are located within easy access to public transportation options.

Methods

To evaluate how patterns of urban growth have changed, we begin by developing a measure for a tract becoming "urbanized," meaning sufficiently built up or developed to no longer be agricultural or natural. Because we do not have historical information about land cover before 2001, we use housing-unit densities as the metric for evaluating this, as they are a proxy for development. That said, there is no consensus definition of an urbanized tract. Theobald (2005) defines "urban" as more than 4 units per acre (equivalent to more than about 2,500 housing units per square mile) and "suburban" as between 0.6 and 4 units per acre (about 381 to 2,590 housing units per square mile). Vogler and Vukomanovic (2021), on the other hand, define "urban" as more than about 1 unit per acre (about 640 housing units per square mile), and suburban as between 0.1 and 1 unit per acre (about 65 to 654 housing units per square mile). In their book on housing density that leverages field photography of settlement patterns in the United States, Campoli and MacLean (2007) find real-world density levels of between 0.5 and 134 units per acre (320 to 85,760 units per square mile) in neighborhoods within metropolitan areas.

Given the lack of consensus about the measurement of housing density, there is no single mechanism to identify when a tract becomes urbanized. But identifying when a tract becomes newly urbanized is an important element of our analysis because it allows us to examine trends of infill versus greenfield construction. It enables us to determine whether new construction occurs in neighborhoods that already have many homes in them.

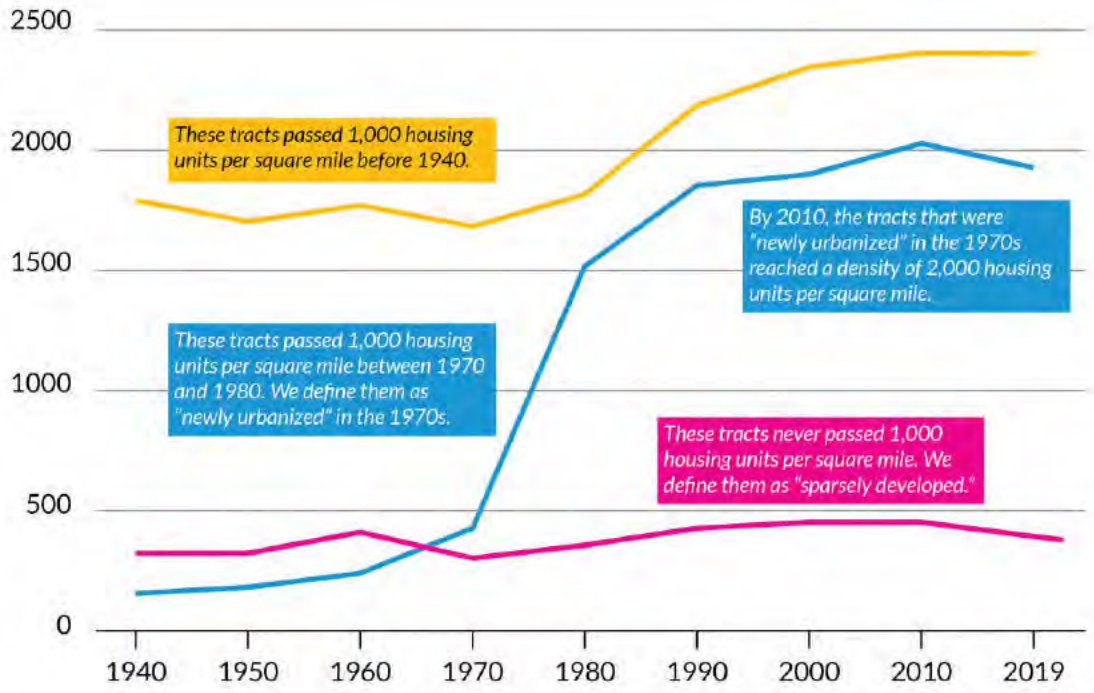
We tested four potential measures of a tract becoming newly urbanized, from 320 units per square mile (the low point of Campoli and MacLean's 2007 findings) to 1,500 units per square mile (much higher than Vogler and Vukomanovic's 2021 definition of suburban). In each case, we evaluated growth trends before and after tracts reached that development density. In an examination of tracts that reached a variety of density thresholds in the 1970s, we find large growth rates in that decade (i.e., from 1970 to 1980), followed by small growth rates in the following decade (1980 to 1990) and then relative statis in later periods (1990 and after; see appendix figure A1). These trends held regardless of which density threshold we tested (appendix figures A2–A5).

Ultimately, we define "urbanized" as a tract having a minimum density of 1,000 housing units per square mile (about 1.5 units per acre). A tract becomes newly urbanized when it reaches that density threshold for the first time in a certain decade. Being newly urbanized during a decade does not necessarily mean that the tract underwent its peak level of development during that period, but we find that this is the period in which a tract makes the transition from being largely rural in character to being largely suburban or urban. We describe a tract that reaches 1,000 units per square mile for the first time in 1980, for example, as newly urbanized in the 1970s (figure 2 illustrates a prototypical example of how we conduct this analysis). We refer to tracts that do not ever meet this threshold as "sparsely developed." This is admittedly a simplified approach to measuring tract development. But it helps enable us to explore patterns of infill and greenfield growth over the decades in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

FIGURE 2

An Example of How We Define Tract Development over Time

Housing unit density per square mile



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Source: The authors.

We separate the tracts across the four-county region into buckets based on the decade during which we estimate they became newly urbanized. Table 1 shows the number and square miles of tracts by the decade when they became newly urbanized. For example, there were 16 tracts in Fresno County encompassing 11.5 square miles that reached the minimum density of 1,000 units per square mile for the first time in the 1960s (adding to the 26.8 square miles of land that had already been urbanized by 1960); this means that, by 1970, there were a total of 38.3 square miles of tracts that had urbanized. A majority of land in the region remains sparsely developed (it is largely agricultural or mountainous, as we show below), but the data in table 1 make clear the continuous expansion of the region over time.

TABLE 1

Tracts, by Decade When Newly Urbanized

Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California

	Four Counties			Fresno County		
Decade tract became newly urbanized	Newly urbanized tracts	Newly urbanized square miles	Cumulatively urbanized square miles	Newly urbanized tracts	Newly urbanized square miles	Cumulatively urbanized square miles
Before 1940	21	14.83	14.83	17	11.20	11.20
1940s	12	7.76	22.59	7	3.79	14.99
1950s	20	12.30	34.89	19	11.78	26.77
1960s	22	16.20	51.09	16	11.50	38.27
1970s	38	33.77	84.86	24	20.03	58.30
1980s	21	20.95	105.81	13	12.73	71.03
1990s	20	26.30	132.11	12	13.30	84.33
2000s	15	24.72	156.83	9	11.90	96.23
2010s	7	9.91	166.74	6	9.08	105.31
Sparsely developed	151	14,083.45	NA	76	5,823.60	NA
Total	**327**	**14,250.20**	**NA**	**199**	**5,928.90**	**NA**

Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.

Notes: A tract counts as being newly urbanized in a decade if its housing unit density increased from below 1,000 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 1,000 at the beginning of the next decade. A tract is sparsely developed if it did not achieve 1,000 housing units per square mile at any time during the study period.

Using the tract data, classified by decade of development, we examine trends in housing growth. This can help illustrate, for example, among the cohort of tracts that became newly urbanized in the 1950s, how much additional housing was added in later decades (i.e., how much infill development occurred). It also enables us to document the characteristics of housing conditions in the region. It is worth noting that tracts vary substantially in terms of physical extent. Tracts in the center of Fresno are far smaller geographically than tracts on the rural edge of the region; this can make comparisons between tracts difficult to interpret.

To answer our second research question—the comparison of growth patterns with the demographics of residents by income, race, and ethnicity—we juxtapose housing growth rates over decades between 1980 and 2019 and the demographics of tracts at the beginning of each decade. We specifically focus on tract median household incomes and the degree to which tracts are populated by people of color (in other words, not non-Hispanic white). This can help explain whether certain tracts are more likely to be developed because of the demographics of their residents. To further examine these data, we run a series of regressions that control for several local characteristics to identify the

relationships of income, race, and ethnicity with housing growth. Our goal for these regressions is to test our hypothesis that housing growth has been more likely to occur in tracts with residents who are wealthier, who are more likely to be non-Hispanic white, and who live in less densely populated areas.

Finally, we use land cover data to examine the degree to which development in the Central San Joaquin Valley region has been associated with reductions in agricultural and natural land. We also test the degree to which housing units in the area are located within a reasonable distance of public transportation options, which we define as within a half-mile of a bus stop, as of 2024.

Limitations

There is inconsistent provision of the data we use to investigate patterns of sprawl over the decades we examine. For example, while we are able to explore the distribution of housing units by tract between 1940 and 2019, we were only able to consider local demographic data from 1980 to 2019; land cover data from 2001 to 2021; and transit information from 2024. This could limit the usefulness of our analysis because it is possible that there were different trends at play related to demographics or transit access during periods that predated the 2000s, for example.

The approach we use to study sprawl is limited by our use of a metric for housing development by tract, which provides information only on residential construction, not on commercial or industrial uses. Moreover, while agricultural uses sometimes produce considerable and negative environmental impacts—such as methane emissions and polluted runoff—we do not attempt to measure those impacts in this analysis.

Finally, it may not be appropriate to generalize our findings to other parts of the United States. Fresno is located in the heart of a major agricultural area, has a population with a large percentage of people of color, and has a challenged economy. Other metropolitan areas face different trends that produce different outcomes. Additional research would be useful to help reinforce our findings related to the patterns of sprawl in Fresno and the broader Central San Joaquin Valley region and compare these patterns with those experienced elsewhere in the nation.

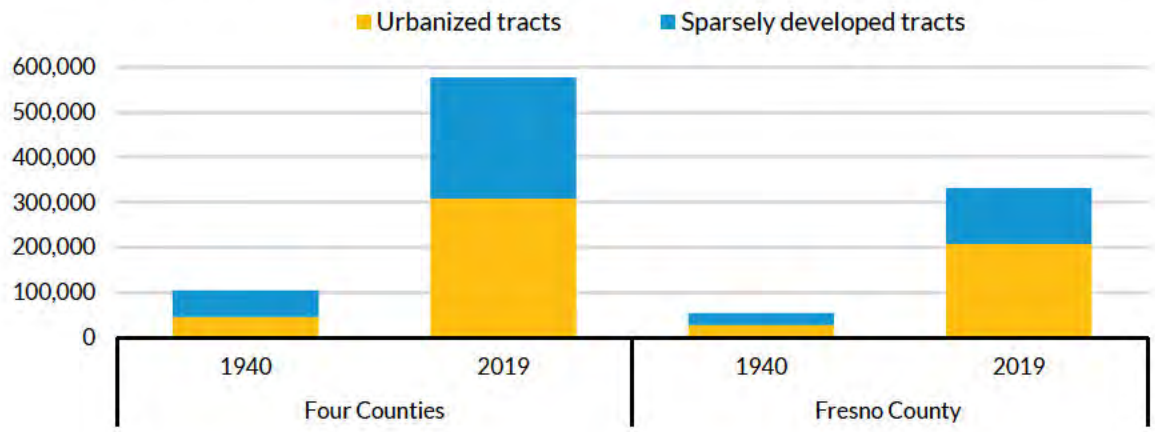
Decades of Unabated Sprawl in the Central San Joaquin Valley

Between 1940 and 2019, the Central San Joaquin Valley grew rapidly, adding almost 500,000 housing units, of which about half were located in Fresno County (figure 3). Overall, the share of the region's housing units that are located in tracts with housing densities of above 1,000 units per square mile ("urbanized") grew between 1940 and 2019. Nonetheless, in 2019, about 47 percent of the housing units in the region overall—and 37 percent in Fresno County—were located in sparsely developed tracts with fewer than 1,000 housing units per square mile. These homes are located in areas that are largely rural in character.

FIGURE 3

A Large Share of Housing Units in the Central San Joaquin Valley Are in Sparsely Developed Tracts

Number of units, by tract density



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Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.
Notes: Four counties are Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare, California. Sparsely developed = fewer than 1,000 housing units per square mile; Urbanized = greater or equal to 1,000 housing units per square mile.

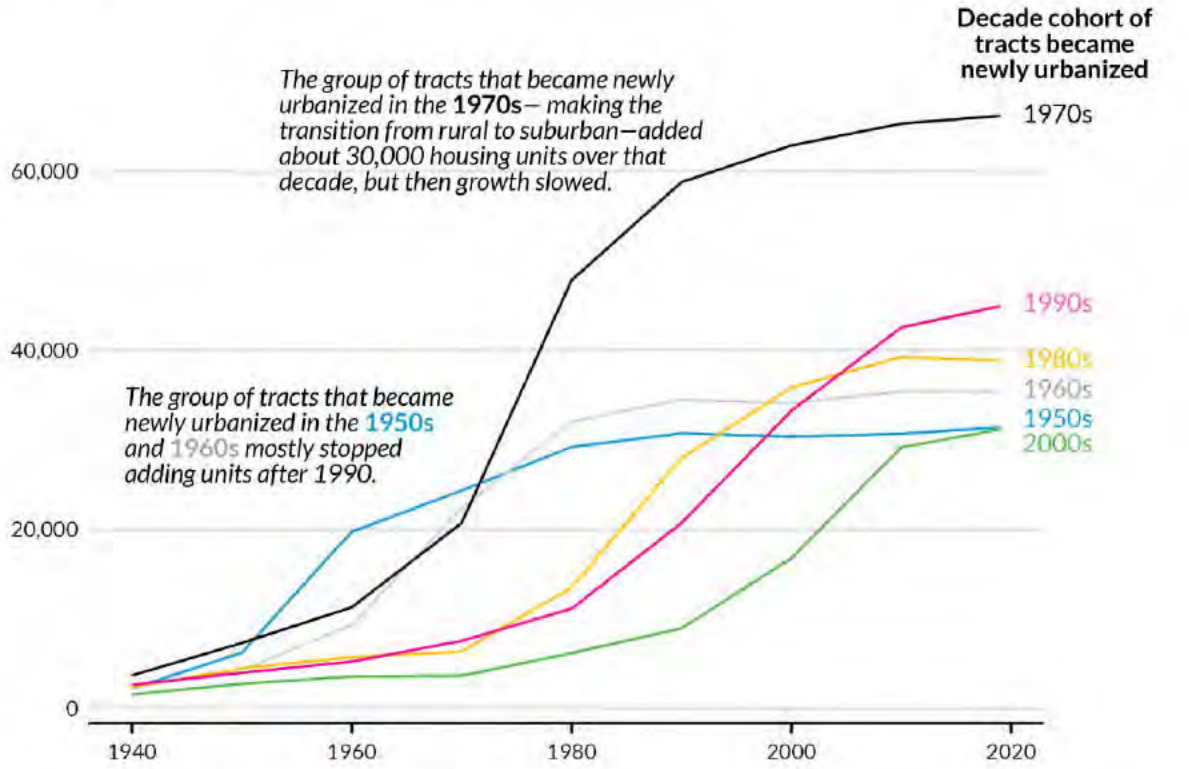
Though growth has continued across the region over the entire study period, the 1970s were arguably the high point for regional development trends. A plurality of housing units in the region are located in tracts that were newly urbanized during that decade (appendix table B1). We illustrate the importance of the 1970s in producing additional housing stock in figure 4. Between 1970 and 1980 alone, approximately 30,000 housing units were added in the cohort of tracts that became newly

urbanized during that decade. Subsequent waves of housing growth in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s have been slower.

FIGURE 4

The 1970s Were a Decade of Remarkable Growth in Housing Availability in the Central San Joaquin Valley

Housing units by decade tracts became newly urbanized, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California



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Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.
Notes: We define a tract as newly urbanized in a given decade if its housing unit density increased from below 1,000 units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 1,000 at the beginning of the next decade. We do not show housing units in tracts that we define as sparsely developed (with densities of less than 1,000 housing units per square mile during all periods of our analysis). This figure can be read as follows: The black line on this chart shows the number of housing units in the cohort of newly urbanized tracts in the 1970s, over time. These tracts contained about 20,000 units in 1970, growing to almost 50,000 units by 1980. These tracts grew more slowly in the following decades, reaching just under 60,000 total units in 1990.

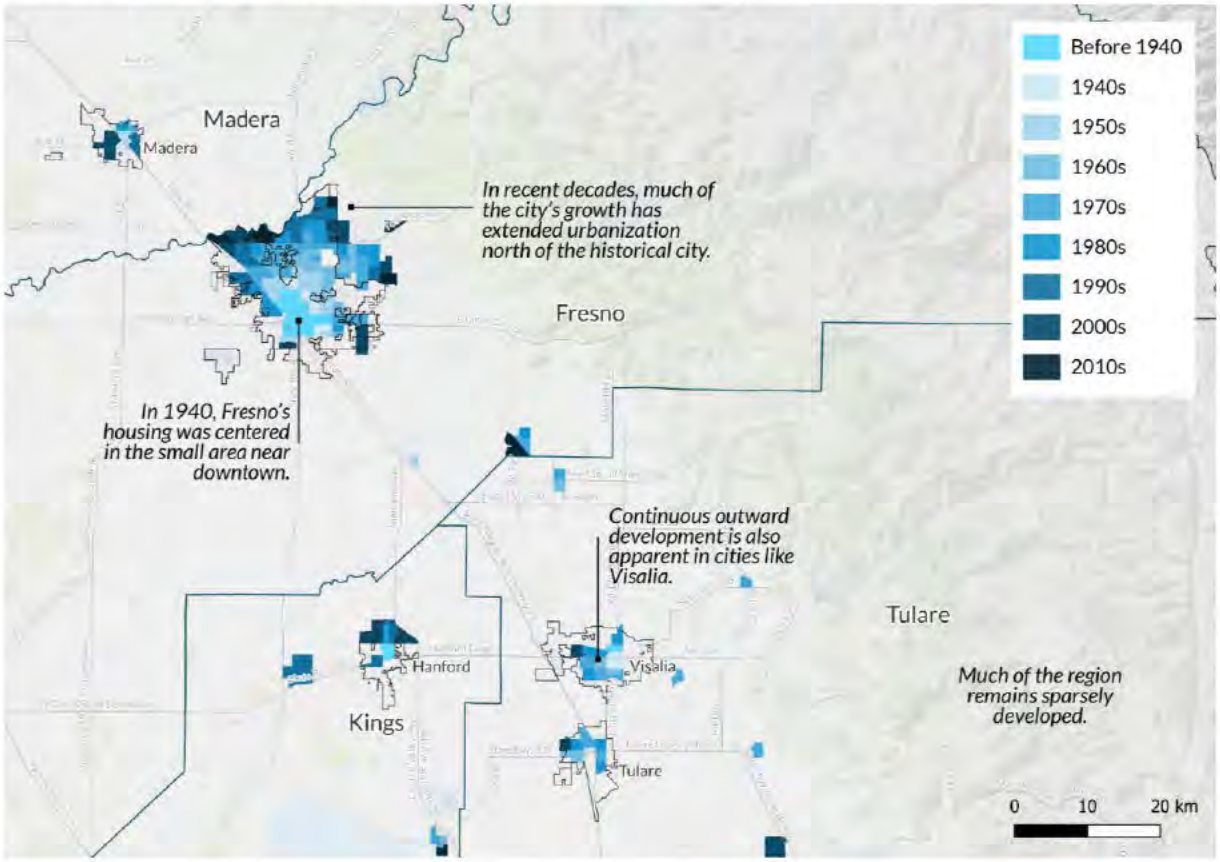
We illustrate these sprawling patterns of development in figures 5 and 6, which map decades of housing development. Both figures demonstrate that the patterns of outward development, while most apparent around the city of Fresno, are also visible for other regional cities like Hanford, Madera,

Tulare, and Visalia, suggesting that suburbanization trends are common across the Central San Joaquin Valley.

FIGURE 5

Most of the Four-County Region Remains Undeveloped, But Patterns of Sprawl Are Apparent Around All Major Cities in the Central San Joaquin Valley

Decade tracts became newly urbanized, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California



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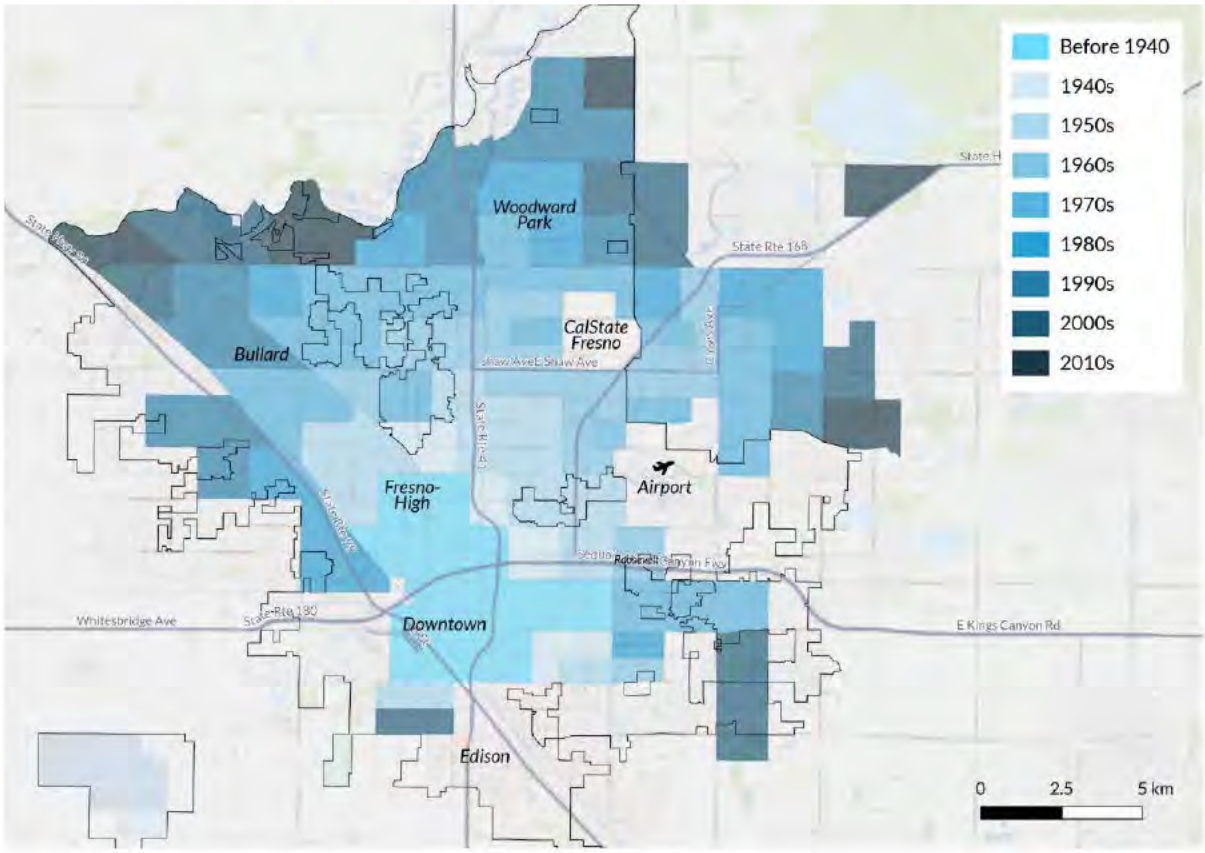
Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010, with OpenStreetMap background.

Notes: A tract counts as being newly urbanized in a decade if its housing unit density increased from below 1,000 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 1,000 at the beginning of the next decade. We do not show tracts that we define as sparsely developed (with densities of less than 1,000 housing units per square mile during all periods of our analysis).

FIGURE 6

Fresno's Growth Since the 1940s Has Moved North over Time

Decade tracts became newly urbanized, city of Fresno and surrounding areas



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Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010, with OpenStreetMap background.

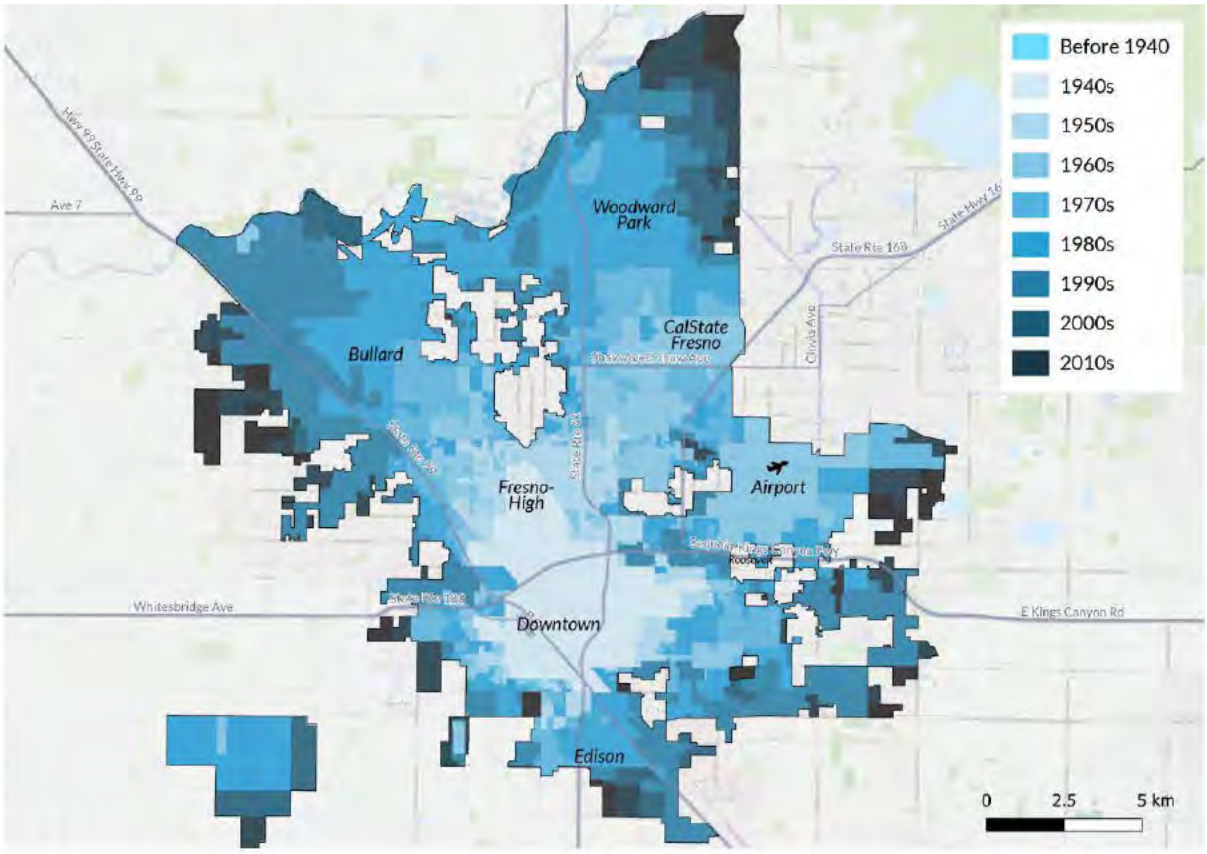
Notes: A tract counts as being newly urbanized in a decade if its housing unit density increased from below 1,000 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 1,000 at the beginning of the next decade. We do not show tracts that we define as sparsely developed (with densities of less than 1,000 housing units per square mile during all periods of our analysis).

The region's housing sprawl has been matched by the City of Fresno's policy of continuously annexing its suburban areas, which expands the provision of local services, such as police and fire, to new land. Indeed, between 1940 and 2023, the city's jurisdictional boundaries expanded from 9.54 square miles to 117.30 square miles (figure 7). The city's physical expansion has been faster than its population growth; as a result, the municipality's population density declined from 6,361 people per square mile in 1940 to 4,642 people per square mile in 2020, even though the city's population expanded from 60,685 to 542,107 over that time.

FIGURE 7

Fresno's Annexation Has Followed the City's Outward Growth

Decade land was annexed by the City of Fresno



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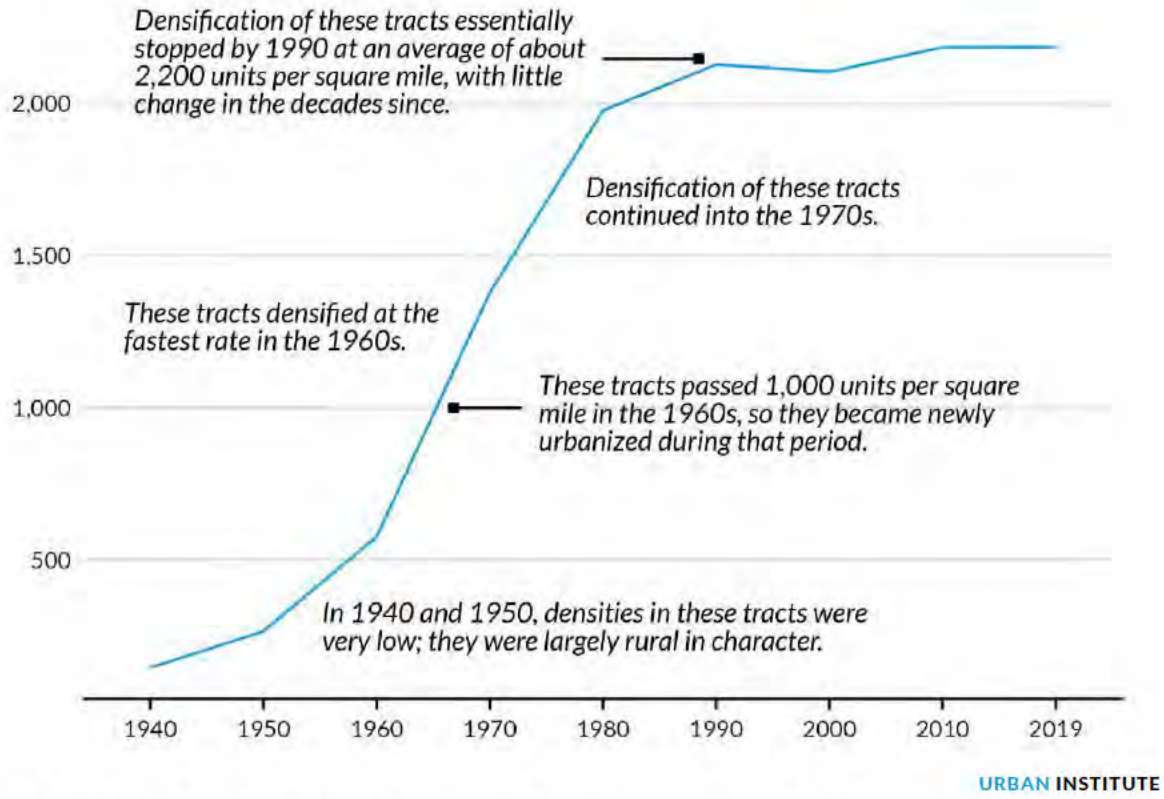
Source: Author analysis, based on the City of Fresno Annexation map, with OpenStreetMap background.
Notes: The City of Fresno has, at times, annexed land disconnected from the primary city geography; it has also left portions of land unannexed that are entirely encircled by incorporated land.

One key explanation for why housing development in Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley has continued to extend out from historical urban centers is that most neighborhoods stop densifying—meaning, no more units are built there—once they reach a certain density level. We illustrate this phenomenon for tracts that became newly urbanized in the 1960s in figure 8. Before 1960, these tracts were largely rural in character; they then grew quickly in the 1960s and 1970s. But in the 1980s, their densification slowed markedly, before coming to a halt after 1990. Since 1990, this group of tracts (there are 22 in the region, according to table 1) has remained at a roughly constant density of about 2,200 housing units per square mile. In other words, upon reaching this point, these neighborhoods entered into a sort of stasis of their built environment.

FIGURE 8

Tracts That Became Newly Urbanized in the 1960s Stopped Densifying after 1990

Housing unit density among tracts that became newly urbanized in the 1960s, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California



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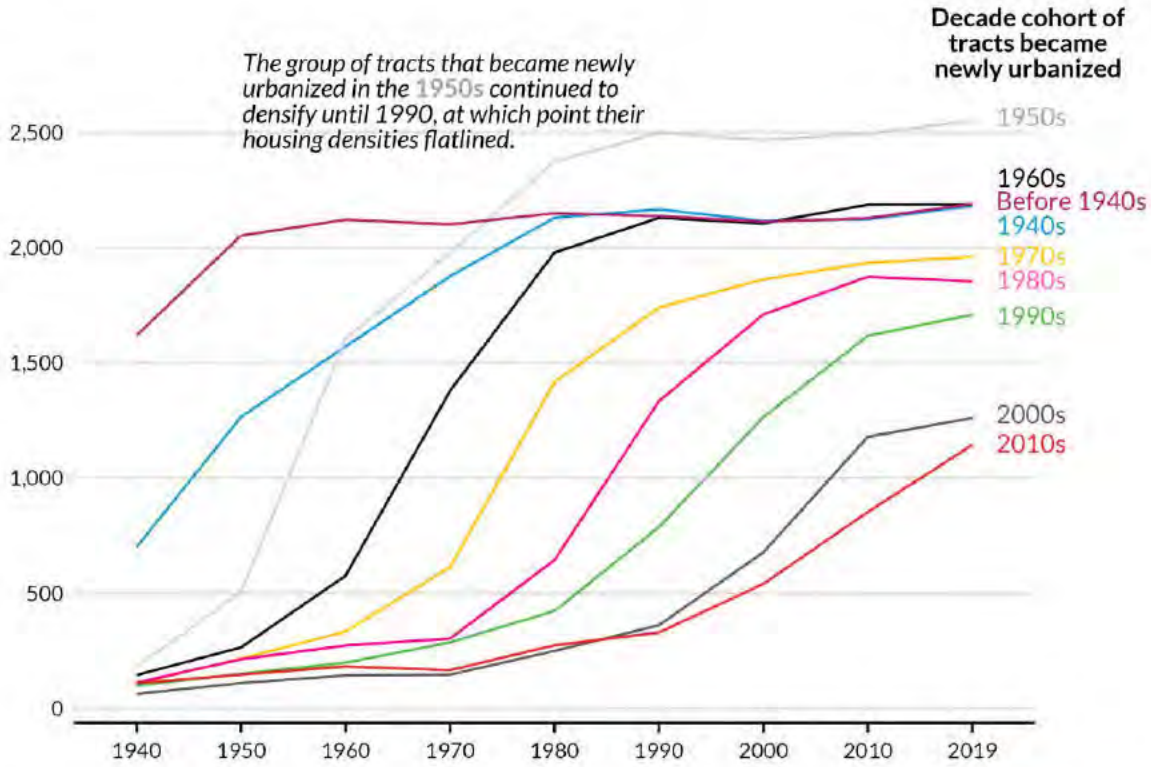
Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.
Notes: A tract counts as being newly urbanized in a decade if its housing unit density increased from below 1,000 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 1,000 at beginning of the next decade.

This trend of fast-paced neighborhood development followed by relative stasis in densification applies generally, no matter when tracts became newly urbanized (figure 9). Tracts developed across decades from the 1940s through 1980s all reach what appears to be a maximum density—about 1,800 to 2,500 housing units per square mile—several decades after first becoming what we define as newly urbanized. Once reaching these density levels—the density of a community that is primarily made up of single-family homes with small yards (i.e., typical suburban subdivisions)—neighborhood growth typically stalls. For example, the cohort of tracts newly urbanized before 1940 in the Central San Joaquin Valley has remained at about the same housing density since 1950, meaning the tracts have not accommodated infill development. Tracts that were newly urbanized in the 1950s reached that average density by 1990; those newly urbanized in the 1980s reached that point by 2010 on average. At this rate, tracts newly urbanized in the 1990s could reach that density stasis point by 2030.

FIGURE 9

Neighborhood Housing Densities Max Out at 1,800 to 2,500 Units Per Square Mile, across Decades

Housing unit density by decade tracts became newly urbanized, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California



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Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.
Notes: A tract counts as being newly urbanized in a decade if its housing unit density increased from below 1,000 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 1,000 at beginning of the next decade.

It appears that the point at which neighborhood density stasis sets in—the density at which little infill housing is added—has been declining. Neighborhoods newly urbanized in the 1950s reached a density of about 2,500 units per square mile; those newly urbanized in the 1960s reached about 2,200 units per square mile. Those newly urbanized in the 1980s reached 1,800 units per square mile in 2010—before declining slightly by 2019. That said, future growth patterns may alter these outcomes over time. And more evidence is needed to evaluate growth trajectories in these areas; for example, neighborhoods newly urbanized in the 1970s appear to be still slowly increasing their housing densities.

The data in figure 9 suggest that the region's development has followed a consistent path, decade to decade: a new area is identified for development, investors build it up over three to four decades, the area reaches a stasis level of density, and then construction ceases. At 1,800 to 2,500 housing units per

square mile, a neighborhood enters a housing-development plateau, at which point infill development rarely occurs. Developers then repeat the cycle, finding greenfield land to develop, which is the preferred alternative for adding new housing. The result, as we noted earlier, is that new housing consumes land at a faster rate than population growth.

