3.14 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

This section identifies the potential environmental justice issues associated with the Globemaster Corridor Specific Plan (GCSP; Proposed Project) site and vicinity, identifies associated regulatory requirements, and analyzes the Proposed Project's impacts to environmental justice. The following discussion focuses on the existing environmental justice issues in the City of Long Beach (City) and more specifically, the Plan Area.

The Initial Study (IS) and Notice of Preparation (NOP) are contained in Appendix A-1, Initial Study; and Appendix A-2, Notice of Preparation, respectively. No comments regarding environmental justice were received in response to the NOP (see Appendix A-3, Notice of Preparation Comment Letters).

CEQA does not require analysis of environmental justice, nor does it have specific thresholds of significance for environmental justice. As such, this section relies on NEPA requirements for identification of any potential environmental justice effects.

3.14.1 Existing Conditions

Definitions

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines environmental justice as:

> "The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies" (EPA 1999).

The first step of an environmental justice analysis includes identifying areas where a minority or low-income population exists within the area that would be potentially impacted by the GCSP. The impact area of analysis includes off-site areas that would be impacted from noise, air quality, and transportation/traffic. The following section identifies the existing demographic conditions and the affected populations and communities within and adjacent to the GCSP.

The document *Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act* (CEQ 1997) defined the terms minority and low-income to include:

- **A minority** is defined as individual(s) who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of

Hispanic origin; or Hispanic. However, individuals of Hispanic background can also identify themselves as any racial group because Hispanic is an ethnicity based on a shared language, Spanish—not a racial identity.

Low-income populations in an affected area are identified with the annual poverty thresholds from the U.S. Census Bureaus' *Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty* (CEQ 1997). The *Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty* is an annual report prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau. The most recent report was published in 2016 (Proctor et al. 2016). The report, among other data, identifies income levels for individuals and different-sized families, and if the individual or family earns below that level, they are considered in poverty. The CEQ identifies that these poverty thresholds should be used to define low-income populations.

Minority and Low-Income Populations

Information on existing population and socioeconomic conditions is based primarily on data published by the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau compiles data by county, city, and census tract. A census tract is a permanent geographic area, typically smaller than a city or county, recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau, to allow the collection and analysis of census data at a more refined geographic scale. Once established, census tract boundaries are rarely changed to support the comparison of census data collected in each tract over time.

City of Long Beach

The total population in the City of Long Beach (City) was 470,489 people in 2017, representing approximately 4.6% of the total population in Los Angeles County (County) (U.S. Census Bureau 2017). The City is home to a lower median household income ($58,314) in comparison to the County ($61,015), and the state of California ($67,169). The City has a minority population that is similar to the County. Table 3.14-1 presents a summary of demographics for the City. California and County demographic data are also included for comparative purposes of the census tracts that comprise the GSCP environmental justice analysis area.

GSCP Environmental Justice Analysis Area

Census tract data was obtained from the Census Bureau for all tracts that cover the Plan Area including the California Heights Neighborhood- the residential area closest to the GCSP that would be potentially affected by noise, air quality, and transportation/traffic impacts from the Proposed Action. California Heights is bound by Bixby Road to the north, Cherry Avenue to the east, Wardlow Road to the south, and Atlantic Avenue to east. As shown in Figure 3.14-1, Census Tracts, the census tracts used for environmental justice analysis include: 9800.18, 5715.04, 5714, 5719, 5720.01, 5734.01, and 5734.02. No demographic data is available for census tract 900.18. The demographic data, including median household income, for census tracts depicted in Figure 3.14-1, are shown in

Table 3.14-1. California Heights is located within census tract 5734.01 and has median household income of $71,944, which is greater in comparison to the City (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 3.14-1
Globemaster Corridor Specific Plan Area Median Household Income

Location/Census Tract No.	Total Population	Median Household Income	Percentage of Individuals Below the Poverty Level[1]	Percentage Minority Population
California	38,982,847	$67,169	15.1	39.4
Los Angeles County	10,105,722	$61,015	17.0	48.2
Long Beach	470,489	$58,314	19.1	47.5
5715.04	4,804	$64,041	8.3	63.3
5714	4,502	$79,140	3.8	49.1
5719	5,724	$74,453	2.3	36.2
5720.01	5,449	$91,337	6.0	34.7
5734.01	1,329	$71,944	10.3	53.5
5734.02	6,785	$60,421	12.7	48.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
NA = not applicable
1 Low-income populations in an affected area are identified with the annual poverty thresholds from the U.S. Census Bureaus' Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty
2 A minority is defined as individual(s) who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic. However, individuals of Hispanic background can also identify themselves as any racial group because Hispanic is an ethnicity based on a shared language, Spanish—not a racial identity

All of the census tracts within the GCSP environmental justice analysis area have a higher median household income than the City overall, and all but one census tract (5734.02) have a median household income higher than the County. Four of the six census tracts have median household incomes higher than median household income for California. As shown in Table 3.14-1, minority and low-income populations are present within the GSCP environmental justice area of analysis. The percentage of individuals living below poverty level for all six census tracts is lower than the corresponding data for the City, County, and California. Census tracts 5715.04 and 5734.01 have minority populations that are greater than fifty percent of the census tract total population.

