Initial Study PROJ-2021-00088 Silverwood Market, 12077 State Hwy 138 Hesperia, CA 92345 APN: 0357-122-09 September 2023

# Appendix E

Silverwood Gas Market, Greenhouse Gas Analysis, County of San Bernardino

**Urban Crossroads** 

March 14, 2023



# Silverwood Gas Market

**GREENHOUSE GAS ANALYSIS COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO** 

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13974-02 GHG Report

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|     |              | F CONTENTSI   |  |  |  |
|-----|--------------|---|--|--|--|
|     | APPENDICESII |   |  |  |  |
|     |              | EXHIBITSII  |  |  |  |
|     |              | TABLESII  |  |  |  |
|     |              | ABBREVIATED TERMSIII                                  |  |  |  |
| EXE | CUTI         | VE SUMMARY V  |  |  |  |
| E   | S.1          | Summary of Findingsv                                  |  |  |  |
| E   | ES.2         | Regulatory Requirementsv                              |  |  |  |
| 1   | IN           | TRODUCTION  |  |  |  |
| 1   | l.1          | Site Location   |  |  |  |
| 1   | 1.2          | Project Description                                   |  |  |  |
| 2   | CLI          | IMATE CHANGE SETTING11                                |  |  |  |
| 2   | 2.1          | Introduction to Global Climate Change (GCC)11         |  |  |  |
| 2   | 2.2          | Global Climate Change Defined                         |  |  |  |
| 2   | 2.3          | GHGs  |  |  |  |
| 2   | 2.4          | Global Warming Potential18                            |  |  |  |
| 2   | 2.5          | GHG Emissions Inventories                             |  |  |  |
| 2   | 2.6          | Regulatory Setting19                                  |  |  |  |
| 3   | PR           | OJECT GREENHOUSE GAS IMPACT37                         |  |  |  |
| 3   | 3.1          | Introduction  |  |  |  |
| Э   | 3.2          | Standards of Significance                             |  |  |  |
| Э   | 3.3          | Models Employed To Analyze Greenhouse Gases Emissions |  |  |  |
| Э   | 3.4          | Construction Emissions                                |  |  |  |
| Э   | 3.5          | Operational Emissions                                 |  |  |  |
| Э   | 3.6          | Emissions Summary                                     |  |  |  |
| 3.7 | FIN          | NDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS42                              |  |  |  |
| 4   | RE           | FERENCES  |  |  |  |
| 5   | CE           | RTIFICATION49   |  |  |  |

## **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX 3.1: CALEEMOD EMISSIONS MODEL OUTPUTS

## **LIST OF EXHIBITS**

| EXHIBIT 1-A: LOCATION MAP   | 8   |
|---|-----|
| EXHIBIT 1-B: SITE PLAN  | 9   |
| EXHIBIT 2-A: SUMMARY OF PROJECTED GLOBAL WARMING IMPACT, 2070-2099 (AS COMPARED WIT | ſH  |
| 1961-1990)  | .17 |

## LIST OF TABLES

| TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF CEQA SIGNIFICANCE FINDINGS             | V  |
|---|----|
| TABLE 2-1: GREENHOUSE GASES                                   | 12 |
| TABLE 2-2: GWP AND ATMOSPHERIC LIFETIME OF SELECT GHGS        | 18 |
| TABLE 2-3: TOP GHG PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION | 19 |
| TABLE 3-1: CONSTRUCTION DURATION                              | 38 |
| TABLE 3-2: CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ASSUMPTIONS                 | 39 |
| TABLE 3-3: AMORTIZED ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS            | 40 |
| TABLE 3-4: PROJECT GHG EMISSIONS SUMMARY (ANNUAL)             | 42 |

## LIST OF ABBREVIATED TERMS

| (1)                   | Reference   |
|-----------------------|---|
| AB                    | Assembly Bill   |
| CARB                  | California Air Resources Board                        |
| CAA                   | Federal Clean Air Act                                 |
| CAFE                  | Corporate Average Fuel Economy                        |
| CalEEMod              | California Emissions Estimator Model                  |
| CAPCOA                | California Air Pollution Control Officers Association |
| CARB                  | California Air Resource Board                         |
| CEC                   | California Energy Commission                          |
| CCR                   | California Code of Regulations                        |
| CEQA                  | California Environmental Quality Act                  |
| CFC                   | Chlorofluorocarbons                                   |
| CFR                   | Code of Federal Regulations                           |
| CH <sub>4</sub>       | Methane   |
| CO                    | Carbon Monoxide                                       |
| CO <sub>2</sub>       | Carbon Dioxide  |
| CO <sub>2</sub> e     | Carbon Dioxide Equivalent                             |
| CPUC                  | California Public Utilities Commission                |
| EPA                   | Environmental Protection Agency                       |
| GCC                   | Global Climate Change                                 |
| GHGA                  | Greenhouse Gas Analysis                               |
| GWP                   | Global Warming Potential                              |
| HFC                   | Hydrofluorocarbons                                    |
| MDAQMD                | Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District         |
| MMT CO <sub>2</sub> e | Million Metric Ton of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent       |
| MT CO <sub>2</sub> e  | Metric Ton of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent               |
| N <sub>2</sub> O      | Nitrogen Dioxide                                      |
| NHTSA                 | National Highway Traffic Safety Administration        |
| NIOSH                 | National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health |
| NOx                   | Oxides of Nitrogen                                    |
| PFC                   | Perfluorocarbons                                      |
| PM <sub>10</sub>      | Particulate Matter 10 microns in diameter or less     |
| PM <sub>2.5</sub>     | Particulate Matter 2.5 microns in diameter or less    |
| PPM                   | Parts Per Million                                     |
| SB                    | Senate Bill   |
| WRI                   | The World Resources Institute                         |



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## ES.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The results of this *Silverwood Gas Market Greenhouse Gas Analysis* is summarized below based on the significance criteria in Section 3 of this report consistent with Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (1). Table ES-1 shows the findings of significance for potential greenhouse gas impacts under CEQA.

| Analysia  | Report  | Significance Findings    |           |  |
|---|---------|--------------------------|-----------|--|
| Analysis  | Section | Unmitigated              | Mitigated |  |
| GHG Impact #1: The Project would not generate<br>direct or indirect greenhouse gas emission that<br>would result in a significant impact on the<br>environment.                           | 3.7     | Less Than<br>Significant | n/a       |  |
| GHG Impact #2: The Project would not conflict<br>with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of<br>an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing<br>the emissions of greenhouse gases. | 3.7     | Less Than<br>Significant | n/a       |  |

| TABLE ES-1: SUMMARY OF CEQA SIGNIFICANCE FINDINGS |
|---|
|---|

## ES.2 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The Project would be required to comply with all mandates imposed by the State of California and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD). Those that are applicable to the Project and that would assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are:

- Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) (2).
- Regional GHG Emissions Reduction Targets/Sustainable Communities Strategies (SB 375) (3).
- Pavley Fuel Efficiency Standards (AB 1493). Establishes fuel efficiency ratings for new vehicles (4).
- Title 24 California Code of Regulations (California Building Code). Establishes energy efficiency requirements for new construction (5).
- Title 20 California Code of Regulations (Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards). Establishes energy efficiency requirements for appliances (6).
- Title 17 California Code of Regulations (Low Carbon Fuel Standard). Requires carbon content of fuel sold in California to be 10% less by 2020 (7).
- California Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 (AB 1881). Requires local agencies to adopt the Department of Water Resources updated Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance or equivalent by January 1, 2010 to ensure efficient landscapes in new development and reduced water waste in existing landscapes (8).
- Statewide Retail Provider Emissions Performance Standards (SB 1368). Requires energy generators to achieve performance standards for GHG emissions (9).



- Renewable Portfolio Standards (SB 1078). Requires electric corporations to increase the amount of energy obtained from eligible renewable energy resources to 20 percent (%) by 2010 and 33% by 2020 (10).
- Senate Bill 32 (SB 32). Requires the state to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, a reduction target that was first introduced in Executive Order B-30-15 (11).

# 1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the greenhouse gas analysis (GHGA) prepared by Urban Crossroads, Inc., for the Silverwood Gas Market Project (Project).

The purpose of this GHGA is to evaluate Project-related construction and operational emissions and determine the level of greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts as a result of constructing and operating the proposed Project.

## **1.1** SITE LOCATION

The proposed Silverwood Gas Market site is located at 12077 State Highway 138 in the County of San Bernardino, as shown on Exhibit 1-A.

### **1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed Project is to consist of a 4,139-sf convenience market with gasoline pumps, a 903sf drive-thru coffee shop, and a 2,172-sf pet supply store on 3.2 acres, as shown in Exhibit 1-B. The Project is proposed to be developed in a single phase with an anticipated opening year of 2025.

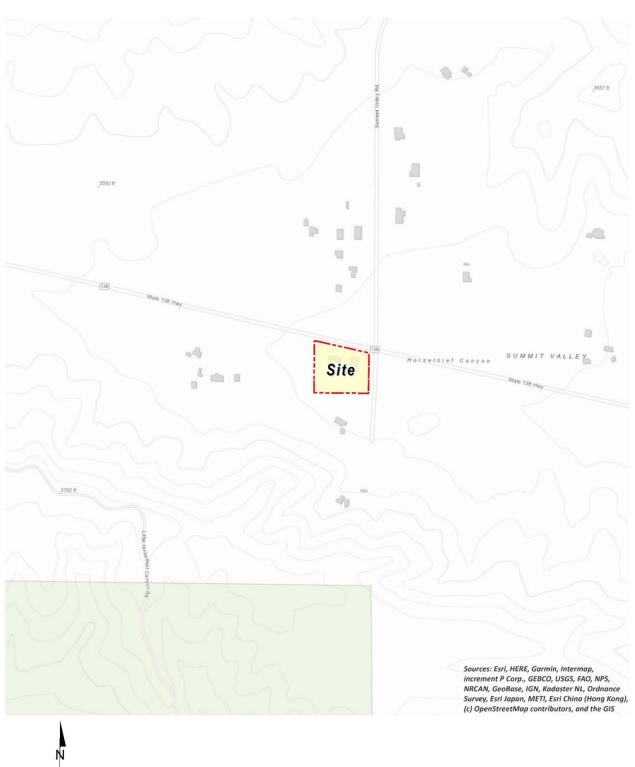
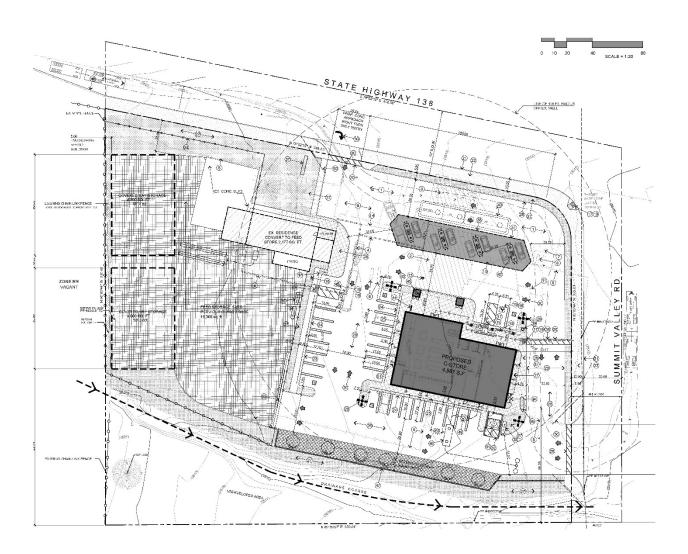