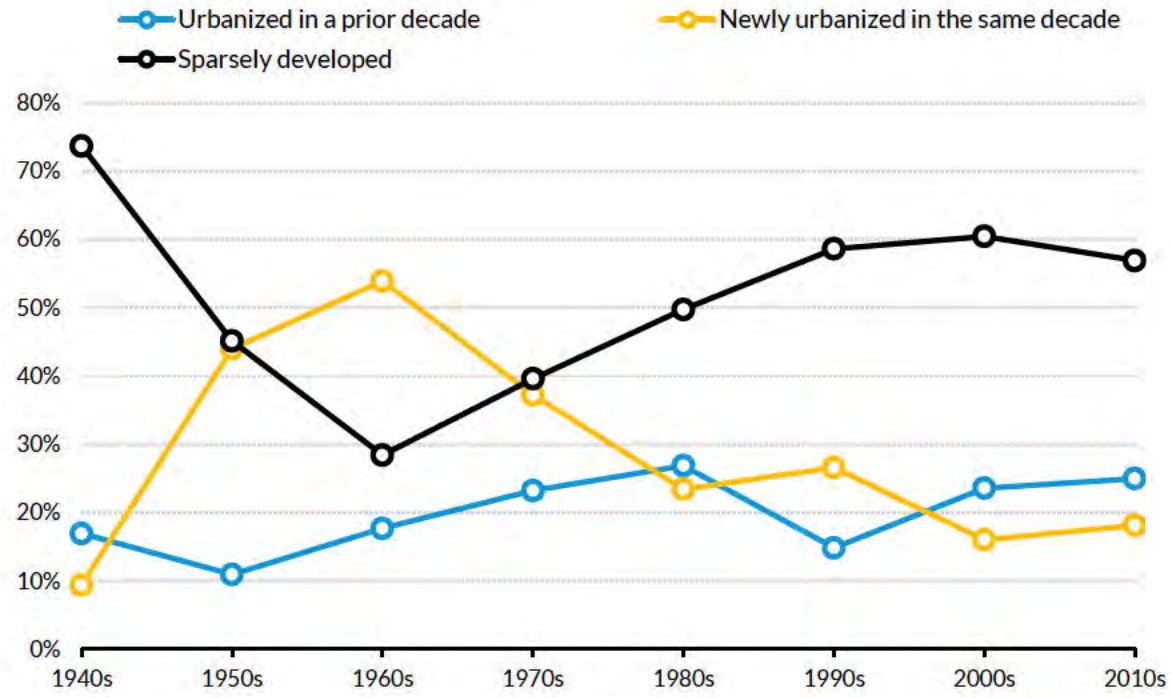
We identify similar trends when we use a variety of different measures of a tract becoming newly urbanized (appendix A). For example, examining tracts that reached 640 housing units per square mile in the 1960s, we find that the tracts reach a density stasis of about 2,200 units per square mile by 2010; examining tracts that reached 1,500 units per square mile in the 1960s, we find that the tracts reach a density stasis of about 2,200 units per square mile in 1980 (see appendix figures A3 and A4). That said, the ultimate density reached depends on how we define achieving newly urbanized status, with a lower new urbanization specification associated with lower housing densities over the long term (appendix figure A1).

When we examined housing unit growth in Fresno County, we found that in each decade since at least the 1940s, 30 percent or less of the additional housing has been in tracts that were already urbanized at the beginning of the decade (figure 10). In other words, 70 percent or more of additional housing has been in tracts that were either newly urbanized in the same decade (meaning they pass the 1,000 units per square mile threshold by the beginning of the next decade), or in tracts that were sparsely developed (meaning the growth is on rural land). Infill development has played only a minor role in the region's patterns of housing development.

FIGURE 10

The Character of Housing Development in Fresno County Is Outward Sprawl

Share of additional housing added during decade, by tract urbanization status



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Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.
Notes: We categorize housing units as being newly urbanized in the same decade if the density of the census tract they are located in increased from below 1,000 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 1,000 at the beginning of the next decade. Conversely, we categorize housing units as urbanized in previous periods if the census tract that they are located in reached a density of more than 1,000 housing units per square mile in a previous decade. The 2010s period includes data from 2010 to 2019.

One explanation for these outcomes may be the zoning codes used by jurisdictions in the Central San Joaquin Valley. Zoning that prohibits new construction of multifamily housing may be limiting increases in housing density in infill zones. Although the City of Fresno adopted a new zoning code in 2015 that allowed for greater densities downtown and along major corridors, historical restrictions on density may be one explanation for Fresno's sprawling growth from the 1940s onward. It is also likely that the zoning codes outside of the city of Fresno are more restrictive, though we do not examine them in this report.

Even so, zoning is unlikely to be the only explanation for the continued sprawl of the region. Developers may prefer to build new homes in lower-density areas, particularly if land is cheaper on the metropolitan edge; demand for larger suburban single-family homes may outweigh demand for

apartments in more central neighborhoods (and may be more profitable for developers to construct than other types of units); and there may be other private or public incentives (such as insufficiently high development impact fees) that subsidize sprawl at the expense of infill development. Additionally, many new developments nationwide have been constructed as homeowners' associations that manage building projects within their boundaries, many of which are gated (Clarke and Freedman 2019). Homeowners' associations limit new construction and often prevent the addition of new projects, such as apartments, that do not comply with their rules.[20]

Development Is More Common in Low-Density, Higher-Income Neighborhoods

We next examine whether the sprawling pattern of housing development in the Central San Joaquin Valley is purely a result of focusing development in areas that had previously been occupied by agricultural uses and nature, or whether it is also the product of trends related to resident demographics. As noted earlier, lower-income communities in the United States have historically faced challenges attracting investment. And people of color are more likely to live in such neighborhoods.

We examine whether those associations hold up in the context of the Central San Joaquin Valley by running regressions of housing growth over each decade from 1980 to 2019 among tracts in Fresno County to evaluate the relative influence of neighborhood-level incomes, racial demographics, population densities, and location over time (table 2). We find that, once controlling for those other factors, majority-white tracts did not experience higher rates of development. On average in the most recent period, these tracts had slightly less development than majority nonwhite tracts, but the difference was not statistically significant.

TABLE 2

Housing Growth Was Once Associated with Higher Incomes, but Development on Rural Land Has Become Increasingly Prominent

Housing growth, Fresno County tracts, using scaled variables

	1980–90	1990–2000	2000–10	2010–19
Median household income (log)	0.28 ** (0.10)	0.38 ** (0.13)	0.20 * (0.09)	0.07 (0.14)
Majority white tract (dummy)	0.04 (0.05)	−0.14 * (0.06)	0.05 (0.07)	−0.02 (0.09)
Population density per square mile	−0.28 ** (0.09)	−0.24 *** (0.07)	−0.36 *** (0.09)	−0.39 ** (0.13)
Distance from center (log)	−0.15 * (0.08)	−0.11 (0.07)	−0.21 * (0.09)	−0.27 (0.15)
Constant	0.00 (0.07)	0.00 (0.07)	0.00 (0.07)	0.00 (0.07)
Observations	177	177	177	177
R-squared	0.13	0.17	0.14	0.10

Source: Author's analysis of the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010 and Decennial Census data, 1980–2019.

Notes: p<0.001, p<0.01; p<0.05. Robust standard errors are shown in parentheses. Tract counts as majority white if their non-Hispanic white population accounted for more than 50 percent of the population at the beginning of the period. Median household income and population density are both calculated at the beginning of the relevant decade. Distance from center of region is calculated as the distance of the centroid of each tract from Court Park in downtown Fresno. We identify similar trends in conducting these regressions across the entire Central San Joaquin Valley (not shown).

This implies that race and ethnicity is not the major intervening factor explaining housing growth in Fresno. Far more influential in explaining change over time is household income, especially up until 2010. Tracts with higher resident incomes attracted a statistically significantly higher rate of new housing in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s. This indicates that development patterns are tracking families with the ability to afford new units. Our regressions also show that, consistently and statistically significantly, housing growth is higher in tracts with lower population densities, as we documented in the previous section. Interestingly, development also declines on average with distance from the center, suggesting interest from developers to add units near downtown, as long as the preexisting population densities are low and incomes are high.

Most of the Region Remains Natural in Character, but There Have Been Recent Losses to Agricultural and Developed Uses

The sprawling patterns of housing development that we have demonstrated above have affected the environment of the region. In Fresno County—and even more so across the Central San Joaquin Valley region as a whole—the majority of land remains only sparsely developed. The majority of tracts have

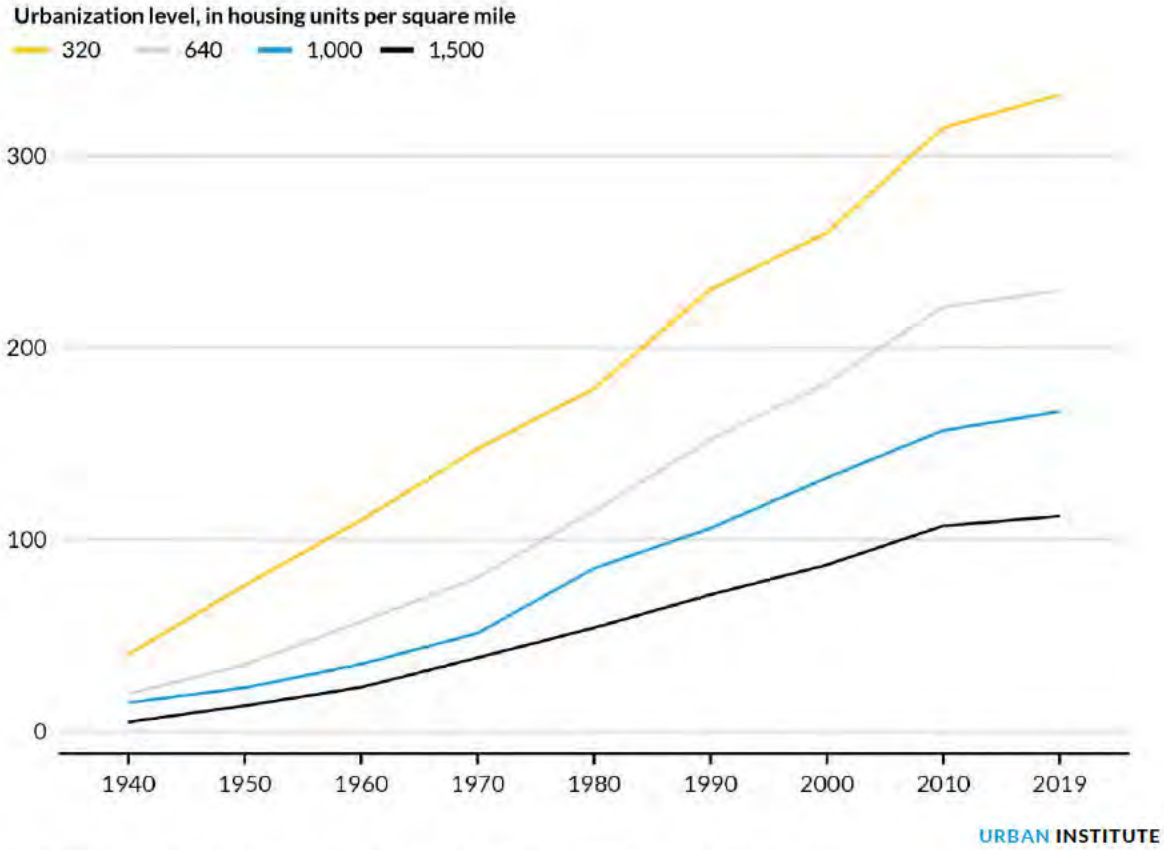
housing densities below 1,000 units per square mile (table 1). As of 2021, 34 percent of land in Fresno County was used for agricultural purposes, with 60 percent remaining "natural" in character, according to the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium.[21] Much of that land is permanently protected by federal ownership, such as through Kings Canyon National Park and Sierra National Forest. But agricultural and natural uses have become less common over the past two decades.

Since 1940, we find that the number of developed square miles in the Central San Joaquin Valley region increased tenfold, using multiple measures of urbanization (figure 11). Our estimate is that between 2000 and 2019, 34.6 square miles of land transitioned from sparsely developed to newly urbanized, using the 1,000 housing units per square mile definition of urbanization; this was on top of the 81 square miles that made that transition between 1970 and 2000. Overall, there was a 226 percent increase in the region's urbanized land area, compared to a 153 percent population increase. This expansion of urbanized area has had substantial impacts on agricultural and natural land uses.

FIGURE 11

Development in the Central San Joaquin Valley Region Has Expanded Dramatically Since the 1940s

Urbanized land area (square miles) across the four-county region



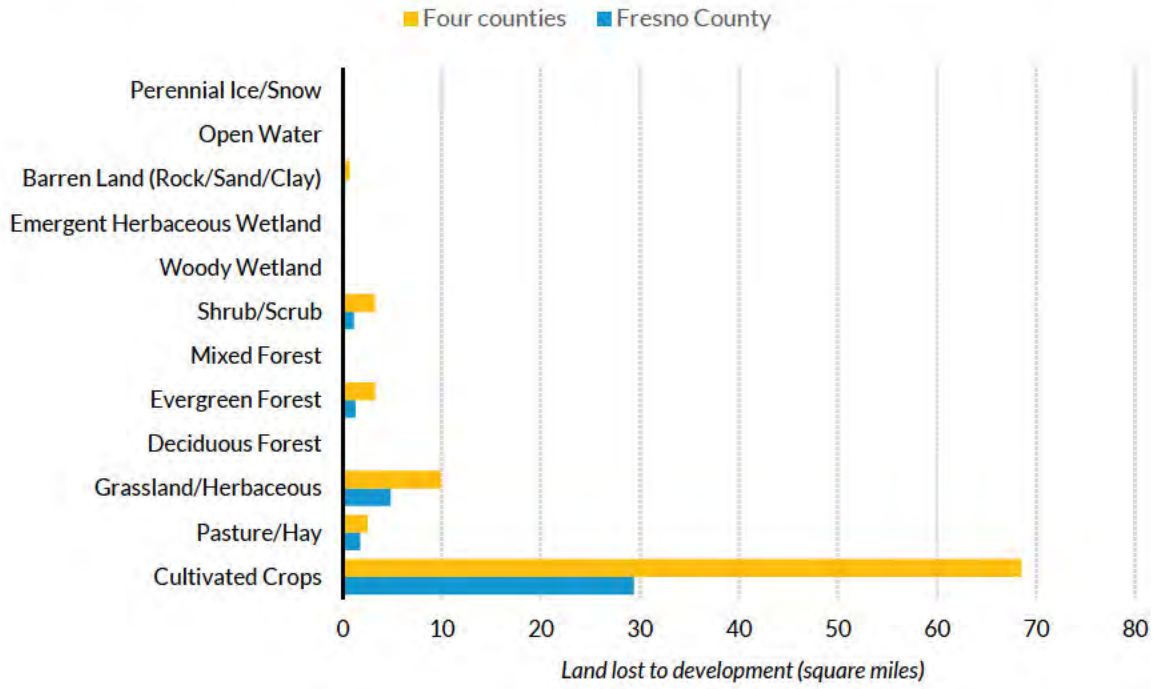
Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.
Notes: Includes tracts within Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California.

Figure 12 illustrates that between 2001 and 2021, Fresno County lost a net 38.67 square miles of land to what the National Land Cover Database defines as development (the database's definitions are related, though different, than those we use for our analysis above, since they rely on satellite images to assess land use, rather than housing unit densities). Most of the land developed had previously been used for agriculture in the form of cultivated crops (31 square miles of agricultural land), but some of the land was previously forests, shrublands, and grasslands.

FIGURE 12

The Majority of Land Lost to Development in Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley over the Last Two Decades is Agricultural Land

Land lost to development, by land cover class, Fresno County and four-county region, 2001–21



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Source: National Land Cover Database Enhanced Visualization and Analysis tool.
Notes: The National Land Cover Database classifies developed land into one of four categories: developed, open space (defined as areas where impervious surfaces accounts for less than 20 percent of total cover); developed, low intensity (defined as areas where impervious surfaces account for between 20 and 49 percent of total cover); developed, medium intensity (defined as areas where impervious surfaces account for between 50 and 79 percent of total cover); and developed high-intensity (defined as areas where impervious surfaces account for more than 80 percent of total cover). Agricultural land comprises Pasture/Hay and Cultivated Crops land cover classes.

The loss of cultivated cropland to development—which commands higher property values—required finding *new* land to cultivate. After all, the Central Valley is the most productive agricultural zone in the United States and the nation's population continues to grow. Even as Fresno County lost a total of 29.4 square miles of cropland to development between 2001 and 2021, adjacent Madera County added a net 17.5 square miles of cropland. The latter county, in the meantime, lost 26.2 square miles of natural land, mostly to agricultural and developed uses. The overall trend is a staged development process: sprawling development displaces agriculture, which in turn displaces natural lands like forests, many of which provide ecosystem services that are vital for both ecological health and human well-being.[22]

Consequences of Sprawl and Lost Opportunities for Denser Development

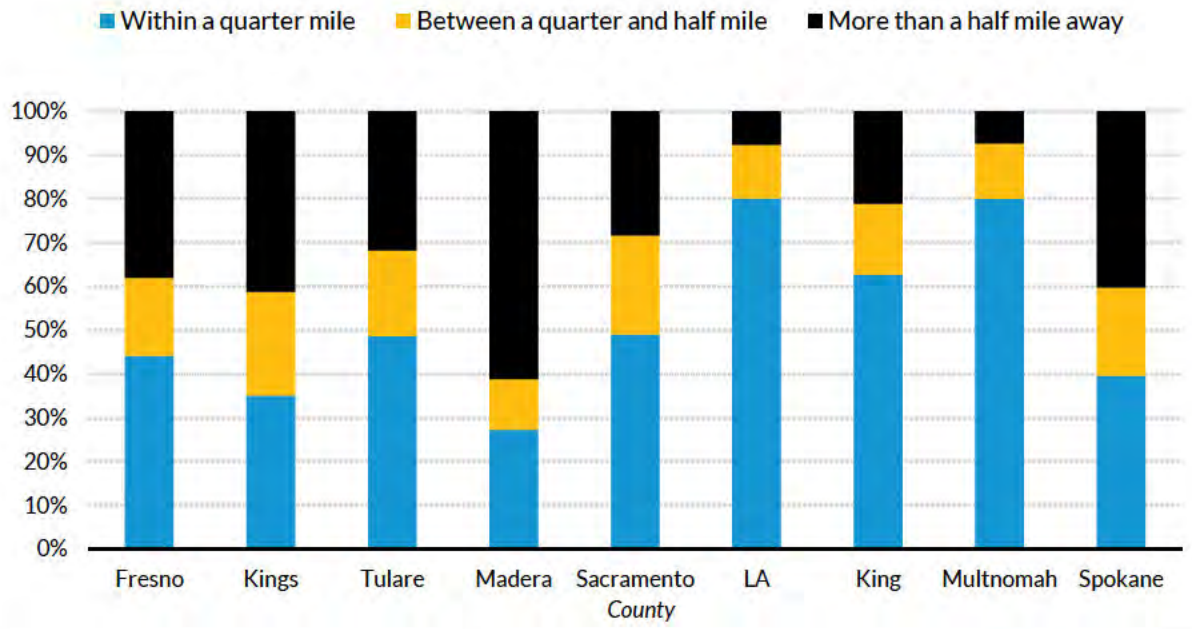
Our analysis above demonstrates that Fresno and the broader Central San Joaquin Valley have experienced a dramatic increase in newly urbanized land over the past few decades, and that this sprawling growth has been associated with a reduction in agricultural and natural land in the surrounding area. Sprawl has also had adverse impacts on the health and economic well-being of Fresno's residents, particularly lower-income residents and residents of color on the south side of the city. A recent analysis of urban decay in Fresno linked the city's present-day symptoms of economic decay—including its concentrated poverty in the south and southwest—to its history of outward sprawl, which has hollowed out core downtown neighborhoods through disinvestment and neglect.[23]

Transit is one of many areas where public investments have failed to keep up with the sprawling growth of housing, in part because it is far more feasible to provide effective public transportation in neighborhoods with higher densities, and because people living in low-density areas are able to access more by car than by walking or transit (Walker 2024). To illustrate this, we examine the degree to which housing in the region is served by public transportation options by comparing the percentage of housing units within a quarter mile of bus stops in the four-county region to several other West Coast counties with more robust public transportation systems (figure 13).

FIGURE 13

The Share of Housing Units Located within a Quarter Mile of Bus Stops Is Smaller in Fresno County than in Other West Coast Counties

Percentage of housing units, based on distance from nearest bus stop, by county



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Source: Author analysis, based on National Transit Map (2024) and American Community Survey 2018–22 five year estimates.
Notes: Uses areal interpolation to estimate housing units located within buffers of transit stations. Bus service may vary tremendously based on the specific stop. Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Madera Counties are in the Central San Joaquin Valley region, California; Sacramento = Sacramento County, California; LA = Los Angeles County, California; King = King County, Washington; Multnomah = Multnomah County, Oregon; Spokane = Spokane County, Washington.

We find that 44 percent of housing units are located within a quarter mile of bus service in Fresno County, a substantially smaller percentage than in Los Angeles County, Sacramento County, King County, Washington (Seattle), and Multnomah County, Oregon (Portland). While these differences likely reflect relative degrees of urbanization, access to cars, and local political and economic support for transit, they nonetheless have significant implications for residents in the region. Limited access to transportation can restrict opportunities to access jobs, education, and other needs, and evidence suggests that limited access to transit is associated with higher levels of unemployment and lower levels of economic mobility.[24]

Poor transit is the product, in part, of decades of public prioritization of highway investment. It reflects a choice to cater to the needs and desires of residents with higher incomes, particularly those who live in suburban areas. Ineffective transit also worsens racial inequities, as people of color are much

less likely to have access to personal vehicles than white people, and as a result are much more likely to rely on public transit for commuting and other needs.[25] In the city of Fresno, for example, 25 percent of Black households do not have access to a car, compared to 7 percent of white households.[26]

While the Central San Joaquin Valley's sprawling development is consistent with development in many other parts of the United States, the region's development did not have to occur in this way. Fresno has missed opportunities to create a more vibrant center city while reducing negative impacts on its natural lands and on economically struggling residents.

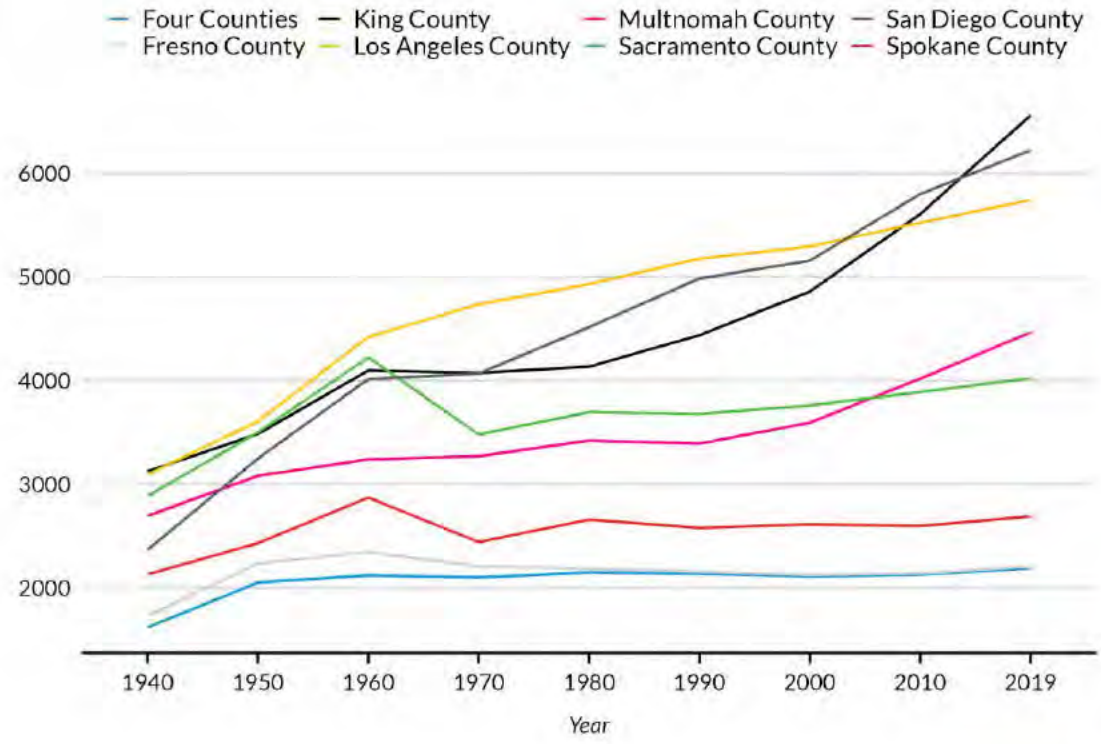
Consider the Fresno County tracts that were urbanized by 1940, meaning that they had reached at least 1,000 housing units per square mile. Those tracts occupy 11.2 square miles (table 1) and are largely located in the central parts of the city of Fresno. By 2019, those tracts had 24,715 housing units, corresponding to a density of about 2,200 units per square mile—similar to urbanized tracts throughout the region. The number of housing units in those tracts has barely changed since 1950, meaning there has been very little development within them (figure 9).

But could development have proceeded otherwise? We compare Fresno's experience with that of other large counties along the West Coast (figure 14). Among tracts that were urbanized by 1940 in Sacramento County, California, and Spokane County, Washington, housing densities have also been relatively stable over the past few decades, though at higher housing densities than in Fresno County (about 4,000 and 2,700 units per square mile, respectively). Other counties, however, show much more dramatic density increases. Among tracts that were urbanized by 1940 in King County, Washington (Seattle); Los Angeles County, California; Multnomah County, Oregon (Portland); and San Diego County, California housing densities have dramatically increased over the last few decades . In King County, for example, densities in those tracts have now reached about 6,500 units per square mile.

FIGURE 14

Other West Coast Counties Have Experienced Dramatic Increases in Already-Urbanized Areas, Compared to Fresno County and the Central San Joaquin Valley Region

Housing unit density in tracts urbanized by 1940, by county



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Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.
Notes: Tracts are considered urbanized by 1940 if they had densities of at least 1,000 housing units per tract in 1940. Portland and Seattle are located in Multnomah and King Counties, respectively.

What if Fresno County had followed a similar path as the other counties presented in figure 14? Had the tracts that urbanized by 1940 in Fresno reached the densities of those in Sacramento County, they could accommodate about 45,000 housing units, compared to the about 25,000 units that are currently there. Had they reached those in King County, Washington, they could accommodate about 73,000 housing units: almost triple the current development densities in the central, historic parts of the region and about 48,000 more housing units than currently exist. Admittedly, this comparison is difficult to make; Fresno has a different economy than the other counties profiled and has not attracted the same new investment as cities like Portland and Seattle. Nonetheless, this comparison shows what is theoretically possible—and what a future Fresno could look like.

We calculate that about 39,000 housing units were added in the almost 30 years between 1990 and 2019 in tracts across Fresno County that we classify as becoming newly urbanized in the intervening decades. Those tracts occupy about 34 square miles of land (table 1), likely previously used for agriculture or reserved for nature. In other words, the entirety of Fresno County's housing growth from 1990 to 2019 could have been concentrated in downtown Fresno rather than sprawling out into sparsely developed land. This would have had important impacts in terms of preserving local ecologies.

What social and economic implications would there have been had those 39,000 housing units—which collectively housed more than 80,000 residents—been constructed in the downtown core rather than on the exurban edge between 1990 and 2019? Consider, first, vehicle miles traveled. Research by Zhang et al. (2012) implies that a population density increase from about 4,000 people per square mile (a bit lower than the average tract density in Fresno County) to about 13,000 people per square mile (similar to the levels in tracts urbanized by 1940 in King County, Washington) is associated with a 26.5 percent reduction in vehicle miles traveled. On average, Californians travel about 8,700 miles per capita every year; if this had been reduced by 26.5 percent for the residents of those 39,000 housing units, Fresno County would have eliminated about 184 million vehicle miles annually—and the emission of about 75 million kilograms of carbon dioxide.[27]

Concentrating growth in central neighborhoods could also have reduced overall local government expenditures. Costs to provide public services, and particularly policing, roadways, education, and parks and recreation, are substantially lower in communities with higher densities (Carruthers and Ulfarsson 2008). Fresno would not have had to invest in decades of roadway and sewer expansion out to exurban land. Instead, it could have invested those tax dollars into fostering more vibrant central neighborhoods through more public service provision, better support for local businesses, and environmentally friendly transit options. While the last two decades have seen increasing investment in downtown and adjacent neighborhoods (Yung et al. 2022), more needs to be done to reverse the effects of more than a century of sprawling growth.

Moving Beyond Sprawl

Despite Fresno's history of unabated sprawl, local and regional stakeholders have made attempts in recent years to encourage denser infill development. Notably, in 2015, the city adopted a new zoning ordinance that allowed for mixed-use, transit-oriented development along major commercial corridors and added significant allowances for residential density in the downtown core.[28] A recent analysis of zoning codes across the county found that 25.4 percent of residential land in the incorporated parts of

Fresno County was available for multifamily housing construction, compared to only 14.9 percent in the San Francisco Bay Area, 19.0 percent in Sacramento, and 23.1 percent in the Los Angeles region.[29] Voters in Fresno County have also signaled growing opposition to sprawling suburban growth—in 2022, they rejected the city's proposal to renew a local sales tax (known as Measure C) that would fund freeways and new roads serving suburban developments at the expense of public transit and existing neighborhoods.[30]

However, in spite of these successes, Fresno—and the broader Central San Joaquin Valley region—continues to experience headwinds against efforts to combat sprawl. In 2023, the city reintroduced a plan to create a Southeast Development Area (known as SEDA), which had been first introduced in 2004 and subsequently put aside after the Great Recession of 2008. The SEDA plan called for building a community of 45,000 homes in southeast Fresno that would displace over 9,000 rural acres, mainly farmland. Observers noted that it would be "one of the biggest suburban sprawl projects in Fresno's history,"[31] and the city's own environmental impact analysis showed that the project would increase overall greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent.[32] The plan was put on hold in January 2024 after meeting significant local opposition, but it is symbolic of the continued demand from developers, often supported by public officials, to build on the city's edges rather than focusing on infill growth.

This report illustrates some of the consequences of the Central San Joaquin Valley region's sprawling growth from the 1940s to the present, including higher greenhouse gas emissions, reduced access to transit, and the neglect of central neighborhoods, whose residents are disproportionately people of color. To confront these patterns and move beyond sprawl toward more equitable and sustainable development, stakeholders in Fresno—including residents, policymakers and elected officials, civic leaders, and business leaders—must come to a shared understanding about the specific local drivers of sprawling development and its consequences, especially for low-income residents, residents of color, and other historically marginalized groups. Fresno continues to have one of the highest rates of concentrated poverty among California cities, and sprawling development has contributed in no small part to the current inequitable distribution of wealth and resources. As Fresno stands at the proverbial crossroads, it must explore these and other important questions: Who benefits from sprawl? Who is harmed?

As we described in the introduction, there is a large body of best practices to promote denser development, including through infill construction and smart growth. Policymakers in Fresno and throughout the region must come together to build the requisite political and community consensus around a portfolio of smart growth policies and plans that can help Fresno—and the broader region—

recalibrate its development processes and patterns and chart a course to a more equitable, climate resilient, prosperous, and healthy future.

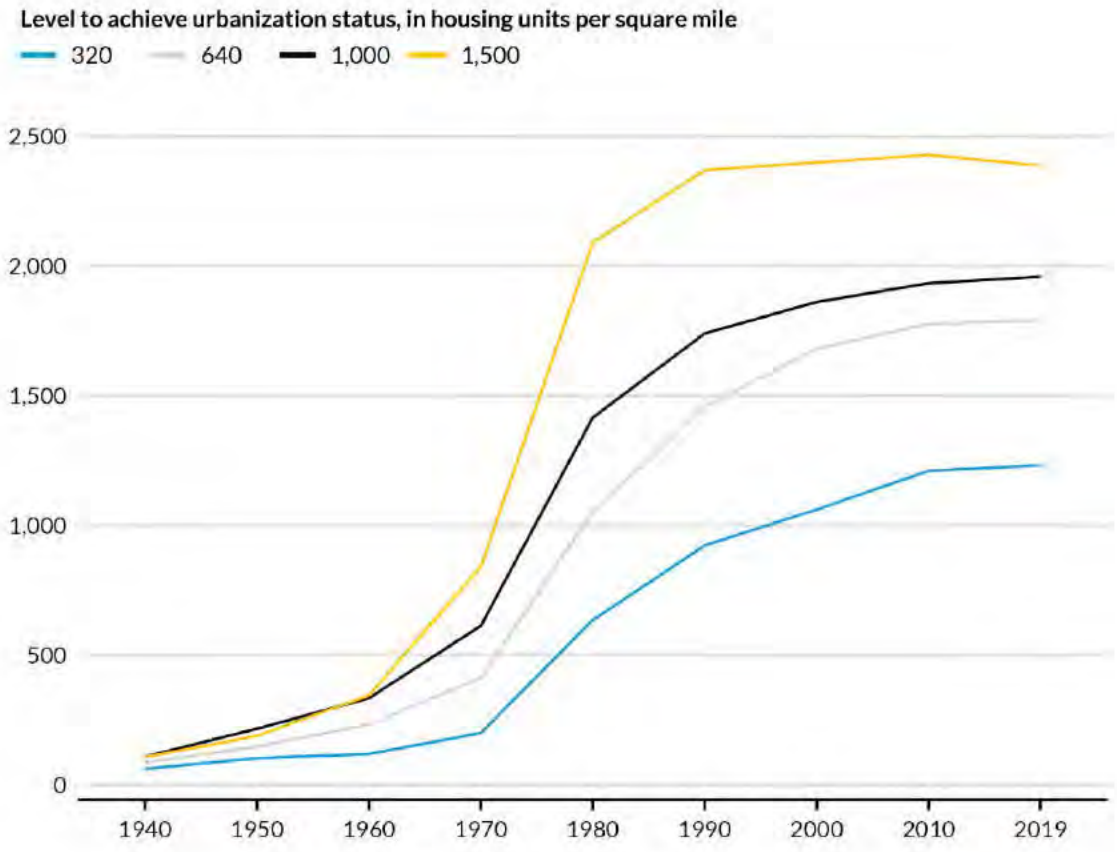
Thanks to the state's investments in downtown Fresno and across the region via the California high-speed rail project, the Central San Joaquin Valley has a pivotal opportunity to transform its development pattern from sprawling growth to denser infill development. While the region has been sprawling consistently for decades, evidence from other regions suggests that it is possible—and advisable—to change that approach. Fresno and its neighboring cities can grow by investing in existing core neighborhoods, while maintaining a focus on equity and environmental health. In that way, the region may be able to preserve its remaining agricultural and natural areas, redirect public expenditures toward essential services like transit, and improve the vitality of existing neighborhoods and the well-being of residents.

Appendix A. Alternative Density Measures

FIGURE A1

Testing Alternative Specifications for a Tract Becoming Newly Urbanized in the 1970s

Housing unit density by specification for achieving new development status, among tracts that achieved that level in the 1970s, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California



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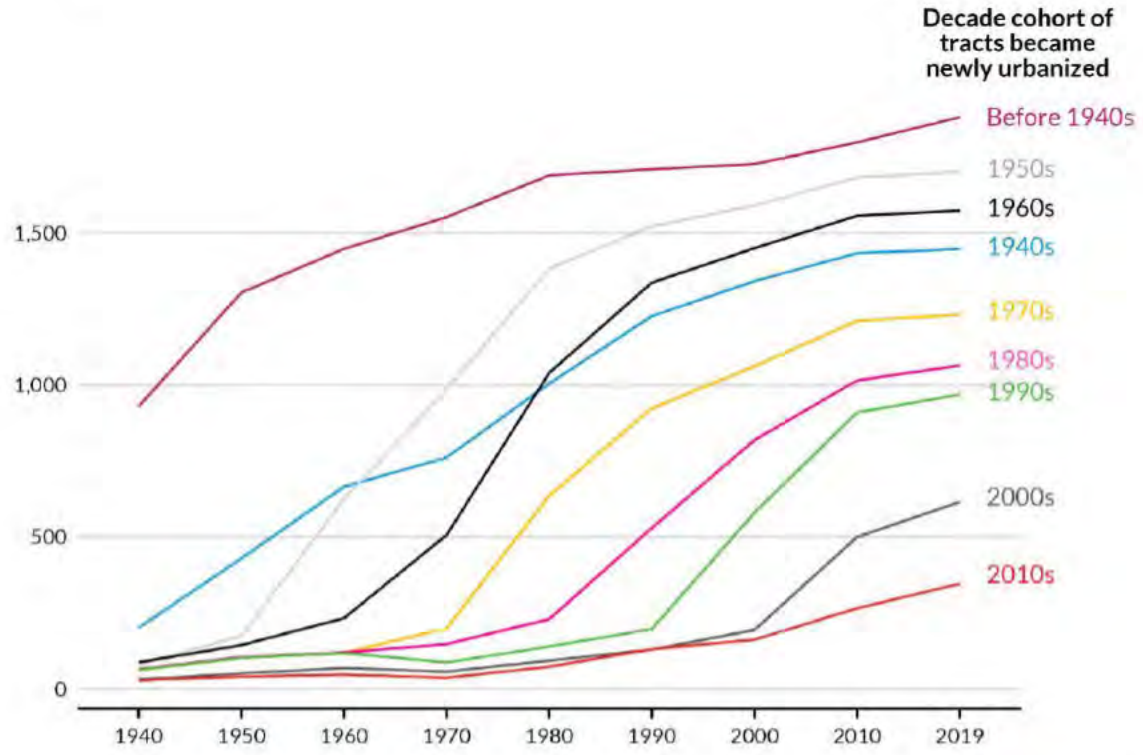
Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.

Notes: Tracts are categorized by the four different density cutoffs. The blue line marking 320, represents tracts that increased from below 320 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 320 units at the end of the decade. We then apply this method using the cutoffs of 640, 1,000, and 1,500 housing units per square mile.

FIGURE A2

Alternative Specification for New Urbanization at 320 Housing Units per Square Mile

Housing unit density by decade tracts became newly urbanized, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California



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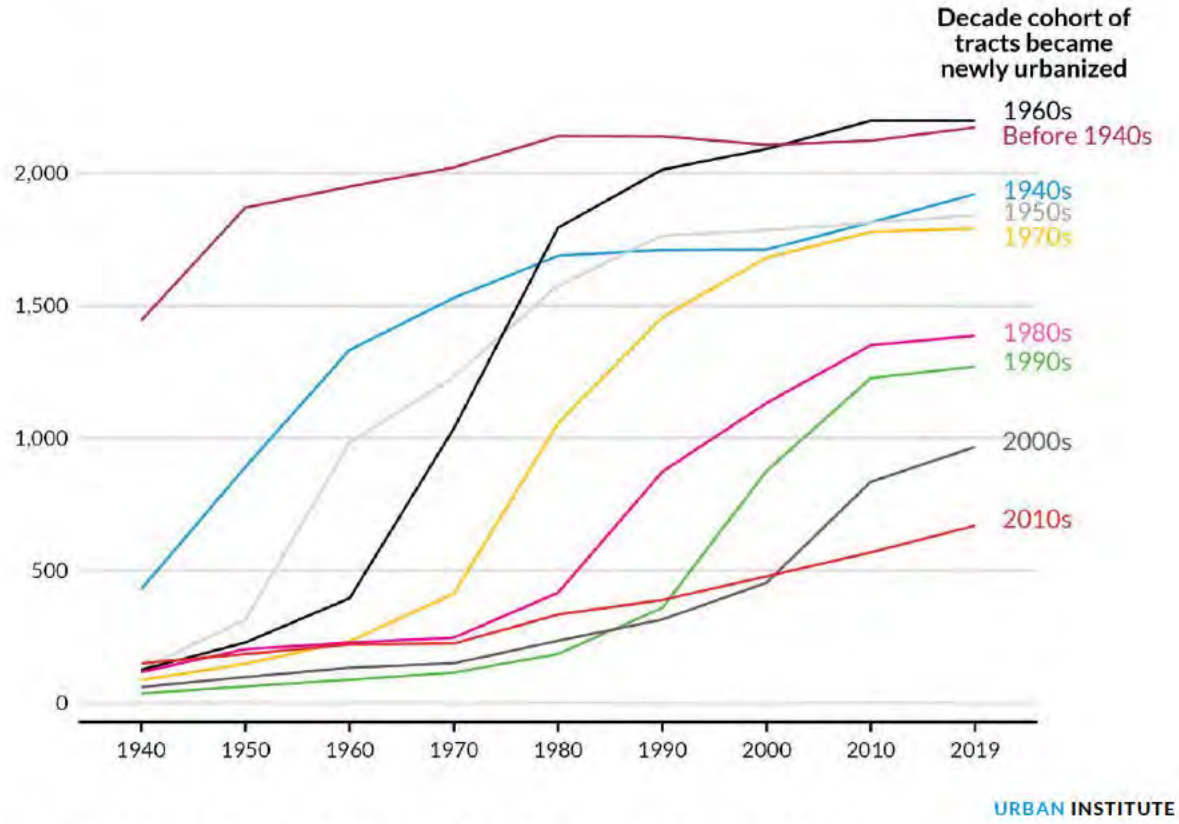
Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.

