TO: CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: RON WHISENAND, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: 2011 CEQA UDATE (CITY INITIATED)

DATE: April 12, 2011

- Needs: For the Commission to review the draft 2011 City of Paso Robles CEQA Guidelines Update and make a recommendation to the City Council to approve the revised updated CEQA Guidelines.
- Facts: 1. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is embodied in the California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq; the State's Guidelines to Implement CEQA (Guidelines) are embodied in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Sections 15000 et seq.
 - 2. CEQA Section 21082 and Guidelines Section 15022 require public agencies to adopt objectives, criteria, and specific procedures consistent with CEQA and the Guidelines for administering their responsibilities under CEQA, including the orderly evaluation of projects and preparation of environmental documents.
 - 3. The City's Rules and Procedures for Implementing CEQA (Rules and Procedures) are intended to address the most common situations faced by the City on a day-to-day basis in complying with CEQA. Where there are situations that are not addressed by the City's rules and procedures, or if any portion of these rules and procedures conflicts with any provision of, or amendment to, CEQA or the Guidelines, the provisions of CEQA and the Guidelines shall control.
 - 4. The City approved the first update to the CEQA Guideline since 1992, in September 2009. That update incorporated language pertaining to procedures to implement AB 32 and SB 97 related to climate change, among other modifications. However, the provisions incorporated into the Guidelines in 2009 related to climate change were "interim procedures" until the State amended the State CEQA Guidelines. The State's amended Guidelines became effective in 2010.
 - 5. Not all changes to the CEQA Guidelines are procedural, therefore only those provisions related to procedural matters are recommended to be incorporated into the City's CEQA Guidelines. See Exhibit 1, Changes to CEQA Procedures.
 - 6. The State also made additional modifications to the CEQA "Initial Study Checklist". This Checklist is used in making environmental determinations. Changes to the Initial Study are provided in Exhibit 2.

Analysis and Conclusion:

: State law requires that the City establish its own procedures on how it complies with CEQA. As noted, our current procedures were updated fairly recently, however new changes took effect last year. Therefore, they also need to be incorporated into the City's Guidelines.

The previous update added a section to the City Guidelines, in Chapter 5, entitled, "*Evaluating for Climate Change (Interim Provisions)*". The newly updated language will replace this section, and will include information on how to measure the significance of greenhouse gas emissions. The new section will be titled, "*Determining the Significance of Impacts from Greenhouse Gas Emissions*". The revised language is provided in Exhibit 1.

An Initial Study Checklist form is used in determining the potential impacts that may result from a project. Modifications to the Initial Study Checklist are also included in the CEQA Guidelines Update. The Checklist includes a revised list of topics under list of *"Environmental Factors Potentially Affected"* and changes to some of the topic questions. New topics include "Greenhouse Gas Emissions", and "Forestry" was added to the Agriculture topic. New or revised Initial Study questions are focused on Agriculture and Forestry, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Transportation/Traffic. See Exhibit 2, Updated Initial Study Checklist, with modifications highlighted.

While the changes are specific to state law, requests to change the laws is not an option. However, comments and questions on the City's process and procedures or suggestions to make them easier to interpret are welcomed.

Fiscal

- Impact: No fiscal impacts are anticipated in conjunction with the adoption of the 2011 CEQA Update.
- Options: After consideration of all public testimony, that the Planning Commission considers the following options:
 - a. Recommend that the City Council adopt the 2011 Rules and Regulations for Implementation of CEQA;
 - b. Amend, modify or reject the foregoing option.

Exhibits:

- 1. Chapter 5 Draft 2011 Rules and Regulations for Implementation of CEQA
- 2. Revised Initial Study Checklist
- 3. Public Hearing Notice

5. INITIAL STUDY PROCESS

"**Initial Study**" means a preliminary analysis prepared by the Lead Agency to determine the type of environmental document to process (e.g. EIR, Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration). It is also used to identify the significant environmental effects to be analyzed in an EIR. Use of the Initial Study is discussed in the Guidelines Article 5, commencing with §15060.