EXHIBIT 1-A: LOCATION MAP

EXHIBIT 1-B: SITE PLAN



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# 2 CLIMATE CHANGE SETTING

## 2.1 INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE (GCC)

GCC is defined as the change in average meteorological conditions on the earth with respect to temperature, precipitation, and storms. The majority of scientists believe that the climate shift taking place since the Industrial Revolution is occurring at a quicker rate and magnitude than in the past. Scientific evidence suggests that GCC is the result of increased concentrations of GHGs in the earth's atmosphere, including carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ), methane ( $CH_4$ ), nitrous oxide ( $N_2O$ ), and fluorinated gases. The majority of scientists believe that this increased rate of climate change is the result of GHGs resulting from human activity and industrialization over the past 200 years.

An individual project like the proposed Project evaluated in this GHGA cannot generate enough GHG emissions to affect a discernible change in global climate. However, the proposed Project may participate in the potential for GCC by its incremental contribution of GHGs combined with the cumulative increase of all other sources of GHGs, which when taken together constitute potential influences on GCC. Because these changes may have serious environmental consequences, Section 3.0 will evaluate the potential for the proposed Project to have a significant effect upon the environment as a result of its potential contribution to the greenhouse effect.

## 2.2 GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED

GCC refers to the change in average meteorological conditions on the earth with respect to temperature, wind patterns, precipitation and storms. Global temperatures are regulated by naturally occurring atmospheric gases such as water vapor,  $CO_2$ ,  $N_2O$ ,  $CH_4$ , hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). These particular gases are important due to their residence time (duration they stay) in the atmosphere, which ranges from 10 years to more than 100 years. These gases allow solar radiation into the earth's atmosphere, but prevent radioactive heat from escaping, thus warming the earth's atmosphere. GCC can occur naturally as it has in the past with the previous ice ages.

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are often referred to as GHGs. GHGs are released into the atmosphere by both natural and anthropogenic activity. Without the natural GHG effect, the earth's average temperature would be approximately 61 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) cooler than it is currently. The cumulative accumulation of these gases in the earth's atmosphere is considered to be the cause for the observed increase in the earth's temperature.

## 2.3 GHGs

## **2.3.1 GHGs AND HEALTH EFFECTS**

GHGs trap heat in the atmosphere, creating a GHG effect that results in global warming and climate change. Many gases demonstrate these properties and as discussed in Table 2-1. For the purposes of this analysis, emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O were evaluated because these gases are the primary contributors to GCC from development projects. Although there are other



substances such as fluorinated gases that also contribute to GCC, these fluorinated gases were not evaluated as their sources are not well-defined and do not contain accepted emissions factors or methodology to accurately calculate these gases.

| Greenhouse Gases | Description  | Sources   | Health Effects  |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| Water            | Water is the most abundant,<br>important, and variable GHG in<br>the atmosphere. Water vapor is<br>not considered a pollutant; in<br>the atmosphere it maintains a<br>climate necessary for life.<br>Changes in its concentration are<br>primarily considered to be a<br>result of climate feedbacks<br>related to the warming of the<br>atmosphere rather than a direct<br>result of industrialization.<br>Climate feedback is an indirect,<br>or secondary, change, either<br>positive or negative, that occurs<br>within the climate system in<br>response to a forcing<br>mechanism. The feedback loop<br>in which water is involved is<br>critically important to projecting<br>future climate change.<br>As the temperature of the<br>atmosphere rises, more water is<br>evaporated from ground storage<br>(rivers, oceans, reservoirs, soil).<br>Because the air is warmer, the<br>relative humidity can be higher<br>(in essence, the air is able to<br>'hold' more water when it is<br>warmer), leading to more water<br>vapor in the atmosphere. As a<br>GHG, the higher concentration of<br>water vapor is then able to<br>absorb more thermal indirect<br>energy radiated from the Earth,<br>thus further warming the<br>atmosphere can then hold more<br>water vapor and so on and so<br>on. This is referred to as a<br>"positive feedback loop." The<br>extent to which this positive<br>feedback loop will continue is | The main source of<br>water vapor is<br>evaporation from<br>the oceans<br>(approximately<br>85%). Other sources<br>include evaporation<br>from other water<br>bodies, sublimation<br>(change from solid to<br>gas) from sea ice and<br>snow, and<br>transpiration from<br>plant leaves. | There are no known direct<br>health effects related to<br>water vapor at this time. It<br>should be noted however<br>that when some pollutants<br>react with water vapor, the<br>reaction forms a transport<br>mechanism for some of<br>these pollutants to enter the<br>human body through water<br>vapor. |

#### **TABLE 2-1: GREENHOUSE GASES**



| Greenhouse Gases | Description   | Sources   | Health Effects   |
|------------------|---|---|--|
|                  | unknown as there are also<br>dynamics that hold the positive<br>feedback loop in check. As an<br>example, when water vapor<br>increases in the atmosphere,<br>more of it will eventually<br>condense into clouds, which are<br>more able to reflect incoming<br>solar radiation (thus allowing<br>less energy to reach the earth's<br>surface and heat it up) (12).   |   |  |
| CO2              | CO <sub>2</sub> is an odorless and colorless<br>GHG. Since the industrial<br>revolution began in the mid-<br>1700s, the sort of human activity<br>that increases GHG emissions<br>has increased dramatically in<br>scale and distribution. Data<br>from the past 50 years suggests<br>a corollary increase in levels and<br>concentrations. As an example,<br>prior to the industrial revolution,<br>CO <sub>2</sub> concentrations were fairly<br>stable at 280 parts per million<br>(ppm). Today, they are around<br>370 ppm, an increase of more<br>than 30%. Left unchecked, the<br>concentration of CO <sub>2</sub> in the<br>atmosphere is projected to<br>increase to a minimum of 540<br>ppm by 2100 as a direct result of<br>anthropogenic sources (13). | CO <sub>2</sub> is emitted from<br>natural and<br>manmade sources.<br>Natural sources<br>include: the<br>decomposition of<br>dead organic matter;<br>respiration of<br>bacteria, plants,<br>animals and fungus;<br>evaporation from<br>oceans; and volcanic<br>outgassing.<br>Anthropogenic<br>sources include: the<br>burning of coal, oil,<br>natural gas, and<br>wood. CO <sub>2</sub> is<br>naturally removed<br>from the air by<br>photosynthesis,<br>dissolution into<br>ocean water,<br>transfer to soils and<br>ice caps, and<br>chemical weathering<br>of carbonate rocks<br>(14). | Outdoor levels of CO <sub>2</sub> are not<br>high enough to result in<br>negative health effects.<br>According to the National<br>Institute for Occupational<br>Safety and Health (NIOSH)<br>high concentrations of CO <sub>2</sub><br>can result in health effects<br>such as: headaches,<br>dizziness, restlessness,<br>difficulty breathing,<br>sweating, increased heart<br>rate, increased cardiac<br>output, increased blood<br>pressure, coma, asphyxia,<br>and/or convulsions. It should<br>be noted that current<br>concentrations of CO <sub>2</sub> in the<br>earth's atmosphere are<br>estimated to be<br>approximately 370 ppm, the<br>actual reference exposure<br>level (level at which adverse<br>health effects typically occur)<br>is at exposure levels of 5,000<br>ppm averaged over 10 hours<br>in a 40-hour workweek and<br>short-term reference<br>exposure levels of 30,000<br>ppm averaged over a 15<br>minute period (15). |

| Greenhouse Gases | Description   | Sources   | Health Effects  |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| CH4              | CH <sub>4</sub> is an extremely effective<br>absorber of radiation, although<br>its atmospheric concentration is<br>less than CO <sub>2</sub> and its lifetime in<br>the atmosphere is brief (10-12<br>years), compared to other GHGs.                      | CH4 has both natural<br>and anthropogenic<br>sources. It is<br>released as part of<br>the biological<br>processes in low<br>oxygen<br>environments, such<br>as in swamplands or<br>in rice production (at<br>the roots of the<br>plants). Over the<br>last 50 years, human<br>activities such as<br>growing rice, raising<br>cattle, using natural<br>gas, and mining coal<br>have added to the<br>atmospheric<br>concentration of<br>CH4. Other<br>anthropocentric<br>sources include<br>fossil-fuel<br>combustion and<br>biomass burning<br>(16). | CH4 is extremely reactive<br>with oxidizers, halogens, and<br>other halogen-containing<br>compounds. Exposure to<br>high levels of CH4 can cause<br>asphyxiation, loss of<br>consciousness, headache<br>and dizziness, nausea and<br>vomiting, weakness, loss of<br>coordination, and an<br>increased breathing rate. |
| N2O              | N <sub>2</sub> O, also known as laughing gas,<br>is a colorless GHG.<br>Concentrations of N <sub>2</sub> O also<br>began to rise at the beginning of<br>the industrial revolution. In<br>1998, the global concentration<br>was 314 parts per billion (ppb). | N <sub>2</sub> O is produced by<br>microbial processes<br>in soil and water,<br>including those<br>reactions which<br>occur in fertilizer<br>containing nitrogen.<br>In addition to<br>agricultural sources,<br>some industrial<br>processes (fossil<br>fuel-fired power<br>plants, nylon<br>production, nitric<br>acid production, and<br>vehicle emissions)<br>also contribute to its<br>atmospheric load. It<br>is used as an aerosol<br>spray propellant, i.e.,<br>in whipped cream<br>bottles. It is also                                      | N <sub>2</sub> O can cause dizziness,<br>euphoria, and sometimes<br>slight hallucinations. In<br>small doses, it is considered<br>harmless. However, in some<br>cases, heavy and extended<br>use can cause Olney's<br>Lesions (brain damage) (17).  |