Notes: A tract counts as being newly urbanized in a decade if its housing unit density increased from below 320 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 320 units at the end of the decade.

FIGURE A3

Alternative Specification for New Urbanization at 640 Housing Units per Square Mile

Housing unit density by decade tracts became newly urbanized, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California



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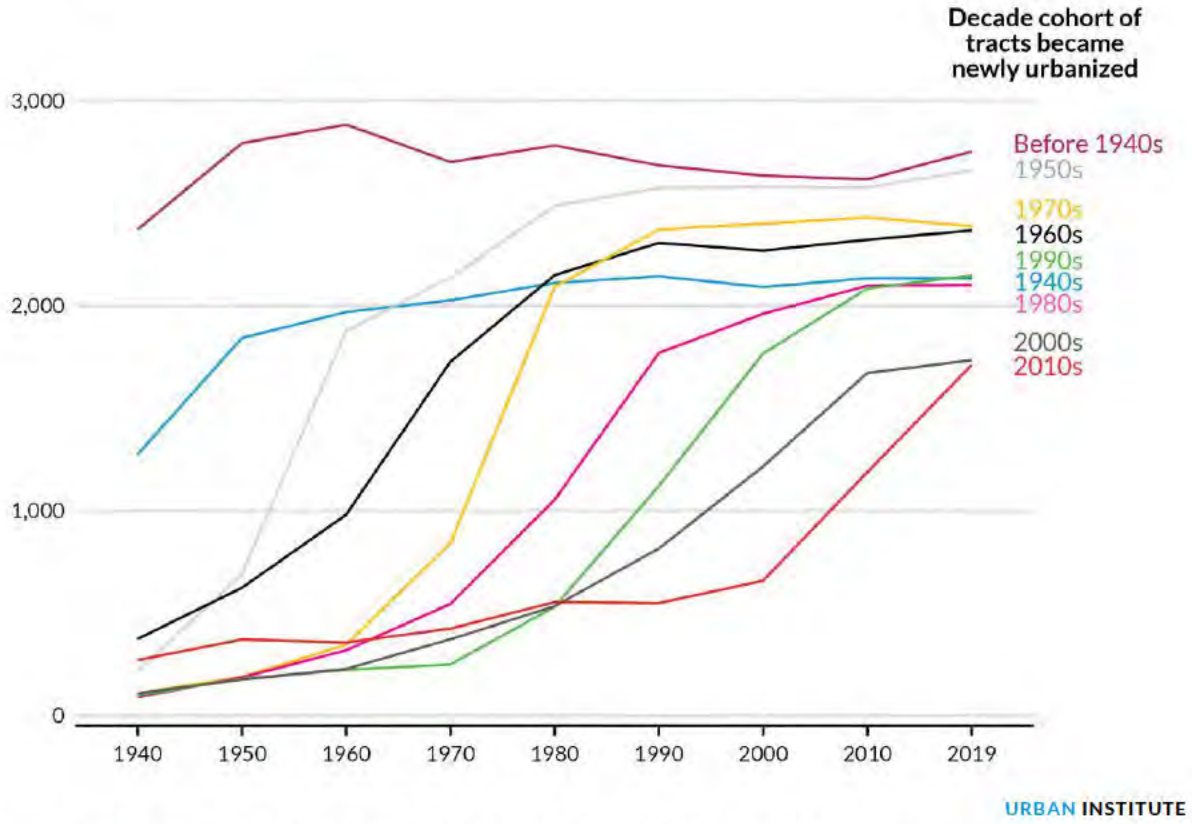
Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.

Notes: A tract counts as being newly urbanized in a decade if its housing unit density increased from below 640 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 640 units at the end of the decade.

FIGURE A4

Alternative Specification for New Urbanization at 1,500 Housing Units per Square Mile

Housing unit density by decade tracts became newly urbanized, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California



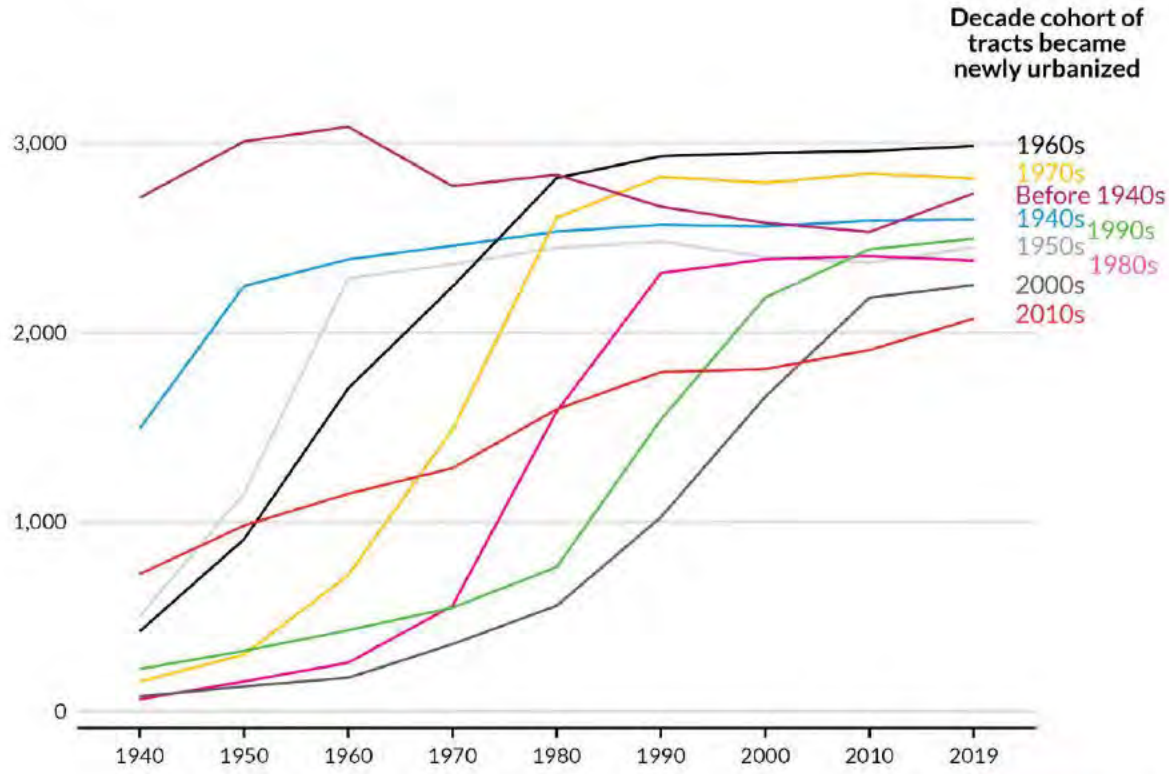
Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.

Notes: A tract counts as being newly urbanized in a decade if its housing unit density increased from below 1,500 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 1,500 units at the end of the decade.

FIGURE A5

Alternative Specification for New Urbanization at 2,000 Housing Units per Square Mile

Housing unit density by decade tracts became newly urbanized, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California



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Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.

Notes: A tract counts as being newly urbanized in a decade if its housing unit density increased from below 2,000 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 2,000 units at the end of the decade.

Appendix B. Regional Development Trends

TABLE B1

Housing Units, by Decade When Tract Became Newly Urbanized

Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California

Decade tract became newly urbanized	Four Counties		Fresno County	
	Housing units in 1940	Housing units in 2019	Housing units in 1940	Housing units in 2019
Before 1940	24,005	32,480	19,346	24,715
1940s	5,433	16,923	2,200	9,101
1950s	2,214	31,387	2,002	30,019
1960s	2,351	35,416	843	26,765
1970s	3,672	66,170	1,252	40,752
1980s	2,367	38,819	1,183	23,689
1990s	2,634	44,939	305	26,532
2000s	1,553	31,162	497	16,218
2010s	1,088	11,338	625	10,454
Sparsely developed	59,234	268,360	26,251	122,897
Total	**104,553**	**576,994**	**54,505**	**331,142**

Source: Author analysis, based on the Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010.

Notes: A tract counts as being newly urbanized in a decade if its housing unit density increased from below 1,000 housing units per square mile at the beginning of the decade to above 1,000 at the beginning of the next decade. This table can be read as follows: The tracts that became newly urbanized in the 1970s contained 66,170 housing units across the region in 2019. These same tracts had 3,672 housing units in 1940.

Notes

[1] Mark Arax, "In California's Heartland, a New Resistance Movement Is Taking Root," June 1, 2023, The New York Times Magazine, https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/01/magazine/fresno-politics-poverty.html.

[2] William Fulton, "The New Urbanism Challenges Conventional Planning," Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, accessed March 4, 2024, https://www.lincolninst.edu/publications/articles/new-urbanism-challenges-conventional-planning.

[3] "Transit-Oriented Development," Federal Transit Administration, accessed March 4, 2024, https://www.transit.dot.gov/TOD.

[4] "How Transit Makes Housing More Affordable," California YIMBY, September 10, 2021, https://cayimby.org/blog/how-transit-makes-housing-more-affordable/.

[5] Christina Stacy, Brady Meixell, Ananya Hariharan, Erika Poethig, and Solomon Greene, "Measuring Inclusion in America's Cities: Fresno, CA," Urban Institute. Last updated September 15, 2020, https://apps.urban.org/features/inclusion/index.html?city=fresno_CA.

[6] American Community Survey 2022 one-year estimates, US Census Bureau, available on Census Reporter, accessed September 27, 2023, https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0627000-fresno-ca/.

[7] Fred Economic Data, "Unemployment Rate in Fresno County, CA/Unemployment Rate in San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA (MSA)," last updated April 3, 2024, https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CAFRES9URN

[8] ECONorthwest's analysis uses the state of California's CalEnviroScreen score, a composite metric that aggregates environmental, health, and socioeconomic information for every census tract and that is used to identify "disadvantaged" communities to prioritize for investment.

[9] "Unequal from Birth," UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, accessed April 3, 2024, https://unequalfrombirth.com/.

[10] US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2022 one-year estimates.

[11] Gregory Weaver, "Fresno's Urban Sprawl Policies Linked to Decades of Poverty, Blight in New Study," Fresnoland, September 18, 2023, https://fresnoland.org/2023/09/18/fresno-poverty/; Reis Thebault, "Fresno's Mason-Dixon Line," August 20, 2018, The Atlantic, https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/08/fresnos-segregation/567299/.

[12] ECONorthwest for the Greenfield Coalition, "Fresno Urban Decay Analysis," accessed September 27, 2023. https://www.greenfieldcoalition.org/urban-decay-data.

[13] California High-Speed Rail Authority, "Fresno," accessed September 27, 2023. https://hsr.ca.gov/high-speed-rail-in-california/station-communities/fresno/.

[14] Tim Sheehan, "Full $250 Million for Downtown Fresno Is Back on the Table in CA Budget Legislation," last updated June 26, 2023, https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article276759766.html.

[15] "Community Economic Resilience Fund," California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, accessed April 1, 2024, https://opr.ca.gov/economic-development/.

[16] Scott Markley, Steven R Holloway, Taylor Hafley, and Mathew Hauer, "HHUUD10: Historical Housing Unit and Urbanization Database 2010," updated February 17, 2023, https://osf.io/fzv5e/

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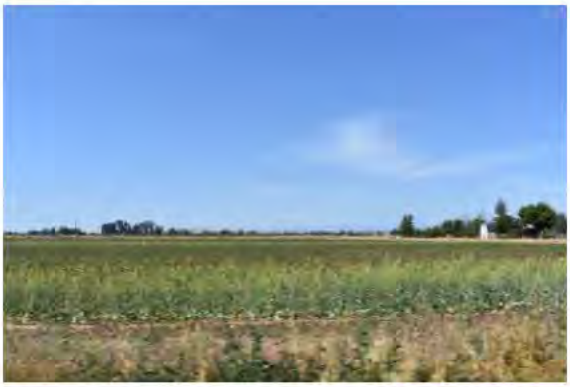
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Fresno Urban Decay Analysis

Analyzing the impacts of sprawl on the urban core

Analysis by ECONorthwest for The Greenfield Coalition
August 16, 2023

History of Fresno



Agricultural land around Fresno

In 1872, the Central Pacific Railroad Company founded Fresno to locate a new rail station and the city built up around the railroad. In 1874, Fresno became the county seat and in 1885 it was incorporated. J Street, located two blocks from the railroad, became a busy street for new homes, churches, and commercial development. Fulton Berry, a real estate developer from San Francisco, opened the first hotel in the city in 1880 named The Grand Central. Fulton Berry was well-known in Fresno and in 1910 the city changed the name of J Street to Fulton

Street in honor of the developer. During this time, the region created the Central California Colony to subdivide land into 20-40 acre parcels with irrigation from a system of canals that guaranteed water to these parcels.

The promise of water made the land very attractive to farmers from around the country, and by the early 1900s this region was attracting farmers from Scandinavia, Germany, Russia, Japan, and Armenia as well. During the early 1900s, the city built out its streetcar network by converting the horse-drive line to electricity. At its peak, the system operated over 42 miles of tracks, which helped to spur development out from the Downtown core.



Downtown Fresno

Today, Fresno County remains one of the top agricultural producing regions in the country, with production values of over $8 billion in 2022, a 1.5% increase over the 2021 value. The top five crops by total value are almonds, grapes, pistachios, poultry, and milk.

What is Urban Decay?

Many cities and researchers have studied the indicators and effects of urban decay, but there is not a common definition of urban decay. For this research, we analyzed other urban decay studies to define urban decay in the context of the City of Fresno.

Over the past two decades, many cities in California have looked at urban decay studies as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to understand the impacts of new retail development (typically large-format or big-box stores) to examine

adverse effects on existing retail and the contribution to urban decay and consequent environmental impacts. CEQA does not define urban decay. However a prominent CEQA case involving an urban decay study, Bakersfield Citizens for Local Control v. City of Bakersfield, defined physical impacts of urban decay as long term vacancies, graffiti, weeds, and unsightly conditions.

In 2021, data scientists at Stanford University created a model to detect signs of urban decay in cities. They defined urban decay by eight visual indicators: potholes, graffiti, garbage, tents, barred or broken windows, discolored or dilapidated facades, weeds, and utility markers. They used the model to analyze photos for these eight indicators in three cities, San Francisco, Mexico City, and South Bend, Indiana. They found that these indicators closely matched the historical trends of decay for neighborhoods in these cities.

For this study, we utilized these physical indicators of urban decay while also considering the City of Fresno's definition of blight. From the Fresno Municipal Code (FMC), blight is defined as:



A vacant residential, commercial, or industrial building and all yards surrounding the building that reduces the aesthetic appearance of its neighborhood, area or district, is offensive to the senses, or is detrimental to nearby property or property values. A blighted building includes a vacant building and the yards surrounding the building that are not being actively maintained, or actively monitored, or actively secured. To actively maintain, monitor, and secure a vacant building, the owner or his or her agent must comply with all sections of this article and do all of the following: maintain Yards, life and healthy, maintain exterior

> *of building including paint and finishes, Remove trash within 72 hours, maintain building with all state and city codes, regulations and permits take all reasonable steps to prevent illegal or criminal activity on premises, secure the property: replacing broken windows or doors. Boarding up is a "disfavored technique"; remove all Graffiti within 48 hours. (FMC 10-603.C)*

While urban decay and blight are not interchangeable, the City's definition of blight also highlights the physical and economic burdens placed on the community from dilapidated properties.

How is Urban Decay Measured?

Across these previous urban decay studies, the indicators of decay are physical elements that signal disinvestment in an area. However, deteriorating economic conditions from disinvestment can both cause the physical decay and be an externality that creates a cycle that continues to degrade the quality of life for those residents still present in the community. For this study, we move beyond physical characteristics to also evaluate the indicators, symptoms, and potential causes of urban decay with respect to economic, social, and quality of life factors.



Physical Decay

Marked by disinvestment and abandoned properties, physical decay is visible in vacant storefronts and residential units, vacant parcels, insufficient infrastructure, and blighted properties that may have graffiti, trash, or boarded up windows. Abandoned or depreciated properties are indicators that people or businesses have moved out, which can encourage nuisance uses including fires, crimes, and squatting that can cause harm to residents in these neighborhoods.



Economic Decay

Marked by outmigration and economic performance, the economic decay indicators include a loss of people to other parts of the region, a loss of people to other regions, and a lack of new private investment in the community. This decay depresses market conditions and leads to a decline in private investment and reinvestment. When people leave the city, there can be an impact on the city's general fund and the city's ability to provide services at the same level as before.



Quality of Life

Marked by the socioeconomic conditions of those residents who remain in the decaying communities, or can only afford to live in places where disinvestment is occurring, the symptoms of urban decay are observed through increases in poverty and declines in household income levels, a lack of housing opportunities, degradation of environmental conditions, and a decline in the quality of schools.

Physical Decay

Physical decay is marked by a number of different metrics related to visible elements of the built environment. Scroll through this section to see how trends in vacant lots, infrastructure, and blight impact urban decay in Fresno.

Vacant Lots

Of the 63,000 acres within the City of Fresno, approximately 8,700 acres, or 14 percent, are vacant, including those designated as agricultural open space. While the majority of the vacant parcels are smaller than a quarter acre, among both vacant and non-vacant parcels, vacant parcels contain a greater share of parcels larger than a quarter acre. Eight percent of vacant parcels are between .5 and 1 acres, in comparison to only 3 percent of non-vacant parcels. This seems to indicate an available share of developable land.

Among the 4,800 vacant parcels within the City of Fresno, more than half (2,500) are less than one acre large. There are approximately 280 parcels larger than five acres.

There are smaller infill lots along corridors in the downtown and central city that are adjacent to existing uses and could

provide synergistic benefits to residential development. On the periphery of the city, there are larger parcels available, but they are further from existing city amenities and opportunities.

Source: City of Fresno

In 2019, the City of Fresno used GIS to calculate that there are over 8,200 vacant acres within the existing city boundaries and identified the current zoning of these parcels to determine that this undeveloped land has the capacity to hold over 134,000 housing units.



Infrastructure

There is considerable need for infrastructure repairs and upgrades in the City of Fresno. The City and State have discussed and

directed funding for the inadequate infrastructure, and understand the need especially in historically disinvested neighborhoods. The atmospheric river storms this past winter highlighted the worsening conditions of Fresno's city streets; the Mayor has addressed this issue in his budget proposal this year by allocating $3 million more dollars to street maintenance this fiscal year.

> *In January 2023, Fresno's Public Works Director estimated that the backlog of repair for Fresno city streets is $500 million.*

The State has also recognized the importance of upgrading the infrastructure in Downtown in order to support new residential development and the future of the city. Governor Newsom directed $250 million of the 2023-2024 state budget to fund infrastructure improvements in Downtown Fresno. This funding would support new wastewater and sewer systems, a stormwater drain basin, sidewalks, linear green space and pocket parks, an intermodal transit center, and two new parking structures to facilitate housing development in Downtown Fresno. These investments are indicative of the barriers to private development and investments in these districts.



Infrastructure Disparities

Fresno has witnessed a pattern of disparity in how infrastructure spending has been distributed in the city. In 2021, three Fresno City Council members proposed a five-year infrastructure plan called Rebuild Fresno to drive city funds and federal pandemic dollars into South and Central Fresno infrastructure projects, where the need is the greatest because some of these neighborhoods are over 100 years old. Many of the streets in these neighborhoods are lacking sidewalks and investments in public safety.

> *The need for infrastructure repairs in legacy communities also inhibits redevelopment and new residential development in these areas.*

Developers have expressed many concerns about the high costs of providing adequate water and sewer lines when building in certain neighborhoods. The infrastructure in the city can be 80-100 years old depending on the neighborhood, so private investors face uncertainty and greater risk, since they cannot know the condition of the infrastructure until construction begins. If the developer has already created a pro forma and secured debt for the project, and then the condition of the infrastructure is not as expected, it may not be feasible for developers to find additional capital–which may require mezzanine financing at higher interest rates.

This dynamic can make development projects more expensive than originally planned, such that the developer may not hit their needed returns. Thus, developers often prefer to build in locations outside of the city center, including land requiring annexation where they can accurately assess infrastructure costs, and in many cases, receive public investment to support off-site and system-wide infrastructure.



Blight

As an indicator of growing blight and disinvestment in neighborhoods, the Fresno City Council approved an Anti-Blight Ordinance in 2015 to hold property owners responsible to clean up visible blight on their properties and to register vacant properties with the city. Blight has been a significant issue in many of the city's older neighborhoods and vacant properties are hazardous and costly to the community.

> *In 2014, the city spent almost $500,000 on fires at vacant properties.[1] In 2019, vacant property fires have cost the city $4.1 million in damages, which is passed on to the property owner but can take up to a year to be recouped by the city.[2]*

Source: ABC30



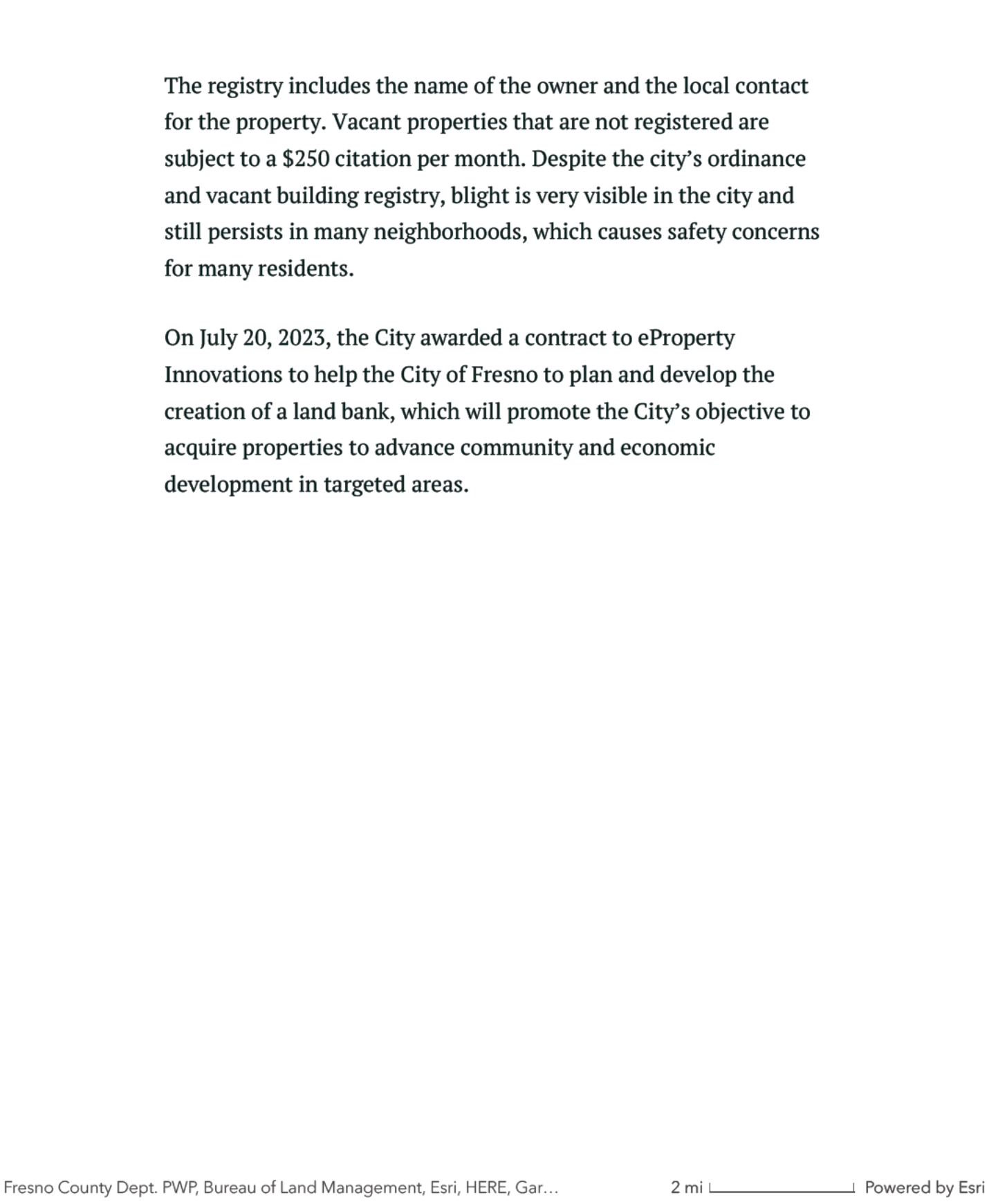
Anti-Blight Ordinance

The City's Code Enforcement Department oversees violations for vacant and blighted buildings and requires owners of these properties to maintain the yard that is visible from the public right of way, maintain the exterior of the building including the paint, roof, and structural elements, and remove all trash and debris within 72 hours of notification.

> *As part of the ordinance, the City also began a vacant building registry, which requires the registration of all buildings that are vacant for longer than 30 days with the City of Fresno.*

The registry includes the name of the owner and the local contact for the property. Vacant properties that are not registered are subject to a $250 citation per month. Despite the city's ordinance and vacant building registry, blight is very visible in the city and still persists in many neighborhoods, which causes safety concerns for many residents.

On July 20, 2023, the City awarded a contract to eProperty Innovations to help the City of Fresno to plan and develop the creation of a land bank, which will promote the City's objective to acquire properties to advance community and economic development in targeted areas.



Code Violations

The City Attorney's Code Enforcement Division maintains a list of buildings which have received code violations from 2015 to 2022.

There are four main violation categories, Commercial, Housing, Public Nuisance, and Zoning. The violation types within these categories range from trash in front of the building to dangerous buildings in need of repair. In the first year of data, the division investigated 97 different unique addresses for possible violations and 124 possible violations showing that there are certain properties that remain problematic and face numerous violations each year. This number has increased every year, most dramatically from 2017 to 2019, when the number of buildings investigated rose from 342 to 15,920 and the number of possible violations increased from 483 to 16,309 over just the 2 years. The total number of addresses investigated from 2015 to 2022 is 81,053 and the total number of possible violations is 84,746

The map shows the reported code violations in the City between 2015 and 2022. There are certain neighborhoods, and specific parcels within those neighborhoods, that receive many violations over this time, including Blackstone Avenue, Belmont Avenue, and Kings Canyon Road. The code violations data matches the visual experience of blight and substandard buildings lining these corridors. Concentrations of blighted properties with repeated code violations have adverse impacts on the desirability and market potential of adjacent properties and perpetuate disinvestment.

Source: City of Fresno

Economic Decay

Economic trends can also indicate urban decay through change in outmigration and economic performance. Scroll through this section to see indicators for economic decay in Fresno, including shifts in population density, people leaving the County, and challenges for real estate development.

Fresno County Dept. PWP, Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Gar… 5 mi Powered by Esri

Population Density

> *Since the 1970s, the City of Fresno has become increasingly dense as the City's population has grown. Between 1970 and 2020, City of Fresno's population density, measured in persons per square mile, increased by almost 650%.*

This population density growth occurred mostly in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Since 2000, the population density growth rate has declined: between 2000 and 2010, population density increased by 30% and between 2010 and 2020, population density increased by only 15%. The City has not kept pace with the population density growth of Fresno County, lagging by 16 percentage points in density growth between 2000 and 2010 and

by 13 percentage points between 2010 and 2020. During this time period, people have left the central city and moved north, both northeast and northwest, and to the east of the central city. The central core of Fresno and Southwest Fresno have seen the least growth, and in some cases negative change in population density.

The map on the right illustrates the percentage change in persons per square mile between 1970-2020 across Fresno. Within the previously established population centers in central and Southwest Fresno, population density has decreased over time (indicated in orange) showing that people are leaving these established areas and moving to the newer communities in the north where the population density has increased significantly (dark green). The city has seen various changes to population density over the past 50 years, indicating a shift in residential patterns. Outmigration in established centers perpetuates economic decay through a decline in support for commercial services.

Source: Community Survey and Decennial US Census



Merced County Association of Gov, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, ... 50 mi Powered by Esri

Migration

The IRS Statistics of Income (SOI) Division's Tax Stats Migration Data tracks tax return movement by county and is based on year-to-year address changes reported on individual income tax returns filed with the IRS. The data is available for inflows, which represents the number of new residents who moved to a county and where they migrated from, and outflows, which represents the number of residents leaving a county and where they went.

The map on the right shows Fresno's inflow and outflow of individuals based on IRS data for 2019-2021. Click through the points on the map to see these values of individuals moving to for from different areas of California.

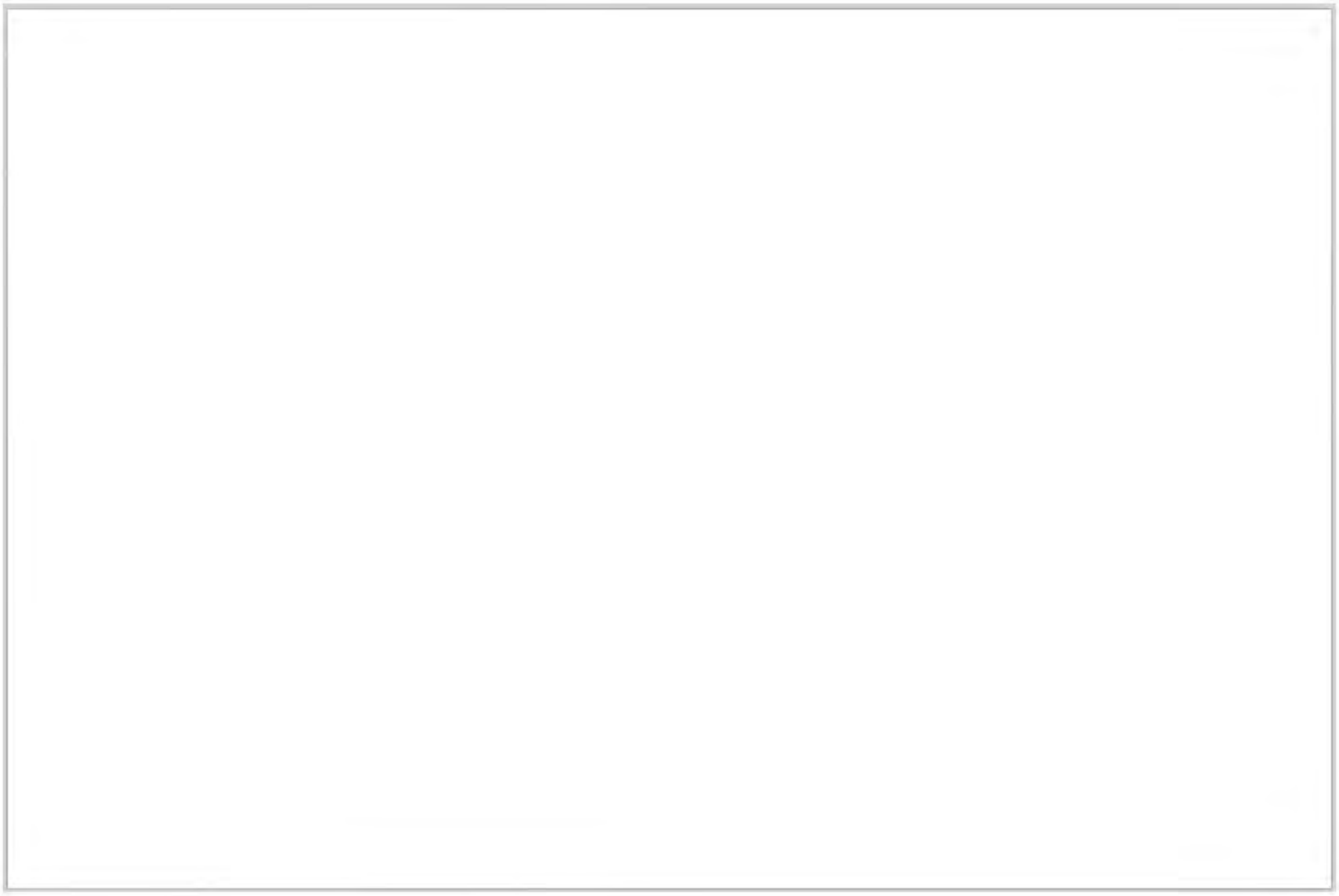
Some key observations from the Fresno County migration data show:

- Fresno County sees the largest share of outmigration to Madera County, which demonstrates that people and development are "jumping" over the river.
- The largest share of in-migration comes from within the San Joaquin Valley, but Fresno loses to other San Joaquin counties on net migration.
- More people are moving to Fresno from Southern California than the Bay Area, but in net migration more people are coming from the Bay Area.
- Households moving into Fresno County are larger on average and have lower incomes than those households leaving Fresno (with the exception of migration from the Bay Area).
- Fresno County loses more residents to other states than it sees in-migration from other states; residents leaving Fresno for other states have a higher household income than the people

migrating into Fresno from other states.

The data shows that the inflow of residents to Fresno County are in households with lower incomes than the City and County averages, suggesting that in-migrants may be seeking a more affordable cost of living that is available in the county; these households thus increase the demand for housing that is at and below the median price in the Fresno market.

Source: Internal Revenue Service



Lack of Private Development Interest

Despite the opportunities in some of Fresno's key areas and corridors, including the rezoning in 2015 that allows mixed-use residential by right, high-travel corridors with bus rapid transit,

and large vacant parcels, there has been a lack of private investment in many areas of the city. When there are not comparable existing market-rate mixed-use development projects, developers expressed that it is hard to understand the rent/ unit mix and the demand for these projects, and it can be a challenge to access financing to build certain product types because developers cannot show financial institutions, who are deliberate about placing capital, that other similar buildings have been successful in the community.

The lack of private development is a symptom of decay because the private market relies on indicators in the real estate market to signal a healthy market that will provide the needed return on investment to the developer and the bank. If these return rates cannot be met in the local market, it will be hard for private development to invest in these decayed neighborhoods.

Source: CoStar, Developer Interviews

Quality of Life

Quality of life is also a significant component of understanding urban decay. Scroll through this section to see indicators in Fresno related to socioeconomic conditions, environmental quality, and education.

Socioeconomic Conditions

Poverty

From the 1970s to 1980s, the poverty rate decreased by 31% in the City of Fresno, and countywide poverty decreased by 32%. However, this trend reversed in subsequent decades:

> *During the 1980s through the 2000s, the City of Fresno saw large **increases** in the poverty rate, from 15% in 1980 to 22% in 2000, or a 44% increase. The poverty rate only increased by 36% countywide during the same period, indicating that those with higher incomes migrated outside of the city limits.*

On average, roughly one-quarter of the city population was living in poverty between 2000 and 2010. However, post Great Recession, poverty in the City of Fresno decreased by 11%. By 2021, the poverty rate citywide was 21% — only one percentage point higher than the County's poverty rate.

The map on the right shows the share of households below the poverty line between 1970-2020 across Fresno. Poverty in the city is concentrated in the center and southern portion of the city, while the north portion of the city experiences the lowest poverty rates. The disparity in poverty rates across Fresno has grown over time. Increasing rates of poverty in historic neighborhoods is a symptom of economic decay and the adverse impacts of disinvestment.

Source: Community Survey and Decennial US Census

Household Income

> *In 2021, the median household income in the City of Fresno was $63,000 while the countywide average was $65,000, indicating that higher income households are migrating outside of the city limits.*

The City of Fresno has seen real income growth over the last 10 years. Real median household income increased by 7% between 2010 and 2021. During the 1990s and 2000s, real income decreased by 5% before rebounding in the 2010s. This trend mirrors the rest of the state due to the recessions in the early 1990s and 2000s. Between 1980 and 1990, Fresno County and City of Fresno saw the largest increase in real median household income of approximately 22%. Fresno County has seen modest growth in median household income since the 1990s while the City of Fresno experienced a decrease in median household income between 1990 and 2010.

The map on the right shows the change in median household income between 1980-2020. The further from the central city a household is, the higher the median household income; households with higher incomes have more options and have moved north or out of the city, leaving behind lower income households and decaying conditions. The exodus of higher incomes leaving the city exacerbates urban decay, as these wealthier households move their spending power and tax revenues out of the neighborhoods where they are needed the most.

Source: Community Survey and Decennial US Census

Housing Conditions

Cost-Burdened Renters

Those households spending more than 30% of their gross income on rent are defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as cost-burdened. The percentage of cost-burdened renter households within the City of Fresno has hovered around 50% since the 1970s.

> *The cost burden rate for the City peaked in 2010 following the Great Recession at 53%, meaning that more than one out of every 2 renters was cost-burdened.*

Though still above 50%, the cost-burden rate decreased to 51% in 2021. Fresno County follows the same trend as the city with the cost-burden rate increasing since the 1970s with the peak in 2010. However, the percentage of renters in Fresno County who are cost-burdened is 2 to 3 percentage points lower than the city across the period.

The map on the right shows the share of cost burdened renters in Fresno between 1970-2020. Cost-burdened renters are more prevalent in Central, Southeast, and Southwest Fresno, demonstrating these communities have more people struggling to get by and may have less disposable income for other goods and services besides rent, which can contribute to further decay in the neighborhood.

Source: Community Survey and Decennial US Census

Overcrowding

HUD defines a dwelling unit as overcrowded if there is are than one person per room. Notably, the persons per room (PPR) definition of overcrowding differs from that of persons per bedroom. This method of measuring overcrowding includes those living situations in which household members sleep in multi-use spaces, such as a living room. We use the persons per room definition of overcrowding due to data availability.