5.1 <u>Conduct of the Initial Study</u>

An initial study shall be prepared for all public and private projects once they are determined that an activity is subject to CEQA and no statutory or categorical exemptions apply, unless it has been determined that an EIR will be required and the applicant agrees. All initial studies shall be conducted in accordance with \$15063 of the Guidelines.

5.2 Consultation

As soon as the determination to prepare an Initial Study has been made, Planning staff shall consult informally with, and solicit recommendations from, all Responsible and Trustee agencies (see \$15063(g) of the Guidelines), and City departments. Appendix D lists reviewing agencies with special expertise in various subject areas which may be used to solicit comments in the review of environmental documents. For most projects, this consultation can be adequately satisfied by a telephone call to the appropriate member of the agency's staff. A written record of the phone call (e.g. memo to file or a funning phone log) shall be placed in the project file. The comments and recommendations of the Responsible or Trustee agency and City Departments shall be reflected in the Initial Study.

5.3 Evaluating Projects

A. Planning staff shall evaluate projects for their effect on the environment by using the Environmental Checklist Form (Appendix E), Environmental Information Form (Appendix C), and by calling upon various sources of information, including the General Plan, previously completed EIRs and other environmental studies, and make a written recommendation to the Coordinator which is supported by factual evidence.

- 1. For projects with no previous environmental documents, or previously prepared documents found to be inadequate because changes have been made to the project, the project setting, or because of the length of time since the original preparation date, the analysis shall focus on the identification of significant effects according to sections 15064 and 15065 of the Guidelines. These sections describe the criteria and mandatory findings for establishing whether a project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
- 2. When a project being analyzed is a change to, or further approval for, a project for which an environmental document was previously certified or adopted, provisions of sections 15162 (Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations), 15163 (Supplement to an EIR or Negative Declaration), and 15164 (Addendum to an EIR) of the Guidelines will apply. Guidelines §15064(f)(7)

B. If additional outside review is required to determine the potential significant effects of a project, (e.g., a study of potential traffic impacts) it should be determined at this point, or earlier in the process if possible, by City staff. Any fees for this study shall be borne by the applicant.

C. <u>Evaluating for Climate Change (Interim Provisions)</u>: Pursuant to Senate Bill 97 (Dutton, 2007), new amendments of the Guidelines will be adopted and certified on or before January 1, 2010. These amendments will provide regulatory guidance on the analysis and mitigation of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in CEQA documents. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in cooperation with the Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB) have provided informal guidance regarding the steps lead agencies should take to address climate change in their CEQA documents.

The CEQA analysis shall determine the extent to which the project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Such regulations or requirements must be adopted by the relevant public agency through a public review process and must include specific requirements that reduce or mitigate the project's incremental contribution of greenhouse gas emissions. If there is substantial evidence that the possible effects of a particular project are still cumulatively considerable notwithstanding compliance with the adopted regulations or requirements, an EIR must be prepared for the project.

- 1. CEQA documents should consider the following general factors when analyzing whether a proposed project has the potential to cause a significant climate change impact on the environment:
 - a. The lead agencies should make a good faith effort, based on available information, to calculate, model, or estimate the amount of CO2 and other GHG emissions from a project, including the emissions associated with vehicular traffic, energy consumption, water usage and construction activities.
 - b. Technical resources, including a variety of modeling tools, are available to assist public agencies to quantify GHG emissions. OPR recognizes that more sophisticated emissions models for particular types of projects are continually being developed and that the state-of-the-art quantification models are rapidly changing. OPR will periodically update the examples of modeling tools identified in OPR's "Attachment 2". (Appendix R)
 - e. There is no standard format for including the analysis in a CEQA document. A GHG/climate change analysis can be included in one or more of the typical sections of an EIR (e.g., air quality, transportation, energy) or may be provided in a separate section on cumulative impacts or climate change.
- 2. CEQA documents should consider the following general guidelines when determining the significance of the possible impacts.
 - a. When assessing a project's GHG emissions, lead agencies must describe the existing environmental conditions or setting, without the project, which normally constitutes the baseline physical conditions for determining whether a project's impacts are significant.