| Greenhouse Gases              | Description  | Sources   | Health Effects  |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
|                               |  | used in potato chip<br>bags to keep chips<br>fresh. It is used in<br>rocket engines and<br>in race cars. N <sub>2</sub> O can<br>be transported into<br>the stratosphere, be<br>deposited on the<br>earth's surface, and<br>be converted to<br>other compounds by<br>chemical reaction<br>(17).   |   |
| Chlorofluorocarbons<br>(CFCs) | CFCs are gases formed<br>synthetically by replacing all<br>hydrogen atoms in CH <sub>4</sub> or ethane<br>(C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> ) with chlorine and/or<br>fluorine atoms. CFCs are<br>nontoxic, nonflammable,<br>insoluble and chemically<br>unreactive in the troposphere<br>(the level of air at the earth's<br>surface). | CFCs have no natural<br>source but were first<br>synthesized in 1928.<br>They were used for<br>refrigerants, aerosol<br>propellants and<br>cleaning solvents.<br>Due to the discovery<br>that they are able to<br>destroy<br>stratospheric ozone,<br>a global effort to halt<br>their production was<br>undertaken and was<br>extremely<br>successful, so much<br>so that levels of the<br>major CFCs are now<br>remaining steady or<br>declining. However,<br>their long<br>atmospheric<br>lifetimes mean that<br>some of the CFCs will<br>remain in the<br>atmosphere for over<br>100 years (18). | In confined indoor locations,<br>working with CFC-113 or<br>other CFCs is thought to<br>result in death by cardiac<br>arrhythmia (heart frequency<br>too high or too low) or<br>asphyxiation. |

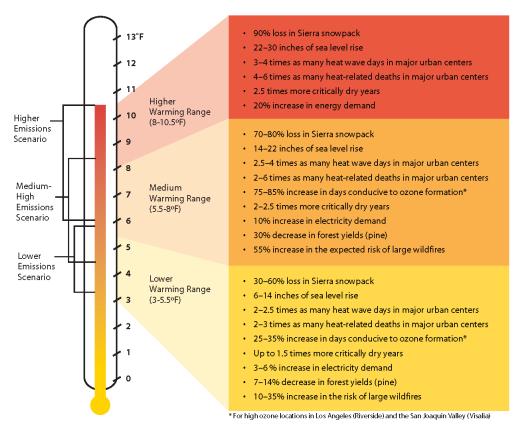


| Greenhouse Gases | Description   | Sources   | Health Effects  |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| HFCs             | HFCs are synthetic, man-made<br>chemicals that are used as a<br>substitute for CFCs. Out of all<br>the GHGs, they are one of three<br>groups with the highest global<br>warming potential (GWP). The<br>HFCs with the largest measured<br>atmospheric abundances are (in<br>order), fluoroform (CHF <sub>3</sub> ),<br>1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane<br>(CH <sub>2</sub> FCF), and 1,1-difluoroethane<br>(CH <sub>3</sub> CF <sub>2</sub> ). Prior to 1990, the only<br>significant emissions were of<br>CHF <sub>3</sub> . CH <sub>2</sub> FCF emissions are<br>increasing due to its use as a<br>refrigerant. | HFCs are manmade<br>for applications such<br>as automobile air<br>conditioners and<br>refrigerants.   | No health effects are known<br>to result from exposure to<br>HFCs.  |
| PFCs             | PFCs have stable molecular<br>structures and do not break<br>down through chemical<br>processes in the lower<br>atmosphere. High-energy<br>ultraviolet rays, which occur<br>about 60 kilometers above<br>earth's surface, are able to<br>destroy the compounds.<br>Because of this, PFCs have very<br>long lifetimes, between 10,000<br>and 50,000 years. Two common<br>PFCs are tetrafluoromethane<br>(CF4) and hexafluoroethane<br>(C2F6). The EPA estimates that<br>concentrations of CF4 in the<br>atmosphere are over 70 parts<br>per trillion (ppt).  | The two main<br>sources of PFCs are<br>primary aluminum<br>production and<br>semiconductor<br>manufacture.  | No health effects are known<br>to result from exposure to<br>PFCs.  |
| SF <sub>6</sub>  | SF <sub>6</sub> is an inorganic, odorless,<br>colorless, nontoxic,<br>nonflammable gas. It also has<br>the highest GWP of any gas<br>evaluated (23,900) (19). The EPA<br>indicates that concentrations in<br>the 1990s were about 4 ppt.  | SF <sub>6</sub> is used for<br>insulation in electric<br>power transmission<br>and distribution<br>equipment, in the<br>magnesium industry,<br>in semiconductor<br>manufacturing, and<br>as a tracer gas for<br>leak detection. | In high concentrations in<br>confined areas, the gas<br>presents the hazard of<br>suffocation because it<br>displaces the oxygen needed<br>for breathing. |

| Greenhouse Gases                           | Description  | Sources  | Health Effects   |
|--|--|--|--|
| Nitrogen Trifluoride<br>(NF <sub>3</sub> ) | NF <sub>3</sub> is a colorless gas with a<br>distinctly moldy odor. The World<br>Resources Institute (WRI)<br>indicates that NF <sub>3</sub> has a 100-year<br>GWP of 17,200 (20). | NF <sub>3</sub> is used in<br>industrial processes<br>and is produced in<br>the manufacturing of<br>semiconductors,<br>Liquid Crystal Display<br>panels, types of solar<br>panels, and chemical<br>lasers. | Long-term or repeated<br>exposure may affect the liver<br>and kidneys and may cause<br>fluorosis (21). |

The potential health effects related directly to the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O as they relate to development projects such as the proposed Project are still being debated in the scientific community. Their cumulative effects to GCC have the potential to cause adverse effects to human health. Increases in Earth's ambient temperatures would result in more intense heat waves, causing more heat-related deaths. Scientists also purport that higher ambient temperatures would increase disease survival rates and result in more widespread disease. Climate change will likely cause shifts in weather patterns, potentially resulting in devastating droughts and food shortages in some areas (22). Exhibit 2-A presents the potential impacts of global warming (23).

#### EXHIBIT 2-A: SUMMARY OF PROJECTED GLOBAL WARMING IMPACT, 2070-2099 (AS COMPARED WITH 1961-1990)



Source: Barbara H. Allen-Diaz. "Climate change affects us all." University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2009.



## 2.4 GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL

GHGs have varying GWP values. GWP of a GHG indicates the amount of warming a gas cause over a given period of time and represents the potential of a gas to trap heat in the atmosphere.  $CO_2$ is utilized as the reference gas for GWP, and thus has a GWP of 1.  $CO_2$  equivalent ( $CO_2e$ ) is a term used for describing the difference GHGs in a common unit.  $CO_2e$  signifies the amount of  $CO_2$ which would have the equivalent GWP.

The atmospheric lifetime and GWP of selected GHGs are summarized at Table 2-2. As shown in the table below, GWP for the  $2^{nd}$  Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s scientific and socio-economic assessment on climate change, range from 1 for CO<sub>2</sub> to 23,900 for SF<sub>6</sub> and GWP for the IPCC's 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report range from 1 for CO<sub>2</sub> to 25,200 for SF<sub>6</sub> (24).

| Gas              | Atmospheric Lifetime<br>(years) | GWP (100-year time horizon)       |                                   |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                  |                                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assessment Report | 6 <sup>th</sup> Assessment Report |
| CO <sub>2</sub>  | Multiple                        | 1                                 | 1                                 |
| CH <sub>4</sub>  | 11.8                            | 21                                | 28                                |
| N <sub>2</sub> O | 109                             | 310                               | 273                               |
| HFC-23           | 228                             | 11,700                            | 14,600                            |
| HFC-134a         | 14                              | 1,300                             | 1,526                             |
| HFC-152a         | 1.6                             | 140                               | 164                               |
| SF <sub>6</sub>  | 3,200                           | 23,900                            | 25,200                            |

TABLE 2-2: GWP AND ATMOSPHERIC LIFETIME OF SELECT GHGS

Source: IPCC Second Assessment Report, 1995 and IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, 2022

### 2.5 GHG Emissions Inventories

#### 2.5.1 GLOBAL

Worldwide anthropogenic GHG emissions are tracked by the IPCC for industrialized nations (referred to as Annex I) and developing nations (referred to as Non-Annex I). Human GHG emissions data for Annex I nations are available through 2020. Based on the latest available data, the sum of these emissions totaled approximately 28,026,643 gigagram (Gg)  $CO_2e^1$  (25) (26) as summarized on Table 2-3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The global emissions are the sum of Annex I and non-Annex I countries, without counting Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF). For countries without 2020 data, the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) data for the most recent year were used U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, "Annex I Parties – GHG total without LULUCF," The most recent GHG emissions for China and India are from 2014 and 2016, respectively.



## 2.5.2 UNITED STATES

As noted in Table 2-3, the United States, as a single country, was the number two producer of GHG emissions in 2020.

| Emitting Countries                   | GHG Emissions (Gg CO <sub>2</sub> e) |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| China                                | 12,300,200                           |  |
| United States                        | 5,981,354                            |  |
| European Union (27-member countries) | 3,706,110                            |  |
| India                                | 2,839,420                            |  |
| Russian Federation                   | 2,051,437                            |  |
| Japan                                | 1,148,122                            |  |
| Total                                | 28,026,643                           |  |

TABLE 2-3: TOP GHG PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION  $^{\rm 2}$ 

#### 2.5.3 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

California has significantly slowed the rate of growth of GHG emissions due to the implementation of energy efficiency programs as well as adoption of strict emission controls but is still a substantial contributor to the United States (U.S.) emissions inventory total (27). The California Air Resource Board (CARB) compiles GHG inventories for the State of California. Based upon the 2022 GHG inventory data (i.e., the latest year for which data are available) for the 2000-2020 GHG emissions period, California emitted an average 369.2 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year (MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr) or 369,200 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e (6.17% of the total United States GHG emissions) (28).

### 2.6 REGULATORY SETTING

### 2.6.1 FEDERAL

Prior to the last decade, there have been no concrete federal regulations of GHGs or major planning for climate change adaptation. The following are actions regarding the federal government, GHGs, and fuel efficiency.