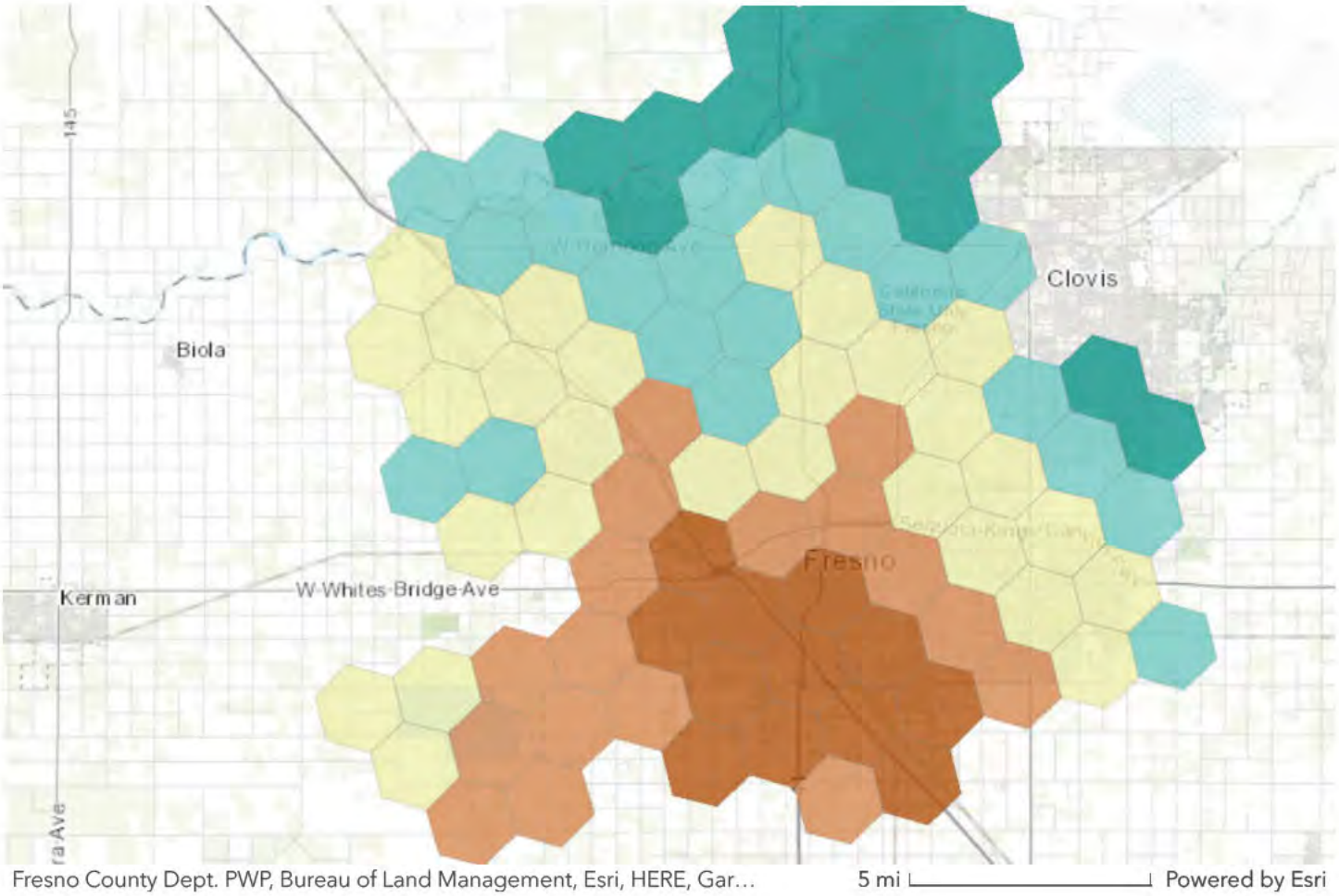
> *Using the HUD definition of overcrowding, in 2021 11% of households are overcrowded in the City of Fresno.*

Historically, the rate of overcrowding has been higher in Fresno County than the City of Fresno. However, in 2021, 11% of households in the City of Fresno were overcrowded while 10% were overcrowded within the county. Prevalence of overcrowding in the city and county was highest during the 1990s*, reaching 17% in 2000. Since the 2000s, the rates of overcrowding have decreased to approximately 10% across the city and county.

The map on the right shows the share of households with over 1 person per room between 1990-2020. Overcrowding is concentrated in Central, Southeast, and Southwest Fresno, while neighborhoods on the northern periphery of the city have the lowest rates of overcrowding. Some households may want to move out of a crowded housing unit, but Central and South Fresno have very low vacancy rates and very little new development because they are decaying neighborhoods, which can leave people trapped in overcrowded units.

*Note: overcrowding data was unavailable prior to 1990.

Source: Community Survey and Decennial US Census



Environmental Quality

Cal Enviro Screen

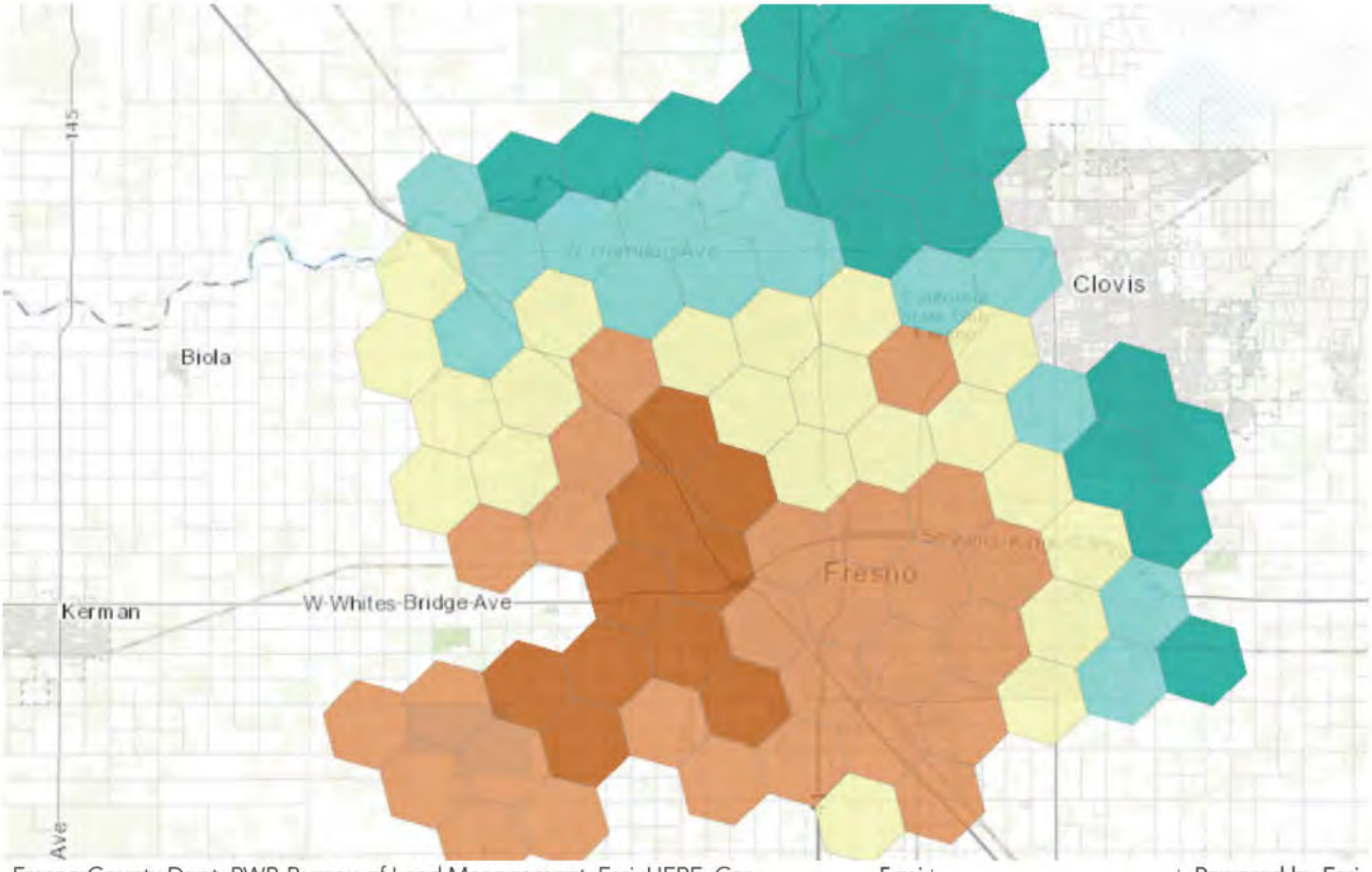
The California Office of Environmental and Health Hazard Assessment has published the CALEnviro Score (CES) since 2013 to help communities recognize the pollutants in their area. The CES is a cumulative metric based on many different measurements of pollution such as PM5, lead, pesticides, hazard waste, drinking and groundwater threats, and more. Researchers account for pollutants at the Census Tract level and assign a rank (or percentile) across all geographies in California. A percentile of 100 indicates the worst CES score.

The City of Fresno is in the 73rd percentile in the state while Fresno County ranks in the 69th percentile and Clovis ranks in the 38th percentile.

The highest value of the CES, indicating the most significant environmental concerns, lies within the Fresno zip code 93706, which covers Southwest Fresno.

Higher scores shown on the map in dark orange indicate a higher number of environmental pollutants in an area based on CalEnviro Screen scores. The highest scores are in central and south Fresno, along the railroad tracks, and the scores decrease the further one moves from the central city. These intense environmental hazards can cause decay by encouraging residential and non-industrial uses to locate elsewhere, and can be a symptom of decay by creating a toxic quality of life for existing residents.

Source: California Office of Environmental and Health Hazard Assessment, 2021



Education

TCAC Education Score

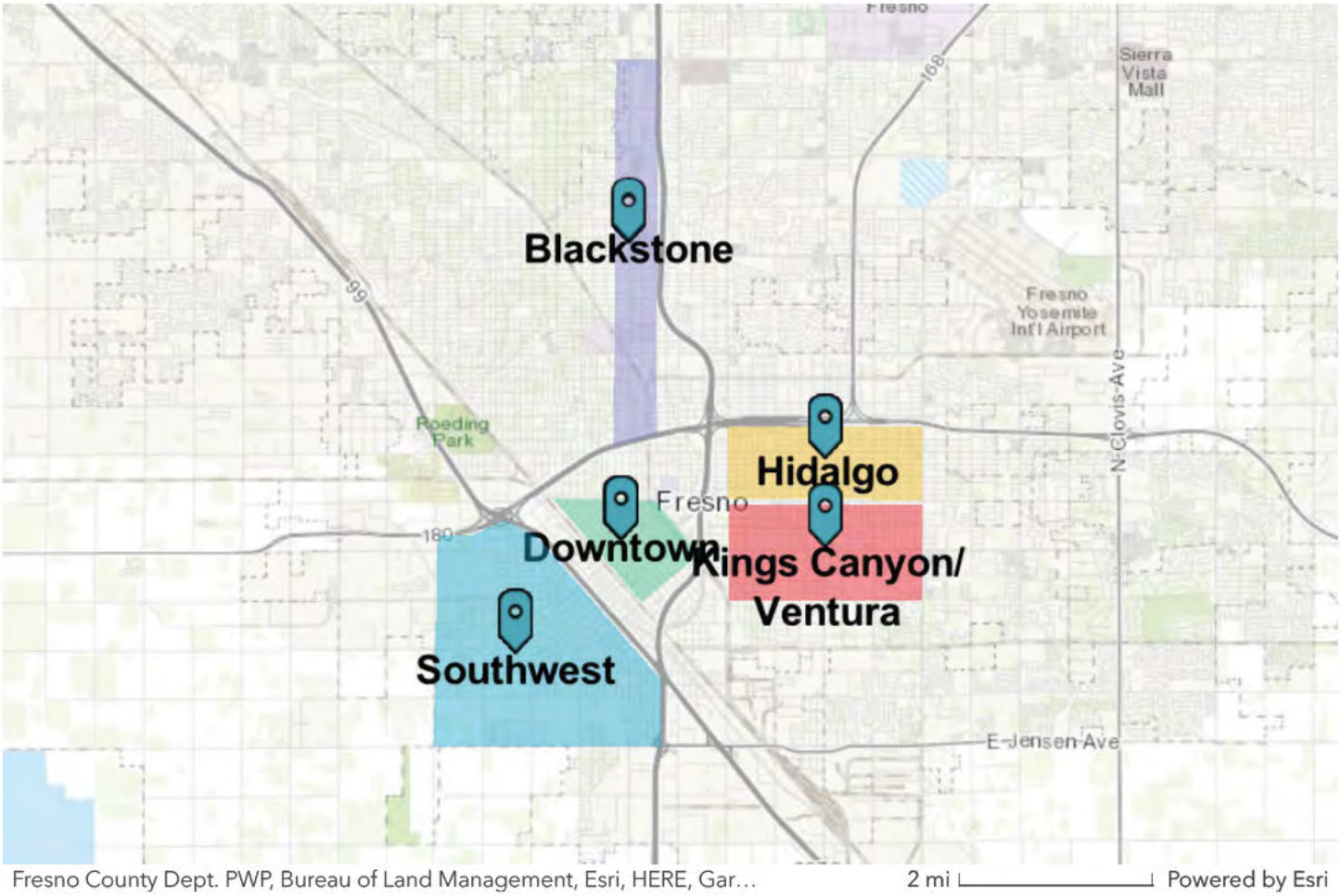
The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee assesses the quality of life as measured by an index of economic, environment, education dimensions across the state. The Education Score is assessed based on reading and math scores, high school graduation rate, and student poverty rate.

Lower scores represented on the map in dark orange indicate lower rates of educational attainment according to TCAC data. The education scores are lowest in West Fresno, and then in Central and Southeast Fresno, while the scores are higher the further north one moves. This represents a symptom of decay as families move out of these legacy neighborhoods to find higher performing schools, and the schools and students left behind face declining school conditions.

Source: California Tax Credit Allocation Committee

Focus Areas

This section focuses on specific areas of Fresno that represent some of the city's greatest challenges and opportunities for addressing urban decay. Click the list of the left to scroll through information about each of these communities.


Blackstone
Hidalgo
Downtown
Kings Canyon/
Ventura
Southwest
Fresno
Sierra
Vista
Mall
Fresno
Yosemite
Int'l Airport
N Clovis Ave
Roeding
Park
E Jensen Ave
99
168
180
Fresno County Dept. PWP, Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Gar…
2 mi
Powered by Esri



Start Here: Fresno Corridors

This section of the map walks through five significant areas for understanding urban decay in Fresno, including Blackstone, Kings Canyon/Ventura, Hidalgo, Downtown, and Southwest...



Blackstone Corridor

Blackstone Avenue is a major arterial that runs north-south in the City of Fresno. Until the current Highway 41was constructed in the 1980s, Blackstone Avenue was the primary route...



Blackstone: High Commercial Vacancy

There are many vacancies along this corridor that contribute to blight, given that there are many large, big box vacancies, including the Sears. There are lifestyle centers that are vacan...



Blackstone: Vacant Parcels

There are about 30 vacant parcels in this corridor that total just over 44 acres, or 1.9 million square feet, of vacant land. The average size of the vacant parcels is just under 1.5 acres. Of...



Blackstone: Substandard Buildings

Between 2015-2022, Code Enforcement received 763 code violations along Blackstone Avenue: 33 commercial violations, 165 housing violations, 459 public nuisance violations, a...



Blackstone: Lack of Private Investment

Blackstone Corridor has the potential to be a thriving mixed-use and transit-oriented community, but it has seen limited development in recent years. As part of the Citywide...



Blackstone: High Injury Network

Blackstone Ave contains the most crashes out of any of the major streets in Fresno:



Kings Canyon/Ventura

The Ventura/Kings Canyon Corridor looks at the region between First and Chestnut, from Tulare to Butler. Along Ventura/Kings Canyon Road, the Q BRT runs every 10 minutes...



KC/Ventura: Housing Stock

There are about 1200 multi-family units across 70 buildings in this corridor. There is a high



demand for rental units in this neighborhood and the vacancy rate is currently 5%. The...



KC/Ventura: Public Transit Amenities

This is a corridor where many individuals rely on public transit and along the FAX Q BRT line; despite the frequent and high transit use, there is inadequate amenities for public transit...



KC/Ventura: Vacant Parcels

There are about 10 acres of vacant land in this corridor, with the average vacant lot size of about 1/2 acre. The vacant parcels provide an opportunity for redevelopment, but the averag...



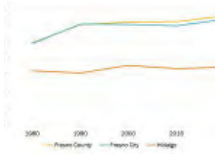
KC/Ventura: Lack of Private Investment

This area has not seen significant private investment, despite its strong potential to serve as a mixed-use corridor. Since 2000, there have been a couple multi-family buildings that have...



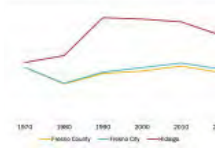
Hidalgo

The Hidalgo Community is a diverse neighborhood along Belmont Avenue, just east of Downtown Fresno. Hidalgo Elementary School reports that 79% of their students are Hispan...



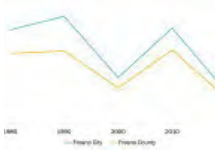
Hidalgo: Median Household Income

The median household income in the Hidalgo neighborhood has been roughly half of the city average since 1970. In 1970, median household income in Hidalgo was $32,600 and only...



Hidalgo: Poverty Rate

In the 1970s, the Hidalgo neighborhood experienced approximately the same poverty rate as the city and the county. However, during the 1980s, the city -wide poverty rate decreased...



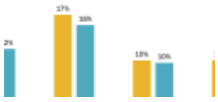
Hidalgo: Tenure

Hidalgo has a higher share of renters than the city average (41%). In 2021, 68% of households in Hidalgo were renters.



Hidalgo: Housing Stock Age

Hidalgo has an older and aging housing stock. In the City of Fresno, 58% of homes were built before 1979 while in Hidalgo, 77% of homes were built before 1979. There has not been...

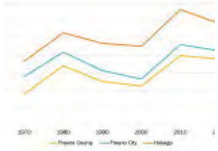


Hidalgo: Overcrowding

In Hidalgo, 22% of households were experiencing overcrowding in 2021, while only 11% were



experiencing overcrowding across the city. The degree of overcrowding has decreased over...



Hidalgo: Cost-Burdened Renters

Households that spend more than 30 percent of their gross income on rent are defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as cost-burdened, and Hidalgo has a...



Hidalgo: Pedestrian & Transit Amenities

This community relies heavily on public transit and walking to get to where they need to be. There are limited amenities for public transit users and pedestrians and many of the bus sto...



Hidalgo: Vacant Lots

There are 14 acres of vacant land in this neighborhood, with the average lot size of just under 1 acre. These vacant lots signal a lack of investment in the community.



Downtown

Downtown Fresno was the original epicenter of Fresno as it was located next to the rail station. Fulton Street was a bustling place from the 1920s through 1950s, but in the1960s...



Downtown: Office Market

In Downtown, there is over 5 million square feet of office space in over 130 buildings. The average office building was constructed in 1962, and 8% of buildings have been renovated...



Downtown: Retail Vacancy

There is over 2 million square feet of retail space in Downtown. Along Fulton Street, there is a visibly high vacancy rate with the majority of spaces sitting empty or boarded up. The visibl...



Downtown: Lack of Private Investment

There are concerns over the condition of water and sewer lines in Downtown as some of them are 80 to 100 years old, which can hinder new residential development because the develope...



Downtown: Residential Market

Since 2000, multi-family development has rebounded in Downtown Fresno and 64% of the units in Downtown built since 2000 were located in the Mural District/Cultural Arts District....



Downtown: Events & Entertainment

Downtown Fresno serves as the Downtown and event hub for Fresno County and it hosts...

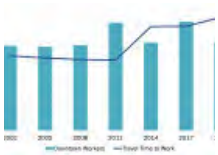


Downtown Fresno serves as the Downtown and event hub for Fresno County and it hosts many events that are well attended by people from throughout the region. In 2019, the...



Downtown: Vacant Lots

Excluding land owned by the California High Speed Rail Authority, there is just over 11 acres of vacant land in the Downtown core. The average lot size is under 1/2 an acre. There is land...



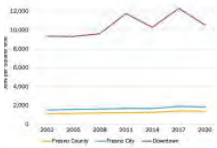
Downtown: Commute Patterns

Less than 1% of employees both work and live in Downtown Fresno and the majority of workers commute to Downtown Fresno from the surrounding neighborhoods. The mean trav...



Downtown: Population Density

Downtown Fresno is historically denser than the city overall, and the population density has increased from 4,950 persons per square mile in 1970 to 6,880 persons per square mile in...



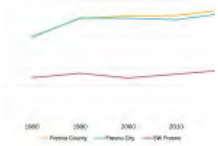
Downtown: Employment Density

Downtown Fresno nonetheless remains the epicenter of employment in Fresno, with nearly three times as many jobs per square mile in comparison to the City of Fresno as a whole.



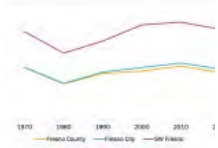
Southwest Fresno

Southwest Fresno comprises a large geographical area southwest of the 99 that has experienced historic disinvestment from racially discriminatory policies and redlining....



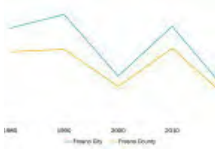
Southwest: Median Household Income

Residents of Southwest Fresno have only experienced modest gains in real income since the 1980s; between the 1980s and 1990s, the median household income in Southwest Fresno...



Southwest: Poverty Rate

The poverty rate in Southwest Fresno has hovered between 28% and 42% since the 1970s. Southwest Fresno residents were experiencing an increasing poverty rate since 1980; only...



Southwest: Tenure

Southwest Fresno has a higher share of renters than the citywide average (41%). In 2021, 70% of households in SW Fresno were renters.



Southwest: Housing Stock



Southwest Fresno has an older and aging housing stock than the city-wide average. In the City of Fresno, 58% of homes were built before 1979 and 65% of homes in Southwest Fresno were...



Southwest: Substandard Housing

There are over 1600 units of multi-family housing in this neighborhood, and about 90% of the units are rent restricted or subsidized units. The average asking rent per unit per month of t...



Southwest: Cost-Burdened Renters

Currently, over 55% of renters in Southwest Fresno are cost-burdened, which is higher than the average city and county cost-burdened rate. These households will have less disposable...



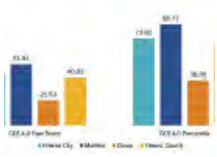
Southwest: Overcrowding

Overcrowding in SW Fresno has decreased over time, but still lies above the city average. In 2021, 1% of households were overcrowded in SW Fresno. Notably, the percent of households...



Southwest: Vacant Lots

In this neighborhood, there are 370 acres of vacant land, with the average lot size of 5 acres. There is significant land available for residential development, however the private real esta...



Southwest: Air Quality and Environment

Southwest Fresno has the highest CES score, indicating the highest levels of pollutants, as compared to the City and County.



Southwest: Extreme Food Hardship

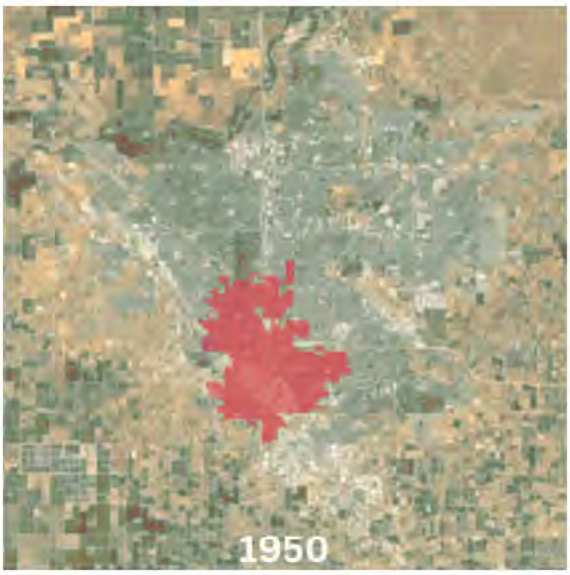
Based on the USDA 2019 data, many of the census tracts in Southwest Fresno experience food hardships as residents have longer distances to go to reach a grocery store. This issue is...

What Causes Urban Decay?

Inefficient Land Use (Sprawl)

Development in the City of Fresno originally moved from Downtown to the north, capping out at the San Joaquin River.

Next, development moved east from the central city. The annexation map shows the City of Fresno boundaries in 1950 in red and the land annexed by the City of Fresno over the last few decades is depicted in blue.



As the city has increased in land size, the population density has decreased in the central city and Southwest Fresno, and increased significantly on the periphery where the new annexed land is. This suggests that on average, more people are relocating from the central areas of the city to the newly annexed land, and that a larger share of migration on net is relocation to annexed areas. This dynamic can cause urban decay: residents of new annexed communities are is not new population and new household tax revenue coming to the City of Fresno, but just an internal repositioning of existing residents and tax revenue.

Based on the migration data, new households moving to the City of Fresno have a lower household adjusted gross income (AGI) than the City of Fresno average median household income of $63,000 and lower than the County of Fresno average median household income of $65,000, with the exception of new migration to Fresno from the Bay Area ($71,025 per household AGI). Household AGIs of new households migrating to Fresno from the following regions falls between 63% and 86% of the median income of existing City of Fresno households:

- Sacramento Region: $49,107
- San Joaquin Region: $49,803
- Southern California Region: $53,958
- Other states: $51,249
- Foreign addresses: $39,938

Since new migration to the City of Fresno has a lower income than the City and County median income, these new households are unable to rent or buy housing at the high end of the market; they would thus likely be seeking rents/sales prices in the City of Fresno at or below the Fresno market median.

The data on population and migration shows that the existing residents of Fresno have moved out of central areas of the City to the newly annexed land, and that new migration to the City of Fresno has lower household median income than the city average, and would likely be seeking more affordable units.

Therefore, new developments in annexation areas cannot completely pay for themselves because, on average, they are not introducing new residents to the tax base but rather shifting residents around within the City. Also, as the City increases the number of square miles within its boundaries, it increases the miles of roads, infrastructure, and emergency services that it must finance, staff, and maintain. There is not data or studies that suggest these new communities are self-sufficient and pay for themselves over time.

Flight

There is a long history of racial segregation in the City of Fresno and there has been an exodus of white households from the city boundaries as the city has become more diverse overtime.

At the city's inception, the railroad tracks were a divider; immigrants were forced to live west of the railroad tracks in West Fresno. Redlining from the 1930's exacerbated the racial divide in Fresno, as neighborhoods with large minority populations, including West and Southwest Fresno, were demarcated in red and denied mortgages. In the north, neighborhoods like Fig Garden were primarily white; these buyers were approved for loans, and their deeds had race-restricted covenants excluding certain races, which perpetuated the segregation of neighborhoods by race. In

1937, the city was comprised of 90% white residents; by 1970, Fresno had become a majority minority city. White residents continued to move even further from central Fresno, and by the 1970's. the dividing line between white communities and minority communities moved from the railroad tracks to Shaw Avenue, showing white flight out of the central city.[3] As of 2022, non-Latino white residents comprise only 30% of the population. As the demographics of the city have changed and became more diverse, and white residents have moved further north, they have left legacy neighborhoods behind and the geographic division between racial groups has become even clearer.

Higher-income households moving out of the legacy communities exacerbates decay, as there is a loss of property tax and sales tax revenue, and local spending, which in turn impacts local businesses and the level of services for these legacy communities. When schools see negative impacts to their funding from a loss of tax revenue, families with more mobility and financial options typically seek a stronger performing school district and leave, causing further harm to these school districts.

Investment Patterns (Public and Private)

The pattern of public and private investment can disproportionately impact the physical, economic, and social trajectory of a community in several ways. On the upside, investments in parks, streets, public safety, and infrastructure have placemaking value. These are amenities that drive market premiums and create a virtuous cycle of private investment and reinvestment. On the downside, deferred maintenance, deferred upgrades, and antiquated infrastructure have negative impacts by drawing down market premiums while also creating additional costs, greater uncertainty, and increased risk for capital markets in attracting private investment, perpetuating the decay of the neighborhoods left behind.

At the same time, some investments have disproportionately

positive and negative impacts on different communities. In Fresno, Freeway 99 was constructed in the 1950's and created a physical barrier between east and west Fresno, further perpetuating the divide in the city and between racial groups. The construction of the freeway destroyed over 20 blocks of housing, as well as the Black community's business district.[4]

Location/Relocation of Institutional Uses

Institutional uses like government facilities, hospitals, higher education, and social services can serve as anchors for neighborhoods and districts in a city. These uses provide employment opportunities, attract students and faculty, and provide services to local residents. Together these institutions create daytime employment, support commercial uses, and create demand for housing and other services.

However, Fresno has a history of large-scale public and governmental users leaving the central city to move further north in the city.

- In 1956, Fresno State College moved from its original location off McKinley Ave (in the Tower District west of Blackstone Ave) to its current location in Northeast Fresno, adjacent to Clovis.
- Hospitals have also left the central city for locations farther north, which moves thousands of jobs to more suburban locations and makes it harder for a subsect of the community, who are less likely to have a personal vehicle, to access medical care. Saint Agnes Medical Center opened in 1929 on Fruit and Floradora Avenues in Central Fresno.[5] In the 1970s, the Medical Center moved north to its current location on Herndon Ave in Northeast Fresno. Saint Agnes is currently one of the top 25 employers in Fresno County.[6]
- Also, in 1952, Valley Children's Hospital opened on Shields and Millbrook Avenues in Central Fresno but moved north to Madera County in 1998.[7] Today, the Valley Children's

Healthcare System has 3,500 employees, which could have been Fresno jobs, and represents the loss of Central California's only high-quality, comprehensive care exclusively for children to Madera County.[8]

- This trend of institutional uses leaving Central Fresno has continued into the 2000's; in 2021, Fresno County Social Services moved 2,200 employees from 40 dispersed buildings in the City of Fresno into a centralized one-stop location at an office park in Clovis. This move represented a loss of jobs in the City of Fresno and means that for some residents in Southeast and Southwest Fresno, it can take longer to access social services.

Location of Uses with Negative Externalities

While uses that benefit the communities of central Fresno, including universities, hospitals, and social services, have moved north, the City has a history of allowing disruptive uses in the central city.

- In Southwest Fresno, land that was designated for agricultural uses has been approved for industrial uses, despite the neighborhood consisting primarily of residential uses and single-family homes.
- In 1937, the City bought 20 acres of land near West and Jensen Avenues, three miles southwest of the City of Fresno, for the Fresno Sanitary Landfill, which eventually grew to 140 acres. The landfill accepted all types of waste, including waste that causes negative externalities on the community including municipal solid waste, pesticides and herbicides, battery acids, and petroleum products. In 1983, the City discovered methane gas onsite and in 1984, the California Department of Health Services conducted a preliminary inspection of the site because neighboring residents submitted numerous complaint letters. Inspections of the groundwater determined that 20 hazardous substances in the water. The landfill closed in 1987.[9]

- In 1947, Sierra Meat Co. (eventually owned by Darling International) opened a plant outside the city limits and the city eventually incorporated the area surrounding it. In recent decades, community residents have expressed heavy opposition to the rendering plant operations for its environmental impacts. The plant processes animal products and creates a noxious smell for the community. The rendering factory will operate until its planned closure in December 31, 2023.[10]
- Currently, in the Southwest Fresno Focus Area there are over 300 acres of land occupied by industrial users, including food processing, manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution space (Source: CoStar, 2023).

References

[1] ABC 30, "Fresno City Council Approves Anti-Blight Ordinance," ABC30 Fresno, May 15, 2015, https://abc30.com/blight-fresno-central-home-owners/724786/.

[2] Jason Oliviera, "Fires in Vacant Buildings Are Rising in Fresno," ABC30 Fresno, December 4, 2019, https://abc30.com/fresno-structure-fire-vacant-building-homelsess-homeless/5734688/.

[3] Reis Thebault, "Fresno's Mason-Dixon Line," The Atlantic, August 20, 2018, https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/08/fresnos-segregation/567299/.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Saint Agnes Medical Center, "About Us," www.samc.com, accessed July 20, 2023, https://www.samc.com/about-us/.

[6] State of California, "Major Employers in California," 2023, https://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/majorer/countymajorer.asp?CountyCode=000019.

[7] Valley Children's Healthcare, “Our History,” accessed July 20, 2023, https://www.valleychildrens.org/about-us/history#:~:text=1952%3A%20Through%20fundraising%20efforts%20by.

[8] Valley Children's Healthcare, “Why Choose Valley Children’s,” accessed July 20, 2023, https://www.valleychildrens.org/about-us/why-choose-valley-childrens.

[9] City of Fresno, "2001 National Historic Landmark Nomination," https://www.fresno.gov/publicutilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2020/12/2001-National-Historic-Landmark-Nomination-Fresno-Sanitary-Landfill.pdf.

[10] Dom McAndrew, “Fresno Meat Rendering Operation to Permanently Close,” Your Central Valley, April 21, 2020, https://www.yourcentralvalley.com/news/local-news/fresno-meat-rendering-operation-to-permanently-close/.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
STANDARD AGREEMENT
STD 213 (Rev. 03/2019)

AGREEMENT NUMBER: 19-PGP-13413
PURCHASING AUTHORITY NUMBER (if applicable):

1. This Agreement is entered into between the Contracting Agency and the Contractor named below:

CONTRACTING AGENCY NAME
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CONTRACTOR'S NAME
City of Fresno

2. The term of this Agreement is:

START DATE
Upon HCD Approval

THROUGH END DATE
12/31/2022

3. The maximum amount of this Agreement is:
$625,000.00

4. The parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the following exhibits, which are by this reference made a part of the Agreement.

EXHIBITS	TITLE	PAGES
Exhibit A	Authority, Purpose and Scope of Work	2
Exhibit B	Budget Detail and Payment Provisions	5
Exhibit C*	State of California General Terms and Conditions	GTC - 04/2017
Exhibit D	PGP Terms and Conditions	8
Exhibit E	Special Conditions	0
	TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES ATTACHED	15

Items shown with an asterisk (*), are hereby incorporated by reference and made part of this agreement as if attached hereto.
These documents can be viewed at https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OLS/Resources

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN EXECUTED BY THE PARTIES HERETO.

CONTRACTOR

CONTRACTOR NAME (if other than an individual, state whether a corporation, partnership,etc.)
City of Fresno

CONTRACTOR BUSINESS ADDRESS: 2600 Fresno Street | CITY: Fresno | STATE: CA | ZIP: 93721

PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Jennifer K Clark
TITLE: Planning & Development Director

CONTRACTOR AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED: 5/11/2020

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CONTRACTING AGENCY NAME
Department of Housing and Community Development

CONTRACTING AGENCY ADDRESS: 2020 W. El Camino Ave., Suite 130 | CITY: Sacramento | STATE: CA | ZIP: 95833

PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Synthia Rhinehart
TITLE: Contracts Manager, Business & Contract Services Branch

CONTRACTING AGENCY AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED: 5/15/2020

California Department of General Services Approval (or exemption, if applicable)

Exempt per: SCM Vol. 1 4.04.A.3 (DGS memo dated 6/12/1981)

APPROVED AS TO FORM
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
BY:
SR DEP CITY ATTORNEY
Brandon M. Collett

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
STANDARD AGREEMENT
STD 213 (Rev. 06/2019)

AGREEMENT NUMBER
19-80H-1234-19

PURCHASING AUTHORITY NUMBER (If applicable)

1. This Agreement is entered into between the Contracting Agency and the Contractor named below:

CONTRACTING AGENCY NAME
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CONTRACTOR'S NAME
City of Fresno

2. The term of this Agreement is:

START DATE
Upon HCD Approval

THROUGH END DATE
12/31/2022

3. The maximum amount of this Agreement is:
$820,000.00

4. The parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the following exhibits, which are by this reference made a part of the Agreement.

EXHIBITS	TITLE	PAGES
Exhibit A	Authority, Purpose and Scope of Work	2
Exhibit B	Budget Detail and Payment Provisions	5
Exhibit C	*State of California General Terms and Conditions	GTC - 04/2017
Exhibit D	PGP Terms and Conditions	8
Exhibit E	Special Conditions	0
	TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES ATTACHED	15

Items shown with an asterisk (*), are hereby incorporated by reference and made part of this Agreement as if attached hereto.
These documents can be viewed at https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OLS/Resources

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN EXECUTED BY THE PARTIES HERETO.

CONTRACTOR

CONTRACTOR NAME (If other than an individual, state whether a corporation, partnership, etc.)
City of Fresno

CONTRACTOR BUSINESS ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
2600 Fresno Street	Fresno	CA	93721

PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING
Jennifer Clark

TITLE
Planning & Development Director

CONTRACTOR AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED
12/29/2020

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CONTRACTING AGENCY NAME
Department of Housing and Community Development

CONTRACTING AGENCY ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
2020 W. El Camino Ave., Suite 730	Sacramento	CA	95833

PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING
Sandy Reinholdt

TITLE
Contracts Manager,
Business & Contract Services Branch

CONTRACTING AGENCY AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED
12/29/2020

California Department of General Services Approval (or exemption, if applicable)

Exempt per SCM Vol. 1 4.04.A.3 (DGS memo dated 8/12/1981)

APPROVED AS TO FORM
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
BY: _____
for DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

EXHIBIT A

AUTHORITY, PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF WORK

1. Authority

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 50470, subdivision (b)(1)(A), the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department" or "State") has established the Planning Grants Program ("PGP," or the "Program" as defined in Section 102 of the Guidelines) for Local Governments and Localities. This Standard Agreement, along with all its exhibits (the "Agreement"), is entered into under the authority of, and in furtherance of, the purpose of the Program. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 50470, subdivision (d), the Department has issued the Senate Bill 2 Planning Grants Program Year 1 Guidelines (the "Guidelines") dated December 2018 governing the Program, and a Notice of Funding Availability ("NOFA") dated March 28, 2019.

2. Purpose

In accordance with the authority cited above, the Grantee has been awarded financial assistance in the form of a grant from the Program. The Department has agreed to make the grant to provide financial assistance for the preparation, adoption and implementation of a plan for Accelerating Housing Production and Streamlined Housing Production (as defined in Section 102 of the Guidelines) pursuant to the terms of the Guidelines, the NOFA, and this Agreement. By entering into this Agreement and thereby accepting the award of the Program funds, the Grantee agrees to comply with the terms and conditions of the Guidelines, the NOFA, this Agreement, the representations contained in the application, and the requirements of the authority cited above. Based on the representations made by the Grantee, the State shall provide a grant in the amount shown in Exhibit B, Section 2.

