



City of Long Beach  
Parks Zoning & Dedication Project  
(May 2021)

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

ND 01-20

*Prepared by:*

**City of Long Beach**  
Department of Development Services  
Planning Bureau

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## INITIAL STUDY

### **Project Title:**

City of Long Beach Parks Zoning & Dedication (Part 1) – May 2021

### **Lead agency name and address:**

City of Long Beach  
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

### **Contact person and phone number:**

Jennifer Ly, Planner  
(562) 570-6368

### **Project Location:**

City of Long Beach, County of Los Angeles, California

### **Project Sponsor's name and contact information:**

City of Long Beach, Long Beach Development Services  
c/o Patricia Diefenderfer, Planning Bureau Manager  
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 570-6261

### **General Plan:**

The proposed Parks Zoning and Dedication Project would cover various General Plan land use designations (PlaceTypes) that apply to various zoning districts and Planned Development (PD) districts in the City of Long Beach.

### **Zoning:**

The proposed Parks Zoning and Dedication Project would cover various zoning districts and Planned Development Districts in the City of Long Beach.

### **Project Description:**

The proposed Parks Zoning and Dedication Project (Part 1) – May 2021 (Project) would consist of: General Plan amendments to change land use designations (PlaceTypes) of specific City-owned parks from their current General Plan Land Use Element PlaceTypes to the Open Space (OS) PlaceType; zone changes from existing zoning districts to the Park (P) zoning district; lot mergers to consolidate parcels; and dedications, as appropriate, for the purpose of protecting them in perpetuity for public open space use, consistent with the policies of the Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE) of the City's General Plan.<sup>1</sup> Other land use actions may be required to correct park boundaries in land titles to bring the parks' General Plan PlaceTypes and zoning into consistency

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<sup>1</sup>Program 4.4. Formally dedicate all City owned parks and designate them to be preserved in perpetuity. Program 4.5. Require that any conversion of parkland be replaced amenity-for-amenity and acre-for-acre at a 2:1 ratio. Long Beach General Plan OSRE 2002.

with each other. The Project will facilitate cleanup of land use and zoning designations of existing parks so that they have the appropriate Open Space (OS) PlaceType and Park (P) zoning designation, in order both to appropriately reflect the existing land use and to protect the park use by ensuring development regulations that are aligned with park uses.

The affected parks are categorized as the following<sup>2</sup>:

### Mini-Park

A small park serving neighbors within 1/8 mile, generally less than two acres in size:

- Craftsman Village Park – General Plan Amendment to change the Founding & Contemporary Neighborhood (FCN) to Open Space (OS) PlaceType; Rezone from two-family residential (R-2-N) to Park (P); and Dedicate.
- Donald Douglas Park – General Plan Amendment to change the Regional Serving Facility (RSF) to Open Space (OS) PlaceType; Rezone from Douglas Park (PD-32) to Park (P); and Dedicate.
- Locust Tot Lot – General Plan Amendment to change the Founding & Contemporary Neighborhood (FCN) to Open Space (OS) PlaceType; Rezone from two-family residential (R-2-N) to Park (P); and Dedicate.
- Mary Molina Community Garden – General Plan Amendment to change the Founding & Contemporary Neighborhood (FCN) to Open Space (OS) PlaceType; Rezone from two-family residential (R-2-N) to Park (P); and Dedicate.
- Miracle on 4<sup>th</sup> Street Park – Rezone from neighborhood commercial & residential (CNR) to Park (P); and Dedicate.
- Pacific & 6<sup>th</sup> Community Garden – Rezone from Downtown Specific Plan (PD-30) to Park (P); and Dedicate.

### Park

A tract of land, most often publicly held, accessible to the general public, for purposes of preserving natural areas and/or promoting the mental and physical health of the community through recreational, cultural and relaxation pursuits:

- C. David Molina Park – Dedicate.
- Grace Park – General Plan Amendment to change the Founding & Contemporary Neighborhood (FCN) to Open Space (OS) PlaceType; Merge three (3) lots; and Dedicate.
- Orizaba Park – General Plan Amendment to change the Neighborhood Serving Center or Corridor Low Density (NSC-L) to Open Space (OS) PlaceType; Rezone from two-family residential (R-2-N) to Park (P); Untie remnant portion of parcel in southwest corner; Merge six (6) lots; and Dedicate.

### Greenway Park

A largely undeveloped green space, often a remnant or odd shaped piece of land left over from development, which can be used for casual recreation uses. Greenways can serve to connect or link recreation opportunities throughout a community:

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<sup>2</sup> Long Beach General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element, 2002.

- Jenni Rivera Memorial Park – Rezone from Commercial Storage (CS) to Park (P); and Dedicate.
- Pacific Electric Railway Greenbelt – Rezone from two-family residential (R-2-N) to Park (P); and Dedicate.

#### Natural Resource Open Space

Open space is any area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and largely devoted to an undeveloped or unconstructed type of use:

- Willow Springs Park – Rezone from Medium industrial (IM) to Park (P) consistent with parcel boundary; and Dedicate.

#### **Surrounding land uses and settings:**

The affected parks are located throughout the City of Long Beach and abut various land uses. The City of Long Beach is adjacent to the following municipalities: City of Los Angeles (Wilmington, Port of Los Angeles), Carson, Compton, Paramount, Bellflower, Lakewood, Hawaiian Gardens, Cypress, Los Alamitos and Seal Beach. It is also adjacent to the unincorporated communities of Rancho Dominguez and Rossmoor. In addition, the City of Signal Hill is completely surrounded by the City of Long Beach.