3.14.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

U.S. Executive Order 12898

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued an Executive Order (EO) entitled *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*. The measure requires Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects of Federal programs, policies, and actives on minority and low-income

populations. It requires fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, and that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from federal projects (Clinton 1994).

Accompanying EO 12898, was a Presidential Memorandum stating that "each Federal agency shall analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic and social effects, of Federal actions, including effects on minority communities and low-income communities, when such analysis is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Clinton 1994).

State

California Environmental Quality Act

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions, including potential significant impacts on established communities, and to avoid or mitigate those impacts when feasible. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15131(b), economic and social impacts of a project that are not related to physical changes in the environment are not treated as significant impacts on the environment, but may be used to evaluate the significance of physical changes that would be caused by the project.

California Government Code 65040.12(e)

Section 65040.12(e) defines Environmental Justice as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” It does not, however, require an analysis of impacts to these populations as part of the CEQA process.

3.14.3 Thresholds of Significance

As identified above, CEQA does not require analysis of environmental justice nor does it have specific thresholds of significance for environmental justice. Therefore, the following environmental justice analysis focuses on NEPA requirements. According to E.O. 12898 and CEQ guidance for implementing environmental justice analysis, a significant effect could occur if the project would:

1. Cause a disproportionately high and adverse human health, economic, social, or environmental impact on a minority population or a low-income population.

Methodology

For the purposes of analysis, minority persons were identified as non-White (Black, Asian American, American Indian and Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander) and

Hispanic or Latino (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race). Low-income populations were defined as those with individuals with household incomes below the Census poverty threshold.

A minority or low-income population is identified using either or both of the following criteria:

1. The census block contains 50%, or more, minority persons and/or the census block group contains 25%, or more, low-income persons.
2. The percentage of minority and/or low-income persons in any census block or block group is more than 10% greater than the county average.

To determine whether impacts would be disproportionately high and adverse on identified minority and low-income populations, the analysis identified the potential for adverse project effects on human health and environmental resources in the study area by reviewing all other sections of this PEIR/PEIS. All effects that were found to be adverse were evaluated to determine the location of the impact and whether those locations were in areas with minority and low-income populations. When minority and low-income populations were identified, the impacts experienced by that population were compared with the affected area and the larger reference community to determine whether the Proposed Project would result in a disproportionately high and adverse impact. A disproportionately high and adverse effect on minority and low-income populations is defined as an impact that:

1. Is predominantly borne by a minority and/or low-income population, or
2. Will be suffered by the minority and/or low-income population and is appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect suffered by the non-minority and/or non-low-income population in the affected area and the reference community.

3.14.4 Impacts Analysis

A. Would the project cause a disproportionately high or adverse human health, economic, social, or environmental impact on a minority population or a low-income population?

The Plan Area and adjacent California Heights neighborhood are considered the areas of potential economic, social, and environmental impacts that could result from implementing the GCSP. The Plan Area is characterized as a developed urban area comprised of commercial, industrial, and residential uses. The closest affected population include residences of the California Heights neighborhood, located adjacent to the west side of Cherry Avenue. Census tract 5734.01, within which California Heights is located, has a median household income higher than the City, County, and California, and has a minority

population greater than fifty percent. The percent minority population of this Census tract 5734.01 (53.5%) is not more than ten percent higher than the County percent minority population (47.5%). Lastly, the median household income is in general higher than comparative geographies, low-income population is lower than comparative geographies, and minority populations are generally similar to comparative geographies. Based on the thresholds above, the populations in census tracts that make up the GSCP environmental justice analysis do not constitute environmental justice populations.

The Proposed Project involves implementation of the GCSP, which serves as a planning and regulatory framework for the development and improvement of the GCSP land use districts and overlay zones. The GCSP is a guidance document for new development, and does not itself propose specific projects. Notably, the GCSP would not be applied to residential areas and would not cause the displacement of any residences. However, as described in Sections 3.1 through 3.13 of this Draft PEIR/PEIS, the development of projects within the GCSP would result in significant and unavoidable impacts associated with air quality, noise and transportation/traffic. For the reasons described in the previous paragraph, the populations within the GCSP environmental justice analysis area do not constitute environmental justice populations. Therefore, environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Project and discussed throughout this Draft PEIR/PEIS would not disproportionately impact minority or low-income populations.

As discussed in Chapter 2.0, Project Description, of this Draft PEIR/PEIS, the GCSP builds upon the C-17 Transition Master Plan to provide a strategic planning framework for attracting quality industries and improving the character, design, and functionality of the Plan Area. As such, the Proposed Project would not shift nor displace existing business; instead, the Proposed Project seeks to stimulate job growth in response to the nearly 5,000 jobs lost as a result of the C-17 Site closure. In addition, the Proposed Project does not permit any new residential development; thus, the Proposed Project would not result in an increase in population. Therefore, there would be **no adverse effects** associated with environmental justice and disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income populations under NEPA.