3. Definitions

Terms herein shall have the same meaning as definitions in Section 102 of the Guidelines.

4. Scope of Work

Update planning documents, entitlement processes or zoning ordinances in accordance with the Grantee's Schedule F: Project Timeline and Budget, as provided by the Grantee in the SB 2 Planning Grant Program application used for subsequent approval by the Department.

5. Department Contract Coordinator

The Contract Coordinator of this Agreement for the Department is the Housing Policy Development Manager, or the Manager's designee. Unless otherwise informed, any

EXHIBIT A

notice, report, or other communication required by this Agreement shall be mailed by first class mail to the Department Contract Coordinator at the following address:

Department of Housing and Community Development
Housing Policy Development
Land Use Planning Unit
Attention: PGP Program Manager
2020 West El Camino Avenue, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95833
P. O. Box 952050
Sacramento, CA 94252-2050

EXHIBIT B

BUDGET DETAIL AND PAYMENT PROVISIONS

1. Application for Funds

A. The Department is entering into this Agreement on the basis of, and in reliance on facts, information, assertions and representations contained in the Application and any subsequent modifications or additions thereto approved by the Department. The Application and any approved modifications and additions thereto are hereby incorporated into this Agreement.

B. The Grantee warrants that all information, facts, assertions and representations contained in the Application and approved modifications and additions thereto are true, correct, and complete to the best of the Grantee's knowledge. In the event that any part of the Application and any approved modification and addition thereto is untrue, incorrect, incomplete, or misleading in such a manner that would substantially affect the Department's approval, disbursement, or monitoring of the funding and the grant or activities governed by this Agreement, the Department may declare a breach hereof and take such action or pursue such remedies as are provided for breach hereof.

2. Grant and Reimbursement Limit

The maximum total amount granted and reimbursable to the Grantee pursuant to this Agreement shall not exceed $625,000.

3. Grant Timelines

A. This Agreement is effective upon approval by all parties and the Department, which is evidenced by the date signed by the Department on page one, Standard Agreement, STD 213 (the "Effective Date").

B. All Grant funds must be expended by June 30, 2022.

C. The Grantee shall deliver to the Department all final invoices for reimbursement on or before February 28, 2022, to ensure meeting the June 30, 2022 deadline. Under special circumstances, as determined by the Department, the Department may modify the February 28, 2022 deadline.

D. It is the responsibility of the Grantee to monitor the project and timeliness of draws within the specified dates.

EXHIBIT B

4. Allowable Uses of Grant Funds

A. The Department shall not award or disburse funds unless it determines that the grant funds shall be expended in compliance with the terms and provisions of the Guidelines, the NOFA, and this Agreement.

B. Grant funds shall only be used by the Grantee for project activities approved by the State that involve the preparation and adoption of project activities as stated in the scope of work, project description, project timeline and other parts of the application, and eligible activities and uses pursuant to Article III of the Guidelines.

C. Grant funds may not be used for administrative costs of persons employed by the Grantee for activities not directly related to the preparation and adoption of the proposed activity.

D. The Grantee shall use no more than 5 percent of the total grant amount for costs related to administration of the project.

E. A Grantee that receives funds under this Program may use a subcontractor. The subcontract shall provide for compliance with all the requirements of the Program. The subcontract shall not relieve the Grantee of its responsibilities under the Program.

F. After the contract has been executed by the Department and all parties, approved and eligible costs for eligible activities may be reimbursed for the project(s) upon completion of deliverables in accordance with Schedule F: Project Timeline and Budget and the Statement of Work and subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

G. Only approved and eligible costs incurred for work after the NOFA date, continued past the date of execution and acceptance of the Standard Agreement and completed during the grant term will be reimbursable.

H. Approved and eligible costs incurred prior to the NOFA date are ineligible.

5. Performance

The Grantee shall take such actions, pay such expenses, and do all things necessary to complete the scope of work specified in Exhibit A and as incorporated by the SB 2 Program application in accordance with the schedule for completion set forth therein and within the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

EXHIBIT B

6. Fiscal Administration

A. The Grantee is responsible for maintaining records which fully disclose the activities funded by the PGP grant. Adequate documentation for each reimbursable transaction shall be maintained to permit the determination, through an audit if requested by the State, of the accuracy of the records and the allowability of expenditures charged to PGP grant funds. If the allowability of expenditure cannot be determined because records or documentation are inadequate, the expenditure may be disallowed, and the State shall determine the reimbursement method for the amount disallowed. The State's determination of the allowability of any expense shall be final, absent fraud, mistake or arbitrariness.

B. Work must be completed prior to requesting reimbursement. The Department may make exceptions to this provision on a case by case basis. In unusual circumstances, the Department may consider alternative arrangements to reimbursement and payment methods based on documentation demonstrating cost burdens, including the inability to pay for work.

C. Prior to receiving reimbursement, the Grantee shall submit the following documentation:

1) Government Agency Taxpayer ID Form (GovTIN; Fi$cal form);

2) A Request for Funds on a form provided by the Department; and

3) Any and all documentation requested by the Department in the form and manner as outlined in the following subsection D.

D. Grantee shall submit all required reimbursement documentation to the following address:

Department of Housing and Community Development
Housing Policy Development
Land Use Planning Unit
Attention: PGP Program Manager
[redacted]

E. The Grantee shall submit invoices for reimbursement to the Department according to the following schedule:

EXHIBIT B

1) At maximum, once per quarter; or

2) Upon completion of a deliverable, subject to the Department's approval; and

3) At minimum, one invoice for reimbursement annually.

The Department will use the 2019 calendar year beginning with January, with first requests for reimbursement accepted on or after September 30, 2019.

F. The request for reimbursement must be for a minimum of 15 percent of the maximum grant amount awarded. The Department may consider exceptions to the minimum amount requested on a case-by-case basis. All invoices shall reference the contract number and shall be signed and submitted to the Department's Program Manager at the address provided above in Section 6, item D of Exhibit B. Invoices shall include at a minimum the following information:

1) Names of the Grantee's personnel performing work;

2) Dates and times of project work;

3) Itemized costs in accordance with the Schedule F: Project Timeline and Budget and Statement of Work, including identification of each employee, contractor, subcontractor staff who provided services during the period of the invoice, the number of hours and hourly rates for each of the Grantee's employees, contractor(s), sub-recipient(s) or subcontractor's staff member(s), authorized expenses with receipts, and contractor, sub-recipient and subcontractor invoices; and

4) Any other documents, certifications, or evidence deemed necessary by the Department prior to disbursement of grant funds.

G. The Department will reimburse the Grantee directly for all allowable project costs as promptly as the Department's fiscal procedures permit upon receipt of an itemized signed invoice.

H. The Department recognizes that budgeted deliverable amounts are based upon estimates. Grantees may request, in writing, a budget adjustment across deliverables subject to written approval by the Department, as long as the total budget does not exceed the maximum amount awarded to the Grantee.

I. Grant funds cannot be disbursed until this Standard Agreement has been fully executed.

EXHIBIT B

J. Grant fund payments will be made on a reimbursement basis; advance payments are not allowed. The Grantee, its subcontractors and all partners, must have adequate cash flow to pay all grant-related expenses prior to requesting reimbursement from the Department. The Department may consider alternative arrangements to reimbursement and payment methods based on documentation demonstrating cost burdens, including the inability to pay for work pursuant to Section 601(f) of the Guidelines.

K. The Grantee will be responsible for compiling and submitting all invoices, supporting documentation and reporting documents. Invoices must be accompanied by reporting materials where appropriate. Invoices without the appropriate reporting materials will not be paid.

1) Supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to; purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, subcontractor invoices, timecards, or any other documentation as deemed necessary by the Department to support the reimbursement to the Grantee for expenditures incurred.

L. The Grantee will submit for reimbursements to the Department based on actual costs incurred, and must bill the State based on clear and completed objectives and deliverables as outlined in the application, in Schedule F: Project Timeline and Budget, the Statement of Work, and/or any and all documentation incorporated into this Standard Agreement and made a part thereof.

M. The Department may withhold 10 percent of the grant until grant terms have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Department.

EXHIBIT D

PGP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Reporting

A. During the term of the Standard Agreement the Grantee shall submit, upon request of the Department, a performance report that demonstrates satisfaction of all requirements identified in this Standard Agreement.

B. Upon completion of all objectives and deliverables required to fulfill this contract pursuant to Schedule F: Project Timeline and Budget and the Scope of Work, Exhibit A, Section 4, and as referred to in Exhibit B, Section 6, subsection K. within this Standard Agreement, the Grantee shall submit a final close out report in accordance with Section 604, subsection (b), and as instructed in Attachment 3 of the December 2018 Planning Grants Program Guidelines. The close out report shall be submitted with the final invoice by the end of the grant term as listed in Exhibit B, Section 3, subsection C.

2. Accounting Records

A. The Grantee, its staff, contractors and subcontractors shall establish and maintain an accounting system and reports that properly accumulate incurred project costs by line. The accounting system shall conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), enable the determination of incurred costs at interim points of completion, and provide support for reimbursement payment vouchers or invoices.

B. The Grantee must establish a separate ledger account for receipts and expenditures of grant funds and maintain expenditure details in accordance with the scope of work, project timeline and budget. Separate bank accounts are not required.

C. The Grantee shall maintain documentation of its normal procurement policy and competitive bid process (including the use of sole source purchasing), and financial records of expenditures incurred during the course of the project in accordance with GAAP.

D. The Grantee agrees that the state or designated representative shall have the right to review and to copy any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the performance of the Standard Agreement.

E. Subcontractors employed by the Grantee and paid with moneys under the terms of this Standard Agreement shall be responsible for maintaining accounting records as specified above.

3. Audits

A. At any time during the term of the Standard Agreement, the Department may perform or cause to be performed a financial audit of any and all phases of the award. At the

EXHIBIT D

Department's request, the Grantee shall provide, at its own expense, a financial audit prepared by a certified public accountant. The State of California has the right to review project documents and conduct audits during and over the project life.

1) The Grantee agrees that the Department or the Department's designee shall have the right to review, obtain, and copy all records and supporting documentation pertaining to performance of this Agreement.

2) The Grantee agrees to provide the Department or the Department's designee, with any relevant information requested.

3) The Grantee agrees to permit the Department or the Department's designee access to its premises, upon reasonable notice, during normal business hours for the purpose of interviewing employees who might reasonably have information related to such records and inspecting and copying such books, records, accounts, and other material that may be relevant to a matter under investigation for the purpose of determining compliance with statutes, Program guidelines, and this Agreement.

B. If a financial audit is required by the Department, the audit shall be performed by an independent certified public accountant. Selection of an independent audit firm shall be consistent with procurement standards contained in Exhibit D, Section 8 subsection A. of this Standard Agreement.

1) The Grantee shall notify the Department of the auditor's name and address immediately after the selection has been made. The contract for the audit shall allow access by the Department to the independent auditor's working papers.

2) The Grantee is responsible for the completion of audits and all costs of preparing audits.

3) If there are audit findings, the Grantee must submit a detailed response acceptable to the Department for each audit finding within 90 days from the date of the audit finding report.

C. The Grantee agrees to maintain such records for possible audit after final payment pursuant to Exhibit D, Section 3, subsection E. below, unless a longer period of records retention is stipulated.

1) If any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, monitoring, inspection or other action has been started before the expiration of the required record retention period, all records must be retained by the Grantee, contractors and sub-contractors until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it. The Grantee shall include in any contract that it enters into in an amount exceeding $10,000, the Department's right to audit the contractor's records and interview their employees.

EXHIBIT D

2) The Grantee shall comply with the caveats and be aware of the penalties for violation of fraud and for obstruction of investigation as set forth in California Public Contracts Code Section 10115.10.

D. The determination by the Department of the eligibility of any expenditure shall be final.

E. The Grantee shall retain all books and records relevant to this Agreement for a minimum of (3) three years after the end of the term of this Agreement. Records relating to any and all audits or litigation relevant to this Agreement shall be retained for five years after the conclusion or resolution of the matter.

4. Remedies of Non-performance

A. Any dispute concerning a question of fact arising under this Standard Agreement that is not disposed of by agreement shall be decided by the Department's Housing Policy Development Manager, or the Manager's designee, who may consider any written or verbal evidence submitted by the Grantee. The decision of the Department's Housing Policy Development Manager or Designee shall be the Department's final decision regarding the dispute.

B. Neither the pendency of a dispute nor its consideration by the Department will excuse the Grantee from full and timely performance in accordance with the terms of this Standard Agreement.

C. In the event that it is determined, at the sole discretion of the Department, that the Grantee is not meeting the terms and conditions of the Standard Agreement, immediately upon receiving a written notice from the Department to stop work, the Grantee shall cease all work under the Standard Agreement. The Department has the sole discretion to determine that the Grantee meets the terms and conditions after a stop work order, and to deliver a written notice to the grantee to resume work under the Standard Agreement.

D. Both the Grantee and the Department have the right to terminate the Standard Agreement at any time upon 30 days written notice. The notice shall specify the reason for early termination and may permit the grantee or the Department to rectify any deficiency(ies) prior to the early termination date. The Grantee will submit any requested documents to the Department within 30 days of the early termination notice.

E. There must be a strong implementation component for the funded activity through this Program, including, where appropriate, agreement by the locality to formally adopt the completed planning document. Localities that do not formally adopt the funded activity could be subject to repayment of the grant.

F. The following shall each constitute a breach of this Agreement:

1) Grantee's failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

2) Use of, or permitting the use of, grant funds provided under this Agreement for any

EXHIBIT D

ineligible costs or for any activity not approved under this Agreement.

3) Any failure to comply with the deadlines set forth in this Agreement unless approved by the Program Manager.

G. In addition to any other remedies that may be available to the Department in law or equity for breach of this Agreement, the Department may at its discretion, exercise the following remedies:

1) Disqualify the Grantee from applying for future PGP Funds or other Department administered grant programs;

2) Revoke existing PGP award(s) to the Grantee;

3) Require the return of unexpended PGP funds disbursed under this Agreement;

4) Require repayment of PGP Funds disbursed and expended under this agreement;

5) Seek a court order for specific performance of the obligation defaulted upon, or the appointment of a receiver to complete the obligations in accordance with the PGP Program requirements; and

6) Other remedies available at law, or by and through this agreement. All remedies available to the Department are cumulative and not exclusive.

7) The Department may give written notice to the Grantee to cure the breach or violation within a period of not less than 15 days.

5. Indemnification

Neither the Department nor any officer or employee thereof is responsible for any injury, damage or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by the Grantee, its officers, employees, agents, its contractors, its sub-recipients or its subcontractors under or in connection with any work, authority or jurisdiction conferred upon the Grantee under this Standard Agreement. It is understood and agreed that the Grantee shall fully defend, indemnify and save harmless the Department and all of the Department's staff from all claims, suits or actions of every name, kind and description brought forth under, including, but not limited to, tortuous, contractual, inverse condemnation or other theories or assertions of liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by the Grantee, its officers, employees, agents contractors, sub-recipients, or subcontractors under this Standard Agreement.

6. Waivers

No waiver of any breach of this Agreement shall be held to be a waiver of any prior or subsequent breach. The failure of the Department to enforce at any time the provisions of this Agreement, or to require at any time, performance by the Grantee of these provisions, shall in no way be

EXHIBIT D

construed to be a waiver of such provisions nor to affect the validity of this Agreement or the right of the Department to enforce these provisions.

7. Relationship of Parties

It is expressly understood that this Standard Agreement is an agreement executed by and between two independent governmental entities and is not intended to, and shall not be construed to, create the relationship of agent, servant, employee, partnership, joint venture or association, or any other relationship whatsoever other than that of an independent party.

8. Third-Party Contracts

A. All state-government funded procurements must be conducted using a fair and competitive procurement process. The Grantee may use its own procurement procedures as long as the procedures comply with all City/County laws, rules and ordinances governing procurement, and all applicable provisions of California state law.

B. Any contract entered into as a result of this Agreement shall contain all the provisions stipulated in the Agreement to be applicable to the Grantee's sub-recipients, contractors, and subcontractors. Copies of all agreements with sub-recipients, contracts, and subcontractors must be submitted to the Department's program manager.

C. The Department does not have a contractual relationship with the Grantee's sub-recipients, contractors, or subcontractors, and the Grantee shall be fully responsible for all work performed by its sub-recipients, contractors, or subcontractors.

D. In the event the Grantee is partnering with another jurisdiction or forming a collaborative effort between the Grantee and other jurisdictions who are grantees of the SB 2 Planning Grants Program, the Grantee acknowledges that each partner and/or all entities forming the SB 2 Planning Grants Program collaborative are in mutual written agreement with each other but are contractually bound to the Department under separate, enforceable contracts.

E. In the event the Grantee is partnering with another jurisdiction or forming a collaborative effort with other entities that are not grantees of the SB 2 Planning Grants Program, the Department shall defer to the provisions as noted in subsections 8(B) and 8(C) of this part.

9. Compliance with State and Federal Laws, Rules, Guidelines and Regulations

A. The Grantee agrees to comply with all state and federal laws, rules and regulations that pertain to construction, health and safety, labor, fair employment practices, equal opportunity, and all other matters applicable to the grant, the Grantee, its contractors or subcontractors, and any other grant activity.

B. During the performance of this Agreement, the Grantee assures that no otherwise qualified person shall be excluded from participation or employment, denied program

EXHIBIT D

benefits, or be subjected to discrimination based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, age, disability, handicap, familial status, religion, or belief, under any program or activity funded by this contract, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act (42 USC 3601-20) and all implementing regulations, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and all implementing regulations.

C. The Grantee shall include the nondiscrimination and compliance provisions of this clause in all agreements with its sub-recipients, contractors, and subcontractors, and shall include a requirement in all agreements with all of same that each of them in turn include the nondiscrimination and compliance provisions of this clause in all contracts and subcontracts they enter into to perform work under the PGP.

D. The Grantee shall, in the course of performing project work, fully comply with the applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as all applicable regulations and guidelines issued pursuant to the ADA. (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.)

E. The Grantee shall adopt and implement affirmative processes and procedures that provide information, outreach and promotion of opportunities in the PGP project to encourage participation of all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, familial status, or disability. This includes, but is not limited to, a minority outreach program to ensure the inclusion, to the maximum extent possible, of minorities and women, and entities owned by minorities and women, as required by 24 CFR 92.351.

10. Litigation

A. If any provision of this Agreement, or an underlying obligation, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity, at the sole discretion of the Department, shall not affect any other provisions of this Agreement and the remainder of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. Therefore, the provisions of this Agreement are, and shall be, deemed severable.

B. The Grantee shall notify the Department immediately of any claim or action undertaken by or against it, which affects or may affect this Agreement or the Department, and shall take such action with respect to the claim or action as is consistent with the terms of this Agreement and the interests of the Department.

11. Changes in Terms/Amendments

This Agreement may only be amended or modified by mutual written agreement of both parties.

12. State-Owned Data

A. Definitions

EXHIBIT D

1) Work:

The work to be directly or indirectly produced by the Grantee, its employees, or by and of the Grantee's contractor's, subcontractor's and/or sub-recipient's employees under this Agreement.

2) Work Product:

All deliverables created or produced from Work under this Agreement including, but not limited to, all Work and Deliverable conceived or made, or made hereafter conceived or made, either solely or jointly with others during the term of this Agreement and during a period of six months after the termination thereof, which relates to the Work commissioned or performed under this Agreement. Work Product includes all deliverables, inventions, innovations, improvements, or other works of authorship Grantee and/or Grantee's contractor subcontractor and/or sub-recipient may conceive of or develop in the course of this Agreement, whether or not they are eligible for patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret or other legal protection.

3) Inventions:

Any ideas, methodologies, designs, concept, technique, invention, discovery, improvement or development regardless of patentability made solely by the Grantee or jointly with the Grantee's contractor, subcontractor and/or sub-recipient and/or Grantee's contractor, subcontractor, and/or sub-recipient's employees with one or more employees of the Department during the term of this Agreement and in performance of any Work under this Agreement, provided that either the conception or reduction to practice thereof occurs during the term of this Agreement and in performance of Work issued under this Agreement.

B. Ownership of Work Product and Rights

1) All work Product derived by the Work performed by the Grantee, its employees or by and of the Grantee's contractor's, subcontractor's and/or sub-recipient's employees under this Agreement, shall be owned by the Department and shall be considered to be works made for hire by the Grantee and the Grantee's contractor, subcontractor and/or subrecipient for the Department. The Department shall own all copyrights in the work product.

2) Grantee, its employees and all of Grantee's contractor's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's employees agree to perpetually assign, and upon creation of each Work Product automatically assigns, to the Department, ownership of all United States and international copyrights in each and every Work Product, insofar as any such Work Product, by operation of law, may not be considered work made for hire by the Grantee's contractor, subcontractor and/or subrecipient from the Department. From time to time upon the Department's request, the Grantee's contractor, subcontractor and/or subrecipients, and/or its employees, shall confirm such

EXHIBIT D

assignments by execution and delivery of such assignment, confirmations or assignment or other written instruments as the Department may request. The Department shall have the right to obtain and hold in its name all copyright registrations and other evidence of rights that may be available for Work Product under this Agreement. Grantee hereby waives all rights relating to identification of authorship restriction or limitation on use or subsequent modification of the Work.

3) Grantee, its employees and all Grantee's contractors, subcontractors and sub-recipients hereby agrees to assign to the Department all Inventions, together with the right to seek protection by obtaining patent rights therefore and to claim all rights or priority thereunder and the same shall become and remain the Department's property regardless of whether such protection is sought. The Grantee, its employees and Grantee's contractor, subcontractor and /or subrecipient shall promptly make a complete written disclosure to the Department of each Invention not otherwise clearly disclosed to the Department in the pertinent Work Product, specifically noting features or concepts that the Grantee, its employees and/or Grantee's contractor, subcontractor and/or subrecipient believes to be new or different.

4) Upon completion of all work under this Agreement, all intellectual property rights, ownership and title to all reports, documents, plans, specifications and estimates, produced as part of this Agreement will automatically be vested in Department and no further agreement will be necessary to transfer ownership to Department.

13. Special Conditions

The State reserves the right to add any special conditions to this Agreement it deems necessary to assure that the policy and goals of the Program are achieved.

SB 2 Planning Grants Program Application

State of California
Governor Gavin Newsom

Alexis Podesta, Secretary
Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

Ben Metcalf, Director
Department of Housing and Community Development

2020 West El Camino, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95833
Website: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/planning-grants.shtml
Email: sb2planninggrant@hcd.ca.gov

March 28, 2019
Revised July 10, 2019

SB 2 Planning Grants Application

Planning Grants Program Application Packaging Instructions

The applicant is applying to the Department of Housing and Community Development (Department) for a grant authorized underneath the Planning Grants Program (PGP) provisions of SB 2 (Chapter 364, Statutes of 2017). The PGP program is intended for the preparation, adoption, and implementation of plans that streamline housing approvals and accelerate housing production. Please refer to the SB 2 Planning Grants Program Guidelines and Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for detailed information on eligible activities, applicants, and awards. If you have questions regarding this application or the PGP, email sb2planninggrant@hcd.ca.gov.

If approved for funding, this grant application will be a part of your Standard Agreement with the Department. In order to be considered for funding, all sections of this application, including attachments and exhibits if required, must be complete and accurate.

Pursuant to Section X of the NOFA, all applicants must submit a complete, signed, original application package and an electronic copy on CD or USB flash drive containing the following documentation, in the order listed below, to the Department by the specified due date in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in order to be considered for award:

1) A complete, signed, original application (the Department will only accept this **fillable pdf** as the application) with the following attachments:

   a. **Attachment 1: State and Other Planning Priorities** (All applicants must submit this form to self-certify compliance)

   b. **Attachment 2: Nexus to Accelerating Housing Production - NOTE:** if the applicant is proposing only Priority Policy Areas (PPA), as defined in section VIII, subsection (3) of the NOFA, do not fill out Attachment 2. However, if the applicant is proposing to fund PPAs AND other activities that are not considered PPAs, the application must demonstrate how these other activities have a nexus to accelerating housing production by filling out Attachment 2 of this application.

2) A fully executed resolution authorizing application for, and receipt of, PGP funds (see Attachment 3: Sample Resolution).

3) A fully executed Government Agency Taxpayer ID Form (available as a download from the SB 2 Planning Grants webpage at http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/planning-grants.shtml).

4) If the applicant is partnering with another local government or other entity pursuant to Article II, Section 200 of the SB 2 Planning Grant Program Guidelines (the "Guidelines"), include a copy of the legally binding agreement.

5) Other documentation (e.g., letters of support, scope of work, etc.) if needed.

   NOTE: All local governments must submit a separate, signed application package, notwithstanding whether it will partner with another form of government or entity. Only one application per locality will be accepted by the Department. Joint applications are not allowed.

A. Applicant Information

Pursuant to Article II, Section 200 of the Guidelines, local governments may partner through legally binding agreements with other forms of governments or entities. However, all local governments must submit separate, signed application packages that identify their respective responsibilities and deliverables, even if partnering with other entities.

Is the applicant partnering with another eligible local government entity?		
☐	*Yes	***If Yes**, the application package must include a fully executed copy of the legally binding agreement. Provide the partners' name(s) and type(s) below for reference only.*
☑	No	

Complete the following Applicant information			
Applicant's Name		City of Fresno	
Applicant's Agency Type		local jurisdiction	
Applicant's Mailing Address		2600 Fresno St	
City		Fresno	
State	California	Zip Code	93721-3604
County		Fresno	
Website		www.fresno.gov	
Authorized Representative Name		Jennifer Clark	
Authorized Representative Title		Director, Planning & Development	
Phone	559-621-8003	Fax	559-457-1484
Email	jennifer.clark@fresno.gov		
Contact Person Name		Jennifer Clark	
Contact Person Title		Director, Planning & Development	
Phone	559-621-8003	Fax	559-457-1484
Email	jennifer.clark@fresno.gov		
Partner(s) Name *(if applicable)*			
Partner Agency Type			
Partner(s) Name *(if applicable)*			
Partner Agency Type			
Proposed Grant Amount	$	625,000	

B. Applicant Certification

As the official designated by the governing body, I hereby certify that if approved by HCD for funding through the Planning Grants Program (PGP), the City of Fresno assumes the responsibilities specified in the 2019 Notice of Funding Availability and PGP guidelines, and certifies that the information, statements, and other contents contained in this application are true and correct.

Signature: _____ Name: Jennifer K Clark

Date: 9/23/19 Title: Director, Planning & Development Department

C. Threshold Requirements

Pursuant to Section 201(a) through (d) of the Guidelines, all applicants must meet the following threshold criteria in items 1-4 below to be eligible for an award.

1. *Does the applicant have an adopted housing element found to be in substantial compliance by the Department on or before the date of the applicant's submission of their SB 2 Planning Grant application?*		
☑	Yes	Date of HCD Review Letter: 7/7/17
☐	No	
☐	The Applicant requests HCD to consider housing element compliance threshold as met due to significant progress achieved in meeting housing element requirements.	

2. *Has the applicant submitted to the Department the Annual Progress Report (APR) for the current or prior year on or before the date of submission of their SB 2 Planning Grant application?*			
☑	Yes	APR	Date Submitted
	☑	2017 CY Report	3/30/18
	☑	2018 CY Report	4/1/19
☐	No		

3. *Is the applicant utilizing one of the Priority Policy Areas listed below (as defined in section VIII, subsection (3) of the NOFA)?*						
☑	*Yes	*If the applicant is proposing **only** Priority Policy Areas, do not fill out Attachment 2. However, if the applicant is proposing to fund PPAs AND other activities that are not considered PPAs, the application must demonstrate how these other activities have a nexus to accelerating housing production by filling out Attachment 2 of this application.*				
	Rezone to permit by-right	Objective design and development standards	Specific Plans or form based codes coupled with CEQA streamlining	Accessory Dwelling Units or other low-cost building strategies	Expedited processing	Housing related infrastructure financing and fee reduction strategies
	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑
☐	No	*If an applicant is not proposing Priority Policy Areas, the application must include an explanation and document the plans or processes' nexus and impact on accelerating housing production based on a reasonable and verifiable methodology and must submit Attachment 2 in the Application pursuant to section VIII, subsection (3) of the NOFA.*				
☐	The applicant is proposing PPAs and other activities not considered PPAs and is demonstrating how these activities have a nexus to accelerating housing production by submitting *Attachment 2.*					

4. *Does the applicant demonstrate that the locality is consistent with State Planning or Other Priorities, as certified in Attachment 1?*	Yes	☑	*No	☐
***If No**, consistency may be demonstrated through activities (not necessarily proposed for SB 2 funding) that were completed within the last five years, as certified in Attachment 1.*				

5. *Is a completed and signed resolution included with the application package?* *See Attachment 3, "Sample Resolution"*	Yes	☑	No	☐

D. Proposed Activities Checklist (Section VI, items (1) through (17) of the NOFA)

Check all activities the locality is undertaking for their PGP efforts below. Activities must match ***Section E. Project Description****, and* ***Section F. Timeline and Budget****.*

1	☑	updates to general plans, community plans, specific plans, local planning related to implementation of sustainable communities strategies, or local coastal plans
2	☐	updates to zoning ordinances
3	☑	environmental analyses that eliminate the need for project-specific review
4	☐	local process improvements that improve and expedite local planning
5	☐	a smaller geography with a significant impact on housing production including an overlay district, project level specific plan or development standards modifications proposed for significant areas of a locality, such as corridors, downtown or priority growth areas
6	☐	the creation or enhancement of a housing sustainability district pursuant to AB 73 (Chapter 371, Statutes of 2017)
7	☐	workforce housing opportunity zone pursuant to SB 540 (Chapter 369, Statutes of 2017)
8	☐	zoning for by-right supportive housing, pursuant to Government Code section 65651 (Chapter 753, Statutes of 2018)
9	☐	zoning incentives for housing for persons with special needs, including persons with developmental disabilities
10	☐	rezoning to meet requirements pursuant to Government Code Section 65583.2(c) and other rezoning efforts to facilitate supply and affordability
11	☐	rezoning for multifamily housing in high resource areas (according to Tax Credit Allocation Committee/Housing Community Development Opportunity Area Maps)
12	☐	pre-approved architectural and site plans
13	☐	regional housing trust fund plans
14	☐	funding plans for SB 2 Year 2 going forward
15	☑	infrastructure financing plans
16	☐	environmental hazard assessments; data collection on permit tracking; feasibility studies, site analysis, or other background studies that are ancillary and part of a proposed activity with a nexus to accelerating housing production
17	☐	Other activities demonstrating a nexus to accelerating housing production

E. Project Description

Provide a description of the project and the scope of work to be performed below. Use Appendix A for additional information if necessary. ***Note****: If partnering with another local government or entity, be sure to clarify the responsibilities and deliverables of your locality pursuant to such partnership.*

The City of Fresno has completed an administrative draft of a Specific Plan which embodies a unique approach to planning in Fresno. Completion of the plan will require updates for new greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, the conversion from LOS to VMT, updated water conservation measures, completion of infrastructure assessment, fiscal nexus study and a Program EIR. At conclusion the package of Specific Plan, EIR and Nexus Study will increase density and accelerate housing production. The plan includes a commitment to sound public finance and fiscal accountability, a vision for complete neighborhoods and communities, and environmental responsibility at all levels.

The Plan is based upon a hierarchy of walkable mixed-use centers supported by a multi-modal transportation network. Centers which serve as commercial and civic focal points are designed to include a mix and intensity of uses and a diversity of housing types. The range of housing products integrated throughout the community offers flexibility in meeting the evolving needs of households in the region. Although Fresno's average housing costs are less than half those of the Bay Area and Southern California, its production has not kept up with demand. Providing lower cost housing in the center of the state will make Fresno a prime location for achieving the State's housing production goals.

The number of dwelling units and densities contemplated for the specific plan area are: a total of approximately 45,000 units broken down into six housing districts: Regional Center with 3500 units at 30-100 du/acre; Community Center with 5500 units at 25-80 du/acre; Neighborhood Center with 3200 units at 15-40 du/acre; Mixed Residential with 15,100 units at 8-60 du/acre; Neighborhood Residential with 16,800 units at 6-30 du/acre; and Rural Cluster with 100 units at 0.1-0.5 du/acre as an agricultural buffer zone. The Plan proposes to reduce annual household costs from transportation and utilities by 57% thereby increasing affordability for renters and homeowners.

In addition, the Plan proposes to reduce VMT by 57%, to reduce GHG emissions from cars and buildings by 60%, to reduce air pollution from cars and trucks by 83%, and to reduce water use by 59%.

To complete the Specific Plan, an EIR, an infrastructure assessment, and a fiscal nexus study must be completed prior to adoption. The City has not yet selected a consultant for this work but has current estimates based upon recent contracts. The City does not have funding to complete the work but has identified SB2 PGP as a uniquely compatible funding source.

The City proposes to prepare a Program EIR per CEQA Guidelines Section 15168. The proposed EIR will include a detailed programmatic evaluation of activities to be carried out through Specific Plan and will allow the City to incorporate feasible mitigation measures including a streamlining checklist to evaluate site specific operations within the scope of the program EIR. This use of streamlining will fast-track the production of much-needed housing for the City and the region.

Finally, since the Program EIR is for a Specific Plan, future development will also utilize an expanded exemption under Government Code Section 65457 that will apply to certain residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects that are consistent with a specific plan adopted pursuant to Government Code, Article 8, Chapter 3 and would be exempt from CEQA. This new exemption is outlined in the final text of Section 15182 of the CEQA Guidelines.

F. Project Timeline and Budget

Project Name							
Objective	**Responsible Party**	**Est. Cost**	**Begin**	**End**	**Deliverable**	***PPA**	**Notes**
Update of the SEDA Specific Plan	Applicant	$ 81,250	1/1/20	6/30/20	Admin Draft of the Specific Plan	Yes	
	Applicant	$ 15,000	7/1/20	9/30/20	Public Review Draft of Specific Plan	Yes	
	Applicant	$ 10,000	10/1/20	12/31/20	Response to Comments of Specific Plan	Yes	
Program EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15168	Applicant	$350,000	4/1/20	12/31/20	Necessary Technical Studies	Yes	
	Applicant	$ 25,000	1/1/21	3/30/21	Admin Draft of the EIR	Yes	
	Applicant	$ 25,000	4/1/21	6/30/21	Public Review Draft of the EIR	Yes	
Infrastructure Assessment	Applicant	$ 50,000	1/1/21	3/30/21	Admin Draft of Infrastructure Assessment	Yes	
Infrastructure Financing Plan and Fee Nexus Study	Applicant	$ 25,000	4/1/21	6/30/21	Admin Draft of Infrastructure Financing Plan and Nexus Study	Yes	
	Applicant	$ 12,500	7/1/21	9/30/21	Public Review Draft of Infrastructure Financing Plan and Nexus St	Yes	
Final Adoption of Specific Plan, EIR Inf. Assess & Financing Plan	Applicant		10/1/21	12/30/21	Adoption by City Council of Plan and associated documents	Yes	
Program Oversight and Reporting	Applicant	$ 31,250	10/1/19	6/30/22	project management and reporting as required by the grant	N/A	
	Other					N/A	
	Other					N/A	
	Other					N/A	
	Total Est. Cost $	625000					

**Priority Policy Area (PPA)*

G. Legislative Information

District	#	Legislator Name
Federal Congressional District	22	Devin Nunes
State Assembly District	23	Jim Patterson
	31	Joaquin Arambula
State Senate District	8	Andreas Borgeas
	14	Melissa Hurtado

Applicants can find their respective State Senate representatives at https://www.senate.ca.gov/, and their respective State Assembly representatives at https://www.assembly.ca.gov/.

SB 2 Planning Grants Application

Attachment 1: State and Other Planning Priorities Certification (Page 1 of 3)

Pursuant to Section 201(d) of the Guidelines, all applicants must demonstrate that the locality is consistent with State Planning or Other Planning Priorities by certifying that at least one activity was completed in 1) State Planning Priorities (i.e., Infill and Equity, Resource Protection, Efficient Development Patterns) or 2) Other Planning Priorities (i.e., Affordability, Conservation, or Climate Change). Consistency may be demonstrated through activities (not necessarily proposed for SB 2 funding) that were completed within the last five years.

Complete the following self-certification by selecting one or more of the policy areas in the following tables by inserting the date completed for each applicable action, briefly describing the action taken, and certifying.

State Planning Priorities

Date Completed	Brief Description of the Action Taken
Promote Infill and Equity	
Rehabilitating, maintaining, and improving existing infrastructure that supports infill development and appropriate reuse and redevelopment of previously developed, underutilized land that is presently served by transit, streets, water, sewer, and other essential services, particularly in underserved areas.	
Seek or utilize funding or support strategies to facilitate opportunities for infill development.	
4/3/19	Received $66.5 million from Transformative Climate Communities to provide enhanced services and infrastructure for disadvantaged neighborhoods in Downtown and Southwest
Other (describe how this meets subarea objective)	
Promote Resource Protection	
Protecting, preserving, and enhancing the state's most valuable natural resources, including working landscapes such as farm, range, and forest lands; natural lands such as wetlands, watersheds, wildlife habitats, and other wildlands; recreation lands such as parks, trails, greenbelts, and other open space; and landscapes with locally unique features and areas identified by the state as deserving special protection.	
Actively seek a variety of funding opportunities to promote resource protection in underserved communities.	
Other (describe how this meets subarea objective)	
Encourage Efficient Development Patterns	
Ensuring that any infrastructure associated with development, other than infill development, supports new development that does the following:	
(1) Uses land efficiently.	
2/4/16	Completed adoption of the Development Code and city-wide rezoning to bring all parcels into compliance with the 12/18/14 General Plan with no sphere expansion.