#### **Public agencies whose approval is required:**

Long Beach Planning Commission (recommend City Council adopt Negative Declaration 01-20 and approve land use actions associated with the Parks Zoning and Dedication Project – May 2021)

Long Beach City Council (adopt Negative Declaration 01-20, adopt General Plan amendments, zoning district changes, and other actions, as applicable, and Dedicate Parks, as appropriate, associated with the Parks Zoning & Dedication Project – May 2021)

Long Beach Zoning Administrator (approve and record lot mergers associated with the Parks Zoning & Dedication Project – May 2021)

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

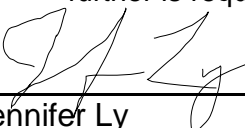
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact,” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages:

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

**DETERMINATION:**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
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 Jennifer Ly  
 Planner

**5/26/2021**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are supported adequately by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parenthesis following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g. the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g. the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) “Negative Declaration; Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from “Earlier Analysis,” as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration (per Section 15063(c)(3)(D)). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effect were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.



**I. AESTHETICS.** Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

**a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project would not result in substantial adverse effects to any scenic vistas. The City’s topography is relatively flat, with scenic vistas of the ocean to the south and Palos Verdes Hills to the west. In addition, distant views of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains to the north, as well as the Santa Ana Mountains to the east are occasionally available to the public on days of clear visibility (primarily during the winter months).

The Project involves changes to General Plan PlaceTypes and zoning districts for properties that are currently being used as parks and open space (refer to the Project Description on page 1). While zoning districts provide the specific standards and regulations that guide the use and physical development of land, General Plan land use designations or “PlaceTypes” established by the General Plan Land Use Element, adopted in December 2019, provide policy guidance on land use, form and character-defining features. The Project will facilitate cleanup of land use designations of existing parks so that they have the appropriate Open Space (OS) PlaceType and Park (P) zoning designation, in order both to appropriately reflect the existing land use and to protect the park uses by ensuring development regulations that are aligned with park uses..

The Open Space PlaceType provides for the preservation of land that has distinctive scenic, natural or cultural features and supports recreational open space, applying to areas that are undeveloped, generally free from development or developed with very low-intensity uses. The purpose of the proposed changes to parks zoning and PlaceType designations is to facilitate consistency between the existing park uses and their General Plan Land Use Element PlaceType and Zoning designations, and ultimately dedicate existing parks and open space to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use, consistent with the policies of the Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE) of the City’s General Plan. The Project has the potential to facilitate protection of scenic vistas through changing the PlaceTypes and zoning districts of existing parks to reflect their park land uses, to designations that are lower-intensity and more protective of scenic and other natural features.

The Park zoning district is a low-intensity zoning designation that limits site coverage to a percentage of total park area and allows limited park-serving development such as recreation spaces or restrooms. These updates do not modify the existing height limitation in the Park zoning district of 30 feet and in

some cases the rezoning will lower the maximum heights compared to existing zoning designations.

Overall, the Project does not include or facilitate any new physical improvements and therefore would not facilitate any physical improvements that would result in adverse impacts to scenic vistas. Any future discretionary project within the City would be evaluated individually at each location and undergo environmental clearance as required. While every future development scenario cannot be anticipated at this time, the Project is not anticipated to result in negative impacts to the City’s visual environment. Therefore, no further analysis is required.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The proposed Project does not include or facilitate any physical improvements that would result in impacts to scenic resources. Furthermore, the Project is a policy action that would not result in changes physical improvements including changes in height or density of development at subject locations, and consequently, the project would not impact views of scenic resources in the planning area. No scenic resources, trees or rock outcroppings would be damaged due to Project implementation. There would, therefore, be no impact to any scenic resource and no further analysis is required.

**c. In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project applies to all properties within the City of Long Beach, which is an urbanized area, and is surrounded by other urbanized areas. The proposed Project does not include or facilitate any physical improvements that would conflict with applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality. As a result of implementation of the proposed Project, the existing scenic quality of the planning area would remain unchanged. Any future discretionary project within the City would be evaluated individually, on a site by site basis, and project-specific

mitigation would be proposed as needed. Therefore, the proposed Project would not substantially degrade the existing scenic quality of the planning area and its surroundings. The Project is not anticipated to degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views and is not in conflict with applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality.

**d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The proposed Project does not include or facilitate any physical improvements that would result in new impacts to day or nighttime views in the area. There would not be any new sources of substantial light or glare as a result of project implementation. Any future developments and land use activities would be required to undergo environmental clearance and comply with all applicable regulations, including Title 21 of the Long Beach Municipal Code (Zoning Ordinance). Title 21 includes development standards that prevent and reduce light and glare and future projects would be required to comply with these standards. Further, should any new sources of light be proposed as part of future projects, each future project within the City would be evaluated individually, and project-specific mitigation would be proposed as needed. No impacts related to substantial light or glare are anticipated, and no further analysis is required.

**II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES**

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

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The City is highly urbanized and is almost entirely developed. As such, there are no areas within the City that are designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance on maps prepared as part of the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. The proposed project would not convert farmland to a nonagricultural use or result in the conversion of farmland to a nonagricultural use. Therefore, no adverse impacts to agricultural resources would occur, and no mitigation would be required.

**b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

There are no areas currently zoned in the City for traditional agricultural uses. The City allows urban agriculture including in parks and other zoning districts, however this project does not have any impact on those allowances. Therefore, approval of the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural uses or a Williamson Act contract or contribute to environmental changes that would result in the conversion of farmland to a nonagricultural use. Therefore, no impacts to zoning for agricultural resources would occur, and no mitigation would be required.