### **GHG ENDANGERMENT**

In *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency* 549 U.S. 497 (2007), decided on April 2, 2007, the United States Supreme Court (U.S. Court) found that four GHGs, including CO<sub>2</sub>, are air pollutants subject to regulation under Section 202(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The Court held that the EPA Administrator must determine whether emissions of GHGs from new motor vehicles cause or contribute to air pollution, which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Used <u>http://unfccc.int</u> data for Annex I countries. Consulted the CAIT Climate Data Explorer in <u>https://www.climatewatchdata.org</u> site to reference Non-Annex I countries of China and India.



public health or welfare, or whether the science is too uncertain to make a reasoned decision. On December 7, 2009, the EPA Administrator signed two distinct findings regarding GHGs under section 202(a) of the CAA:

- Endangerment Finding: The Administrator finds that the current and projected concentrations of the six key well-mixed GHGs— CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF<sub>6</sub>—in the atmosphere threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations.
- Cause or Contribute Finding: The Administrator finds that the combined emissions of these wellmixed GHGs from new motor vehicles and new motor vehicle engines contribute to the GHG pollution, which threatens public health and welfare.

These findings do not impose requirements on industry or other entities. However, this was a prerequisite for implementing GHG emissions standards for vehicles, as discussed in the section "Clean Vehicles" below. After a lengthy legal challenge, the U.S. Court declined to review an Appeals Court ruling that upheld the EPA Administrator's findings (29).

### **CLEAN VEHICLES**

Congress first passed the Corporate Average Fuel Economy law in 1975 to increase the fuel economy of cars and light duty trucks. The law has become more stringent over time. On May 19, 2009, President Obama put in motion a new national policy to increase fuel economy for all new cars and trucks sold in the U.S. On April 1, 2010, the EPA and the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced a joint final rule establishing a national program that would reduce GHG emissions and improve fuel economy for new cars and trucks sold in the U.S.

The first phase of the national program applies to passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and mediumduty (MD) passenger vehicles, covering model years 2012 through 2016. They require these vehicles to meet an estimated combined average emissions level of 250 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per mile, equivalent to 35.5 miles per gallon (mpg) if the automobile industry were to meet this CO<sub>2</sub> level solely through fuel economy improvements. Together, these standards would cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by an estimated 960 million metric tons and 1.8 billion barrels of oil over the lifetime of the vehicles sold under the program (model years 2012–2016). The EPA and the NHTSA issued final rules on a second-phase joint rulemaking establishing national standards for light-duty vehicles for model years 2017 through 2025 in August 2012. The new standards for model years 2017 through 2025 apply to passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and MD passenger vehicles. The final standards are projected to result in an average industry fleetwide level of 163 grams/mile of CO<sub>2</sub> in model year 2025, which is equivalent to 54.5 mpg if achieved exclusively through fuel economy improvements.

The EPA and the U.S. Department of Transportation issued final rules for the first national standards to reduce GHG emissions and improve fuel efficiency of heavy-duty trucks and buses on September 15, 2011, effective November 14, 2011. For combination tractors, the agencies are proposing engine and vehicle standards that begin in the 2014 model year and achieve up to



a 20% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and fuel consumption by the 2018 model year. For HDT and vans, the agencies are proposing separate gasoline and diesel truck standards, which phase in starting in the 2014 model year and achieve up to a 10% reduction for gasoline vehicles and a 15% reduction for diesel vehicles by the 2018 model year (12 and 17% respectively if accounting for air conditioning leakage). Lastly, for vocational vehicles, the engine and vehicle standards would achieve up to a 10% reduction in fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the 2014 to 2018 model years.

On April 2, 2018, the EPA signed the Mid-term Evaluation Final Determination, which declared that the MY 2022-2025 GHG standards are not appropriate and should be revised (30). This Final Determination serves to initiate a notice to further consider appropriate standards for MY 2022-2025 light-duty vehicles. On August 2,2018, the NHTSA in conjunction with the EPA, released a notice of proposed rulemaking, the *Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks* (SAFE Rule). The SAFE Vehicles Rule was proposed to amend exiting Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) and tailpipe CO<sub>2</sub> standards for passenger cars and light trucks and to establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026. As of March 31, 2020, the NHTSA and EPA finalized the SAFE Vehicle Rule which increased stringency of CAFE and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions standards by 1.5% each year through model year 2026 (31). In April, the U.S. EPA and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's separately announced proposed rulemakings to repeal the previous administration's light-duty motor vehicle regulations that were part of the "The Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles Rule Part One: One National Program" (SAFE 1). The comment period has closed, but no addition actions have been taken to date.

### MANDATORY REPORTING OF GHGS

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, passed in December 2007, requires the establishment of mandatory GHG reporting requirements. On September 22, 2009, the EPA issued the Final Mandatory Reporting of GHGs Rule, which became effective January 1, 2010. The rule requires reporting of GHG emissions from large sources and suppliers in the U.S. and is intended to collect accurate and timely emissions data to inform future policy decisions. Under the rule, suppliers of fossil fuels or industrial GHGs, manufacturers of vehicles and engines, and facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons per year (MT/yr) or more of GHG emissions are required to submit annual reports to the EPA.

## New Source Review

The EPA issued a final rule on May 13, 2010, that establishes thresholds for GHGs that define when permits under the New Source Review Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V Operating Permit programs are required for new and existing industrial facilities. This final rule "tailors" the requirements of these CAA permitting programs to limit which facilities will be required to obtain Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V permits. In the preamble to the revisions to the Federal Code of Regulations, the EPA states:



"This rulemaking is necessary because without it the Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V requirements would apply, as of January 2, 2011, at the 100 or 250 tons per year levels provided under the CAA, greatly increasing the number of required permits, imposing undue costs on small sources, overwhelming the resources of permitting authorities, and severely impairing the functioning of the programs. EPA is relieving these resource burdens by phasing in the applicability of these programs to GHG sources, starting with the largest GHG emitters. This rule establishes two initial steps of the phase-in. The rule also commits the agency to take certain actions on future steps addressing smaller sources but excludes certain smaller sources from Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V permitting for GHG emissions until at least April 30, 2016."

The EPA estimates that facilities responsible for nearly 70% of the national GHG emissions from stationary sources will be subject to permitting requirements under this rule. This includes the nation's largest GHG emitters—power plants, refineries, and cement production facilities.

## 2.6.2 STATE

## 2.6.2.1 EXECUTIVE ORDERS RELATED TO GHG EMISSIONS

California's Executive Branch has issued several Executive Orders (EO) to state agencies to reduce GHGs. EO are not legally enforceable on local governments or the private sector. Although not regulatory and not directly applicable to development projects, they set the tone for the state and guide the actions of state agencies.

## EXECUTIVE ORDER S-3-05

Executive Order (EO) S-3-05 sets the following reduction targets for GHG emissions:

- By 2010, reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels.
- By 2020, reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels.
- By 2050, reduce GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels.

The 2050 reduction goal represents what some scientists believe is necessary to reach levels that will stabilize the climate. The 2020 goal was established to be a mid-term target.

## EXECUTIVE ORDER S-01-07 (LCFS)

EO S-01-07 mandates a statewide goal to reduce the carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels by at least 10% by 2020. CARB adopted the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) to achieve the 10% reduction in GHG emissions from the transportation fuels sector by 2020.

In 2018, the CARB approved amendments to LCFS that included strengthening the carbon intensity benchmarks through 2030 in compliance with GHG emissions reduction target for 2030. The amendments included crediting opportunities to promote zero emission vehicle adoption,



alternative jet fuel, carbon capture and sequestration, and advanced technologies to achieve deep decarbonization in the transportation sector (32).

### EXECUTIVE ORDER S-13-08

EO S-13-08 requires the creation of the California Climate Adaptation Strategy (CCAS), the first of which was adopted. Objectives include analyzing risks of climate change in California, identifying and exploring strategies to adapt to climate change, and specifying a direction for future research.

## EXECUTIVE ORDER B-30-15

EO B-30-15 establishes a California GHG reduction target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. The new interim statewide GHG emission reduction target is set at a level to ensure California meets its 2050 target of reducing GHG emissions 80% below 1990 levels. EO B-30-15 directs CARB to update the State Climate Change Scoping Plan to include a 2030 target in terms of millions of MT CO<sub>2</sub>e. EO B-30-15 also requires the CCAS to be updated every three years, and for the State to continue its climate change research program, among other provisions.

### EXECUTIVE ORDER B-55-18

Executive Order B-55-18 establishes a Statewide policy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 and maintain net negative emissions thereafter. As per Executive Order B-55-18, CARB is directed to work with relevant State agencies to develop a framework for implementation and accounting that tracks progress toward this goal and to ensure future Climate Change Scoping Plans identify and recommend measures to achieve the carbon neutrality goal.

### EXECUTIVE ORDER N-79-20

EO N-79-20 sets new statewide goals for phasing out gasoline-powered cars and trucks in California. Under EO N-79-20, 100% of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks are to be zero-emission by 2035; 100% of in-state sales of medium- and heavy-duty trucks and busses are to be zero-emission by 2045, where feasible; and 100% of off-road vehicles and equipment sales are to be zero-emission by 2035, where feasible. EO-79-20 directs CARB and other state agencies to develop regulations or take other steps within existing authority to achieve these goals.

## 2.6.2.2 LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS TO REDUCE GHGS

The State of California legislature has enacted a series of bills that constitute the most aggressive program to reduce GHGs of any state in the nation. Some legislation such as Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB32) was specifically enacted to address GHG emissions and the 2020 target identified in EO S-3-05. This section describes the major provisions of the legislation.

## GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2006 (AB 32)

In 2006, the State Legislature enacted AB 32, the California Global Solutions Act of 2006 (HSC §38500-38599), which requires that GHGs emitted in California be reduced to 1990 levels by the



year 2020 (this goal has been met since  $2016^3$ ). GHGs as defined under AB 32 include CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF<sub>6</sub>. Since AB32 was enacted, a seventh chemical, nitrogen trifluoride, has also been added to the list of GHGs. CARB is the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of GHGs. AB 32 states the following:

"Global warming poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California. The potential adverse impacts of global warming include the exacerbation of air quality problems, a reduction in the quality and supply of water to the state from the Sierra snowpack, a rise in sea levels resulting in the displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences, damage to marine ecosystems and the natural environment, and an increase in the incidences of infectious diseases, asthma, and other human health-related problems."

### GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2006: EMISSIONS LIMIT (SB 32)

In September 2016, the State Legislature enacted SB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Emissions Limit ((HSC §38566)). SB 32 requires the state to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, a reduction target that was first introduced in Executive Order B-30-15. The new legislation builds upon AB 32 and provides an intermediate goal to achieving S-3-05, which sets a statewide GHG reduction target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 (33).

### THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND CLIMATE PROTECTION ACT OF 2008 (SB 375)

According to SB 375, the transportation sector is the largest contributor of GHG emissions, which emits over 40% of the total GHG emissions in California. SB 375 states, "Without improved land use and transportation policy, California will not be able to achieve the goals of AB 32." SB 375 does the following: it (1) requires metropolitan planning organizations to include sustainable community strategies in their regional transportation plans for reducing GHG emissions, (2) aligns planning for transportation and housing, and (3) creates specified incentives for the implementation of the strategies.

Concerning CEQA, SB 375, as codified in Public Resources Code Section 21159.28, states that CEQA findings for certain projects are not required to reference, describe, or discuss (1) growth inducing impacts, or (2) any project-specific or cumulative impacts from cars and light-duty truck trips generated by the project on global warming or the regional transportation network, if the project:

- 1. Is in an area with an approved sustainable communities strategy or an alternative planning strategy that the CARB accepts as achieving the GHG emission reduction targets.
- 2. Is consistent with that strategy (in designation, density, building intensity, and applicable policies).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Based upon the 2021 GHG inventory data (i.e., the latest year for which data are available) for the 2000-2019 GHG emissions period, California emitted less than the 2020 emissions target of 431 million MT CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2016 and each year after that.



3. Incorporates the mitigation measures required by an applicable prior environmental document.

## VEHICULAR EMISSIONS: GREENHOUSE GASES (AB 1493)

California's AB 1493, required CARB to develop and adopt regulations that reduce GHGs emitted by passenger vehicles and light duty trucks. The standards initially phased in during the 2009 through 2016 model years. The near-term (2009–2012) standards resulted in about a 22% reduction compared with the 2002 fleet, and the mid-term (2013–2016) standards resulted in about a 30% improvement in fuel efficiency. The second phase of the implementation for AB 1493 was incorporated into Amendments to the Low-Emission Vehicle Program (LEV III) or the Advanced Clean Cars (ACC) program. The ACC program combines the control of smog-causing pollutants and GHG emissions into a single coordinated package of requirements for model years 2017 through 2025. The regulation is intended reduce GHGs from new cars by 34% from 2016 levels by 2025. The new rules are intended to clean up gasoline and diesel-powered cars, and deliver increasing numbers of zero-emission technologies, such as full battery electric vehicles (EV), newly emerging plug-in hybrid EVs, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. The package will also ensure adequate fueling infrastructure is available for the increasing numbers of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles planned for deployment in California.

### MEDIUM- AND HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES: COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY (SB 44)

SB 44 requires CARB, no later than January 1, 2021, and at least every 5 years thereafter, to update CARB's 2016 Mobile Source Strategy to include a comprehensive strategy for the deployment of medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles in the state for the purpose of bringing the state into compliance with federal ambient air quality standards and reducing motor vehicle greenhouse gas emissions from the medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicle sector. SB 44 further requires CARB to recommend reasonable and achievable goals, for reducing emissions from medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles by 2030 and 2050, respectively.

### CALIFORNIA RENEWABLES PORTFOLIO STANDARD PROGRAM: EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES

The State Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was initially established by SB 1078. SB 1078 required electricity providers to increase procurement of electricity from renewable energy sources by at least one percent per year with the goal of reaching 20 percent renewables by 2017. SB 107 accelerated the 20 percent RPS requirement from 2017 to 2010. Subsequently, SB 2 (1X) increased the RPS requirements to 33 percent renewables by 2020 with compliance period targets of 20 percent by 2013 and 25 percent by 2016. SB 350 further increases the RPS requirement to 50 percent by 2030, with interim targets of 40 percent by 2024 and 45 percent by 2027. In addition, the bill requires that 65 percent of RPS procurement must be derived from long-term contracts (10 years or more) starting in 2021. The most recent change is from SB 100, which increases RPS requirements to 60 percent by 2030, with new interim targets of 44 percent by 2024 and 52 percent by 2027 as well. The bill further requires that all of the state's electricity come from carbon-free resources (not only RPS-eligible ones) by 2045.



#### MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING ORDINANCE

The Model Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance (MWELO) was enacted by AB 1881, the Water Conservation Act. AB 1881 required local agencies to adopt a local landscape ordinance at least as effective in conserving water as the Model Ordinance by January 1, 2010. EO B-29-15 directs DWR to update the MELOW through expedited regulation. The California Water Commission approved the revised MELOW became effective December 15, 2015, which requires new development projects that include landscape areas of 500 sf to implement:

- More efficient irrigation systems;
- Incentives for graywater usage;
- Improvements in on-site stormwater capture;
- Limiting the portion of landscapes that can be planted with high water use plants; and
- Includes reporting requirements for local agencies.

### SB 97 AND THE CEQA GUIDELINES UPDATE

Passed in August 2007, SB 97 added Section 21083.05 to the Public Resources Code. The code states "(a) On or before July 1, 2009, the OPR shall prepare, develop, and transmit to the Resources Agency guidelines for the mitigation of GHG emissions or the effects of GHG emissions as required by this division, including, but not limited to, effects associated with transportation or energy consumption. (b) On or before January 1, 2010, the Resources Agency shall certify and adopt guidelines prepared and developed by the OPR pursuant to subdivision (a)." Section 21097 was also added to the Public Resources Code. It provided CEQA protection until January 1, 2010 for transportation projects funded by the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 or projects funded by the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006, in stating that the failure to analyze adequately the effects of GHGs would not violate CEQA.

On December 28, 2018, the Natural Resources Agency announced the OAL approved the amendments to the CEQA Guidelines for implementing the CEQA. The CEQA Amendments provide guidance to public agencies regarding the analysis and mitigation of the effects of GHG emissions in CEQA documents. The CEQA Amendments fit within the existing CEQA framework by amending existing CEQA Guidelines to reference climate change.

Section 15064.3 was added the CEQA Guidelines and states that in determining the significance of a project's GHG emissions, the lead agency should focus its analysis on the reasonably foreseeable incremental contribution of the project's emissions to the effects of climate change. A project's incremental contribution may be cumulatively considerable even if it appears relatively small compared to statewide, national or global emissions. The agency's analysis should consider a timeframe that is appropriate for the project. The agency's analysis also must reasonably reflect evolving scientific knowledge and state regulatory schemes. Additionally, a lead agency may use a model or methodology to estimate GHG emissions resulting from a project. The lead agency has discretion to select the model or methodology it considers most



appropriate to enable decision makers to intelligently take into account the project's incremental contribution to climate change. The lead agency must support its selection of a model or methodology with substantial evidence. The lead agency should explain the limitations of the particular model or methodology selected for use (34).

## 2.6.2.3 CARB

## 2017 CARB SCOPING PLAN

In November 2017, CARB released the *Final 2017 Scoping Plan Update* (*2017 Scoping Plan*), which identifies the State's post-2020 reduction strategy. The *2017 Scoping Plan* reflects the 2030 target of a 40% reduction below 1990 levels, set by Executive Order B-30-15 and codified by SB 32. Key programs that the proposed Second Update builds upon include the Cap-and-Trade Regulation, the LCFS, and much cleaner cars, trucks, and freight movement, utilizing cleaner, renewable energy, and strategies to reduce CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from agricultural and other wastes.

The 2017 Scoping Plan establishes a new emissions limit of 260 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e for the year 2030, which corresponds to a 40% decrease in 1990 levels by 2030 (35).

California's climate strategy would require contributions from all sectors of the economy, including the land base, and would include enhanced focus on zero and near-zero emission (ZE/NZE) vehicle technologies; continued investment in renewables, including solar roofs, wind, and other distributed generation; greater use of low carbon fuels; integrated land conservation and development strategies; coordinated efforts to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (CH<sub>4</sub>, black carbon, and fluorinated gases); and an increased focus on integrated land use planning to support livable, transit-connected communities and conservation of agricultural and other lands. Requirements for direct GHG reductions at refineries would further support air quality co-benefits in neighborhoods, including in disadvantaged communities historically located adjacent to these large stationary sources, as well as efforts with California's local air pollution control and air quality management districts (air districts) to tighten emission limits on a broad spectrum of industrial sources. Major elements of the *2017 Scoping Plan* framework include:

- Implementing and/or increasing the standards of the Mobile Source Strategy, which include increasing zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) buses and trucks.
- LCFS, with an increased stringency (18% by 2030).
- Implementing SB 350, which expands the RPS to 50% RPS and doubles energy efficiency savings by 2030.
- California Sustainable Freight Action Plan, which improves freight system efficiency, utilizes near-zero emissions technology, and deployment of ZEV trucks.
- Implementing the proposed Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Strategy (SLPS), which focuses on reducing CH₄ and HCF emissions by 40% and anthropogenic black carbon emissions by 50% by year 2030.
- Continued implementation of SB 375.



- Post-2020 Cap-and-Trade Program that includes declining caps.
- 20% reduction in GHG emissions from refineries by 2030.
- Development of a Natural and Working Lands Action Plan to secure California's land base as a net carbon sink.

Note, however, that the 2017 Scoping Plan acknowledges that:

"[a]chieving net zero increases in GHG emissions, resulting in no contribution to GHG impacts, may not be feasible or appropriate for every project, however, and the inability of a project to mitigate its GHG emissions to net zero does not imply the project results in a substantial contribution to the cumulatively significant environmental impact of climate change under CEQA."

In addition to the statewide strategies listed above, the 2017 Scoping Plan also identifies local governments as essential partners in achieving the State's long-term GHG reduction goals and identifies local actions to reduce GHG emissions. As part of the recommended actions, CARB recommends that local governments achieve a community-wide goal to achieve emissions of no more than 6 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) or less per capita by 2030 and 2 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e or less per capita by 2050. For CEQA projects, CARB states that lead agencies may develop evidence-based bright-line numeric thresholds—consistent with the 2017 Scoping Plan and the State's long-term GHG goals—and projects with emissions over that amount may be required to incorporate onsite design features and MMs that avoid or minimize project emissions to the degree feasible; or a performance-based metric using a CAP or other plan to reduce GHG emissions is appropriate.