Attachment 1: State and Other Planning Priorities Certification (Page 2 of 3)

(2) Is built adjacent to existing developed areas to the extent consistent with environmental protection.	
(3) Is located in an area appropriately planned for growth.	
(4) Is served by adequate transportation and other essential utilities and services.	
12/15/19	Final close-out of Bus Rapid Transit implementation along major transit corridors to support up to 10,000 TOD units and link disadvantaged communities
(5) Minimizes ongoing costs to taxpayers.	
Other (describe how this meets subarea objective)	

Other Planning Priorities

Affordability and Housing Choices	
Incentives and other mechanisms beyond State Density Bonus Law to encourage housing with affordability terms.	
Efforts beyond state law to promote accessory dwelling units or other strategies to intensify single-family neighborhoods with more housing choices and affordability.	
Upzoning or other zoning modifications to promote a variety of housing choices and densities.	
10/20/16	Approved Downtown Neighborhoods Community Plan and Code to allow housing in the area "by right" and remove discretionary approvals.
Utilizing surplus lands to promote affordable housing choices.	
Efforts to address infrastructure deficiencies in disadvantaged communities pursuant to Government Code Section 65302.10.	
Other (describe how this meets subarea objective)	

Attachment 1: State and Other Planning Priorities Certification (Page 3 of 3)

Conservation of Existing Affordable Housing Stock	
Policies, programs or ordinances to conserve stock such as an at-risk preservation ordinance, mobilehome park overlay zone, condominium conversion ordinance and acquisition and rehabilitation of market rate housing programs.	
Policies, programs and ordinances to protect and support tenants such as rent stabilization, anti-displacement strategies, first right of refusal policies, resources to assist tenant organization and education and "just cause" eviction policies.	
Other (describe how this meets subarea objective)	
Climate Adaptation	
Building standards, zoning and site planning requirements that address flood and fire safety, climate adaptation and hazard mitigation.	
Long-term planning that addresses wildfire, land use for disadvantaged communities, and flood and local hazard mitigation.	
Community engagement that provides information and consultation through a variety of methods such as meetings, workshops, and surveys and that focuses on vulnerable populations (e.g., seniors, people with disabilities, homeless, etc.).	
Other (describe how this meets subarea objective)	

State and Other Planning Priorities Certification

I certify under penalty of perjury that all of the information contained in this PGP State Planning and Other Planning Priorities certification form (pages 9, 10, and 11 of this application) is true and correct.

Certifying Officials Name: Jennifer K Clark

Certifying Official's Title: Director, Planning and Development Department

Certifying Official's Signature: _____

Certification Date: 9/23/19

Attachment 2: Application Nexus to Accelerating Housing Production

Fill out Attachment 2 only if the applicant answered "No" to item 3 in Section C or is utilizing Policy Priority Areas AND other activities not designated as such. Applicants answering "Yes" to question 3 in Section C and utilizing ONLY Priority Policy Areas are automatically deemed to demonstrate a nexus to accelerating housing production, and do not need to complete this form.

Pursuant to section VIII, subsection (4) of the NOFA, applicants shall demonstrate how the application includes a nexus to accelerating housing production. Please complete the following chart by providing information about the current conditions and expected outcomes with respect to the planned activity and housing production. Please attach documentation as necessary and see the NOFA for additional details.
Quantify how the activity accelerates production below and use Appendix B to explain the activity and its nexus to accelerating housing production if necessary.

Type (Select at least one)	*Baseline	**Projected	***Difference	Notes
Timing (e.g., reduced number of processing days)				
Development cost (e.g., land, fees, financing, construction costs per unit)				
Approval certainty and reduction in discretionary review (e.g., prior versus proposed standard and level of discretion)				
Entitlement streamlining (e.g., number of approvals)				
Feasibility of development				
Infrastructure capacity (e.g., number of units)				
Impact on housing supply and affordability (e.g., number of units)				

**** Baseline – Current conditions in the jurisdiction***
(e.g. 6-month development application review, or existing number of units in a planning area)

*****Projected – Expected conditions in the jurisdiction because of the planning grant actions***
(e.g. 2-month development application review)

******Difference – Potential change resulting from the planning grant actions***
(e.g., 4-month acceleration in permitting, creating a more expedient development process)

Appendix A

Use this area for additional information if necessary.

To implement a large-scale master planned community including infrastructure improvements and annexation, an analysis of the currently existing infrastructure, the infrastructure necessary to support development, and the gap is required. Additionally, the General Plan of the City of Fresno requires that all new annexations are fiscally neutral expansions to the City's General Fund budget. This requires a fiscal nexus study to show the anticipated costs and revenues associated with the annexation and mechanisms to fund any needed infrastructure gaps.

A scope of work will include some or all of the following: statistical data; maps; existing public services, level of service and cost; crime statistics; roadway condition analysis; traffic management deficiencies; capital improvement requirements; utility assessment; water, wastewater, and storm water system assessment; urban service needs; service requirement costs; estimated revenues; special issues, if any. Additionally, a scope of work will include mechanisms to support the growth such as Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs), Community Facilities Districts (CFDs), Mello-Roos Districts, bonding capacity, etc.

In addition, the study may provide analysis and evaluation of the annexation area based on the following criteria: 1. the ability of the City to provide public services at a level equal to or better than that available from current service providers; the ability of the City to provide public services at the City's current levels of service; whether the annexation will cause a financial burden or a reduction in level of service to the City or existing residents; the relative costs and affordability to serve the proposed annexation versus the revenue to be derived from annexation, the capital cost and affordability to the City of making required infrastructure improvements and/or addressing infrastructure deficiencies.

FRESNO STATE

Central Valley Health Policy Institute

September 6, 2023

City of Fresno
c/o Adrienne Asadoorian, Planner
2600 Fresno Street
Third Floor, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Sent by email: adrienne.asadoorian@fresno.gov

RE: Southeast Development Area Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Asadoorian,

I am the Assistant Director of the Central Valley Health Policy Institute. CVHPI's mission includes improving equity in health by developing the region's capacity for policy analysis and program development, implementation, and evaluation. I have reviewed the data supporting the Air Quality section of the July 14, 2023, draft Program EIR for the Southeast Development Area, and offer these comments.

The draft PEIR includes calculations for annual tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and reactive organic gases (ROG), but it fails to calculate the ozone pollution that will result from these two precursor pollutants and to factor in the increasing number of extremely hot days each summer as climate change impacts Central Valley weather. In this region, quantifying ozone pollution arising from new development is crucial to establishing the impacts on human health the proposed development will create. The PEIR must thus include projected ozone production, based on the tons/year figures for NOx and ROG, as well as summer averages in tons/day that factor in escalating excess heat events over the pertinent years. There are tools readily available for such calculations, including but not limited to The Community Multiscale Air Quality Modeling System (CMAQ).

Studies document that incremental increases in ozone levels alone—independent of the other pollutants the project will create—will have the following human health impacts: decreased lung function, decreased lung function growth in children,[1] increased asthma-related emergency visits and hospital admissions,[2] and mortality among older adults.[3] In Fresno County, a rigorously sound study conducted by Entwistle et al. (2019) showed

[1] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0012369221036266

[2] https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11869-019-00685-w

[3] https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3581312/

Central Valley Health Policy Institute
California State University, Fresno
1625 East Shaw Avenue, Suite 146 M/S OF126 • Fresno, California 93710-8106
P 559.228.2150 F 559.228.2168 www.FresnoState.edu/chhs/cvhpi/

that people living in commercial areas are significantly more sensitive to ozone exposure than people living in residential areas.

Beyond the health effects of ozone, it is also well-established that PM2.5 is associated with increased mortality and morbidity due to respiratory, cardiovascular, cerebrovascular disorders and diabetes.

Although the Draft PEIR calculated project emissions in tons or metric tons per year for roughly a dozen air pollutants, and it recites the human health effects of many of them in a general way, it does not analyze human health effects for any of the pollutants at the levels and over the timeframes specifically pertinent to this project. Such analysis can and must be conducted, and the tools with which to conduct it are readily available. For example, the Environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program – Community Edition (BenMAP-CE) – not only estimates health impacts but also estimates economic values associated with health morbidity events.

In addition, when considering health and vulnerability, there are zero reasons to introduce any form of air pollution in the demarcated area. There are hotspots or communities that are more highly concentrated with pollutants than others. There are state (CalEnviroScreen)[4] and federal (Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool)[5] cumulative pollution measuring tools that demonstrate that large parts of this area in particular are already highly impacted. According to the CalEnviroScreen, the census tract 6019005904 (where much of the development will occur) has ozone levels worse than 89 percent of all census tracts in California. In this community, PM2.5 is worse than 95 percent of all other census tracts in California. When comparing this census tract to the rest of the nation, the community of 6019005904 has higher levels of PM2.5 than 99 percent of all census tracts.

Increasing PM2.5 levels in these locations is highly likely to result in significant increases in cardiopulmonary morbidity and mortality and the incidence and development of diabetes mellitus.[6] Particularly, perinatal health and the health of children is of greatest concern and risk. Studies that include Fresno County populations have shown that air pollutants are linked to increased odds in neural tube defects[7] and preterm birth.[8] For more than a

[4] https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40

[5] https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5

[6] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S014765131630029X

[7] https://academic.oup.com/aje/article/177/10/1074/101390

decade, The Children's Health and Air Pollution Study (CHAPS) has documented the adverse health effects on children that ambient air pollution has in Fresno including lung function, chemical modification of DNA (methylation), metabolic dysfunction, and oxidative stress.[9]

The toll on human health this project's pollution will take on the population of the area, and on children, appears to be quite serious and pervasive. The City must insist on thorough and accurate analysis, and robust mitigation of air quality impacts before approval.

Please include these comments in the record of this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Emanuel Alcala, PhD
Assistant Director
Central Valley Health Policy Institute
[redacted]
cvhpi.org

[8] https://www.nature.com/articles/s41370-021-00323-7

[9] https://www.chapssjv.org/publications

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Plan Review Team
Land Management

PGEPlanReview@pge.com

March 19, 2025

Sophia Pagoulatos
Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: SEDA Specific Plan
Southeast Fresno Area. Fresno, County

Dear Sophia Pagoulatos,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review the subject plans. The proposed SEDA Specific Plan is within the same vicinity of PG&E's existing facilities that impact this property.

The proposed project is within PG&E's service area. The applicant is to ensure the development of the SEDA Specific plan within any PG&E easements complies with the existing easement language and the provided guidelines for projects near PG&E electric and gas facilities per the issued initial response letter sent on February 11, 2025. The applicant is to provide development plans and applicable tentative tract maps to PG&E's Plan Review Team for comment once they are available. The applicant may contact PG&E's Plan Review Team via email at PGEPlanReview@pge.com.

Guidelines as it pertains to proposed vegetation and landscaping for the various PG&E facilities can be found here.

Please contact the Building and Renovation Center (BRSC) for facility map requests by calling [redacted] and [redacted] for any modification or relocation requests, or for any additional services you may require.

As a reminder, before any digging or excavation occurs, please contact Underground Service Alert (USA) by dialing 811 a minimum of 2 working days prior to commencing any work. This free and independent service will ensure that all existing underground utilities are identified and marked on-site.

If you have any questions regarding our response, please contact me at [redacted]

Sincerely,

Alexa Boyd

Alexa Boyd
Land Management

From:	Kathy Moua
To:	LongRangePlanning
Subject:	Public Comment on the SEDA Environmental Review
Date:	Monday, March 3, 2025 10:18:45 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello,

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the recent environmental review for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA). The City of Fresno claims that this project will reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 80% and be a model for sustainable, high-density development. However, there is no extraordinary evidence to support such an extraordinary claim. If SEDA is truly meant to serve the community, ***the burden of proof is on the developers to demonstrate—through transparent, independently verified data—how this project will avoid the well-documented consequences of unchecked urban sprawl.***

SEDA threatens to:

- **Exacerbate Fresno's air quality crisis** by expanding development rather than investing in sustainable infill and transit solutions. The city's prior environmental review was already ruled inadequate, and yet the revised version still fails to address long-term pollution impacts.
- **Drain public resources** from existing neighborhoods that desperately need infrastructure improvements, diverting attention and funding from long-standing communities.
- **Displace working-class residents** by increasing the cost of living while failing to provide sufficient affordable housing.
- **Destroy valuable farmland** in a region known for agriculture, further eroding local food security and economic sustainability.

Fresno residents deserve development that prioritizes ***them***, not one that benefits developers and special interests at the expense of existing communities. If city officials truly believe in their claims, they must provide rigorous, independently verified evidence—not vague promises—before moving forward. Until then, this project appears to be yet another example of predatory expansion that benefits a select few while harming the people who call Southeast Fresno home.

I urge the City of Fresno to reconsider the approval of this project until real, transparent, and community-driven solutions are put in place. Please do not disregard the 400 pages of public feedback from 2023 and those that will be coming in.

Thank you,

Kathy Moua

From:	Kyle Lyman
To:	LongRangePlanning
Subject:	Public Comment: SEDA Environmental Review
Date:	Monday, March 3, 2025 9:57:38 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello,

I would like to leave a public comment for the recent SEDA environmental review and the new knowledge I've learned about this project.

After seeing this article:
https://fresnoland.org/2025/03/03/will-southeast-fresnos-proposed-mega-development-be-denser-than-new-york-city/?utm_medium=email

I urge the city leaders and officials responsible for this project to reconsider the current plan as it has been presented. It is clear that this project will only contribute more to urban sprawl and devastate the environment. It is especially concerning to see a lack of transparency by the city for the data and numbers presented in terms of emissions, as well as urban density that has been misleadingly presented.

While I support the need for growth in our city, the plan presented will only cause more harm than good: for the environment, city traffic, and the overall health and safety of our city residents. There needs to be a much clearer understanding of what assurances will be provided to mitigate environmental impacts from this development. I'd like the city to actually provide how it got to its conclusion that this area will have more urban density than San Francisco based on job to people ratios, since it's clear in the rest of Fresno this is far from the truth.

To make extraordinary claims, you need extraordinary evidence. The lack of substantial evidence for the city's claims should give everyone pause and reconsideration for this project as it stands.

Thank you,
Kyle Lyman

City of Fresno
City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721
longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Re: "Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486"

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

I contest the following areas of the Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486:

3.6 Energy. Impact ENER-1: "The proposed project would not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation." I disagree with this assumption because the plan specifies the addition of 45,000 housing units. This will increase the load placed on the electrical grid which is already stressed. For example, currently when we have extremely hot weather the power companies have implemented rolling blackouts to stretch energy as much as possible. This will only increase with the addition of 45,000 housing units and the estimated increase of 250,000 people in the plan area. This has to be addressed in the EIR. Where is all the necessary energy needed for this project to come from?

3.7 Geology, Soils, and Seismicity. Impact GEO-2: "The proposed project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil." I disagree with this statement for the following reasons. 1. The topsoil will be disturbed and impacted by the movement of soil to make the housing foundations and streets, disrupting the layers of soil then available for landscape around the houses. 2. The topsoil will be covered by houses and pavement so that it cannot be used for agricultural use including small family farms. 3. This essentially creates a loss of topsoil for use for vegetation which impacts the air quality and environment. This loss needs to be addressed as no mitigation measures are given and the level of impact is very significant.

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Impact HAZ-7: "The proposed project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires." I disagree with this statement, especially as we have seen this year, 2025, in the Los Angles area where "wildfires" = uncontrollable fires, have devastated housing and lives in many communities. Mitigation measures need to be taken so this does not happen in

the planned area. With the planned increase in the density of houses, this plan is setting up Fresno for disaster. Alternate plan 1 will reduce this problem and should be used instead.

Impact HAZ-6: "The proposed project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan." I disagree with this statement as the way the housing developments are being made with limited access and concrete block walls completely surrounding neighborhoods will limit emergency evacuation, endangering many lives. Mitigation measures need to be stated as the liability and loss of lives is significant. Alternate plan 1 will reduce this problem and should be used instead.

Impact HAZ-5: "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, the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working the project area." I disagree with the statement as we live in the planned area and the noise from aircraft approaching the airport is very disruptive when trying to hold conservations in person or on the phone, and while listening to audio entertainment. Even dual pane windows do not dampen the noise enough. Mitigation measures are required and the level of impact is Significant.

Section 3.8—Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Impact GHG-1: "The proposed project would not generate direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions, and these emissions would result in a significant impact on the environment." I disagree that no greenhouse gas emissions would be created or affected from the proposed plan. This plan will reduce vegetation which absorbs carbon dioxide, one of the leading greenhouse gases. Mitigation measures are required, none are stated and its impact level is significant. You even state in your impact statement that the project will not generate direct or indirect greenhouse gas emissions (I disagree and want to know what data and studies you have done to substantiate this statement), but add **that there would be** significant impact on the environment. Don't use this plan, instead use Alternate 1 to keep greenhouse gas concentrations lower.

Section 3.11—Land Use and Planning. Impact LAND-1: "The proposed project would not physically divide an established community." This plan will divide our established rural communities, disrupting the rural way of life that is healthy for us and our children and grandchildren. Mitigation measures are required as levels of impact are significant.

Cumulative Impact: "The project would have a less than significant cumulative impact on land use and planning." This project will have a very large and significant cumulative impact on land use as it will take over 6,000 acres of farm land out of production, changing the landscape of the whole community, affecting air quality, and affecting the balance of greenhouse gases. No mitigation measures are stated, even though the impact of this project is significant. This is unacceptable and this Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report should not be accepted.

Section 3.12—Mineral Resources. Cumulative Impact: "The proposed project would have a less than significant cumulative impact on mineral resources." The project would have a great impact on the mineral resources of the soil that crops are grown on. The project limits the availability of the soil for the production of food and fiber for people and animals. The soil is the greatest mineral resource we have available to us and if it is covered by houses and roads as desired by this plan, significant loss of natural resources will happen. This is unacceptable and this Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report should not be accepted.

Section 3.13—Noise. Cumulative Impact: "The proposed project would have a significant and unavoidable impact regarding construction noise. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact with regard to all other noise and vibration impacts." The analysis of noise is incomplete as it only addresses noise and vibration impacts during construction. The increase in noise after construction due to road noise and increased population noise is not considered and it would be significant. This makes this Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report incomplete and it should be rejected until this issue has been addressed.

Based on these reasons, the recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report, Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project, City of Fresno, Fresno County, California State Clearinghouse Number 2022020486 should not be accepted.

Please send me notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project.

Very truly yours,

Dr. David Ramming
Retired Research Horticulturist, USDA/ARS
SEDA area property owner
Member Southeast Property Owner's Association
[redacted]

Please send CC to all City Council Members as they will be voting on this.

cc: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager: Sophia.pagoulatos@fresno.gov
District 1: Annalisa Pera: annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
District 2: Mike Karbassi: mike.karbassi@fresno.gov
District 3: Miguel Arias: miguel.arias@fresno.gov
District 4: Tyler Maxwell: tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
District 5: Special Election on March 18th
District 6: Nick Richardson: nick.richardson@fresno.gov

District 7 Nelson Esparza: nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
City Clerk: Todd Stermer: todd.stermer@fresno.gov
Mayor Jerry Dyer: jerry.dyer@fresno.gov

From: art maldonado
To: Adrienne Asadoorian
Subject: Re: SEDA
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 8:37:47 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Let me know that you received this…thanks
3.17 Transportation and Traffic regarding SEDA
Concerns and Question: We have been heavily impacted by high levels of traffic in our area due to new neighborhoods, several churches and schools. How will the city address the serious damage to our roads, the high possibility of serious traffic accidents, the lack of adequate lighting for night drivers. Does the city have a financial plan to address these issues. We need to see something in place.
Sent from my iPad

> On Mar 17, 2025, at 2:05 PM, Adrienne Asadoorian <Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov> wrote:
>
> Hi Art,
>
> I am unable to view the attachment – can you paste your letter into the email?
>
> Thank you,
>
> **Adrienne Asadoorian-Gilbert | Supervising Planner**
> Long Range Planning | Planning & Development
> **City of Fresno | 2600 Fresno St | Fresno CA 93721**
> 559.621.8339
> **Adrienne.Asadoorian@Fresno.gov**
>
> <image001.jpg>
>
> **Resources**: **Long Range Plans | GIS Data Hub**
> **Citywide Development Code | Plans & Projects Under Review**
>
> ---
>
> **From:** art maldonado [redacted]
> **Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 1:34 PM
> **To:** LongRangePlanning <LongRangePlanning@fresno.gov>
> **Subject:** SEDA
>
> External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Sent from my iPad

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 6 OFFICE
1352 WEST OLIVE AVENUE | P.O. BOX 12616 | FRESNO, CA 93778-2616
(559) 981-7284 | FAX (559) 488-4195 | TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

March 21, 2025

FRE-180-R64.104
Southeast Development Area Specific Plan
Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
SCH #2022020486
GTS #: https://ld-igr-gts.dot.ca.gov/district/6/report/25659

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mx. Sophia Pagoulatos
c/o Mx. Adrienne Asadoorian
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street Ste. 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
adrienne.asadoorian@fresno.gov

Dear Mx. Asadoorian:

Caltrans District 6 has reviewed the Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) dated January 30, 2025, for the Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan and offers the following technical comments and recommendations. The TIA is part of the SEDA recirculated draft environmental impact report (DEIR). The proposed development area covers nearly 9,000 acres. It is bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, on the east by McCall and Highland Avenues, on the south by Jensen and North Avenues, and on the West by Locan, Temperance, and Minnewawa Avenues.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) process reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

1. Queuing and Mitigation Measures (these comments supersede our previous comments):

The TIA conducted a peak hour ramp queuing analysis at project buildout for the following State Route (SR) 180 interchange ramp intersections and SR 180 intersections to assess potential impacts:

1. SR 180 EB Ramp at Clovis Avenue
2. SR 180 WB Ramp at Clovis Avenue
3. SR 180 EB Ramp at Fowler Avenue
4. SR 180 WB Ramp at Fowler Avenue
5. SR 180 EB Ramp at Temperance Avenue
6. SR 180 WB Ramp at Temperance Avenue
7. SR 180 / De Wolf Avenue Intersection
8. SR 180 / Highland Avenue Intersection
9. SR 180 / McCall Avenue Intersection

The TIA references Caltrans' letter dated August 16, 2024, which states that auxiliary lanes can be used for additional vehicle storage. However, Caltrans does not recommend this practice. According to Index 62.1 of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM), an auxiliary lane is defined as:

"*The portion of the roadway for weaving, truck climbing, speed change, or for other purposes supplementary to through movement.*"

The planned use of auxiliary lanes for vehicle storage is inconsistent with their intended function and may result in operational inefficiencies or safety concerns.

Additionally, the TIA identifies locations with potential safety impacts due to vehicle queuing that are not currently recommended for mitigation. Based on Table 12: 2035 Project and No Project Queue Analyses Results, these locations include:

- SR 180 Eastbound Ramp at Clovis Avenue
- SR 180 Eastbound Ramp at Temperance Avenue

Recommendation: Caltrans recommends that the City of Fresno consider mitigation strategies outlined in Appendix B of the Caltrans Local Development Review Safety Review Practitioners Guidance at these locations to address potential safety hazards caused by vehicle queues.

2. Roadway Impact and Complete Streets Considerations

The SEDA project is anticipated to increase traffic volumes on De Wolf Avenue and McCall Avenue, both of which are projected to experience reduced traffic performance by 2035. To accommodate the forecasted growth and enhance north-south connectivity, the proposed widening of these roadways from one lane per direction to two lanes is deemed appropriate.

In alignment with the Fresno Complete Streets Policy (2019), the TIA also recommends upgrading these roadways to Complete Streets standards. Doing so would improve accessibility and safety for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and transit passengers.

Recommendation: To maximize the benefits of the Complete Streets upgrades, Caltrans encourages the City of Fresno to:

- Ensure compliance with Caltrans HDM standards: All Complete Streets improvements should adhere to Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM)

standards, including specifications for bike lanes, sidewalks, and pedestrian paths, to promote consistency, safety, and accessibility.

- Enhance future transit stop amenities: When planning for future transit stop locations, consider incorporating appropriate amenities such as shelters, seating, and ADA-compliant infrastructure to improve multimodal access and passenger comfort.

3. Multimodal and Active Transportation Considerations

The SEDA project proposes new pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and plans for transit connectivity to central Fresno via Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes. These features aim to reduce vehicle dependency and support multimodal transportation.

Recommendation: To strengthen the project's multimodal connectivity, Caltrans recommends that the City of Fresno consider:

- Incorporating Class IV bikeways (separated cycle tracks) where feasible to enhance cyclist safety.
- Implementing transit signal priority (TSP) at key intersections to improve BRT travel times and reliability.
- Planning for future transit station expansions, including park-and-ride facilities, to accommodate anticipated ridership growth.

4. Safety and Collision Considerations

The Preliminary Safety Assessment identifies 629 reported collisions within the project area between 2019 and 2023.

The report also highlights pedestrian and bicycle incidents, with seven pedestrian-involved collisions and six bicycle-involved collisions.

Recommendation: To enhance safety for all road users, Caltrans encourages the City of Fresno to consider the following strategies:

- Enhancing pedestrian visibility through the installation of high-visibility crosswalks and flashing beacons at locations with higher pedestrian activity or collision history.
- Reducing vehicle speeds in areas with frequent conflicts by implementing traffic calming measures and targeted enforcement.
- Improving roadway design by incorporating features such as curb extensions and pedestrian refuge islands, which can reduce crossing distances and enhance safety.
- Strengthening bicycle infrastructure by incorporating protective elements, such as separated bike lanes, to enhance safety and comfort for cyclists.

5. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Trip Generation Considerations

The SEDA project is projected to generate:

- 94,477 PM peak hour trips
- 866,452 total daily trips

The project's mixed-use design is expected to reduce VMT impacts by shortening travel distances for residents' daily needs.

Recommendation: To further mitigate VMT impacts, Caltrans suggests that the City of Fresno consider:

- Implementing Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies, including transit subsidies, carpool incentives, and shared parking facilities.
- Conducting a sensitivity analysis on VMT impacts with and without the planned BRT routes to evaluate the project's reliance on transit infrastructure.

6. Conclusion

Caltrans appreciates the opportunity to review the Fresno Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan – Transportation Impact Analysis. The comments and recommendations provided are intended to assist the City of Fresno in its evaluation of the project by identifying potential transportation impacts and offering considerations for mitigation and design enhancements.

Please note that the comments provided in this letter are in addition to Caltrans' previous correspondence, including the following:

- Caltrans Comment Letter dated August 16, 2024
- Caltrans Comment Letter dated November 17, 2023
- Caltrans Comment Letter dated August 25, 2023
- Caltrans Comment Letter dated March 18, 2022

For your reference, copies of these previous letters are attached herein. All comments from the previous letters remain applicable in whole or in part unless explicitly superseded by this letter.

Caltrans remains available to collaborate with the city and provide additional technical support as needed. Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact Keyomi Jones at [redacted]

Sincerely,

David Padilla, Branch Chief,
Local Development Review Branch

Attachments: Caltrans Comment Letter dated August 16, 2024
Caltrans Comment Letter dated November 17, 2023
Caltrans Comment Letter dated August 25, 2023
Caltrans Comment Letter dated March 18, 2022

March 21, 2025

Comments submitted via email to:

longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
Development and Resource Management Department
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report of the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan for the City of Fresno
FID Facilities: Various

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos:

The Fresno Irrigation District (FID) has reviewed the Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (RDPEIR) of the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan for the City of Fresno (Project). We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the subject documents for the proposed project. We also appreciate the City of Fresno acknowledging receiving FID's August 25, 2023, comments on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report and incorporating them into this RDPEIR. Similar to the comments previously provided, FID's comments are as follows:

Impacted Facilities

1. FID has many canals within the Project Area as shown on the attached FID exhibit map. The facilities include: Fresno No. 3, Fancher No. 6, Mill No. 36, Briggs No. 7, Gould No. 97, Gray Colony No. 111, Eisen No. 11, Temperance No. 37, Hanson No. 129, East Branch No. 5, and Kutner Colony S. Br. No. 329. FID's canals range from smaller diameter pipelines to large open canals. In most cases, the existing facilities will need to be upgraded to meet then-current urban standards, increase accessibility or relocated by the developer to accommodate new urban developments which will require new pipelines and new exclusive easements. FID will impose the same conditions on future projects as it would with any other project located within the common boundary of the City of Fresno and FID. FID will require that it review and approve all maps and plans which impact FID canals and easements.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS President RYAN JACOBSEN Vice-President JERRY PRIETO, JR. CHRISTOPHER WOOLF
GEORGE PORTER GREGORY BEBERIAN General Manager BILL STRETCH

a. Small/Medium Canal Crossings – The majority of the proposed planned will impact existing pipelines and small open channel canals. FID will require all open channels and existing pipelines impacted by the project area development be upgraded to meet FID's then-current standards for urban, rural, industrial areas. The majority of FID's facilities that lie within the proposed Planning Area do not meet FID's urban specifications, including road or highway crossings. The majority of the existing pipelines are monolithic cast-in-place concrete pipe (CIPCP), low head/thin wall PVC, and non-reinforced mortar jointed concrete pipeline. These pipelines were designed for a rural environment and will fail if they are not replaced as development occurs.

b. Large Canal Crossing – There are large canals called Gould No. 97, Fresno No. 3, Mill No. 36, and Fancher No. 6 that will more than likely be too large to be contained within a pipeline. Development impacts to these facilities shall require designs that protect the canal's integrity for an urban setting including the need for access and full right-of-way widths for FID's operations and maintenance needs.

2. FID's facilities that are within the Planning Area carry irrigation water for FID users, recharge water for the City of Fresno, and flood waters during the winter months. In addition to FID's facilities, private facilities also traverse the Planned Area.

3. Canal Access – FID will continue to access the Canal from public roads. In order to access the maintenance bank with our larger equipment, FID requires a drive approach wide enough to accommodate the equipment. FID requires a 50-feet wide drive approach narrowing to a 20-feet wide drive banks. The 50-feet width is defined as starting from the end portion of a bridge/railing outward (away from the bridge). Every road and canal intersection is different and therefore each access will be different. The major factors affecting the proposed width will be the angle of the road intersecting the Canal, grade of canal bank vs. City road, median vs. no median, etc.

   a. If guard railings extend beyond attachment points at each wing-wall, they will obstruct FID's access to the canal and additional right-of-way will need to be acquired. FID will require the developer to demonstrate FID's longest vehicle will be able to make the turns onto the drive banks. FID's right-of-way is a minimum 20 feet from the canal hinge on both sides of the canal, and FID will require the developer acquire and dedicate to FID exclusive easements for this purpose.

4. Canal Banks – If there will be any work on canal banks, the following will apply:

    a. All in-channel disturbed soil shall be concrete lined (both side slopes and bottom). FID will require reinforced concrete to limit the on-going maintenance that typically occurs with gunite or shotcrete slope protection.

    b. Drive banks must be sloped a minimum of 2% away with a maximum of 4% from the canal with provisions made for rainfall. Drainage will not be accepted into the Canal and must be routed away from FID property/drive banks. Runoff must be conveyed to nearby public streets or drainage system by drainage swales or other FID acceptable alternatives outside FID's easements/property.

    c. All existing trees, bushes, debris, old canal structures, pumps, canal gates, and other non- or in-active FID and private structures must be removed within FID's property/easement and the City's project limits.

5. Trail - It is FID's understanding that many trails are master-planned within the Southeast Development Area. Southeast Development Area Specific Plan area is not considered as existing development under the Master Trail Agreement (MTA) between the City of Fresno and FID and as such will be treated as a "New Growth Area". As with other new developments with trails along the canals, FID will not allow the trail to encroach or overlap FID's canal easement unless allowed by FID and an agreement is in place for this purpose. The following requirements are intended for trail projects adjacent to FID-owned properties and rights-of-ways for open canals:

    a. FID will not allow the trail easement to be in common use with FID-owned property or easements.

    b. FID requires all trail improvements be placed outside of FID-owned properties and easements.

    c. FID will not allow any portion of a tree canopy to encroach within its properties or easements.

    d. FID's canals will not accept any drainage from the trail or the canal bank.

    e. FID may require some improvements be made to the canal depending on the existing canal condition, the proposed trail, and the adjacent development.

    f. City parks that are adjacent to open canals are treated the same as trails, therefore the same requirements shall apply.

Water Supply Impact

1. The document acknowledges that the maximum percentage of FID surface water supply that the City can obtain is 29 percent under the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Fresno and FID. The City's service area is expected to surpass 29 percent of FID's service area between 2025 and 2030. If the City of Fresno exceeds 29 percent prior to full development within SEDA, the document must consider how to address future development based on water consumption beyond the limits of the agreement and evaluate the potential impacts.

2. The document must consider whether the City's Water Master Plan that is currently being updated may impact the developments within the Planning Area. The report must consider and evaluate the City's growth within the planning area and any other concerns including climate change, and whether the City's Water Master Plan can still provide the necessary guidance for the City.

3. The City of Fresno has implemented many of the projects previously proposed in the City's Water Master Plan. The Proposed document should consider and evaluated whether the constructed projects have resulted in benefits that were anticipated.

4. The proposed land use (or changes in land use) should be such that the need for water is minimized and/or reduced so that groundwater impacts to the proposed project area and any surrounding areas are eliminated.

5. If treated surface water is used and the City has a deficit water supply or groundwater levels continue to drop, the City must acquire additional water from a water purveyor, such as FID for that purpose, so as to not impact water supplies to or create greater water supply deficits in other areas of the City or in the groundwater basin. Water supply issues must be resolved before any further "hardening" of the water supply demand is allowed to take place.

6. The potential for increase in water consumption by the project will result in additional groundwater overdraft. There is a significant cone of depression beneath the City of Fresno. FID is concerned that the increased water demand due to a change in land use may have a significant impact to the groundwater quantity and/or quality underneath the City of Fresno, FID and the Kings Groundwater Sub-basin. The "demand" side of water consumed needs to be evaluated or scrutinized as much as the "supply" side of the water supply. Many of the areas are historically native, and/or rural residential with minimal to no water use. Under current circumstances the project area is experiencing a

modest but continuing groundwater overdraft. Should the proposed project result in a significant increase in dependence on groundwater, this deficit will increase. FID recommends the City of Fresno require proposed projects balance anticipated groundwater use with sufficient recharge of imported surface water in order to preclude increasing the area's existing groundwater overdraft problem.

7. California enacted landmark legislation in 2014 known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The act requires the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that must assess conditions in their local water basins and adopt locally-based management plans. FID and the City of Fresno are members of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency which will manage the groundwater basin within the FID service area. This area is in an over drafted groundwater basin and SGMA will impact all users of groundwater and those who rely on it. The City of Fresno should consider the impacts of the project on the City's ability to comply with the requirements of SGMA.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS:

Hydrology and Water Quality

1. The Southeast Development Area Specific Plan requires routing of stormwater through several conveyance facilities through the Plan Area. FMFCD will need to update its Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan for the Plan Area. FMFCD will be required to convey discharges to FID's larger canals where capacity constraints are not an issue. The City of Fresno will need to consider this with its Mitigation Measures Policy MM HYD-3e and the design of stormwater detention basins and expanded capacity for stormwater.

Resource Conservation and Resilience Element

1. Policy RC-6-I Natural Recharge. While FID appreciates the support of the City to remove unnecessary concrete from its existing canals, FID encourages a policy revision to ensure alignment with FID policies, procedures and practices, preventing any conflicts that could impact implementation. FID utilizes concrete lining for many reasons and purposes; therefore a coordinated approach will help achieve the best outcome for all parties.

2. The City of Fresno should consider acquiring property and constructing City-owned recharge basins to increase groundwater recharge in the Plan Area or look at other drainage facilities which might better align with the Natural Recharge Policy than the use of FID facilities.

Open Space, Schools, and Public Facilities

1. Policy OS-1.1 Joint Use of Open Spaces. While FID appreciates the support of the City to establish a joint use agreement to provide access to areas adjacent to Canals and Creeks, however, as previously stated, the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan area is considered a “New Growth Area” and is not covered under the existing MTA for trails atop FID’s canal banks. All Trails proposed within the Plan area shall be located outside FID’s drive banks, maintenance roads, and points of access.

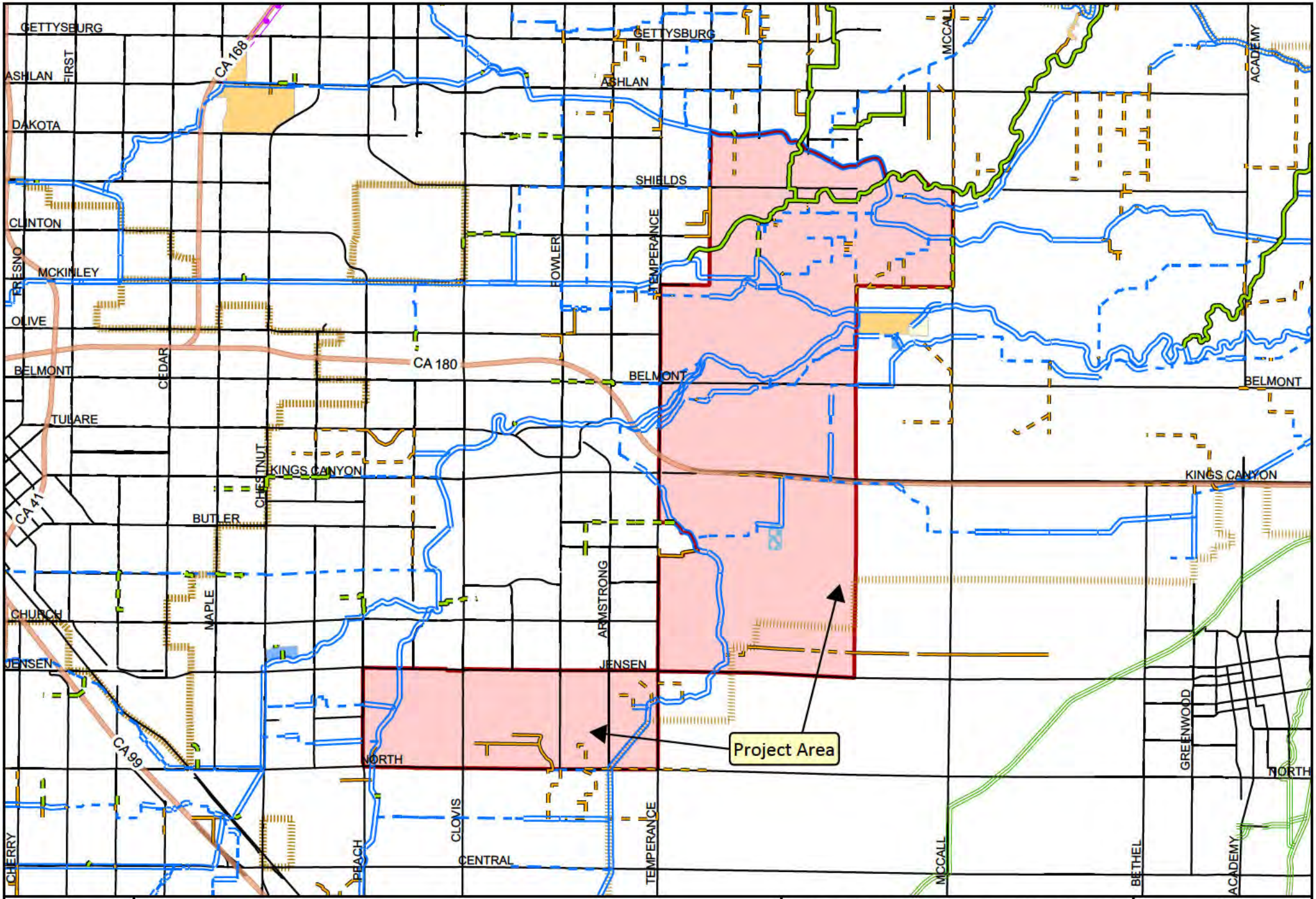
2. The City of Fresno will also need to take into consideration Trails over FID Pipelines and Easements. City of Fresno and FID joint-use agreements, common-use agreements or encroachment agreements must not restrict or impair FID’s ability to maintain and operate its facilities unless all impacts can be fully mitigated.