**c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

As previously stated, the City of Long Beach is highly urbanized and is almost entirely developed. As such, there are no properties within the City that are currently being used for timberland production, are zoned as forest land or timberland, or contain forest land or timberland. Therefore, no impacts to forest land resources would occur, and no mitigation would be required.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

As previously stated, there are no properties within the City that contain forest land. As such, approval of the proposed project would not contribute to environmental changes that could result in conversion of forest land to a non-forest use. Therefore, no impacts to forest land would occur.

**e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The City does not contain any agricultural uses; therefore, approval of the proposed project would not convert farmland to a nonagricultural use. Likewise, the proposed project would not contribute to environmental changes that would indirectly result in conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use. Therefore, no impacts to agricultural resources would occur, and no mitigation would be required.

### III. AIR QUALITY

The South Coast Air Basin is subject to some of the worst air pollution in the nation, attributable to its topography, climate, meteorological conditions, large population base, and dispersed urban land use patterns.

Air quality conditions are affected by the rate and location of pollutant emissions and by climatic conditions that influence the movement and dispersion of pollutants. Atmospheric forces such as wind speed, wind direction, and air temperature gradients, along with local and regional topography, determine how air pollutant emissions affect air quality.

The South Coast Air Basin has a limited capability to disperse air contaminants because of its low wind speeds and persistent temperature inversions. In the Long Beach area, predominantly daily winds consist of morning onshore airflow from the southwest at a mean speed of 7.3 miles per hour and afternoon and evening offshore airflow from the northwest at 0.2 to 4.7 miles per hour with little variability between seasons. Summer wind speeds average slightly higher than winter wind speeds. The prevailing winds carry air contaminants northward and then eastward over Whittier, Covina, Pomona and Riverside.

The majority of pollutants found in the Los Angeles County atmosphere originate from automobile exhausts as unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen and other materials. Of the five major pollutant types (carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, reactive organic gases, sulfur oxides, and particulates), only sulfur oxide emissions are produced mostly by sources other than automobile exhaust.

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

**a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has determined that if a project is consistent with the growth forecasts for the subregion in which it is located, it is consistent with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), and regional emissions are mitigated by the control strategies specified in the AQMP. The purpose of the Project is to facilitate consistency between the existing park uses and their General Plan PlaceType and Zoning designations and ultimately dedicate existing parks to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use, consistent with the policies of the Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE) of the City's General Plan.

The Project would better align appropriate development regulations with existing park uses. Overall, the proposed Open Space (OS) PlaceType and Park (P) zoning district are more reflective of existing park uses and would facilitate dedication to preserve in perpetuity for public open space use. For example, the Park (P) zoning district is a low-intensity zoning designation that limits site coverage to a percentage of total park area. The Project does not include or facilitate any physical improvements that would conflict with the AQMP. Any future discretionary project within the City would be evaluated individually and be required to propose project-specific mitigation as needed.

The Project will not increase development potential, rather the Project is generally more protective of the environment. For example, portions of Willow Springs Park and Jenni Rivera Memorial Park are zoned Medium Industrial (IM) or Commercial Storage (CS) respectively. Rezoning these areas to Park will replace IM and CS development standards with those of the Park zoning designation. This will limit site coverage to a percentage of total park area and will facilitate their dedication, helping preserve them in perpetuity for public open space use. Overall, it is anticipated that the Project will facilitate the dedication of parks and open space

that may enable less pollution being generated by development. For example, the Park (P) zoning designation would discourage building development and associated energy use consistent with IM and CS zoning districts. Additionally, trees and vegetation in parks can help reduce air pollution by directly removing pollutants and reducing temperatures. Poor air quality is a secondary impact of extreme heat, and the Long Beach Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Results indicates that the number of extreme heat days in Long Beach per year is projected to increase. This Project is consistent with programs contained in the General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element that protect park and open space, in particular 1) formally dedicating City-owned parks to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use 2) helping the City achieve the established goal of eight (8) acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and 3) requiring that any conversion of parkland to another use be replaced at a 2:1 ratio.

The total amount of future development was contemplated in the General Plan, SCAG Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), and the resulting AQMP which was based on the RTP/SCS. Build-out consistent with the projections within the AQMP does not create impacts beyond those already analyzed in the RTP/SCS and AQMP. Since this Project does not propose any specific developments or increases in height, density or intensity of land uses in a manner that would conflict with the SCAG growth forecasts, it would be consistent with the AQMP and therefore no further analysis is required.

**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.** Would the project?

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not include any physical development that would remove or impact any existing or planned natural habitats. Instead, the Project is more protective of the natural habitat on existing parks and open space by changing PlaceTypes to Open Space (OS) and rezoning parcels to Park (P). Of the parks that are affected by this Project, Willow Springs Park is a Natural Resource Open Space that consists of restored natural habitat. The Project consists of rezoning approximately 1.5 acres on the eastern portion of the park from Medium Industrial (IM) to Park (P) consistent with the parcel boundary, and dedicating the 48 acres of existing open space for preservation in perpetuity for public open space use. Rezoning these acres to Park will facilitate consistency between existing park uses and the respective zoning, as well as help protect park land in perpetuity for public open space use. The Project involves adopting General Plan amendments to change current PlaceTypes to the Open Space (OS) PlaceType, rezoning sites to Park (P), and dedicating to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use several largely undeveloped ribbons of green spaces (Greenway Parks) and small neighborhood parks generally less than two acres in size (Mini-Parks). Mini-Parks parks are modestly sized and generally located in highly urbanized areas but may provide the benefit of natural habitat. The Project would protect existing park land and limit future uses to those that are very low-intensity, respect natural environmental characteristics, and is compatible with the open space uses. The Long Beach Municipal Code limits site coverage in the Parks zoning district to ten percent (10%) in community parks, seven percent (7%) in neighborhood parks, two percent (2%) in regional parks, and one percent (1%) in mini and greenway parks. No further environmental analysis is required.