According to research conducted by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and supported by CARB, California, under its existing and proposed GHG reduction policies, could achieve the 2030 goals under SB 32. The research utilized a new, validated model known as the California LBNL GHG Analysis of Policies Spreadsheet (CALGAPS), which simulates GHG and criteria pollutant emissions in California from 2010 to 2050 in accordance to existing and future GHG-reducing policies. The CALGAPS model showed that by 2030, emissions could range from 211 to 428 MTCO2e per year (MTCO2e/yr), indicating that "even if all modeled policies are not implemented, reductions could be sufficient to reduce emissions 40% below the 1990 level [of SB 32]." CALGAPS analyzed emissions through 2050 even though it did not generally account for policies that might be put in place after 2030. Although the research indicated that the emissions would not meet the State's 80% reduction goal by 2050, various combinations of policies could allow California's cumulative emissions to remain very low through 2050 (36) (37)

### 2022 CARB SCOPING PLAN

On December 15, 2022, CARB adopted the 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality (2022 Scoping Plan) (38). The 2022 Scoping Plan builds on the 2017 Scoping Plan as well as the requirements set forth by AB 1279, which directs the state to become carbon neutral no later than 2045. To achieve this statutory objective, the 2022 Scoping Plan lays out how California can reduce GHG emissions by 85% below 1990 levels and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. The Scoping Plan scenario to do this is to "deploy a broad portfolio of existing and emerging fossil fuel



alternatives and clean technologies, and align with statutes, Executive Orders, Board direction, and direction from the governor." The 2022 Scoping Plan sets one of the most aggressive approaches to reach carbon neutrality in the world. Unlike the 2017 Scoping Plan, CARB no longer includes a numeric per capita threshold and instead advocates for compliance with a local GHG reduction strategy (CAP) consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15183.5.

The key elements of the 2022 CARB Scoping Plan focus on transportation - the regulations that will impact this sector are adopted and enforced by CARB on vehicle manufacturers and outside the jurisdiction and control of local governments. As stated in the Plan's executive summary:

"The major element of this unprecedented transformation is the aggressive reduction of fossil fuels wherever they are currently used in California, building on and accelerating carbon reduction programs that have been in place for a decade and a half. That means rapidly moving to zero-emission transportation; electrifying the cars, buses, trains, and trucks that now constitute California's single largest source of planet-warming pollution."

"[A]pproval of this plan catalyzes a number of efforts, including the development of new regulations as well as amendments to strengthen regulations and programs already in place, not just at CARB but across state agencies."

Under the 2022 Scoping Plan, the State will lead efforts to meet the 2045 carbon neutrality goal through implementation of the following objectives:

- Reimagine roadway projects that increase VMT in a way that meets community needs and reduces the need to drive.
- Double local transit capacity and service frequencies by 2030.
- Complete the High-Speed Rail (HSR) System and other elements of the intercity rail network by 2040.
- Expand and complete planned networks of high-quality active transportation infrastructure.
- Increase availability and affordability of bikes, e-bikes, scooters, and other alternatives to lightduty vehicles, prioritizing needs of underserved communities.
- Shift revenue generation for transportation projects away from the gas tax into more durable sources by 2030.
- Authorize and implement roadway pricing strategies and reallocate revenues to equitably improve transit, bicycling, and other sustainable transportation choices.
- Prioritize addressing key transit bottlenecks and other infrastructure investments to improve transit operational efficiency over investments that increase VMT.
- Develop and implement a statewide transportation demand management (TDM) framework with VMT mitigation requirements for large employers and large developments.
- Prevent uncontrolled growth of autonomous vehicle (AV) VMT, particularly zero-passenger miles.
- Channel new mobility services towards pooled use models, transit complementarity, and lower VMT outcomes.



- Establish an integrated statewide system for trip planning, booking, payment, and user accounts that enables efficient and equitable multimodal systems.
- Provide financial support for low-income and disadvantaged Californians' use of transit and new mobility services.
- Expand universal design features for new mobility services.
- Accelerate infill development in existing transportation-efficient places and deploy strategic resources to create more transportation-efficient locations.
- Encourage alignment in land use, housing, transportation, and conservation planning in adopted regional plans (RTP/SCS and RHNA) and local plans (e.g., general plans, zoning, and local transportation plans).
- Accelerate production of affordable housing in forms and locations that reduce VMT and affirmatively further fair housing policy objectives.
- Reduce or eliminate parking requirements (and/or enact parking maximums, as appropriate) and promote redevelopment of excess parking, especially in infill locations.
- Preserve and protect existing affordable housing stock and protect existing residents and businesses from displacement and climate risk.

Included in the 2022 Scoping Plan is a set of Local Actions (Appendix D to the 2022 Scoping Plan) aimed at providing local jurisdictions with tools to reduce GHGs and assist the state in meeting the ambitious targets set forth in the 2022 Scoping Plan. Appendix D to the 2022 Scoping Plan includes a section on evaluating plan-level and project-level alignment with the State's Climate Goals in CEQA GHG analyses. In this section, CARB identifies several recommendations and strategies that should be considered for new development in order to determine consistency with the 2022 Scoping Plan. Notably, this section is focused on Residential and Mixed-Use Projects, in fact CARB states in Appendix D (page 4): "...focuses primarily on climate action plans (CAPs) and local authority over new residential development. It does not address other land use types (e.g., industrial) or air permitting."

Additionally on Page 21 in Appendix D, CARB states: "The recommendations outlined in this section apply only to residential and mixed-use development project types. California currently faces both a housing crisis and a climate crisis, which necessitates prioritizing recommendations for residential projects to address the housing crisis in a manner that simultaneously supports the State's GHG and regional air quality goals. CARB plans to continue to explore new approaches for other land use types in the future." As such, it would be inappropriate to apply the requirements contained in Appendix D of the 2022 Scoping Plan to any land use types other than residential or mixed-use residential development.

### CAP-AND-TRADE PROGRAM

The Scoping Plan identifies a Cap-and-Trade Program as one of the key strategies for California to reduce GHG emissions. According to CARB, a cap-and-trade program will help put California on the path to meet its goal of achieving a 40% reduction in GHG emissions from 1990 levels by

#### 13974-02 GHG Report.docx



2030. Under cap-and-trade, an overall limit on GHG emissions from capped sectors is established, and facilities subject to the cap will be able to trade permits to emit GHGs within the overall limit.

CARB adopted a California Cap-and-Trade Program pursuant to its authority under AB 32. The Cap-and-Trade Program is designed to reduce GHG emissions from regulated entities by more than 16% between 2013 and 2020, and by an additional 40% by 2030. The statewide cap for GHG emissions from the capped sectors (e.g., electricity generation, petroleum refining, and cement production) commenced in 2013 and will decline over time, achieving GHG emission reductions throughout the program's duration.

Covered entities that emit more than 25.000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr must comply with the Cap-and-Trade Program. Triggering of the 25.000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr "inclusion threshold" is measured against a subset of emissions reported and verified under the California Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of GHG Emissions (Mandatory Reporting Rule or "MRR").

Under the Cap-and-Trade Program, CARB issues allowances equal to the total amount of allowable emissions over a given compliance period and distributes these to regulated entities. Covered entities are allocated free allowances in whole or part (if eligible), and may buy allowances at auction, purchase allowances from others, or purchase offset credits. Each covered entity with a compliance obligation is required to surrender "compliance instruments" for each MTCO<sub>2</sub>e of GHG they emit. There also are requirements to surrender compliance instruments covering 30% of the prior year's compliance obligation by November of each year (39).

The Cap-and-Trade Program provides a firm cap, which provides the highest certainty of achieving the 2030 target. An inherent feature of the Cap-and-Trade program is that it does not guarantee GHG emissions reductions in any discrete location or by any particular source. Rather, GHG emissions reductions are only guaranteed on an accumulative basis. As summarized by CARB in the *First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan*:

"The Cap-and-Trade Regulation gives companies the flexibility to trade allowances with others or take steps to cost-effectively reduce emissions at their own facilities. Companies that emit more have to turn in more allowances or other compliance instruments. Companies that can cut their GHG emissions have to turn in fewer allowances. But as the cap declines, aggregate emissions must be reduced. In other words, a covered entity theoretically could increase its GHG emissions every year and still comply with the Cap-and-Trade Program if there is a reduction in GHG emissions from other covered entities. Such a focus on aggregate GHG emissions is considered appropriate because climate change is a global phenomenon, and the effects of GHG emissions are considered cumulative." (40)

The Cap-and-Trade Program covered approximately 80% of California's GHG emissions (35). The Cap-and-Trade Program covers the GHG emissions associated with electricity consumed in California, whether generated in-state or imported. Accordingly, GHG emissions associated with CEQA projects' electricity usage are covered by the Cap-and-Trade Program. The Cap-and-Trade Program also covers fuel suppliers (natural gas and propane fuel providers and transportation

fuel providers) to address emissions from such fuels and from combustion of other fossil fuels not directly covered at large sources in the Program's first compliance period. The Cap-and-Trade Program covers the GHG emissions associated with the combustion of transportation fuels in California, whether refined in-state or imported.

### 2.6.2.4 CALIFORNIA REGULATIONS AND BUILDING CODES

Other legislation such as Title 24 and Title 20 energy standards were originally adopted for other purposes such as energy and water conservation, but also provide GHG reductions.

California has a long history of adopting regulations to improve energy efficiency in new and remodeled buildings. These regulations have kept California's energy consumption relatively flat even with rapid population growth.

## TITLE 20 CCR

CCR, Title 20: Division 2, Chapter 4, Article 4, Sections 1601-1608: Appliance Efficiency Regulations regulates the sale of appliances in California. The Appliance Efficiency Regulations include standards for both federally regulated appliances and non-federally regulated appliances. 23 categories of appliances are included in the scope of these regulations. The standards within these regulations apply to appliances that are sold or offered for sale in California, except those sold wholesale in California for final retail sale outside the state and those designed and sold exclusively for use in recreational vehicles or other mobile equipment (CEC 2012).

## TITLE 24 CCR

California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24 Part 6: The California Energy Code was first adopted in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption.

The standards are updated periodically to allow consideration and possible incorporation of new energy efficient technologies and methods. CCR, Title 24, Part 11: California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) is a comprehensive and uniform regulatory code for all residential, commercial, and school buildings that went in effect on August 1, 2009, and is administered by the California Building Standards Commission.