Thank you for making available to us the Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan for our review and allowing us the opportunity to provide comments. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the subject RDPEIR. While it is difficult to envision all of the potential impacts without all of the improvement details and impact report, we have attempted to provide you with as much information as possible. We reserve the right to provide additional comments as the Plan Area develops and/or when more detailed information becomes available. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me [redacted]

Sincerely,

Laurence Kimura, P.E.
Chief Engineer

Exhibit



FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Legend

- FID Canal
- Private Canal
- Abandoned Canal
- FID Pipeline
- Private Pipeline
- Abandoned Pipeline
- Stream Group
- Other-Creek\River
- Other-Pipeline
- FID Boundary
- Railroad
- Streets & Hwys
- Parcel
- FMFCD Acquired Basins
- FMFCD Proposed Basins

This map was produced by the Fresno Irrigation District and is provided for reference and informational purposes only and is not intended to show map scale accuracy or all inclusive map features, nor for legal purposes. FID makes no statements regarding the accuracy of this map as the features shown are in their approximate location. Please contact the FID Engineering Dept. at (559) 233-7161 for further information on FID facilities.

Spatial Reference:
Name: NAD 1983 StatePlane California IV FIPS 0404

N

0 0.5 1 Miles

Path: G:\EngineeringStaff\Kevin\2025\Engineering\City of Fresno SEDA\SEDA.aprx

2907 S. Maple Avenue
Fresno, California 93725-2208
Telephone: (559) 233-7161
Fax: (559) 233-8227

CONVEYANCE. COMMITMENT. CUSTOMER SERVICE.

March 21, 2025

Comments submitted via email to:

longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
Development and Resource Management Department
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS President RYAN JACOBSEN Vice-President JERRY PRIETO, JR. CHRISTOPHER WOOLF
GEORGE PORTER GREGORY BEBERIAN General Manager BILL STRETCH

a. Small/Medium Canal Crossings – The majority of the proposed planned will impact existing pipelines and small open channel canals. FID will require all open channels and existing pipelines impacted by the project area development be upgraded to meet FID's then-current standards for urban, rural, industrial areas. The majority of FID's facilities that lie within the proposed Planning Area do not meet FID's urban specifications, including road or highway crossings. The majority of the existing pipelines are monolithic cast-in-place concrete pipe (CIPCP), low head/thin wall PVC, and non-reinforced mortar jointed concrete pipeline. These pipelines were designed for a rural environment and will fail if they are not replaced as development occurs.

b. Large Canal Crossing – There are large canals called Gould No. 97, Fresno No. 3, Mill No. 36, and Fancher No. 6 that will more than likely be too large to be contained within a pipeline. Development impacts to these facilities shall require designs that protect the canal's integrity for an urban setting including the need for access and full right-of-way widths for FID's operations and maintenance needs.

2. FID's facilities that are within the Planning Area carry irrigation water for FID users, recharge water for the City of Fresno, and flood waters during the winter months. In addition to FID's facilities, private facilities also traverse the Planned Area.

3. Canal Access – FID will continue to access the Canal from public roads. In order to access the maintenance bank with our larger equipment, FID requires a drive approach wide enough to accommodate the equipment. FID requires a 50-feet wide drive approach narrowing to a 20-feet wide drive banks. The 50-feet width is defined as starting from the end portion of a bridge/railing outward (away from the bridge). Every road and canal intersection is different and therefore each access will be different. The major factors affecting the proposed width will be the angle of the road intersecting the Canal, grade of canal bank vs. City road, median vs. no median, etc.

   a. If guard railings extend beyond attachment points at each wing-wall, they will obstruct FID's access to the canal and additional right-of-way will need to be acquired. FID will require the developer to demonstrate FID's longest vehicle will be able to make the turns onto the drive banks. FID's right-of-way is a minimum 20 feet from the canal hinge on both sides of the canal, and FID will require the developer acquire and dedicate to FID exclusive easements for this purpose.

4. Canal Banks – If there will be any work on canal banks, the following will apply:

    a. All in-channel disturbed soil shall be concrete lined (both side slopes and bottom). FID will require reinforced concrete to limit the on-going maintenance that typically occurs with gunite or shotcrete slope protection.

    b. Drive banks must be sloped a minimum of 2% away with a maximum of 4% from the canal with provisions made for rainfall. Drainage will not be accepted into the Canal and must be routed away from FID property/drive banks. Runoff must be conveyed to nearby public streets or drainage system by drainage swales or other FID acceptable alternatives outside FID's easements/property.

    c. All existing trees, bushes, debris, old canal structures, pumps, canal gates, and other non- or in-active FID and private structures must be removed within FID's property/easement and the City's project limits.

5. Trail - It is FID's understanding that many trails are master-planned within the Southeast Development Area. Southeast Development Area Specific Plan area is not considered as existing development under the Master Trail Agreement (MTA) between the City of Fresno and FID and as such will be treated as a "New Growth Area". As with other new developments with trails along the canals, FID will not allow the trail to encroach or overlap FID's canal easement unless allowed by FID and an agreement is in place for this purpose. The following requirements are intended for trail projects adjacent to FID-owned properties and rights-of-ways for open canals:

    a. FID will not allow the trail easement to be in common use with FID-owned property or easements.

    b. FID requires all trail improvements be placed outside of FID-owned properties and easements.

    c. FID will not allow any portion of a tree canopy to encroach within its properties or easements.

    d. FID's canals will not accept any drainage from the trail or the canal bank.

    e. FID may require some improvements be made to the canal depending on the existing canal condition, the proposed trail, and the adjacent development.

    f. City parks that are adjacent to open canals are treated the same as trails, therefore the same requirements shall apply.

Water Supply Impact

1. The document acknowledges that the maximum percentage of FID surface water supply that the City can obtain is 29 percent under the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Fresno and FID. The City's service area is expected to surpass 29 percent of FID's service area between 2025 and 2030. If the City of Fresno exceeds 29 percent prior to full development within SEDA, the document must consider how to address future development based on water consumption beyond the limits of the agreement and evaluate the potential impacts.

2. The document must consider whether the City's Water Master Plan that is currently being updated may impact the developments within the Planning Area. The report must consider and evaluate the City's growth within the planning area and any other concerns including climate change, and whether the City's Water Master Plan can still provide the necessary guidance for the City.

3. The City of Fresno has implemented many of the projects previously proposed in the City's Water Master Plan. The Proposed document should consider and evaluated whether the constructed projects have resulted in benefits that were anticipated.

4. The proposed land use (or changes in land use) should be such that the need for water is minimized and/or reduced so that groundwater impacts to the proposed project area and any surrounding areas are eliminated.

5. If treated surface water is used and the City has a deficit water supply or groundwater levels continue to drop, the City must acquire additional water from a water purveyor, such as FID for that purpose, so as to not impact water supplies to or create greater water supply deficits in other areas of the City or in the groundwater basin. Water supply issues must be resolved before any further "hardening" of the water supply demand is allowed to take place.

6. The potential for increase in water consumption by the project will result in additional groundwater overdraft. There is a significant cone of depression beneath the City of Fresno. FID is concerned that the increased water demand due to a change in land use may have a significant impact to the groundwater quantity and/or quality underneath the City of Fresno, FID and the Kings Groundwater Sub-basin. The "demand" side of water consumed needs to be evaluated or scrutinized as much as the "supply" side of the water supply. Many of the areas are historically native, and/or rural residential with minimal to no water use. Under current circumstances the project area is experiencing a

modest but continuing groundwater overdraft. Should the proposed project result in a significant increase in dependence on groundwater, this deficit will increase. FID recommends the City of Fresno require proposed projects balance anticipated groundwater use with sufficient recharge of imported surface water in order to preclude increasing the area's existing groundwater overdraft problem.

7. California enacted landmark legislation in 2014 known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The act requires the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that must assess conditions in their local water basins and adopt locally-based management plans. FID and the City of Fresno are members of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency which will manage the groundwater basin within the FID service area. This area is in an over drafted groundwater basin and SGMA will impact all users of groundwater and those who rely on it. The City of Fresno should consider the impacts of the project on the City's ability to comply with the requirements of SGMA.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS:

Hydrology and Water Quality

1. The Southeast Development Area Specific Plan requires routing of stormwater through several conveyance facilities through the Plan Area. FMFCD will need to update its Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan for the Plan Area. FMFCD will be required to convey discharges to FID's larger canals where capacity constraints are not an issue. The City of Fresno will need to consider this with its Mitigation Measures Policy MM HYD-3e and the design of stormwater detention basins and expanded capacity for stormwater.

Resource Conservation and Resilience Element

1. Policy RC-6-I Natural Recharge. While FID appreciates the support of the City to remove unnecessary concrete from its existing canals, FID encourages a policy revision to ensure alignment with FID policies, procedures and practices, preventing any conflicts that could impact implementation. FID utilizes concrete lining for many reasons and purposes; therefore a coordinated approach will help achieve the best outcome for all parties.

2. The City of Fresno should consider acquiring property and constructing City-owned recharge basins to increase groundwater recharge in the Plan Area or look at other drainage facilities which might better align with the Natural Recharge Policy than the use of FID facilities.

Open Space, Schools, and Public Facilities

1. Policy OS-1.1 Joint Use of Open Spaces. While FID appreciates the support of the City to establish a joint use agreement to provide access to areas adjacent to Canals and Creeks, however, as previously stated, the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan area is considered a “New Growth Area” and is not covered under the existing MTA for trails atop FID’s canal banks. All Trails proposed within the Plan area shall be located outside FID’s drive banks, maintenance roads, and points of access.

2. The City of Fresno will also need to take into consideration Trails over FID Pipelines and Easements. City of Fresno and FID joint-use agreements, common-use agreements or encroachment agreements must not restrict or impair FID’s ability to maintain and operate its facilities unless all impacts can be fully mitigated.

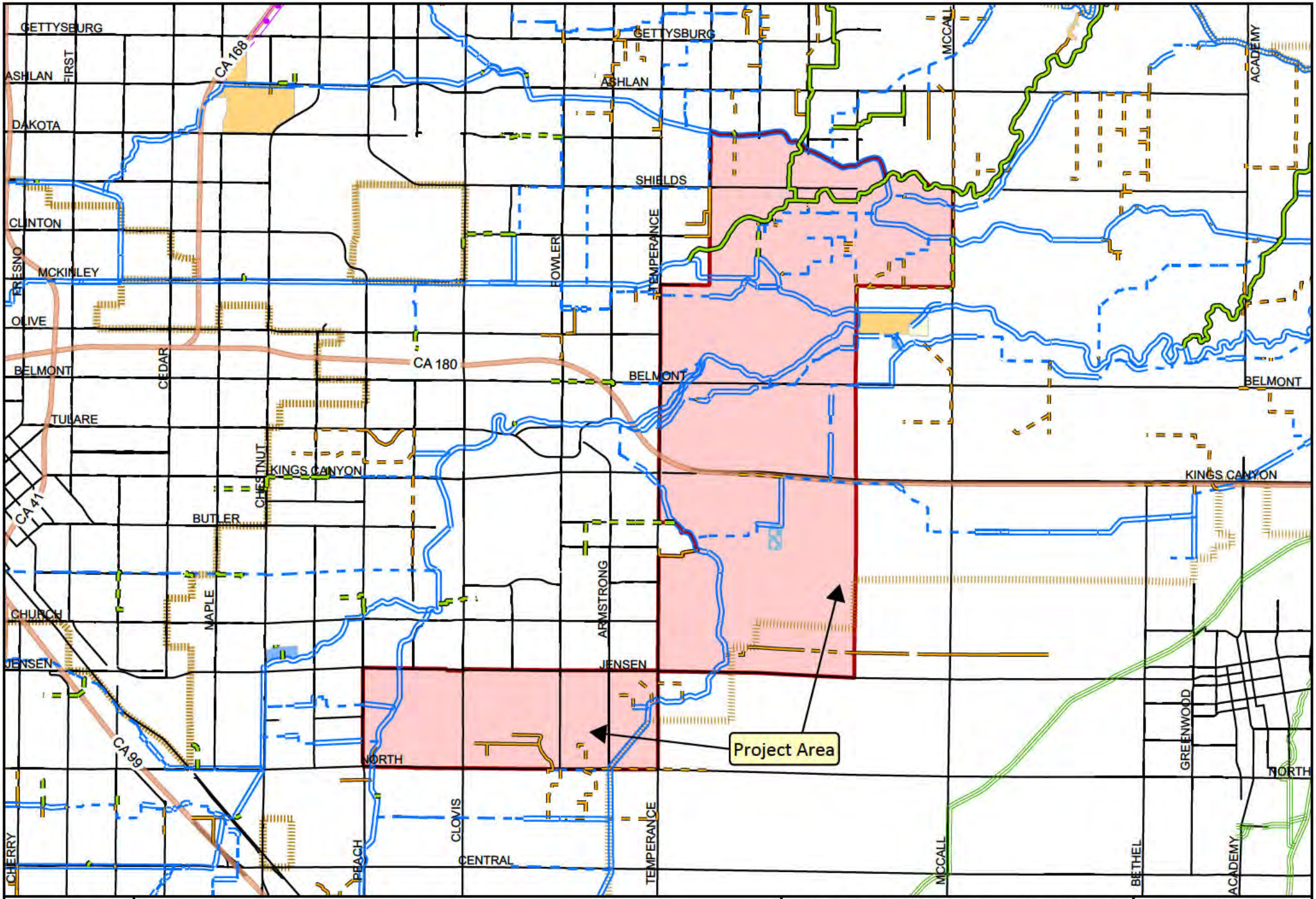
Thank you for making available to us the Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan for our review and allowing us the opportunity to provide comments. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the subject RDPEIR. While it is difficult to envision all of the potential impacts without all of the improvement details and impact report, we have attempted to provide you with as much information as possible. We reserve the right to provide additional comments as the Plan Area develops and/or when more detailed information becomes available. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me Laurence Kimura at ([redacted]

Sincerely,



Laurence Kimura, P.E.
Chief Engineer

Exhibit



FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Legend

- FID Canal
- Private Canal
- Abandoned Canal
- FID Pipeline
- Private Pipeline
- Abandoned Pipeline
- Stream Group
- Other-Creek\River
- Other-Pipeline
- FID Boundary
- Railroad
- Streets & Hwys
- Parcel
- FMFCD Acquired Basins
- FMFCD Proposed Basins

This map was produced by the Fresno Irrigation District and is provided for reference and informational purposes only and is not intended to show map scale accuracy or all inclusive map features, nor for legal purposes. FID makes no statements regarding the accuracy of this map as the features shown are in their approximate location. Please contact the FID Engineering Dept. at (559) 233-7161 for further information on FID facilities.

Spatial Reference:
Name: NAD 1983 StatePlane California IV FIPS 0404

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0 0.5 1 Miles

Path: G:\EngineeringStaff\Kevin\2025\Engineering\City of Fresno SEDA\SEDA.aprx

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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
(559) 243-4005
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

March 24, 2025

Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
City of Fresno, Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721
(559) 621-8062
longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

Subject: Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (RPEIR) for the Proposed Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Specific Plan Project (Project)
State Clearinghouse No.: 2022020486

Dear Sophia Pagoulatos:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a RPEIR from City of Fresno, as Lead Agency, for the above-referenced Project pursuant the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.[1]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW previously commented on the Notice of Preparation on March 25, 2022, the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report on August 30, 2023, and on the Partial Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report on November 22, 2023, for this Project. Based on the information provided in the RPEIR, CDFW recommends referring to these comment letters for biological resource surveys and mitigation measures and recommends incorporating these comments to adequately identify and/or mitigate the Project's potential impacts on biological resources. In addition to the

[1] CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

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recommendations from these comment letters, CDFW offers the following editorial comments and suggestions in order to improve the document.

Nesting Birds: CDFW recommends that Project construction be timed to avoid the bird nesting season; however, if ground-disturbing or vegetation-disturbing activities must occur during the breeding season (February 1 through September 15), the Project applicant is responsible for ensuring that implementation of the Project does not result in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or relevant Fish and Game Codes.

To evaluate Project-related impacts on nesting birds, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a habitat assessment and analysis of impacts to nesting birds as part of the biological technical studies prior to approval of subsequent projects resulting from this DPEIR. Prior to ground-disturbance activities, surveys for active nests should be conducted, regardless of the initial results, no more than 10 days prior to the start of ground or vegetation disturbance to maximize the probability that nests, that could potentially be impacted, are detected. Surveys should cover a sufficient area around the Project site to identify nests and determine their status. A sufficient area means any area potentially affected by the Project. In addition to direct impacts (i.e., nest destruction), noise, vibration, and movement of workers or equipment could also affect nests. Prior to initiation of construction activities, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a survey to establish a behavioral baseline of all identified nests. Once construction begins, CDFW recommends having a qualified biologist continuously monitor nests to detect behavioral changes resulting from the Project. If behavioral changes occur, CDFW recommends halting the work causing that change and consulting with CDFW for additional avoidance and minimization measures.

If continuous monitoring of identified nests by a qualified biologist is not feasible, CDFW recommends a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet around active nests of non-listed bird species and a 500-foot no-disturbance buffer around active nests of non-listed raptors. These buffers are advised to remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or on-site parental care for survival. Variance from these no-disturbance buffers is possible when there is compelling biological or ecological reason to do so, such as when the construction areas would be concealed from a nest site by topography. CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist advise and support any variance from these buffers and notify CDFW in advance of implementing a variance.

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Lake and Streambed Alteration: The DPEIR acknowledges that there are a number of existing Fresno Irrigation District facilities, most or all of which are modified streams that cross the Project. Project activities that substantially change the bed, bank, and channel of any river, stream, or lake are subject to CDFW's regulatory authority pursuant Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq., even when heavily modified. Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires an entity to notify CDFW prior to commencing any activity that may (a) substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; (b) substantially change or use any material from the bed, bank, or channel of any river, stream, or lake (including the removal of riparian vegetation): (c) deposit debris, waste or other materials that could pass into any river, stream, or lake. "Any river, stream, or lake" includes those that are ephemeral or intermittent as well as those that are perennial and may include those that are highly modified such as canals and retention basins.

CDFW is required to comply with CEQA in the issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA); therefore, if the CEQA document approved for the Project does not adequately describe the Project and its impacts to lakes or streams, a subsequent CEQA analysis may be necessary for LSAA issuance. For information on notification requirements, please refer to CDFW's website (https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA) or contact CDFW staff in the Central Region Lake and Streambed Alteration Program at (559) 243-4593.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database, which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e)). Accordingly, please report any special-status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). The CNDDB field survey form can be found at the following link: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Submitting-Data. The completed form can be mailed electronically to the CNDDB at the following email address: CNDDB@wildlife.ca.gov. The types of information reported to the CNDDB can be found at the following link: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Plants-and-Animals.

FILING FEES

The Project, as proposed, could have an impact on biological resources, and an assessment of filing fees is necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089).

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CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DPEIR to assist the City of Fresno in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources.

More information on survey and monitoring protocols for sensitive species can be found at CDFW's website (https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols). If you have any questions regarding this letter or further coordination, please contact Marile Colindres, Environmental Scientist, at the address provided on this letterhead, by telephone at ([redacted], or by electronic mail at [redacted].

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Julie Vance
FA83F09FE08945A...
Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager

ec: State Clearinghouse
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

From: Susie Rodriguez
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: fresno annexation of existing propeties
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 8:27:42 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

i/m a homeowner at [redacted] My husband and i moved here in 2015 and not one word mentioned regarding annexation, So we were shocked to hear about this horrible plan for annexation and very unfair. We are both retired and in no way able to afford the outrages mentioned cost to hook up to the city. if Fresno City wants established homeowners to belong to the City, i feel Fresno City needs to pay for all expenses. i understand new development needing to be hooked up to the City, but very unfair for established homeowners to be forced to hook up to the City, we already paid for our water pump and septic tank and having to pay to remove is unfair!!! We chose to live here with our acreage and beautiful trees, now our trees will all die due to lack of water because we will be metered and can't afford to pay outrages prices. Please leave existing properties owners alone, people are going to be forced out of Fresno and less property taxes will be collected. A better solution would be to improve existing unoccupied properties in the City and make Fresno a better place to live!!! it makes sense to leave existing homeowners alone.

Brian and Candice Ruck
[redacted]
3/21/2025

City of Fresno Planning and Development Department Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager 2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065 Fresno, CA 93721
longrangeplanning@fresno.gov
CC:
District 1: Annalisa Perea: annalisa.perea@fresno.gov
District 2: Mike Karbassi: mike.karbassi@fresno.gov
District 3: Miguel Arias: miguel.arias@fresno.gov
District 4: Tyler Maxwell: tyler.maxwell@fresno.gov
District 5: Special Election on March 18th
District 6: Nick Richardson: nick.richardson@fresno.gov
District 7: Nelson Esparza: nelson.esparza@fresno.gov
City Clerk: Todd Stermer: todd.stermer@fresno.gov

Subject: Strong Opposition and Comments on Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Southeast Development Area (SEDA)

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos and Fresno City Council Members,

We, Brian and Candice Ruck (the Ruck family), reside within the proposed Southeast Development Area (SEDA), specifically in the proposed "rural cluster" rezoning area. Our property consists of 2.18 acres currently serviced by a private water well and septic system. We strongly oppose this rezoning and submit detailed questions and concerns regarding specific sections of the Recirculated Draft EIR as outlined below:

Section 3.2 Agricultural Resources

Comment: We strongly oppose any potential restrictions or limitations placed upon our property concerning agricultural activities, water usage, pesticide and herbicide application, and other routine farm operations following rezoning. What authority does the city have to impose such restrictions, and

how will this impact our property rights and ability to pass the land to our children? Furthermore, we oppose any restrictions on farm animals, including pigs, sheep, goats, cows, horses, and chickens, currently permitted under our existing zoning.

Section 3.18 Utilities and Service Systems

Comment: We strongly oppose being forced to financially bear the significant costs of transitioning from private water wells and septic systems to city utilities, especially considering our property has two residential units. Please provide documentation supporting cost estimations, clarify whether property taxes will increase to finance these utilities, and disclose plans for funding this massive infrastructure build-out. Additionally, Policy RC-7-b indicates that all customers will be charged the true, full cost of their water supply. Does this mean existing homeowners will be required to immediately pay the full hookup cost to metered city water upon rezoning, and if so, when will this requirement take effect? Are there any financial assistance or phased-in payment plans available to mitigate the impact on property owners? How does the city intend to avoid destroying existing property values with these significant costs?

Additionally, we are concerned about potential impacts on trash services, recycling, and compost services. Currently serviced by a 3-yard dumpster, how will these services change, and who will service them once rezoned?

Section 3.11 Land Use and Planning

Comment: We strongly oppose rezoning without clear documentation of how it will affect future property rights, zoning restrictions, and property tax implications, especially concerning inheritance by our heirs. Please provide official documentation and policy references for these impacts.

Section 3.1 Aesthetics

Comment: Given the city's documented inability to enforce existing lighting regulations, we strongly oppose any lighting proposals that will negatively impact our rural atmosphere. What enforceable strategies does the city plan to use?

Sections 3.13 Noise and 3.17 Transportation

Comment: We strongly oppose the increased noise, traffic congestion, dust, and related disturbances resulting from the project, particularly traffic impacts from the Terry Bradley Education Center. How will the city effectively mitigate these impacts, reduce local road speed limits, and enforce traffic safety?

Social Equity and Trails: We strongly oppose plans to build walking and bike trails that cut through our front yard, increasing exposure to vehicle exhaust fumes directly at our front door and affecting many other homes. How does the city justify negatively impacting the health and quality of life of existing residents under the guise of social equity.

Sections 3.11 Land Use and 3.15 Public Services

Comment: We strongly oppose the trail system proposed along our property line due to concerns about security, maintenance, and management of homelessness, vandalism, and crime. Given the city's documented challenges with current parks and trails, how will the city address these serious safety concerns?

Section 3.17 Transportation Road and Eminent Domain Concerns

Comment: We strongly oppose taking parts of our front yard for road expansion. Specifically, how much land will be taken, and what is the projected traffic increase on Fancher Avenue? Additionally, since our property extends to the middle of Fancher Creek Canal, we strongly oppose and will not grant permission to build a trail through our private property. Given that legal easements require voluntary agreement or eminent domain, how does the city intend to justify or proceed with eminent domain without explicit property owner consent? Additionally, how will the legal status of any forced easements change if the property is sold or passed down to our children?

Section 3.15 Public Services

Comment: We strongly oppose the project moving forward without detailed information on school infrastructure. When will schools be built, and who will pay for their construction and operation?

Emergency Services: We strongly oppose proceeding without clarity on the number of fire stations planned, response times, and funding sources for emergency services.

Sections 3.18 Utilities, 3.17 Transportation Fiscal Responsibility and Infrastructure

Comment: We strongly oppose forcing residents to bear financial burdens without transparency about spending on city officials, meetings, legal defense, and infrastructure. How will the city support an additional 45,000 homes without exacerbating current utility shortages?

Section 3.11 Land Use Employment and Housing Concerns

Comment: We strongly oppose rezoning plans that propose fewer jobs than households (.822 jobs per household), leading to increased commuting and traffic impacts. How does the city plan to address this?

Sections 3.2 Agricultural Resources, 3.4 Biological Resources Environmental and Agricultural Impact

Comment: We strongly oppose converting prime farmland into urban development. What specific agricultural practices will be permitted in proposed buffer zones, and under whose regulatory authority?

Section 3.3 Air Quality Health Impacts and Clean Air Act Compliance

Comment: Given the EIR explicitly states significant unavoidable air quality impacts, potentially violating compliance with the Clean Air Act, who will be held accountable for the adverse health effects on current residents?

This proposed project represents severe sacrifices, financial burdens, and health risks on existing residents. The current plan contains hundreds of statements outlining ambitious goals and intentions, yet lacks clear explanations on how these will be practically implemented or financed. Our primary question is simple but essential: **How exactly does the city plan to fund the numerous projects and commitments outlined in this extensive 800-page document?** Without a transparent and realistic funding strategy, these promises risk becoming unfunded mandates that significantly burden existing residents.

Given Fresno's documented history of questionable and unethical development practices, including investigations into permit approvals and regulatory violations, what assurances can the city provide to protect existing property owners' rights and

investments? Why has the city not prioritized revitalizing and redeveloping existing underutilized or vacant areas within city limits?

Thank you for your attention to our concerns,

Brian Ruck and Candice Ruck

March 24, 2025

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
Sent by email: longrangeplanning@fresno.gov

RE: Greenfield Coalition Comments on 2025 Recirculated draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Southeast Development Area Plan (2025 SEDA Draft PEIR)

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos:

On behalf of the Greenfield Coalition, for which Regenerate California Innovation (RCI) acts as fiscal agent, we respectfully request the City incorporate the following comments and references regarding the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan and Recirculated draft Program Environmental Impact Report into the record of this matter, and provide substantive responses to these comments.

The Greenfield Coalition is a group of citizens and leaders in Fresno, California who are committed to preserving our city's agricultural land and green spaces, revitalizing our urban core, and advocating for responsible growth and urban planning. We envision a Fresno where all communities - new and historic - thrive with equitable investment, safe neighborhoods, vibrant schools and businesses, and sustainable infrastructure. Through research and advocacy, we strive to protect our existing communities and environment, and aim to create a resilient city that cherishes its heritage while embracing innovative solutions for sustainable growth.[i]

1. **This Greenfield Coalition comment letter fully incorporates the** Public Comments on the 2025 Recirculated draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Southeast Development Area Plan (SEDA Draft PEIR) submitted on behalf of the Fresno Madera Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council and Regenerate California Innovation (RCI), by Patience Milrod, Lawyer, submitted to the City of Fresno on March 24, 2025.

2. **We highlight comments and questions below that emerge from our review of the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR, which are organized around the purpose statements of CEQA assessment as outlined by The Governor's Office of Planning and Research.[ii] We generally find that the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR is substantively and technically deficient and fails to adequately:**

    a. Inform City of Fresno government decisionmakers and the public about the potential environmental effects of proposed SEDA project activities;
    b. Identify the ways that environmental damage by the SEDA project can be avoided or significantly reduced;
    c. Prevent significant, avoidable environmental damage by requiring changes in the SEDA project either by the adoption of alternatives or imposition of appropriate mitigation measures; and
    d. Disclose to the public 'why' the SEDA project should be approved with significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level.

3. **Failure of the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR to adequately inform City of Fresno government decisionmakers and the public about the potential environmental effects of proposed SEDA project activities:**

    a. The 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR incorporates out-of-date future population growth and housing demand estimates.[iii] This results in misrepresentation and extreme overstatement of the demand for the SEDA project, and appropriately elevates the question of the factual need for the SEDA project to move forward at all. If the SEDA project is unnecessary from a future population and housing demand standpoint, how are the significant unavoidable environmental impacts produced by development of SEDA justified?

    b. The 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR fails to provide a timely SEDA buildout focused public facilities financing plan and a comprehensive fiscal impact analysis of the long-term and perpetual operating costs the City is obligated to bear for the full buildout of the SEDA plan area. These deficiencies must be corrected for there to be full public disclosure of the evaluation of all environmental and related plan impacts and to provide an adequate basis for prudent well-informed decision making by City of Fresno government officials. The lack of rigorous and comprehensive financial and fiscal analyses raises critical questions about the sustainability of City General Fund resources and the City's fiscal solvency going forward. How can a City with pervasive and unmitigated cumulative urban decay, blight, and increasing negative environmental impacts, take on 9,000 acres of additional fiscal responsibility and adequately address huge existing public infrastructure and service deficits as well as meet future needs for public facilities, safety, other municipal services and

environmental quality?

4. **Failure of the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR to adequately identify the ways that environmental damage by the SEDA project can be avoided or significantly reduced:**

    a. The 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR contributes to the real environmental damage the SEDA project could otherwise avoid, by incorporating false and unsupportable General Plan consistency analyses, violating standards for General Plan consistency. (PIER, Table 3.11-1: General Plan Consistency Analysis, Page 3.11-24). Contrary to consistency statements in the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR, the SEDA plan detracts from and does not support a General Plan focus on infill development within the existing city limits, will not enhance existing residential neighborhoods through regulations, code enforcement, and compatible infill development, and will compete through SEDA planned land uses, design, and development intensities with demand for Downtown development and related investment.[iv] Most of the General Plan consistency analysis provided in the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR is not only substantively and technically deficient, it is speciously false, confusing the public and decision makers about potential negative environmental and other impacts of SEDA.

    b. The 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR does not disclose or mitigate the environmental impacts of directing billions of dollars into SEDA infrastructure, forcing scarce city resources away from existing neighborhoods, commercial districts and Downtown.

5. **Failure of the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR to adequately prevent significant, avoidable environmental damage by requiring changes in the SEDA project either by the adoption of alternatives or imposition of appropriate mitigation measures:**

    a. The 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR inappropriately recommends a piecemeal and confusing approach for plan impact analysis and mitigation, resulting in substantively and technically deficient cumulative impact analyses. The 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR does not supply plan level analysis and mitigation, punting to case-by-case future development project application environmental reviews and mitigation, which prevents prevention of significant, avoidable environmental damage. The public and decision makers are clearly not provided with the adequate assessments of SEDA impacts required by CEQA.

    b. The 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR dismisses the need for evaluation of project alternatives (like an Infill Development Alternative and/or a West Area Neighborhood Specific Plan Alternative, for example), because of the scale of SEDA development proposed and its land use impacts. However, as noted above, the scale of SEDA plan is no longer justified by current relevant future

population growth and housing demand projections. As evaluated by the City of Fresno in a detailed parcel analysis in current Housing Element documents, existing city of Fresno infill housing development capacities can absorb multiples of realistic housing demand for the entire city for decades into the future.[v] Also, the Recirculated Draft EIR for the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan released for public review and comment on March 12, 2025, indicates a capacity for total housing units well above what is errantly proposed by SEDA.[vi] Not evaluating these types of plan/project alternatives through the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR diminishes the efficacy and relevance of the CEQA assessment.

6. **Failure of the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR to adequately disclose to the public 'why' the SEDA project should be approved with significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level:**

   a. Restating again that the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR fails to meet standards for public involvement by failing to provide timely circulation for public comment of a SEDA focused public facilities financing plan and a comprehensive fiscal impact analysis of the SEDA buildout on the sustainability of City General Funds and the City's fiscal solvency going forward.
   b. If you combine the comments in our letter above, and all the detailed comments and references contained in the Public Comments on the 2025 Recirculated draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Southeast Development Area Plan (SEDA Draft PEIR) submitted on behalf of the Fresno Madera Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council and Regenerate California Innovation (RCI), by Patience Milrod, Lawyer, submitted to the City of Fresno on March 24, 2025, it is apparent that the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR fails to adequately disclose to the public why the SEDA project should be approved with significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level.

7. **In summary, the City of Fresno fails to provide a substantive and technically accurate CEQA assessment through the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR that fully informs the public and decision makers as required; fails to provide a factual and believable 'why' the SEDA plan should move forward; and fails as a tool capable of providing a defense for legislative actions to approve and implement the Draft SEDA Specific Plan. Major critical and comprehensive analyses are missing and much work is still required to demonstrate evidence for conclusions and findings in the 2025 SEDA Draft PEIR. The Draft SEDA plan and EIR should be pulled from consideration in public hearings, and if not, denied by the Fresno City Council. In any event, a citywide and regional effort with extensive community and business involvement should be initiated by the City to comprehensively update the City of Fresno General Plan with the most contemporary factual data and relevant future population, economic and fiscal trend analyses.**

8. **With respect to the vision and goals of the Greenfield Coalition – Elevating infill infrastructure, community revitalization, housing development, economic opportunity and health and well-being within the existing city limits is our priority. We see this happening through focused City efforts working alongside residents, businesses and developers. The action items below are being discussed by different local community groups and developers and merit consideration as effective tools to make infill development feasible and competitive at the scale needed in Fresno.**

    a. **By-Right Fast-Track Infill Housing** – 90-120 day streamlined entitlement, permitting and ministerial map approvals for 1 to 50 Units of Single Family (SF), Multiple-Family (MF), ADUs, and Junior ADUs related Infill Housing already allowed by existing zoning. **By-Right Fast-Track** process and timeline to include single coordinated system of all City departments and interagency partner sign-offs and approvals.
    b. **City Initiates Proactive Infill Infrastructure Development and Land Assembly** to support all possible/feasible infill housing units on parcels identified by Housing Element
    c. **Combine Affordable Infill Housing and Transportation Sales Tax Initiative** – Or create companion complementary sales tax initiatives
    d. Maximize All Possible Financing District and Other Options – including EIFDs, NIFTIs, Revolving Loan Funds, Housing Bonds, etc.
    e. Leverage the Housing Element to Advance Tenant & Community Opportunity to Purchase Policies – TOPA-COPA[vii]

Respectfully submitted,

KR Bergthold

Keith Bergthold, CEO, Regenerate California Innovation, On behalf of the Greenfield Coalition – [redacted]

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[i] **Greenfield Coalition Website:** [redacted]

[ii] **THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH, CEQA 101:** https://lci.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/20210809-CEQA_101.pdf

[iii] **Milrod, 3-24-25 SEDA Comment Letter:** In December of 2024, the City paid First Carbon Solutions an additional $153,636 to author a second Recirculated draft PEIR (see endnote 'iv' below); at that point, the accurate DOF and FCOG population data were readily available. In fact, when one now follows the link provided in the Recirculated PEIR at footnote 5 on page 3.14-2, one finds FCOG's October 2024 updated data https://www.fresnocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2024-Fresno-COG-2023-2060-Growth-Projections-REPORT.pdf), which show a Fresno population in 2025 of 595,370 (not the PEIR's 621,540 - SEDA PEIR, at p. 3.14-2). FCOG's updated data report a 2050 Fresno City population of 646,260 (not the PEIR's 728,200). The accurate, FCOG, data show a Fresno City increase of 50,890 people between 2025 and 2050, not the almost 107,000 predicted in the PEIR. The accurate, FCOG, data yield only an additional 16,963 households

by 2050, well under half of the 35,553 households the PEIR's figures would project.

These errors in growth projections are fundamental: According to SEDA, its plans for 45,000 new housing units would comprise planned growth of only 31% percent of the total planned capacity for the City (PEIR, p. 3.14-13 – Section 3.14.4 - Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures). However, using accurate, FCOG, growth figures, it is clear that SEDA development would amount to almost *three times* (265%) the actual housing needs for all of Fresno City by 2050. Such a glut of new homes on the market, and the public investment necessary to launch it, would shatter the General Plan's goals for infill development and revitalization of Fresno City existing neighborhoods.

[iv] **SEDA Recirculated Draft PEIR (2-7-25):** https://files.ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/276421-4/attachment/E7xfuoY9aiwTd1F4Br6y2xPNwz9jb4qYaGAHTppQZrJ9eAd4pBW8DIVTfVOghVwTqrTF1qJYWqMyxlEl0

[v] **APPENDIX 1E: CITY OF FRESNO - Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional 2023-2031 Housing Element, December 2024:** https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Appendix-1E_Fresno_December-2024-10w309.pdf

[vi] **Recirculated Draft EIR for the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan:** https://www.fresno.gov/planning/plans-projects-under-review/#west-area-neighborhoods-specific-plan

[vii] **TOPA-COPA:** https://publicadvocates.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/topa-copa-policies.pdf

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: SEDA
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025 2:12:33 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am a homeowner in the area of [redacted]. In recent years, many new housing tracts have popped up in the area, causing traffic jams, accidents and additional noise from traffic.
Additional housing in this rural neighborhood is already interfering with my right to quiet enjoyment of my home. This is an agricultural neighborhood, that's why we moved out here, to enjoy the peace and quiet.
I am also upset at the idea of having to be forced to hook up to a city sewer line. I have a well and septic I've already paid for, why should I pay for a sewer?
Fresnos budget is short 20 million short of current needs, fix that first.