- b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact



The Project does not include any physical development that would remove or impact any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community. Of the parks that are affected by this Project, Willow Springs Park is a Natural Resource Open Space that consists of restored riparian habitat. The Project consists of dedicating the 48 acres of existing open space to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use, as well as rezoning approximately 1.5 acres on the eastern portion of the park from Medium Industrial (IM) to Park (P) consistent with the parcel boundary. Rezoning these acres to Park will facilitate consistency between existing park uses and the respective zoning and PlaceType designation, limit the allowed development intensity for the purposes of preserving natural areas thereby helping protect park land in perpetuity for public open space use. This will be more protective of riparian habitat at Willow Springs Park. Please see Section IV.a. above for further discussion. No further environmental analysis is required.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not include any physical development that would have adverse effect on wetland areas. Of the parks that are affected by this Project, Willow Springs Park is a Natural Resource Open Space that consists of wetlands. The Project consists of rezoning approximately 1.5 acres on the eastern portion of the park from Medium Industrial (IM) to Park (P) consistent with the parcel boundary, and dedicating the 48 acres of existing open space to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use. Rezoning these acres to Park will facilitate consistency between existing park uses and the respective zoning, as well as help protect park land in perpetuity. These land use actions will be more protective of Willow Springs Park which includes a historic riparian wetland zone. Please see Section IV.a. above for further discussion. No further environmental analysis is required.

**d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not include any physical development that would alter or adversely impact any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, corridors, or nursery sites. Of the parks that are affected by this Project, Willow Springs Park is a Natural Resource Open Space that provides wildlife habitat. The Project consists of rezoning approximately 1.5 acres on the eastern portion of the park from Medium Industrial (IM) to Park (P) consistent with the parcel boundary and dedicating the 48 acres of existing open space to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use. Rezoning these acres to Park will facilitate consistency between existing park uses and the respective zoning, as well as help protect park land in perpetuity for public open space use. These land use actions will be more protective of Willow Springs Park which includes a historic riparian wetland zone. Please see Section IV.a. above for further discussion. No further environmental analysis is required.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project is consistent with the General Plan and in conformity with all local policies and regulations. The Project helps implement the General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE), which calls for formal dedication of parkland so that acreage is preserved in perpetuity for public open space use. The Project would not alter or eliminate any existing or future policy or ordinance protecting biological resources. No further environmental analysis is required.

**f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project would not have any adverse effects on any existing or future habitat conservation plans. Instead, the Project helps implement the Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE) which calls for formal dedication of parkland so that acreage is preserved in perpetuity for public open space use. Please see Sections IV.a. through e. above for further discussion.

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

**a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section §15064.5?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The City of Long Beach is an urbanized community and nearly all properties within the City (except for areas such as protected park lands) have been previously disturbed and/or developed. This Project does not propose any construction and would not promote, encourage, or enable activities that could remove, degrade, or in any way adversely impact local historic resources. Instead, the Project would better protect any existing historic resources located on parks by significantly limiting development potential as consistent with the Open Space (OS) PlaceType and Park (P) zoning district and through dedication in perpetuity for public open space use. For example, Willow Springs Park and Jenni Rivera Memorial Park both represent and illustrate aspects of the historical and cultural significance of the City. Willow Springs Park preserves the unique topography of the site and restores the wetlands that played a pivotal role in the City of Long Beach's establishment in the late 1800s. Jenni Rivera Memorial Park provides open space along the Pacific Electric Right of Way, which was once a major interurban railway that operated between Los Angeles and Long Beach, and is named after Jenni Rivera, a Long Beach native and Latin Grammy nominated singer. The Project protects historical resources associated with parks and open space. No further environmental analysis is required.

**b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section §15064.5?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Implementation of the Project does not include any construction and therefore would not result in any specific construction activities involving extensive excavation. Therefore it is not anticipated to affect or destroy any archaeological resources due to its geographic location. The Project does not lessen existing legal protections of archaeological resources nor tribal consultation requirements on individual projects. Please see Section V.a. above for further discussion.

**c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not propose any activities that would involve extensive excavation that could result in the disturbance of any designated cemetery or other burial ground or place of interment. Please see Sections V.a. through b. for further discussion.

**VI. ENERGY.** Would the project:

**a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project involves adopting General Plan amendments to change PlaceTypes to the Open Space (OS) PlaceType, rezoning existing parks and open space to the Park (P) zoning district, merging lots to consolidate park parcels, and dedicating parks to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use. The Project would help preserve parks and open space, potentially reducing the urban heat island effect. Trees, grasses, and other vegetation cool the air, whereas impervious surfaces absorb more sunlight. Reducing the urban heat island effect may reduce the need for energy resources for air conditioning. Any future development projects and land use activities on park sites would be limited consistent with the Open Space (OS) PlaceType and Park (P) zoning and would be required to comply with all applicable regulations, including Long Beach Municipal Code Title 21 (Long Beach Zoning Ordinance) and Part 6 (California Energy Code) of Title 24 (California Building Standards Code). Since Project implementation would not directly or indirectly result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation, no further analysis is required.

**b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy efficiency?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency—see Section VI.a. above.

**VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.** Would the project:

**a. Directly or indirectly cause potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:**

**i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Per Plate 2, Fault Map with Special Study Zones, of the Seismic Safety Element of the General Plan, the most significant fault system in the City is the Newport-Inglewood fault zone. This fault zone runs in a northwest to southeast angle across the southern half of the City. The Project involves land use actions that result in the dedication of park land in perpetuity for public open space use and does not involve any proposed development or construction.

**ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Newport-Inglewood fault zone could create substantial ground shaking if a seismic event occurred along that fault. Similarly, a strong seismic event on any other fault system in Southern California has the potential to create considerable levels of ground shaking throughout the City. However, numerous variables determine the level of damage to a specific location. Given these variables, it is not possible to determine the level of damage that may occur on the site during a seismic event. Additionally, the Project is a policy action that would not result in physical development, including changes in height or density of development, at subject locations. Any future land uses must conform to all applicable State and local building codes relative to seismic safety. Please see Section VII.a.i. above for further discussion.

**iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Per Plate 7, Liquefaction Potential Areas, of the Seismic Safety Element, most of the City is in areas of either minimal or low liquefaction potential. The only exceptions are in the southeastern portion of the City, where there is significant liquefaction potential, and the western portion (most of the area west of Pacific Avenue and south of the 405 freeway), where there is either moderate or significant liquefaction potential. Furthermore, the Project is a policy action that would not result in any physical development at subject locations.

Please see Section VII.a.i. through ii. above for further discussion.

**iv) Landslides?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Per the Seismic Safety Element, the City is relatively flat and characterized by slopes that are not high (less than 50 feet) or steep (generally sloping flatter than 1-1/2:1, horizontal to vertical). The State Seismic Hazard Zone map of the Long Beach Quadrangle indicates that the lack of steep terrain (except for a few slopes on Signal Hill and Reservoir Hill) results in only about 0.1 percent of the City lying within the earthquake-induced landslide zone for this quadrangle. Furthermore, the Project is a policy action that would not result in any physical development at subject locations. Therefore, no impact would be expected and no further environmental analysis is required. Please see Section VII.a.i. through iii. above for further discussion.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project is a policy action to facilitate the dedication of existing parks and open space in perpetuity for public open space uses and does not propose any construction projects at this time. Any future development projects and land use activities on park sites would be limited consistent with the Open Space (OS)

PlaceType and Park (P) zoning district and would be evaluated individually and be required to comply with all applicable regulations, including all applicable construction standards regarding erosion control, including best management practices to minimize runoff and erosion impacts from earth-moving activities such as excavation, recontouring and compaction. The Project includes no construction. No further environmental analysis is necessary.

**c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section VII.b. above for discussion. All land uses subject to the regulations of the Project would be constructed in compliance with all applicable building code requirements regarding soil stability.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Sections VII.b. and c. above for explanation.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project involves conducting General Plan amendments to change PlaceTypes to the Open Space (OS) PlaceType, rezoning existing parks and open space to the Park (P) zoning district, merging lots to consolidate park parcels, and dedicating parks to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use. The entire City is served by an existing sewer system and therefore, has no need for septic tanks or any other alternative wastewater disposal systems. No further environmental analysis is required.

**f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?**

Potentially Significant Impact

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation

Less Than Significant Impact

No Impact

Since the Project does not propose any excavation or construction it is not expected to adversely impact any paleontological resources or geologic features.



**VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.** Would the project?

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

California is a substantial contributor of global greenhouse gases (GHGs), emitting over 400 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. Climate studies indicate that California is likely to see an increase of three to four degrees Fahrenheit over the next century. Methane is also an important GHG that potentially contributes to global climate change. GHGs are global in their effect. As primary GHGs have a long lifetime in the atmosphere, accumulate over time, and are generally well-mixed, their impact on the atmosphere is mostly independent of the point of emission.

The Project would not result in direct or indirect GHG impacts. The Project would not result in any new construction, nor does it increase development potential in the City. Instead, the Project helps preserve parks and open space, potentially reducing the urban heat island effect. Trees, grasses, and other vegetation cool the air, whereas impervious surfaces absorb more sunlight. Reducing the urban heat island effect may reduce the need for energy resources for air conditioning, thereby reducing GHG emissions. By facilitating the dedication of parks to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space uses, the Project helps enhance the provision of parks in neighborhoods. This could potentially contribute to an overall reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by residents being able to walk or use active transportation to access local parks, instead of driving to access green spaces. For example, the Project would dedicate C. David Molina Park, which was completed and opened in 2018, to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use, as part of a larger effort to increase park and open space areas in North Long Beach. No further environmental analysis is required.

**b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section VIII.a. above for discussion. The Project would not permit any land use operations that would conflict with any plans, policies or regulations related to the reduction of GHG emissions. No further environmental analysis is required.

**IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.** Would the project:

**a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project involves adopting General Plan amendments to change PlaceTypes to the Open Space (OS) PlaceType, rezoning existing parks and open space to the Park (P) zoning district, merging lots to consolidate park parcels, and dedicating parks to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use. No significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials is anticipated. However, should any future land uses or activities subject to the provisions of this Project involve the handling and disposal of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials, they would be required to fully comply with Long Beach Municipal Code Sections 8.86 through 8.88, as well as all existing State safety regulations. No further environmental analysis is required.

**b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section IX.a. above for discussion.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section IX.a. above for discussion. The Project involves land use actions to dedicate parks in perpetuity for public open space use. There is no anticipated hazardous emission or handling of hazardous materials, substances or waste.