CALGreen is updated on a regular basis, with the most recent approved update consisting of the 2022 California Green Building Code Standards that will be effective on January 1, 2023. The CEC anticipates that the 2022 energy code will provide \$1.5 billion in consumer benefits and reduce GHG emissions by 10 million metric tons (41). The Project would be required to comply with the applicable standards in place at the time building permit document submittals are made. These require, among other items (42):



#### NONRESIDENTIAL MANDATORY MEASURES

- Short-term bicycle parking. If the new project or an additional alteration is anticipated to generate visitor traffic, provide permanently anchored bicycle racks within 200 feet of the visitors' entrance, readily visible to passers-by, for 5% of new visitor motorized vehicle parking spaces being added, with a minimum of one two-bike capacity rack (5.106.4.1.1).
- Long-term bicycle parking. For new buildings with tenant spaces that have 10 or more tenant-occupants, provide secure bicycle parking for 5% of the tenant-occupant vehicular parking spaces with a minimum of one bicycle parking facility (5.106.4.1.2).
- Designated parking for clean air vehicles. In new projects or additions to alterations that add 10 or more vehicular parking spaces, provide designated parking for any combination of low-emitting, fuel-efficient and carpool/van pool vehicles as shown in Table 5.106.5.2 (5.106.5.2).
- EV charging stations. New construction shall facilitate the future installation of EV supply equipment. The compliance requires empty raceways for future conduit and documentation that the electrical system has adequate capacity for the future load. The number of spaces to be provided for is contained in Table 5.106. 5.3.3 (5.106.5.3).
- Outdoor light pollution reduction. Outdoor lighting systems shall be designed to meet the backlight, uplight and glare ratings per Table 5.106.8 (5.106.8)
- Construction waste management. Recycle and/or salvage for reuse a minimum of 65% of the nonhazardous construction and demolition waste in accordance with Section 5.408.1.1. 5.405.1.2, or 5.408.1.3; or meet a local construction and demolition waste management ordinance, whichever is more stringent (5.408.1).
- Excavated soil and land clearing debris. 100% of trees, stumps, rocks and associated vegetation and soils resulting primarily from land clearing shall be reused or recycled. For a phased project, such material may be stockpiled on site until the storage site is developed (5.408.3).
- Recycling by Occupants. Provide readily accessible areas that serve the entire building and are identified for the depositing, storage and collection of non-hazardous materials for recycling, including (at a minimum) paper, corrugated cardboard, glass, plastics, organic waste, and metals or meet a lawfully enacted local recycling ordinance, if more restrictive (5.410.1).
- Water conserving plumbing fixtures and fittings. Plumbing fixtures (water closets and urinals) and fittings (faucets and showerheads) shall comply with the following:
  - Water Closets. The effective flush volume of all water closets shall not exceed 1.28 gallons per flush (5.303.3.1)
  - Urinals. The effective flush volume of wall-mounted urinals shall not exceed 0.125 gallons per flush (5.303.3.2.1). The effective flush volume of floor-mounted or other urinals shall not exceed 0.5 gallons per flush (5.303.3.2.2).





- Showerheads. Single showerheads shall have a minimum flow rate of not more than 1.8 gallons per minute and 80 psi (5.303.3.3.1). When a shower is served by more than one showerhead, the combine flow rate of all showerheads and/or other shower outlets controlled by a single valve shall not exceed 1.8 gallons per minute at 80 psi (5.303.3.2.2).
- Faucets and fountains. Nonresidential lavatory faucets shall have a maximum flow rate of not more than 0.5 gallons per minute at 60 psi (5.303.3.4.1). Kitchen faucets shall have a maximum flow rate of not more than 1.8 gallons per minute of 60 psi (5.303.3.4.2). Wash fountains shall have a maximum flow rate of not more than 1.8 gallons per minute (5.303.3.4.3). Metering faucets shall not deliver more than 0.20 gallons per cycle (5.303.3.4.4). Metering faucets for wash fountains shall have a maximum flow rate not more than 0.20 gallons per cycle (5.303.3.4.5).
- Outdoor portable water use in landscaped areas. Nonresidential developments shall comply with a local water efficient landscape ordinance or the current California Department of Water Resources' Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO), whichever is more stringent (5.304.1).
- Water meters. Separate submeters or metering devices shall be installed for new buildings or additions in excess of 50,000 sf or for excess consumption where any tenant within a new building or within an addition that is project to consume more than 1,000 gallons per day (5.303.1.1 and 5.303.1.2).
- Outdoor water use in rehabilitated landscape projects equal or greater than 2,500 sf. Rehabilitated landscape projects with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 sf requiring a building or landscape permit (5.304.3).
- Commissioning. For new buildings 10,000 sf and over, building commissioning shall be included in the design and construction processes of the building project to verify that the building systems and components meet the owner's or owner representative's project requirements (5.410.2).

#### 2.7.4 REGIONAL/SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

The County of San Bernardino adopted a GHG Emissions Reduction Plan (Reduction Plan) in September 2011. The Reduction Plan contains further guidance on the County of San Bernardino's GHG Inventory reduction goals, policies, guidelines, and implementation programs. The purpose of the Reduction Plan is to provide guidance on how to analyze GHG emissions and determine significance during the CEQA review of proposed development projects within the County of San Bernardino (43). The Reduction Plan provided the GHG emissions inventory for the year 2007, and target for reducing GHG emissions 15% below 2007 levels by 2020. The County has implemented strategies to reduce its GHG emissions identified in the 2011 Reduction Plan, which has helped the County meet its 2020 GHG reduction targets. Since the adoption of County's Reduction Plan, the State has enacted new climate change regulations, most notably SB 32, which provides statewide targets to reduce GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

As part of the Reduction Plan, the County of San Bernardino published a GHG Development Review Process that specifies a two-step approach in quantifying GHG emissions. First, a screening threshold of 3,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr is used to determine if additional analysis is required. Projects that exceed the 3,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr are required to either achieve a minimum 100 points



per the Screening Tables or a 31% reduction over 2007 emissions levels. Consistent with CEQA guidelines, such projects would be determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions (44).



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# **3 PROJECT GREENHOUSE GAS IMPACT**

## 3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Project has been evaluated to determine if it will result in a significant greenhouse gas impact. The significance of these potential impacts is described in the following section.

# **3.2** STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria used to determine the significance of potential Project-related GHG impacts are taken from the Initial Study Checklist in Appendix G of the State *CEQA Guidelines* (14 CCR §§15000, et seq.). Based on these thresholds, a project would result in a significant impact related to GHG if it would (34):

- Generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?
- Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs?

### **3.2.1** DISCUSSION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS

The County of San Bernardino adopted the GHG Reduction Plan Update in June 2021. The GHG Reduction Plan Update provides guidance on how to analyze GHG emissions and determine significance during the CEQA review of proposed development projects within the County of San Bernardino (45). The County includes a GHG Development Review Process (DRP) that specifies a two-step approach in quantifying GHG emissions (45). First, a screening threshold of 3,000 MTCO2e/yr is used to determine if additional analysis is required. Projects that exceed the 3,000 MTCO2e/yr will be required to either achieve a minimum 100 points per the Screening Tables or a 31% reduction over 2007 emissions levels. Consistent with CEQA guidelines, such projects would be determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions.

# **3.3** MODELS EMPLOYED TO ANALYZE GREENHOUSE GASES EMISSIONS

Land uses such as the Project affect GHGs through construction-source and operational-source emissions.

# 3.3.1 CALIFORNIA EMISSIONS ESTIMATOR MODEL<sup>™</sup>

In May 2022 California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) in conjunction with other California air districts, including SCAQMD, released the latest version of CalEEMod version 2022.1. The purpose of this model is to calculate construction-source and operational-source criteria pollutants and GHG emissions from direct and indirect sources; and quantify applicable air quality and GHG reductions achieved from mitigation measures (46). Accordingly, the latest version of CalEEMod has been used for this Project to determine GHG emissions. Output from



the model runs for construction and operational activity are provided in Appendix 3.1. CalEEMod includes GHG emissions from the following source categories: construction, area, energy, mobile, waste, water, refrigerants.

#### **3.4 CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS**

Project construction activities would generate CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions. The report *Silverwood Gas Market Air Quality Impact Analysis Report* (Urban Crossroads, Inc.) (AQIA) contains detailed information regarding Project construction activities (47). As discussed in the AQIA, Construction related emissions are expected from the following construction activities:

- Demolition
- Site Preparation
- Grading
- Building Construction
- Paving
- Architectural Coating

#### **3.4.1 CONSTRUCTION DURATION**

Construction is expected to commence in January 2024 and will last through July 2025. Construction duration by phase is shown on Table 3-1. The construction schedule utilized in the analysis represents a "worst-case" analysis scenario should construction occur any time after the respective dates since emission factors for construction decrease as time passes and the analysis year increases due to emission regulations becoming more stringent.<sup>4</sup> The duration of construction activity and associated equipment represents a reasonable approximation of the expected construction fleet as required per CEQA guideline.

| Construction Activity | Start Date End Date |           | Days |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------|------|
| Demolition            | 1/2/2024            | 4/1/2024  | 65   |
| Site Preparation      | 4/2/2024            | 4/15/2024 | 10   |
| Grading               | 5/15/2024           | 6/5/2024  | 16   |
| Building Construction | 6/6/2024            | 6/6/2025  | 262  |
| Paving                | 6/10/2025           | 6/24/2025 | 31   |
| Architectural Coating | 6/25/2025           | 7/18/2025 | 18   |

#### TABLE 3-1: CONSTRUCTION DURATION

Source: CalEEMod, Appendix 3.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> As shown in the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) User's Guide Version, Section 4.3"OFFROAD Equipment" as the analysis year increases, emission factors for the same equipment pieces decrease due to the natural turnover of older equipment being replaced by newer less polluting equipment and new regulatory requirements.

#### **3.4.2 CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT**

Site specific construction fleet may vary due to specific project needs at the time of construction. The associated construction equipment was generally based on CalEEMod defaults. The duration of construction activity was based on CalEEMod model defaults adjusted to account for a 2025 opening year. The associated construction equipment was generally based on CalEEMod defaults with modifications to assign 8-hour working days and account for ground disturbance during site preparation and grading. A detailed summary of construction equipment assumptions by phase is provided at Table 3-2. Please refer to specific detailed modeling inputs/outputs contained in Appendix 3.1 of this analysis.

| Construction Activity | Equipment <sup>1</sup>    | Amount | Hours Per Day |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Demolition            | Concrete/Industrial Saws  | 1      | 8             |
|                       | Excavators                | 3      | 8             |
|                       | Rubber Tired Dozers       | 2      | 8             |
| Site Preparation      | Crawler Tractors          | 4      | 8             |
|                       | Rubber Tired Dozers       | 3      | 8             |
| Grading               | Crawler Tractors          | 3      | 8             |
|                       | Graders                   | 1      | 8             |
|                       | Excavators                | 1      | 8             |
|                       | Rubber Tired Dozers       | 1      | 8             |
|                       | Cranes                    | 1      | 8             |
|                       | Generator Sets            | 1      | 8             |
| Building Construction | Forklifts                 | 3      | 8             |
|                       | Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes | 3      | 8             |
|                       | Welders                   | 1      | 8             |
|                       | Cement and Mortar Mixers  | 2      | 8             |
|                       | Pavers                    | 1      | 8             |
| Paving                | Paving Equipment          | 2      | 8             |
|                       | Rollers                   | 2      | 8             |
|                       | Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes | 1      | 8             |
| Architectural Coating | Air Compressors           | 1      | 8             |

#### **TABLE 3-2: CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ASSUMPTIONS**

Source: CalEEMod, Appendix 3.1

<sup>1</sup> In order to account for fugitive dust emissions, Crawler Tractors were used in lieu of Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes during the site preparation and grading phases.