3.14.5 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined in 40 CFR 1508.7 as the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future examples. For example, when considering a project that will have a permitted discharge to the surrounding surface waters, it may be of concern to populations who rely on subsistence living patterns (i.e., fishing) and already receive public water through lead service lines; the cumulative effects associated with both the discharge and the lead service lines must be taken into account. In such cases, mitigation measures need to be developed and analyzed to reduce an adverse cumulative effect. In addition, minority

populations and low-income populations are often located in areas or environments that may already suffer from prior degradation. Thus, within the cumulative analysis special emphasis should be placed on other sources of environmental stress within the regional, including those that have historically existed, those that currently exist, and those that projected in the future.

As discussed in Section 3.14.4, Impacts Analysis, the Proposed Project would not disproportionately impact minority or low-income population. Environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Project would result in the same impacts to all population groups within the vicinity of the Plan Area. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not shift nor displace existing business, nor increase population. Thus, the Proposed Project would not place additional environmental stress on populations that may have historically suffered from prior degradation. Therefore, there would be **no adverse cumulative effects** associated with environmental justice and disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income populations under NEPA.

3.14.6 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.14.7 Significance After Mitigation

There would be **no adverse effects**.

3.14.8 References

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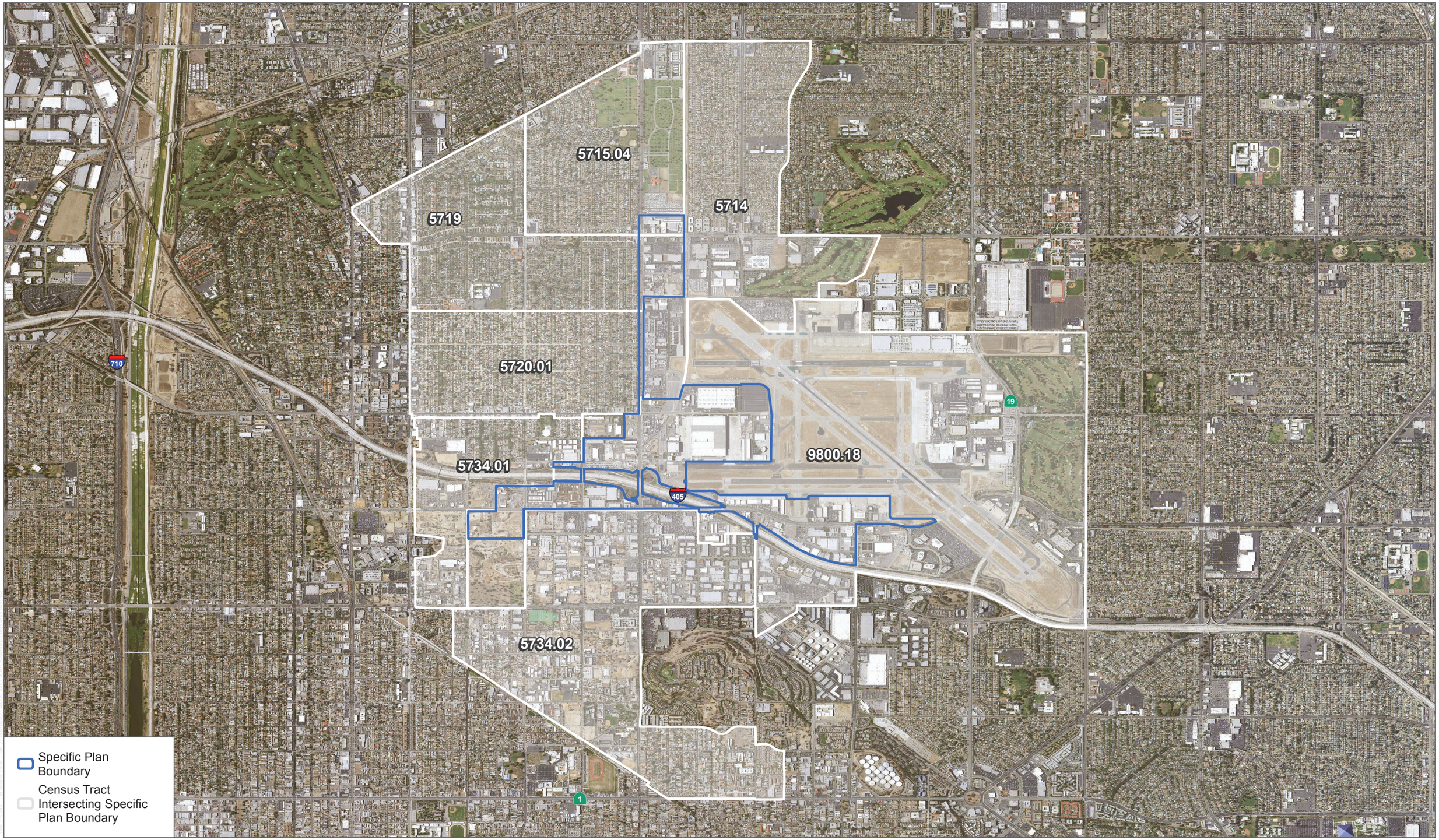

SOURCE: USDA 2017; US Census 2016

DUDEK

0 1,200 2,400 Feet

FIGURE 3.14.1

Census Tracts

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