Patti Bibb
[redacted]

March 13, 2025

City of Fresno
Planning & Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: SEDA EIR, Sec3.17-5

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

I am writing this letter for two reasons. First to express opposition to the annexation proposed in the SOUTHEAST AREA DEVELOPMENT AREA (SEDA), previously known as the SOUTHEAST GROWTH AREA (SEGA), and second to express my opposition to the acceptance of the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) currently under consideration.

Because I am not an expert, I began reading the EIR with something I am familiar with. I saw Temperance Avenue at the top of page 3.17-5, so I started reading. My question; **'HOW CAN A DOCUMENT THAT WILL SO GREATLY AFFECT PROPERTY OWNERS IN FRESNO COUNTY HAVE SUCH A GROSSLY ERRONEOUS STATEMENT AS THE ONE REGARDING TEMPERANCE AVENUE'?**

Temperance Ave. is designated throughout as a "SUPER ARTERIAL". This is described as a 4, 5, or 6 lane road with a raised median.

It is described on page 3.17-5 as a four lane north-south arterial with an interchange at SR-180. Land adjacent to Temperance Avenue consists mostly of farmland, and the road becomes a two-lane facility south of Hamilton Avenue. The speed limit along Temperance Avenue is 40 mph.

Apart from the four lane at SR-180, **nothing of the above is factual.**

Temperance Avenue is a Super Arterial as defined from Shields Avenue north to Dakota Avenue. South of Shields Avenue to the four lane approaching SR-180 it is a two lane. South of Kings Canyon it becomes a three lane for a short period before returning to a two lane. It is not largely farmland, it is largely rural residential.

The speed limit along Temperance Avenue is never 40 mph, It varies along its length from 45 mph to 55 mph.

Every scenario for the road that has been previously presented by the city has shown it as being upgraded to a six lane with raised median, a raised median to frontage roads and pedestrian walkways. This is in the city's General Plan. We attended a city meeting at Boris Elementary School on this subject.

In no way does this coincide with any description found in the EIR.

If this is an example of the accuracy to the EIR as a whole, I think it calls into question the entire EIR. Especially since it would be so easy to accurately describe a single road.

The EIR says the speed limit on Jensen Avenue is 45 mph. In fact, through the plan area, the speed limit is 55 mph. It was, until recently 65 mph.

These may be small errors but they are indicative of poor research, possibly even research that has never been actual on-site research. Such sloppiness in one area will likely be evident in other areas and calls into question the accuracy and validity of the entire EIR. Also, perusing the full report, one finds page after page of repetitive language that seems carefully crafted to actually say nothing. A classic case of boilerplate that has probably been used in many other reports. This is certainly not the work of a report that actually took years and thousands of dollars to prepare.

I feel strongly that it would be foolish to accept this EIR because of its demonstrable errors and faulty research.

Why is this important? Because this is base or background upon which policy and implementation are built. The end product is never any better than the foundation on which it is built.

Thank you,

Ross & Marie Potter

[redacted]

CC: Annalisa Perea, Dist. 1
Mike Karbassi, Dist. 2
Miguel Arias, Dist. 3
Tyler Maxwell, Dist. 4
Elected Member, Dist. 5
Nick Richardson, Dist. 6
Nelson Esparza, Dist. 7
Todd Stermer, City Clerk

From:	Laurie Tidyman-Jones
To:	LongRangePlanning
Subject:	SEDA
Date:	Wednesday, March 12, 2025 7:29:16 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

According to the Fresno city planning Department, Tanning is to reflect citizens and that we are to receive a red carpet invite for input and change

Is that why 400 letters of concern about Seda were tossed?

Is it that why the demanded Revised EIR report is just a push for the project with the same illogical Assumptions based on inaccurate data?

Is that why it is attempting to avoid costly mitigation for the massive development's environmental impacts, particularly regarding greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT)? This affects every single citizen!

("According to city documents, SEDA would increase Fresno's annual carbon emissions by approximately 500,000 tons – effectively wiping out the city's progress on climate goals for the next two decades. The project's estimated emissions could carry a hefty $25.5 million annual price tag to clean up emissions, according to standard federal accounting measures.")

Is that whyFresno officials are making an extraordinary claim: due to the area's planned 1-to-1 jobs-to-housing ratio, residents in this car-dependent suburban development will drive over 80% less than standard planning models predict — somehow making them even less car-dependent than downtown San Franciscans, according to official data from the state's air resources board, and even New Yorkers"?

Is that why A plan that would cost one to $3 billion in infrastructure is more important to you than enhancing and taking care of a city that is already 22 million in the hole? Is this a red carpet two people already living in Fresno and the house?

I worked at Reedley College for 16 years and Family lived in Sanger for 30 years. I know that area pretty well. The audacity to suggest that all those people in those 45,000 homes are going to be working in that area is absurd. Employment there is extremely challenging and there are no new mega businesses that would hire all those high-end salary expecting folks.

SEDA is bad for South east Fresno, bad for the county and bad for current residents of Fresno. It is only a good plan for developers and the planning commission needs to not be representing them as it appears they are!

Sincerely,
Laurie Tidyman-Jones
[redacted]

County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

April 4, 2025

Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
longrangeplanning@fresno.gov
City of Fresno, Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
SUBJECT: SEDA City of Fresno

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos,

The County of Fresno appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the subject project being reviewed by the City of Fresno. The proposed development of approximately 9,000-acres to include residential districts, employment districts, open space, agriculture, and green infrastructure. Project location bound by Gould Canal on the north, Highland and McCall Avenues on the east, Minnewawa, Temperance, and Locan Avenues on the west, and Jensen and North Avenues on the south.

The documents received for this review were circulated to our various Fresno County Public Works and Planning divisions. See comments below.

Fresno County Transportation Planning:

The proposed Specific Plan has the potential to significantly impact on the county's transportation network. It is essential to ensure that the plan aligns with regional mobility goals, mitigates traffic congestion, and enhances connectivity between local and county roadways. Considerations should include roadway capacity, traffic flow, and multimodal transportation options to support anticipated growth. Additionally, coordination with county transportation agencies will be necessary to assess potential impacts on county-maintained infrastructure and identify opportunities for regional transportation enhancements. At this time, the Transportation Planning Unit requests to be included in the review process for any future transportation studies related to the SEDA Specific Plan.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Hector Luna at hluna@fresnocounty.gov

Fresno County Development Engineering:

- A large portion of the subject Southeast Development Area is within the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) Drainage Zone and Boundary with rural streams, any proposed site improvements requirements including Notice of Availability

(NOA) for a Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) should be referred to the FMFCD.

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
5469 E. Olive Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 456-3292
developmentreview@fresnofloodcontrol.org

- According to FEMA FIRM Panel 2135H, 1595H and 1695H, portions of the area of the subject Southeast Development Area (SEDA) above Tulare Avenue are within Flood Zone A, Flood Zone AE and Floodway Areas in Zone AE. Floodway Zone AE, which are subject to flooding from the 100-year storm, and shaded Flood Zone X. Floodway Areas in Zone AE refers to the channel of a stream plus adjacent floodplain areas that must be kept free of encroachment so that the 1% annual chance flood can be carried without substantial increases in flood heights according to FEMA FIRM.

Fresno County Policy Planning:

According to Impact AG-1, there are approximately 2,475 acres of Prime Farmland, approximately 1,352 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, approximately 1,189 acres of Farmland of Local Importance, and approximately 1,725 acres of Unique Farmland for a total of 6,741 acres within the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan (Plan Area) that are being utilized for agricultural uses. Most of the 6,741 acres will be converted to urban uses.

Per MM AG-1, project proponents, prior to initiation of grading activities, shall compensate for the loss of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland within the Plan Area by preserving an equivalent type and quantity of land at a 1:1 ratio through recordation of a conservation easement, or other recorded instrument, such as a covenant or deed that restricts the preserved land in perpetuity to agricultural uses.

The MM AG-1 states, in the alternative, if the city adopts a Farmland Preservation Program pursuant to Fresno General Plan Policy RC-9-c, project proponents may compensate for the loss of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland by complying with the adopted Farmland Preservation Program.

Since there is no Farmland Preservation Program has been developed and may not be developed to address mitigating the loss of 6,741 acres of important farmland to non-agricultural uses, the EIR must address how the City of Fresno will implement MM AG-1 for the equivalent type and quantity of land at a 1:1 ratio for the loss of 6,741 acres of farmland. The EIR should address whether the city or a non-profit organization (on behalf of the city) will administer the implementation of MM AG-1.

Conflict of the Specific Plan with lands under the Williamson Act contract.

The implementation of the proposed Specific Plan would result in conversion of significant acreage of Williamson Act contracted lands to non-agricultural uses. Lands have been placed under the Williamson Act contract to preserve productive contracted farmland for the production of food and fiber.

Under the Impact AG-2 (Project-level Conflict with Existing Zoning or Williamson Act Contract), the DEIR states that the Plan Area includes a large acreage of land enrolled in the Williamson Act program which restricts the use of contracted land to agricultural uses. The DEIR states that the continued implementation of the approved General Plan and the proposed Specific Plan could conflict with existing Williamson Act Contracts because non-agricultural uses are allowed on the land under a Williamson Act Contract. It should be noted that this is an error. Non-agricultural uses are not permitted on land enrolled in the Williamson Act program. The DEIR should be corrected to state that: “non-agricultural uses are not allowed on land under a Williamson Act Contract”.

The DEIR states that while the policies included in the Specific Plan would directly limit farmland conversion and thereby help to preserve agriculture in the Plan Area and implementation of MM AG-1 would reduce impacts related to the conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use, buildout of the proposed project would still result in the conversion of Williamson Act land to nonagricultural uses. Therefore, this impact would be significant and unavoidable without any available mitigation to reduce it to a less-than-significant level. It should be noted that MM AG-1 states that the project proponents shall compensate for the loss of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland within the Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Area. Although the implementation of MM AG-1 may not reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level, it will substantially reduce the impact of the conversion of productive agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.

The DEIR does not address whether the City of Fresno will annex lands that are under the Williamson Act contract or not. The comment letter dated March 14, 2022, sent to the City of Fresno during the Notice of Preparation period by the California Department of Conservation (Department) staff, requested that the Department be notified in the event of Williamson Act contract land being non-renewed or removed from the Williamson Act contract through contract cancellation.

The County of Fresno staff recommends that the EIR address how the city will handle parcels within the Specific Plan area that are restricted by Williamson Act contracts. County staff further recommend that the Policy Planning Unit of the Fresno County Public Works and Planning be notified if the city will carry the Williamson Act contracts

on parcels that will be included within the Specific Plan area or if such parcels will be removed from the Williamson Act program.

If you have any questions, please email me at ogake@fresnocountyca.gov or call me at (559) 600-4224.

This concludes Fresno County comments on the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Arianna Brown
Arianna Brown, Planner -- Development Services and Capital Projects Division

"G:\4360Devs&Pln\PROJSEC\PROJDOCS\Environmental\OAR\City of Fresno\Southeast Development Area Specific Plan\2025\SEDA City of Fresno - Response Letter.docx"

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LEGAL ADMINISTRATOR
LYNN M. HOFFMAN

March 24, 2025

VIA EMAIL [longrangeplanning@fresno.gov] & U.S. MAIL

Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
Planning & Development Department
CITY OF FRESNO
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for Specific Plan for the Southeast Development Area

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report ("RDEIR") for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan ("SEDA") that is currently being proposed by the City of Fresno (the "City"). I am submitting these comments on behalf of InvestFresno and landowners within the plan area.

Founded in 2023, InvestFresno includes a diverse coalition of Fresnans dedicated to building a healthy and sustainable economy that elevates the community of Fresno for all of its residents. InvestFresno is committed to working with community leaders, business owners and residents to help raise the local standard of living, create more career opportunities, improve local neighborhoods, and strengthen community services.

My clients generally support the SEDA and applaud the City's stated intent to bring "45,000 homes and 37,000 jobs" to the plan area by 2050. However, they likewise believe the SEDA and the related RDEIR can be improved in several material respects to help achieve these

important objectives, while at the same time fulfilling the City's obligations under the California Environmental Quality Act, Pub. Resources Code, § 21000, *et seq.* ("CEQA") and State Planning and Zoning Law, Govt. Code, § 65000, *et seq.* ("PZL").

A. The City Should Promote—and Should Not Reduce or Eliminate—Manufacturing and Other Employment-Generating Land Uses Across the City of Fresno, Including the SEDA Plan Area

As an initial matter, InvestFresno continues to be concerned about job-creating land uses being written out of the City's long-range planning documents. Over the past decade, the City's long-range planning documents have been gradually eliminating job-creating zoning districts throughout the City. For example, the 2017 Southwest Specific Plan ("SWSP") eliminated ***all*** industrially-zoned property from the plan area,[1] resulting in existing businesses having to undertake the expensive and lengthy process of seeking rezones and plan amendments to avoid legal non-conformities. The proposed Central South Area Specific Plan ("CSASP") likewise does not include any properties zoned industrial within that plan area.[2] The West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan land use map shows less than five small properties—all adjacent to S.R. 99 and containing existing development—as zoned light industrial, with no heavy industrial zoning.[3] The recent South Central Specific Plan sought to downzone virtually all undeveloped properties within the plan area from light industrial (IL) and heavy industrial (IH).[4] And aside from a small handful of properties along the S.R. 180 corridor in West Fresno, along Golden State Boulevard in Northwest Fresno, and within the Palm Bluffs area, there are no undeveloped industrial-zoned properties elsewhere in the City. There is currently little room for new manufacturing or general industrial growth within the City's jurisdictional boundaries. The dearth of land available for manufacturing and other heavy and light industrial development in the City will not only reduce economic investment in the City, it will steer economic investment elsewhere.

This is of significant concern to InvestFresno, as the SEDA does not include ***any*** properties with an IL or IH land use designation. Instead, the SEDA contemplates the introduction of a new zoning concept entitled "Flexible Research & Development" district, described as follows:

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[1] https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200624-Southwest_Fresno_Plan-case-study.pdf ["Key outcomes of the SWSP development process include a new zoning map that prohibits further industrial development in the community"].

[2] https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Fresno_Central_Southeast_Area_Subsequent_MND_signed.pdf

[3] https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-Planned-Land-Use-Map.pdf

[4] https://www.fresno.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/1_South-Central-Specific-Plan-November-2024.pdf

> Flexible Research and Development Districts are primarily located west of the Briggs Canal and/ or south of Jensen Avenue and are intended to promote uses such as research and development, light manufacturing, product testing centers, and office development. This area could also include compatible commercial uses such as restaurants, coffee shops, cafes, printing and publishing, dry cleaners, and supporting businesses. Having access in these areas to regional transportation corridors (both road and rail) is critical, however, residential uses will not be allowed in Flexible Research and Development areas.

(SEDA at 15.) Although unclear, the Flexible Research and Development District does not include any references to IL or IH land uses. This assumption appears to be consistent with the analysis, as shown by tables in the RDEIR containing only land use assumptions for employment districts other than IL or IH. (See RDEIR at 3.18-57 [Table 3.18-1].) Moreover, Table 11 of the Traffic Study only includes inputs for Housing, Retail/Commercial, Office, and Government/Civic land uses. (See Traffic Study at 27.)

My clients are very concerned about the elimination of IL and IH zoning, which undermines the creation of jobs in the City. This is particularly true for high-quality manufacturing jobs. Most manufacturing uses fall within the definition of "General Industrial." However, most of the land use designations that could fall within the Flexible Research and Development Districts do not allow General Industrial uses. And those that do, such as the Regional Business Park (RBP) and Business Park (BP) zoning districts, require that new or expanded manufacturing uses—no matter how small—go through the cumbersome conditional use permit (CUP) process, which in the City of Fresno typically means a full EIR must be prepared. **For all but the largest manufacturing projects, a CUP requirement will render a new manufacturing project non-viable.**

The fact that the land uses contemplated in the SEDA is unclear is of significant concern. If the City's intent is to eliminate IL and IH land use designations in the plan area, the City should be up front about that, instead of forcing a member of the public to guess at the City's intentions by reviewing which land uses are omitted in the tables of an EIR or a technical report. At the very least, the City should update the Project Description, and recirculate both the SEDA and the accompanying RDEIR, so the public knows the City is once again seeking to eliminate industrial land uses from yet another plan area.

Better yet, the City should recognize that "manufacturing," "industrial," and "job-creators" are not dirty words. Instead of reflexively downzoning or eliminating industrial zoning, the City should instead work with stakeholders to provide clear and feasible mitigation that will avoid potential impacts to sensitive receptors.

The elimination of IL and IH zoning districts within the SEDA is not only bad policy, but contrary to the significant investment by numerous local entities to support the growth of manufacturing in the Fresno area and provide pathways to high-quality jobs:

- *State Center Community College Training Institute Welding Program*. This long-standing, no-cost accelerated welding program provides critical skills to residents, significantly reducing the financial burden of training.[5]

- *Good Jobs Challenge Manufacturing Training*. The Good Jobs Challenge supports programs at Fresno City College and Reedley College, including (i) a nine-month Maintenance Mechanics program at Fresno City College, which recently graduated its first cohort on January 31, 2025; and (ii) short-term, entry-level training programs for manufacturing production workers and machine operators at both Reedley College and Fresno City College.[6]

- *Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) Chapter*. The first FAME Chapter west of the Rocky Mountains was just recently launched with Reedley College as the partner institution. This program, announced at the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance's (SJVMA) "Valley Made" summit in October 2024, will provide advanced manufacturing technicians with robust training and employer-sponsored on-the-job experience. The first cohort is scheduled to enroll in August 2025.[7]

For the above programs to succeed, and for the City of Fresno and its residents to realize the benefit of these programs, it is critical that the City incentivize investment in high-quality manufacturing jobs. The City should not increase barriers to development, such as making high-quality manufacturing projects subject to a conditional use permit, as the SEDA appears to contemplate.

B. The SEDA Has the Potential to Create Agricultural Non-Conformities

One of the stated goals and objectives of the SEDA is to preserve the long-term viability of agricultural land uses. However, if the City eliminates light industrial and heavy industrial zoning, agricultural land uses would be undermined within the Flexible Research and Development District. This is because most agricultural land uses are either not permitted within

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5 https://www.scccd.edu/departments/educational-services-and-institutional-effectiveness/training-institute/welding-program.html

6 https://abc30.com/post/accelerated-workforce-programs-scccd-are-preparing-students-new-careers/15416253/

7 https://fame-usa.com/fame-program-locations-original/california-fame-trash/central-valley-chapter/

the zoning districts mentioned in the definition of the Flexible Research and Development District, or subject to a CUP.

- ***Agricultural Processing***: is not allowed in the Office (O) Zone District, and subject to a CUP in Business Park (RB) and Regional Business Park (RBP) Zoning Districts. This land use is permitted in the IL and IH Zoning Districts.

- ***Agricultural Support Services***: is not allowed in the Office (O) Zone District, and subject to a CUP in Business Park (RB) Zoning District. This land use is permitted in the IL, IH, and RBP Zoning Districts.

- ***Crop Cultivation***: This land use is permitted in the IL and IH Zoning Districts—and not the O, BP, or RBP Zoning Districts.

- ***Produce Stand***: This land use is permitted in the IL and IH Zoning Districts—and not the O, BP, or RBP Zoning Districts.

- ***Urban Farm***: This land use is permitted in the IL and IH Zoning Districts—and not the O, BP, or RBP Zoning Districts.

In short, if the City's intention is to preserve the viability of agricultural land uses, it should authorized those land uses in the applicable zoning districts instead of creating legal non-conforming uses.

C. To Ensure SEDA is Consistent with the Goals and Policies of the City's General Plan, the City Should Allow Industrial Land Uses

California's Planning and Zoning Law ("PZL") requires that all municipalities adopt a general plan. (Govt. Code, § 65300.) While charter cities are not subject to *some* of the PZL's consistency requirements, the Government Code expressly requires that a charter city's general plan to be *internally* consistent. (See Govt. Code, § 65300.5.)

Moreover, a subsequent project that is *not consistent* with a charter city's general plan gives rise to a *presumption* that the project approval constitutes an abuse of discretion. (See, e.g., *City of Del Mar v. City of San Diego* (1982) 133 Cal.App.3d 401, 414-15.) A "project is consistent with the general plan if, considering all its aspects, it will further the objectives and policies of the general plan and not obstruct their attainment." (*Corona-Norco*, *supra*, 17 Cal.App.4th at 994.) While perfect conformity may not be required, "a project ***must*** be compatible with the objectives and policies of the general plan." (*Endangered Habitats League, Inc. v. County of Orange* (2005) 131 Cal.App.4th 777, 782 [emphasis added] [citing *Families Unafraid to Uphold Rural etc. County v. Board of Supers.* (1998) 62 Cal.App.4th 1332, 1336].) "A project is inconsistent if it conflicts with a general plan policy that is fundamental, mandatory, and clear."

(*Endangered Habitats*, *supra*, 131 Cal.App.4th at 782 [citing *Families Unafraid*, *supra*, 62 Cal.App.4th at 1341-42].)

To the extent the SEDA disallows all Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial land uses, the SEDA would conflict with several objectives and policies of the City of Fresno's General Plan. For instance, ED-1 of the General Plan emphasizes the need to support economic development by "maintaining a strong working relationship with the business community and improving the business climate for current and future business" (General Plan at 2-21.) Indeed, expanding and retaining industrial industries within the City of Fresno is the "'bread and butter' of a solid economic development program . . . ." (General Plan at 2-13.)

To implement this objective, ED-1-d encourages the City to "[e]xplore increasing the amount of land properly zoned, *consistent with the General Plan*, and ready to be expeditiously developed, redeveloped, and/or revitalized for *economic development and job creation purposes*." (General Plan at 2-21 [emphasis added].) Yet the SEDA contemplates the downzoning of several industrially-zoned properties.

Further, to the extent the Flexible Research and Development District does not allow Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial land uses, the SEDA would not include any such uses, and the SEDA would have the opposite effect of increasing land zoned for economic development and job creation purposes. Indeed, the downzoning of properties away from heavy and light industrial land uses within the SEDA—combined with the City's limited opportunities for industrial growth or expansion—would consequently steer existing and potential economic investment elsewhere.

Such results conflict with several other General Plan policies and objectives including:

- Policy ED-3: "Attract and recruit businesses and offer incentives for economic development." (General Plan at 2-23.) To implement this objective, ED-3-a encourages the City to adopt and implement programs to expand existing businesses and attract new businesses. Eliminating and/or downzoning industrially-zoned properties would diminish the City's capability of attracting and recruiting new and existing businesses to invest in the City.

- Policy LU-7: "Plan and support industrial development to promote job growth." (General Plan at 3-54.) The City is intended to "[p]romote industrial land use clusters to maximize the operational efficiency of similar activities." (*Id.* at 3-55 [Policy LU-7-c].) The General Plan notes a need to provide relatively high-income jobs to promote economic development. Several industrial businesses, including manufacturing, provide generally high paying jobs and opportunities for advancement. (See *id.*, Table 2.5.)

> To foster these job opportunities, industrial development is critical. If industrial development dissipates, the opportunities for job growth also disappear.

To the extent the SEDA eliminates light and heavy industrial land uses, the SEDA would also be internally inconsistent with several of the proposed goals and policies in that document:

- Policy UF-1.3 seeks to promote "employment-generating development within the Plan Area to expand Fresno's employment base beyond traditional industries (as specified in the policies of the Economic Opportunity Chapter)." However, only a limited number of employment-generating land uses are permitted within the Flexible Research and Development District, and several land uses permitted under light industrial and heavy industrial zoning are either not permitted or only permitted subject to a CUP.

- Objective UF-4 contemplates that the City would "[a]ttract high-profile businesses to create bustling and desirable Employment Districts," yet this would be exceedingly difficult if the land uses are restricted to those specifically mentioned under the definition of the Flexible Research and Development District.

- Policy EO-1.2 contemplates that the City would build on its "current workforce development efforts by providing career technical education, apprenticeship, and other upskilling opportunities for those who live or work in the SEDA." However, as noted above, if the land uses are restricted to those identified in the definition of the Flexible Research and Development District, most manufacturing projects could only be permitted subject to a CUP, which would frustrate development.

- Objective EO-2 contemplates that the City would target growth "industries in which Fresno has a competitive advantage." The City, however, has a competitive advantage in the field of manufacturing due to its workforce and training programs. However, if the land uses are restricted to those identified in the definition of the Flexible Research and Development District, it would become more difficult to develop manufacturing land uses.

- Policy EO-2.1 seeks to promote "industry clusters that build on Fresno's local strengths," including: "Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy, Construction, Food Processing, Healthcare, Information Processing, Logistics & Distribution, Software Development, Tourism, and Water

Technology." However, if the land uses are restricted to those identified in the definition of the Flexible Research and Development District, the above land uses would be much more difficult to develop because many would be subject to a CUP.

- Policy EO-5.3 contemplates that the City would "[d]evelop Flexible Research & Development Districts with targeted sales, property value, and employment intensity"; "Promote the growth of manufacturing, distribution and research and development employment in the areas of the SEDA where these uses are allowed"; "Encourage the formation of industry clusters"; and "Attract large employers." However, if the land uses are restricted to those identified in the definition of the Flexible Research and Development District, it would be far more difficult to develop and promote these endeavors, as most manufacturing development would be subject to a CUP.

- Policy UF-1.6 seeks to promote agricultural land uses in the plan area, "to allow the continued operation of agricultural activities which occur adjacent to new residential developments." This objective is directly contrary to the elimination of light industrial and heavy industrial land uses, which allow continuing agricultural uses, while the other land uses mentioned within the Flexible Research and Development District, which do not.

D. Conclusion

Thank you for the consideration of these comments. My clients look forward to clarification regarding the land uses permitted in the City's proposed Flexible Research and Development District and collaboration with the City to ensure the long-term viability of job-creating land uses.

Very truly yours,

John P. Kinsey

From: MyEmail
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: 3.10 Hydrology
Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 9:58:43 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

How will the city support the demand for water and sewage, I doubt the Fowler trunks line can support the demand for thousand of new homes and busineses. Thirty five years ago the water tabel was thirty feet at Clinton and Locan, now it is pushing ninety feet. On top of the demand for water and sewage the demand for electricy will increase to support the water and sewag infracture, and all the new homes. You need to look into the cost of electricy, read your PG&E bill from what was a few years ago to what it is today.

3.6 Energy
Where will all the electrical energy come from, there are no new electrical plants being built. Canada can cut a portion of our power supply the next time Trump pissses Canada off. In case you don't understand everything you are proposing depends on a secure source energy. What happened to all the Biomass powerplants that were bilt in Fresno County that are no longer in operation.

From: Mary Ann Quann
To: LongRangePlanning
Subject: SEDA comments
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025 9:26:09 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I'm opposed to continuing with the SEDA plans. I don't see that encouraging infill projects and addressing current infrastructure needs in Fresno is being addressed.

Mary Ann Quann M.D.
[redacted]

Via Email [longrangeplanning@fresno.gov] and United States Mail

Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
Planning & Development Department
CITY OF FRESNO
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for Specific Plan for the Southeast Development Area

Dear Ms. Pagoulatos:

Parga Partners Limited Partnership (Fowler Packing) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan (SEDA) that is currently being proposed by the City of Fresno (the City). Fowler Packing has owned property within the SEDA plan area for decades and has a vested interest in the future growth and development of the community.

Flexibility in Land Use Distribution

As landowners with contiguous land holdings within the SEDA plan area, we request that the City provide flexibility in the placement of land use designations on our properties. Specifically, we seek the ability to adjust the location of land use polygons within our contiguous parcels, provided that the overall densities, acreages, and land use mix analyzed in the RDEIR remain consistent. This flexibility is essential to ensure efficient site planning, optimize infrastructure investments, and respond to evolving market conditions while remaining aligned with the intent and goals of the SEDA.

Light Industrial & Manufacturing Uses in Flexible Research & Development

Fowler Packing owns land within the SEDA plan area designated for Flexible Research & Development. We request clarification on whether the RDEIR has considered light industrial and manufacturing uses within this designation. Specifically, could the City confirm that the thresholds analyzed in the RDEIR would allow for light industrial and manufacturing uses within the Flexible Research & Development land use designation?

Proposed Amendments to Land Use Designations

Fowler Packing has concerns with the proposed land use designations on the following parcels and would request City staff to consider the following amendments:

Property (APN)	SEDA Proposed Land Use	Fowler Packing Requested Land Use
316-040-78	Institutional	Light Industrial
316-040-80	Institutional	Light Industrial / Community Center (5 acres)
316-040-81	Mixed Residential (20)/ Community Center (10)	Mixed Residential (25) / Community Center (5)
316-051-20	Office Center	Light Industrial / Community Center (5 acres)
316-051-84S	Office Center/ Community Center	Light Industrial
316-051-09	Neighborhood Center/ Neighborhood Residential / Flexible R&D	Replace the Flexible R&D (20 ac) with Neighborhood Residential
313-082-53	Mixed Residential	Community Center

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and we look forward to receiving clarification from the City regarding light industrial and manufacturing uses within the Flexible Research & Development District.

Respectfully submitted,



Leland Parnagian
President, Fowler Packing

City of Fresno
Planning and Development Department
Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

March 17, 2025

Subject: Comments regarding the SEDA EIR

I am a property owner in the SEPO area. I hereby respectfully offer the following comments in response to the latest EIR.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES:

Under Project Objectives, it is stated “Respect the major economic and cultural role of agriculture in the Valley”. The entire SEDA project shows a lack of respect for agriculture in the valley. Impact AG-1 states SEDA “would establish a buffer between the urban area of the plan and the surrounding agricultural land”. Obviously, this shows no respect for existing agricultural properties within the plan area. An example is turning existing agricultural land into Section 8 housing. Item 3.2-10 will create opportunities for small farms from 2-20 acres. What happens to the “small farms” that already exist. According to Policy HC-5-g basically states that owners of agricultural farms less than 50 acres are to be outlawed. There are also comments about “Community Farming “. This sounds like the beginning introduction into Communism.

LAND USE AND PLANNING:

Under Project Objectives the new plan will accommodate 40,000 to 45,000 new dwelling units. The original estimated annual population growth through 2050 was 1.5%. The revised population growth estimate is .18%. This would revise dwelling units needed to 5,300. There are currently 8,200 vacant “infill” areas available in the city limits which would accommodate 134,000 dwelling units. This vacant land would more than accommodate the actual growth beyond 2050. AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE ALREADY EXISTS. This means the SEDA plan is completely unnecessary. Your plan also includes town centers and commercial areas. I believe time, energy and finances should be focused on infill and actual revitalization of downtown Fresno. This would also decrease finances required for public services, fire, police etc.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC:

Under Project Objectives, the plan would include major transit lines and ensure that schools and major town centers can be reached with or without a car. In a recent trip into Fresno, I encountered 4 fax buses on my travels, all empty and in service. Fresno residents drive cars to go places, period. Also stated, reduce energy consumption to help meet standards for greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The proposed plan will exceed SJVAPCD thresholds and air quality plans facing millions of dollars in fees. Can someone please explain why expressways, arterials, drives and collector streets are all called scenic once you have removed all the agricultural. Who pays for SR-180 ramps at DeWolf, Highland and McCall?

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS:

Under Project Description, Fiscal Responsibility is a major goal of the plan. Fiscal Responsibility would be accomplished by infill and fixing downtown not by the SEDA plan. The cost of infrastructure for SEDA would be massive. I don't see in the EIR any estimates regarding Fresno City funds, costs of developers and fees. Project Objectives states to provide self-financing for the development and ongoing maintenance of SEDA. Again, no estimates on how this will be accomplished. Are we in for another "High Speed Rail" that the costs by the time the plan is completed, if it ever is, have become unsustainable? Obviously, all properties will need to be connected to City systems, which may not be feasible to handle 45,000 new dwelling units. The only financial estimate I have heard is that existing farms would be forced to connect to water and sewer at perhaps $100,000 depending on how far we are set back from the street. Also required to cap our wells and remove septic systems. This cost is not feasible for most property owners. Also, the cost of watering an orchard, vegetables and lawns on a city water meter is unsustainable. Is the purpose of this plan to force all farmers to sell to developers for the city to provide 45,000 new unneeded dwelling units? I'm sure housing developers are chomping at the bit for this plan. I'm sure there are no donations being made to election campaigns.

In conclusion it should be very obvious that I am against this plan. We moved out here to enjoy the area and have our little farm. SEDA would put an end to our dreams. Based on what I have brought up above I firmly believe that SEDA is completely unnecessary. Thank you for taking the time to read and understand my comments.

Sincerely,

Larry Muzny
[redacted]

From:	[redacted]
To:	LongRangePlanning
Cc:	District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District6; District7; District2@fresnocountyca.gov; District3@fresnocountyca.gov; District4@fresnocountyca.gov; District5@fresnocountyca.gov
Subject:	Comments on Recirculated Draft PEIR for Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project - Mark and Dale Reitz
Date:	Monday, March 17, 2025 11:26:20 AM
Attachments:	Comments to Recirculated Draft PEIR_SEDA Reitz 3-15-2025 Final.pdf

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Attached are our comments to this Recirculated Draft PEIR for Fresno Southeast Development Area Specific Plan Project per the Notice of Availability dated February 7, 2025.

We appreciate your work and look forward to successful adoption of the Alternative 2, Consolidated Business Park Alternative as requested in our letters and past discussions with you and at the neighborhood meetings.

Please keep us on your list for notifications of further responses to comments and upcoming meetings.

Thank you,

Mark and Dale Reitz
[redacted]

From:	Eric Schmidt
To:	LongRangePlanning
Subject:	SEDA opposition
Date:	Wednesday, March 5, 2025 5:49:49 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To City of Fresno,

I want to voice my opposition to the SEDA project, once called SEGA. Renaming to sound better (development) over (growth) is all smoke and mirrors. This project is very selfish by the city of Fresno to do nothing but a land grab. It still will not provide the money needed for City economics. There are ways to do infill around some projects such as Sanger West High School and Clovis South High School.

The biggest things in my mind are the land, water and air pollution. Pouring concrete over the most fertile soils in the world is the idea I have seen from the city of Fresno over the years. You will never get that back.

The eastern edge of Fresno County is actually one of the most fertile and one with water. This does make it attractive for the city but at the cost of economics.

This is nothing but money/land grab for taxes the city wants for its unbalanced budgets in the coming years. Go after something else. Leave this area alone.

I farm in this area and DO NOT support this project. There are other ways.

Thank you - Concerned Farmer

From: Maricela Reyes
To: LongRangePlanning
Cc: Andrew Janz; Annalisa Perea
Subject: SEDA public comment from District 1 resident Maricela Reyes
Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 9:56:06 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno Long Range Planning Team,

I am a City of Fresno District 1 resident writing in response to the new proposed SEDA Environmental Impact Report draft.

I strongly object to the SEDA plan described in the Recirculated Draft PEIR and urge all City leaders to wholeheartedly reject SEDA in full.

SEDA will harm the City of Fresno, our neighborhoods, and Fresno residents. The harm is likely to be profound and last for decades.

My objections include, but are not limited to, the following five key concerns:

- **The City of Fresno is in debt. Approving SEDA is fiscally irresponsible**. Approving SEDA invites significant additional debt with no guarantee of future development to offset it. This debt will be a burden on city residents, tax payers, and businesses for years to come.
- **The SEDA plan is dangerously outdated, based on a wildly inaccurate presumed growth rate**. This plan assumes a growth rate ten times greater than our current - and declining - growth rate.
- **SEDA will direct our clearly limited resources away from existing neighborhoods and their profound infrastructure needs**. One example: the people in West Fresno have been working for years to get infrastructure changes described in the West Area Specific Plan to improve pedestrian safety, storm drainage, traffic flow, cyclist safety, and green space. I believe successfully implementing their West Area Specific Plan is more important than implementing SEDA - and we have every reason to believe approving SEDA will imperil this and similar plans in our existing neighborhoods.
- **SEDA will harm Fresno businesses**. I hear business owners asking for improvements to sidewalks, parking, drainage, traffic flow, and lighting. Thriving businesses support a thriving Fresno, and they deserve better. Investing in SEDA without clear assurance that SEDA will NOT redirect the City's already minimal infrastructure attention away from our existing business districts will be a blow to our existing businesses.
- **SEDA will destroy existing communities of county residents who have no voice in this process.** I have listened to the upset voices of people currently living in the area that would be transformed by SEDA.

It's not yet part of the City, so they have no council members to fight for them - or even listen to them. SEDA threatens their communities and their agricultural land without taking their interests into account.

I am urging all City leaders involved in assessing SEDA and its impact on the City of Fresno to reject this plan to protect us all from the harm it will bring - and to strengthen our capacity to improve and enhance our existing neighborhoods and communities.

With appreciation for your public service,
Maricela Reyes
[redacted]

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 6 OFFICE
1352 WEST OLIVE AVENUE | P.O. BOX 12616 | FRESNO, CA 93778-2616
(559) 981-7284 | FAX (559) 488-4195 | TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

August 16, 2024

FRE-180-R64.104
Southeast Development Area Specific Plan
Queuing Analysis
SCH #2022020486
GTS #: https://ld-igr-gts.dot.ca.gov/district/6/report/25659

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mx. Adrienne Asadoorian
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, Ca 93721
Adrienne.Asadoorian@fresno.gov

Dear Mx. Asadoorian:

Caltrans has completed the review of queuing analysis for the Southeast Development Area Specific Plan.

The proposed development area covers nearly 9,000 acres and is bounded on the north by the Gould Canal, on the east by McCall and Highland Avenues, on the south by Jensen and North Avenues, and on the West by Locan, Temperance, and Minnewawa Avenues.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) process reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

1. Caltrans recommended that any additional right-turn capacity be achieved through widening rather than reducing left-turn capacity. As a result, the document

now states the queuing analysis spreadsheet has been revised to use auxiliary lanes for additional storage, instead of the originally proposed restriping of the eastbound State Route (SR) 180 off-ramp lanes at Clovis Avenue and Temperance Avenue.

As stated, we request that the city coordinate with Caltrans to determine if and when extending turn lanes at De Wolf and McCall Avenues on SR-180 are necessary to ensure mitigation is in place before approving related development projects.

If you have any other questions, please call or email: Keyomi Jones, Associate Transportation Planner at [redacted]

Sincerely,

Mr. Dave Padilla, Branch Chief,
Transportation Planning – North