**d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List is a planning document used by the State, local agencies, and developers to comply with CEQA requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. Any future land uses that would be regulated by the provisions of this Project would not be permitted to create any significant hazards to the public or the environment by operating at a location included in the Cortese List. Please see Section IX.a. above for further discussion.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Long Beach Airport is located within the City, just north of the 405 freeway between Cherry Avenue and Lakewood Boulevard. The Project involves land use actions to change PlaceTypes, re-zone, and dedicate parks in perpetuity for public open space use. Of the parks that are part of the Project, Donald Douglas Plaza is located within two miles of the Long Beach Airport. The Project would change the PlaceType from Regional Serving Facility (RSF) to Open Space (OS) and rezone Douglas Park from Douglas Park (PD-32) to Park (P). This will result in zoning designations and PlaceTypes that are consistent with recreational open space and dedication to preserve in perpetuity for public open space use. ~~The Project would not~~ ~~alter~~ air traffic patterns or encourage future developments that could conflict with established Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight protection zones. Please see Section IX.a. above for further discussion.

**f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project would not encourage or otherwise set forth any policies or recommendations that could potentially impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No further environmental analysis is required.

**g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The City is a highly urbanized community and there are no properties located adjacent to wildland areas. The Project involves policy actions to change existing PlaceTypes and zoning districts to be reflective of existing park uses. There is no risk of exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. No further environmental analysis is required.

**X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.** Would the project:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has produced a series of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) designating potential flood zones (based on the projected inundation limits as well as the 100-year flood as delineated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers).

**a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not include any physical development that would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Instead, the Project facilitates the dedication of park land in perpetuity for public open space use. Unlike impervious surfaces, natural vegetation and grass filters water, which can help improve groundwater quality. The Project would be consistent with all chapters of the General Plan, including the Conservation Element. All activities subject to the provisions of this Project would be required to be in full compliance with all

applicable federal, State, and local water quality standards and regulations. No further environmental analysis is required.

**b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section X.a. above for discussion. The City is a highly urbanized community with the water system infrastructure fully in place to accommodate future development consistent with the General Plan.

**c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:**

**i) result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not encourage or enable any alterations to existing draining patterns, the course of streams or rivers, or the addition of impervious surfaces. Please see Section X.a. above for discussion.

**ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Sections X.a. and c. above for discussion. This Project does not propose any development, and future development will continue to be subject to all applicable regulations that require new development and redevelopment projects that create, add, or replace 500 square feet or more to comply with Low Impact Development (LID) to manage stormwater runoff.

**iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial sources of polluted runoff; or**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Sections X.a. and c. above for discussion. The City’s existing storm water drainage system is adequate to accommodate runoff from any future land uses subject to the provisions of this Project. The Project would not adversely affect provisions for retention and infiltration of stormwater consistent with the City’s LID policies.

**iv) impede or redirect flood flows?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section X.a. and c. above for discussion.

**d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

According to Plate 11, Areas of Potential Flooding, of the Public Safety Element, most of Long Beach is not within a zone susceptible to tsunami run up or seiche and strong currents. Potential tsunami hazards would be limited to properties and public improvements near the coastline, while harbor and channel areas would be susceptible to seiche and strong currents. While the identified areas can be susceptible to inundation associated with such natural events, assigning the Park (P) zoning district and Open Space (OS) PlaceType to existing parks and open space protects these areas from development, thereby preserving permeable surfaces and other features that facilitate water absorption and filtration of pollutants. Additionally, any future park-related development project would be subject to the regulations of the Park (P) zoning district where it is located and undergo its own environmental clearance as required. Development standards are in place to help mitigate flood risk for development projects located in flood zones, such as measuring height from Base Flood Elevation. The Project itself, which consists of dedicating park land in perpetuity for public open space uses, does not

propose any development and would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation; therefore, no further environmental analysis is required.

**e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not propose any development and would not directly or indirectly conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan—see Section X.a. above.

**XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING.** Would the project:

**a. Physically divide an established community?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project would not directly or indirectly divide any established community as a result of these changes. No further environmental analysis is required.

**b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not conflict with any land use plans, policies, or regulations. Rather, the Project is consistent with goals and objectives in the existing General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE) and Land Use Element (LUE), as well as extreme heat adaptation strategies contained in the City’s draft Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). The Project advances the Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE) by dedicating parks and open space in perpetuity for public open space uses, thereby helping the City achieve the established goal of eight (8) acres of parkland for each 1,000 residents and requiring that any conversion of parkland to another use be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. The Project advances the Land Use Element (LUE) by providing for the preservation of land that has distinctive scenic, natural or cultural features and supports recreational

open space, applying to areas that are undeveloped, generally free from development or developed with very low-intensity uses. The Project advances the Urban Forest Management Plan, Sustainable City Action Plan, and draft Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) by protecting existing vegetative cover, helping reduce the urban heat island effect, potentially resulting in lower energy demand for air conditioning and thus fewer emissions from energy consumption. Impacts to existing local regulations would, therefore, be less than significant.



**XII. MINERAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

Historically, the primary mineral resources within the City of Long Beach have been oil and natural gas. However, oil and gas extraction operations have diminished over the last century as the resources have become depleted. Today, extraction operations continue but on a reduced scale compared to past levels.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not propose any alteration of local mineral resource land uses, and there are no mineral resource activities that would be altered or displaced by Project implementation. No further discussion is required.

**b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section XII.a. above for discussion.

**XIII. NOISE.** Would the project result in:

Noise is defined as unwanted sound that disturbs human activity. Environmental noise levels typically fluctuate over time, and different types of noise descriptors are used to account for this variability. Noise level measurements include intensity, frequency, and duration, as well as time of occurrence.

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to ambient noise levels than other uses due to the amount of noise exposure and the types of activities involved. Residences, motels, hotels, schools, libraries, churches, nursing homes, auditoriums, parks and outdoor recreation areas are more sensitive to noise than are commercial and industrial land uses.