#### 3.4.2 CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS SUMMARY

For construction phase Project emissions, GHGs are quantified and amortized over the life of the Project. MDAQMD follows the SCAQMD recommendation in calculating the total GHG emissions for construction activities by amortizing the emissions over the life of the Project by dividing it by a 30-year project life then adding that number to the annual operational phase GHG emissions (48). As such, construction emissions were amortized over a 30-year period and added to the annual operational phase GHG emissions. The amortized construction emissions are presented in Table 3-3.

|                                  | Emissions (MT/yr) |      |                  |      |   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|---|
| Year                             | CO <sub>2</sub>   | CH₄  | N <sub>2</sub> O | R    | Total<br>CO <sub>2</sub> e <sup>5</sup> |
| 2023                             | 343.00            | 0.01 | < 0.005          | 0.03 | 344                                     |
| 2024                             | 151.00            | 0.01 | < 0.005          | 0.01 | 151.00                                  |
| Total GHG Emissions              | 494.00            | 0.02 | 0.00             | 0.04 | 495.00                                  |
| Amortized Construction Emissions | 16.47             | 0.00 | 0.00             | 0.00 | 16.50                                   |

#### TABLE 3-3: AMORTIZED ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS

Source CalEEMod annual construction-source emissions are presented in Appendix 3.1.

### **3.5 OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS**

Operational activities associated with the proposed Project will result in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and R from the following primary sources:

- Area Source Emissions
- Energy Source Emissions
- Mobile Source Emissions
- Water Supply, Treatment and Distribution
- Solid Waste
- Refrigerants

#### **3.5.1** AREA SOURCE EMISSIONS

#### LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

Landscape maintenance equipment would generate emissions from fuel combustion and evaporation of unburned fuel. Equipment in this category would include lawnmowers, shedders/grinders, blowers, trimmers, chain saws, and hedge trimmers used to maintain the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> CalEEMod reports the most common GHGs emitted which include CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and R. These GHGs are then converted into the CO<sub>2</sub>e by multiplying the individual GHG by the GWP.



landscaping of the Project. The emissions associated with landscape maintenance equipment were calculated based on assumptions provided in the CalEEMod model.

#### **3.5.2** ENERGY SOURCE EMISSIONS

#### COMBUSTION EMISSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRICITY

GHGs are emitted from buildings as a result of activities for which electricity and natural gas are typically used as energy sources. Combustion of any type of fuel emits CO<sub>2</sub> and other GHGs directly into the atmosphere; these emissions are considered direct emissions associated with a building. GHGs are also emitted during the generation of electricity from fossil fuels; these emissions are considered to be indirect emissions. Unless otherwise noted, CalEEMod<sup>™</sup> default parameters were used.

#### **3.5.3** MOBILE SOURCE EMISSIONS

Project-related operational greenhouse gas impacts derive primarily from the 3,325 vehicle trips generated by the Project. Trip characteristics available from the report, *Silverwood Gas Market Traffic Impact Analysis* (David Evans and Associates, Inc.) 2021 were utilized in this analysis (49).

#### 3.5.4 SOLID WASTE

Retail commercial land uses would result in the generation and disposal of solid waste. A large percentage of this waste would be diverted from landfills by a variety of means, such as reducing the amount of waste generated, recycling, and/or composting. The remainder of the waste not diverted would be disposed of at a landfill. GHG emissions from landfills are associated with the anaerobic breakdown of material. GHG emissions associated with the disposal of solid waste associated with the Project were calculated using CalEEMod default parameters.

#### 3.5.5 REFRIGERANTS

Air conditioning (A/C) and refrigeration equipment associated with the building are anticipated to generate GHG emissions. CalEEMod automatically generates a default A/C and refrigeration equipment inventory for each project land use subtype based on industry data from the USEPA (2016b). CalEEMod quantifies refrigerant emissions from leaks during regular operation and routine servicing over the equipment lifetime and then derives average annual emissions from the lifetime estimate. Note that CalEEMod does not quantify emissions from the disposal of refrigeration and A/C equipment at the end of its lifetime. GHG emissions associated with refrigerants were calculated by CalEEMod using default parameters.

# 3.6 EMISSIONS SUMMARY

As shown on Table 3-4, without accounting for applicable regulatory requirements and PDFs, the Project would result in 2,899.63 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr.

#### 13974-02 GHG Report.docx



| Emission Source                  |                 | Emissions (MT/yr) |                  |          |                         |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------------|--|
|                                  | CO <sub>2</sub> | CH₄               | N <sub>2</sub> O | R        | Total CO <sub>2</sub> e |  |
| Amortized Construction Emissions | 16.47           | 6.67E-04          | 0.00E+00         | 1.33E-03 | 16.50                   |  |
| Mobile Source                    | 2,649.00        | 0.15              | 0.15             | 4.47     | 2,701.00                |  |
| Area Source                      | 0.19            | < 0.005           | < 0.005          | 0.00     | 0.19                    |  |
| Energy Source                    | 131.00          | 0.01              | < 0.005          | 0.00     | 132.00                  |  |
| Water Usage                      | 4.07            | 0.10              | < 0.005          | 0.00     | 7.27                    |  |
| Waste                            | 10.40           | 1.04              | 0.00             | 0.00     | 36.40                   |  |
| Refrigerants                     | 0.00            | 0.00              | 0.00             | 6.27     | 6.27                    |  |
| Total CO₂e (All Sources)         |                 |                   | 2,899.63         |          |                         |  |

#### TABLE 3-4: PROJECT GHG EMISSIONS SUMMARY (ANNUAL)

Source: CalEEMod output, See Appendix 3.1 for detailed model outputs.

# 3.7 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

# GHG Impact #1: The Project would not generate direct or indirect greenhouse gas emission that would result in a significant impact on the environment.

The County of San Bernardino adopted the GHG Plan in September 2011 (updated June 2021), which provides guidance on how to analyze GHG emissions and determine significance during the CEQA review of proposed development projects within the County of San Bernardino (50).

The County includes a GHG Development Review Process (DRP) that specifies a two-step approach in quantifying GHG emissions (44). First, a screening threshold of 3,000 MTCO2e/yr is used to determine if additional analysis is required. Projects that exceed the 3,000 MTCO2e/yr will be required to either achieve a minimum 100 points per the Screening Tables or a 31% reduction over 2007 emissions levels. Consistent with CEQA guidelines, such projects would be determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions.

As shown in Table 3-4, the Project will result in approximately 2,899.63 MTCO2e/yr; the proposed project would not exceed the screening threshold of 3,000 MTCO2e/yr. This would be considered a less than significant impact.

# GHG Impact #2: The Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

As previously stated, pursuant to 15604.4 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, a lead agency may rely on qualitative analysis or performance-based standards to determine the significance of impacts from GHG emissions (51). As such, the Project's consistency with the 2022 Scoping Plan, is discussed below. It should be noted that the Project's consistency with the 2022 Scoping Plan also satisfies consistency with AB 32 since the 2022 Scoping Plan is based on the overall targets



established by AB 32 and SB 32. Consistency with the 2008 and 2017 Scoping Plan is not necessary, since both of these plans have been superseded by the 2022 Scoping Plan. For reasons outlined herein, the proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact with respect to GHG emissions for GHG Impact #2.

#### 2022 SCOPING PLAN CONSISTENCY

The Project would not impede the State's progress towards carbon neutrality by 2045 under the 2022 Scoping Plan. The Project would be required to comply with applicable current and future regulatory requirements promulgated through the 2022 Scoping Plan. Some of the current transportation sector policies the Project will comply with (through vehicle manufacturer compliance) include: Advanced Clean Cars II, Advanced Clean Trucks, Advanced Clean Fleets, Zero Emission Forklifts, the Off-Road Zero-Emission Targeted Manufacturer rule, Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program, In-use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation, Off-Road Zero-Emission Targeted Manufacturer rule, Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program, Amendments to the In-use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation, carbon pricing through the Cap-and-Trade Program, and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard. Additionally, the Project includes design features related to water and solid conservation that will further reduce Project GHG emissions. As such, the Project would not be inconsistent with the 2022 Scoping Plan. Lastly, the Project would be required to comply with applicable elements outlined in the City's CAP. As such, the Project would not be inconsistent with the 2022 Scoping Plan.

#### CONSISTENCY WITH COUNTY'S GHG DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS

The Project will result in approximately 2,899.63 MTCO2e/yr; the proposed project would not exceed the screening threshold of 3,000 MTCO2e/yr. The Project is thus considered to have a less than significant individual and cumulatively considerable impact on GHG emissions.



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# 5 CERTIFICATION

The contents of this air study report represent an accurate depiction of the environmental impacts associated with the proposed Silverwood Gas Market Project. The information contained in this health risk assessment is based on the best available data at the time of preparation. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (949) 660-1994.

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#### EDUCATION

Master of Science in Environmental Studies California State University, Fullerton • May, 2010

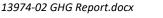
Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Analysis and Design University of California, Irvine • June, 2006

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

AEP – Association of Environmental Planners AWMA – Air and Waste Management Association ASTM – American Society for Testing and Materials

#### **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

Environmental Site Assessment – American Society for Testing and Materials • June, 2013 Planned Communities and Urban Infill – Urban Land Institute • June, 2011 Indoor Air Quality and Industrial Hygiene – EMSL Analytical • April, 2008 Principles of Ambient Air Monitoring – California Air Resources Board • August, 2007 AB2588 Regulatory Standards – Trinity Consultants • November, 2006 Air Dispersion Modeling – Lakes Environmental • June, 2006





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APPENDIX 3.1:

**CALEEMOD EMISSIONS MODEL OUTPUTS** 



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