**a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards**

**established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project involves policy actions to facilitate the dedication of existing parks and open space in perpetuity for public open space uses and does not propose any construction projects at this time. New land uses that may be permitted as a result of the Project would be accompanied by operational performance standards and conditions consistent with the Park (P) zoning designation and would be required to undergo its own environmental clearance. Any future park-related development and park activities would be required to comply with the noise regulations contained in the Noise Ordinance.

Future construction activities related to park development consistent with the Park (P) zoning district could involve various types of short-term noise impacts from trucks, earth-moving equipment, and paving equipment. However, future projects would undergo their own review as required by CEQA, and all future construction activities and land use operations must be performed in compliance with the City's Noise Ordinance. Project implementation would not alter the Noise Ordinance provisions or exempt any future land uses or improvements from local noise controls. The local Noise Ordinance would continue to regulate all future land use construction and operational noise levels. No further environmental analysis of this issue is necessary.

**b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section XIII.a. above for discussion. Project implementation would occur in compliance with local noise and vibration controls.

**c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Long Beach Airport is located within the City just north of the 405 freeway between Cherry Avenue and Lakewood Boulevard. Of all the parks that are part of the Project, Donald Douglas Plaza is the only one located within two miles of the Long Beach Airport. The Project would provide a General Plan amendment to change the PlaceType from Regional Serving Facility (RSF) to Open Space (OS) rezone from Douglas Park (PD-32) to Park (P), and dedicate Douglas Park. This will result in a PlaceType and zoning district that are less intensive than current PlaceTypes and zoning designations and consistent with recreational open space and therefore would not expose people living or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. Any future development near the Long Beach Airport would be in compliance with all applicable local and FAA requirements. The Project would not alter air traffic patterns or encourage developments that could conflict with established Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight protection zones. No further environmental analysis is necessary.

**XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING.** Would the project:

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project involves General Plan amendments to change current PlaceTypes to the Open Space (OS) PlaceType, rezoning to Park (P), and dedicating existing parks and open space to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use (see Project Description). The Project does not represent an increase in density or intensification of use, rather the resulting zoning district and PlaceType changes would provide for less intensive uses than existing land use designations. Future park-related developments would be required to undergo their own environmental clearance as required. As appropriate, future park-related developments would be accompanied by performance standards, to minimize potential impacts and further ensure harmony among new and existing development. In some cases, future park-related developments would be accompanied by conditions of approval applied through the site plan review process. Additionally, future park-related developments may also require additional environmental review where mitigations may be included to address potential environmental impacts. The Project does not propose any development and is not expected to directly or indirectly induce population growth. No further environmental analysis is required.

**b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not set forth or encourage any policies, activities or implementation measures that would directly or indirectly displace existing residential units in the City. No further environmental analysis is required.

**XV. PUBLIC SERVICES.** Would the project:

Fire protection would be provided by the Long Beach Fire Department. The Department has 23 stations in the City. The Department is divided into bureaus of Fire Prevention, Fire Suppression, the Bureau of Instruction, and the Bureau of Technical Services. The Fire Department is accountable for medical, paramedic, and other first aid rescue calls from the community.

Police protection would be provided by the Long Beach Police Department. The Department is divided into bureaus of Administration, Investigation, and Patrol. The City is divided into four Patrol Divisions: East, West, North and South.

The City of Long Beach is served by the Long Beach Unified School District, which also serves the City of Signal Hill, Catalina Island and a large portion of the City of Lakewood.

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

**a. Fire protection?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project involves General Plan amendments to change current PlaceTypes to the Open Space (OS) PlaceType, rezoning parcels to Park (P), and dedicating existing parks and open space to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use. The Project is not intended to directly or indirectly induce population growth that could result in increased demand for fire protection services or fire protection

facilities. All new development, including park-related developments will continue to be subject to fire code review during the building plan check process. As parks and open space that are affected by the Project are City-owned, it is not anticipated to have any effect on fire facilities impact fees. No further environmental analysis is required.

**b. Police protection?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Similar to Section XV.a. above, since the Project is not intended to directly or indirectly induce population growth, the Project would not significantly increase demands for police protection service, nor require provision of new police facilities. As parks and open space that are affected by the Project are City-owned, it is not anticipated to have any effect on Police Facilities Development Impact Fees.

**c. Schools?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Since the Project is not intended to directly or indirectly induce population growth, the Project would not result in any significant increased demand for public school services or facilities. As parks and open space that are affected by the Project are City-owned, it is not anticipated to have any effect on School Impact Fees.

**d. Parks?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Since the Project is not intended to directly or indirectly induce population growth, the Project would not generate any significant additional demand for provision of park services or facilities by the City. As parks and open space that are affected by the Project are City-owned, it is not anticipated to have any effect on Park Impact Fees.

**e. Other public facilities?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

No other impacts have been identified that would require the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities. As parks and open space that are affected by the Project are City-owned, it is not anticipated to have any effect on sewer, transportation, and storm water impact fees. New park-related developments would be subject to review by the applicable departments during the development review process to upgrade facilities, as necessary.

## XVI. RECREATION

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not alter land use regulations that would increase population density or facilitate population growth and is not intended to directly or indirectly induce population growth that could result in increased demand for recreational facilities. No further environmental analysis is required.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section XVI.a. above. No further environmental analysis is required.

## XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:

**a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project involves General Plan amendments to change current PlaceTypes to the Open Space (OS) PlaceType, rezoning parcels to Park (P), and dedicating existing parks and open space to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space use (see Project Description). The Project involves PlaceType and zone changes to create more consistency between PlaceTypes, zoning districts and existing park uses and will not conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system. Of the parks addressed as part of this Project, Jenni Rivera Memorial Park and Pacific Electric Railway Greenbelt are Greenway Parks that enhance bicycle connectivity and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. These greenway parks are consistent with the vision and goals of the General Plan Mobility Element to develop a multi-modal network. Specifically, the bicycle and pedestrian connectivity facilitated by these greenway parks implements a measure in the Mobility Element that calls for reconfiguring surplus rights-of-way to greenbelts with bicycles and pedestrian facilities. By facilitating the dedication of parks and open space to be preserved in perpetuity for public open space uses, the Project helps enhance the provision of green space in neighborhoods, which could potentially contribute to an overall reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by providing residents options for being able to walk or use active transportation to access local parks, instead of driving to access green spaces. The Project is intended to implement the City's Land Use strategies/policies, Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE), and strategies contained in the Sustainable City Action Plan. No further environmental analysis is required.

**b. Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section XVII.a. for discussion. Since the Project consists of policy changes that are consistent with existing land uses, there would be no new Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) impacts created. Because two parks that are affected by this Project, Jenni Rivera Memorial Park and Pacific Electric Railway Greenbelt, involve reconfiguring surplus right-of-way to greenbelts with bicycles and pedestrian facilities, the Project could minimally help reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by enhancing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The Project helps enhance the provision of parks in neighborhoods and could potentially contribute to an overall reduction in VMT by residents being able to walk or use active transportation to access local parks, instead of driving to access green spaces, which may lead to a decrease in VMT and idling of local traffic. Overall, the Project would encourage the long-term provision of parks throughout the City.

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

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not include any development and would not create or encourage any hazardous transportation-related design features or incompatible uses. No further environmental analysis is required.

**d. Result in inadequate emergency access?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not propose or encourage any specific land uses, developments or transportation network modifications that would have the potential to result in deficient or inadequate emergency access routes. Additionally, any future land uses within the City would be evaluated individually and would comply with existing development standards that ensure emergency access. No further environmental analysis is required.

**XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, that is:**

**i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources, or in a local register of historic resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section V. (Cultural Resources) above. Project implementation would not result in any construction activities including any specific



construction activities involving extensive excavation, and therefore would not be anticipated to significantly affect or destroy any Native American tribal cultural resources. In some cases, the Project changes existing PlaceTypes and zoning districts to the less-intensive Open Space (OS) PlaceType and Park (P) zoning district in order to dedicate existing parks and open space in perpetuity as public open space. This decreases the development potential of affected parcels. While parks may be developed to a maximum percentage of site coverage, the probability of encountering a tribal cultural resource or human remains is low, and any occurrence or discovery is subject to existing protections under California law. No further environmental analysis is required.

- ii. **A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

Please see Section XVIII.a. above. The City has no substantial evidence of any significant resource impacted by the land use actions facilitating the dedication of existing parks and open space to preserve as public open space. During the discretionary review of individual, park-related development projects, the City will provide locational information to potentially impacted tribal officials and will conduct formal consultation, as may be required. No further environmental analysis is required at this time.

**XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.** Would the project:

- a. **Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

**b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

**c. Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

**d. Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

**e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

For Sections XIX.a. through e.: The Project would facilitate the dedication of existing parks and open space in perpetuity for public open space uses. The Project does not represent an increase in density or intensification of uses, rather it will decrease the future development potential of existing parks and open space. While park-related development is allowed by the Park (P) zoning district, there is a maximum site coverage allowed up to ten percent (10%) depending on park type. These modifications reduce the development potential from that which is allowed under the current zoning designations of existing parks and open space affected by this Project. The Project would not be expected to place any undue burden on any utility or service system.

The City of Long Beach is an urbanized setting with all utilities and services fully in place. Future demands for utilities and service systems have been anticipated

in the General Plan goals, policies, and programs for future growth. Any future discretionary project would be evaluated individually and as appropriate, would require project-specific utilities and service systems modifications. However, all utilities are projected to be able to meet demand. No further environmental analysis is necessary.

## XX. WILDFIRE

**If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:**

**a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

**b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

**c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

**d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

For Sections XX.a. through d.: The City of Long Beach has not been identified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Project by CAL Fire, nor is the City in or near a State Responsibility Area. The Project involves changing current PlaceTypes to the Open Space (OS) PlaceType, rezoning existing parks and open space to Park (P), and dedicating to preserve areas in perpetuity for public open space use, and would not be expected to impair emergency plans, exacerbate wildfire risks and expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire place. The Project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Lastly, as discussed in Section VII.iv. above, the City is relatively flat and characterized by slopes that are not high (less than 50 feet) or steep (generally sloping flatter than 1-1/2:1, horizontal to vertical). The Project would not be expected to expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire instability, or drainage changes. No further environmental analysis is necessary.

## XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- a. **Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?**

Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

As determined in Section IV. Biological Resources and Section V. Cultural Resources, the Project would have no significant adverse impacts on biological or cultural resources. The Project would not degrade the quality of the environment, impact any natural habitats, affect any fish or wildlife populations, threaten any plant or animal communities, alter the number or restrict the range of any rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate any examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

- b. **Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project does not propose any development and would not contribute to any cumulative growth effects beyond what is anticipated for the City's future in the General Plan.

**c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?**

- Potentially Significant Impact       Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation       Less Than Significant Impact       No Impact

The Project would not directly or indirectly cause any substantial adverse effects on human beings. For this reason, the City has concluded that this Project can be implemented without causing significant adverse environmental effects and determined that the Negative Declaration is the appropriate type of CEQA documentation.

## REFERENCES

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- California Building Standards Code. 2019 Triennial Edition of Title 24.
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- City of Long Beach. 1980. Local Coastal Program (LCP). February.
- City of Long Beach. 2010. Sustainable City Action Plan. February.
- City of Long Beach. 2016. Urban Water Management Plan. June.
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