- b. As with any environmental impact, lead agencies must determine what constitutes a significant impact. In the absence of regulatory standards for GHG emissions or other scientific data to clearly define what constitutes a "significant impact", individual lead agencies may undertake a project-by-project analysis, consistent with available guidance and current CEQA practice.
- c. The potential effects of a project may be individually limited but cumulatively considerable. Lead agencies should not dismiss a proposed project's direct and/or indirect climate change impacts without careful consideration, supported by substantial evidence. Documentation of available information and analysis should be provided for any project that may significantly contribute new GHG emissions, either individually or cumulatively, directly or indirectly (e.g., transportation impacts).
- d. Although climate change is ultimately a cumulative impact, not every individual project that emits GHGs must necessarily be found to contribute to a significant cumulative impact on the environment. CEQA authorizes reliance on previously approved plans and mitigation programs that have adequately analyzed and mitigated GHG emissions to a less than significant level as a means to avoid or substantially reduce the cumulative impact of a project.
- 3. CEQA documents should consider the following general guidelines when determining possible mitigation measures.
 - a. Mitigation measures will vary with the type of project being contemplated, but may include alternative project designs or locations that conserve energy and water, measures that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by fossil fueled vehicles, measures that contribute to established regional or programmatic mitigation strategies, and measures that sequester carbon to offset the emissions from the project.
 - b. The lead agency must impose all mitigation measures that are necessary to reduce GHG emissions to a less than significant level. CEQA does not require mitigation measures that are infeasible for specific legal, economic, technological, or other reasons. A lead agency is not responsible for wholly eliminating all GHG emissions from a project; the CEQA standard is to mitigate to a level that is "less than significant".
 - c. If there are not sufficient mitigation measures that the lead agency determines are feasible to achieve the less than significant level, the lead agency should adopt those measures that are feasible, and adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations (which would require an EIR) that explains why further mitigation is not feasible. A Statement of Overriding Considerations must be prepared when the lead agency has determined to approve a project for which certain impacts are unavoidable. These statements should explain the reasons why the impacts cannot be adequately mitigated in sufficient detail, and must be based on specific facts, so as not to be conclusive.
 - d. Agencies are encouraged to develop standard GHG emission reduction or mitigation measures that can be applied on a project by project basis. Appendix Q contains a preliminary menu of measures that lead agencies may wish to consider. This list is by no means exhaustive or prescriptive. Lead agencies are encouraged to develop their

own measures and/or propose project alternatives to reduce GHG emissions, either at a programmatic level or on a case by case review.

e. In some cases GHG emission reduction measures will not be feasible or may not be effective at a project level. Rather, it may be more appropriate and more effective to develop and adopt program level plans, policies and measures that will result in a reduction of GHG emissions on a regional level.

C. Determining the Significance of Impacts from Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- b. The determination of the significance of greenhouse gas emissions calls for a careful judgment by the lead agency consistent with the provisions in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064. A lead agency should make a good-faith effort, based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data, to describe, calculate or estimate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from a project. A lead agency shall have the discretion to determine, in the context of a particular project, whether to:
 - i. Use a model or methodology to quantify greenhouse gas emissions resulting form a project, and which model or methodology to use. The lead agency has discretion to select the model or methodology it considers most appropriate provided it supports its decision with substantial evidence. The lead agency should explain the limitations of the particular model or methodology selected for use; and/or
 - ii. Rely on a qualitative analysis or performance based standards.
- c. <u>A lead agency should consider the following factor, among others, when assessing the significance of impacts from greenhouse gas emissions on the environment:</u>
 - i. <u>The extent to which the project may increase or reduce greenhouse gas</u> emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting:
 - ii. Whether the project emissions exceed a threshold of significance that the lead agency determines applies to the project.
 - iii. The extent to which the project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Such requirements mush be adopted by the relevant public agency through a public review process and must reduce or mitigate the project's incremental contribution of greenhouse gas emissions. If there is substantial evidence that the possible effects of a particular project are still cumulatively considerable notwithstanding compliance with the adopted regulations or requirements, an EIR must be prepared for the project.
- d. Mitigation Measures Related to Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15126.4(a), lead agencies shall consider all feasible means, supported by substantial evidence and subject to monitoring or reporting, of mitigating the significant effects of greenhouse gas emission. Measures to mitigate the significant effects of greenhouse gas emission may include, among others:

- i. <u>Measures in an existing plan or mitigation program for the reduction of</u> <u>emissions that are required as part of the lead agency's decision;</u>
- ii. <u>Reductions in emissions resulting from a project through implementation</u> of project features, project design, or other measures, such as those described in Appendix F;
- iii. <u>Off-site measures, including offsets that are not otherwise required, to</u> <u>mitigate a project's emissions;</u>
- iv. Measures that sequester greenhouse gases;
- v. In the case of the adoption of a plan, such as a general plan, long range development plan, or plans for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, mitigation may include the identification of specific measures that may be implemented on a project-by-project basis. Mitigation may also include the incorporation of specific measures or policies found in an adopted ordinance or regulation that reduces the cumulative effect of emissions.

D. Upon completion of the Initial Study, Planning staff shall transmit it along with their preliminary determination to the Coordinator. If it is found that insufficient information exists to determine whether a project will have a significant effect on the environment, additional information from the applicant or one or more focused studies (e.g., traffic, biological, cultural, etc.) shall be required as appropriate to the nature of the project and/or the project site.

E. After a preliminary determination that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, the Coordinator should meet with the applicant in an attempt to reach agreement on acceptable mitigation measures and/or project alternatives which would lessen or avoid the significant effects outlined in the Initial Study. Where agreement is reached, the Coordinator shall revise the Initial Study to incorporate the changes, alternatives and/or mitigation. Changes to the project or mitigation measures shall be agreed to in writing by the applicant and documented in the Initial Study prior to the project being noticed and scheduled for a public hearing. Appendix F contains a sample Mitigation Agreement.

5.4 Preliminary Determinations

The Coordinator, on the basis of the environmental analysis and other information contained in the Initial Study, shall make one of the preliminary determinations listed below no later than 30 calendar days after accepting the application as complete. (NOTE This deadline may be extended an additional 15 days upon the consent of both the Coordinator and the project applicant as provided in Section 15102 of the Guidelines.)

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST FORM CITY OF PASO ROBLES

PROJECT TITLE:

Concurrent Entitlements:

2. LEAD AGENCY:

City of Paso Robles 1000 Spring Street Paso Robles, CA 93446

Contact: Phone: Email:

3. PROJECT LOCATION:

4. PROJECT PROPONENT:

Contact Person:

Phone: Email:

5. GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION:

- 6. ZONING:
- 7. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

8. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

9. OTHER AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (AND PERMITS NEEDED):

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Signature:

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved. Answers should address off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3. "Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. A	ESTHETICS: Would the project:				
a.	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				
	Discussion:				
b.	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				
	Discussion:				
c.	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				
	Discussion: .				
d.	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? (Sources: 1, 2, 10)				
	Discussion:				

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

a.	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?		
	Discussion		
b.	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?		
	Discussion:		

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c.	<u>Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause</u> <u>rezoning of, forest land (as defined in</u> <u>Public Resources Code section 12220(g)),</u> <u>timberland (as defined by Public Resources</u> <u>Code section 4526), or timberland zoned</u> <u>Timberland Production (as defined by</u> <u>Government Code section 51104(g))?</u>				
d.	<u>Result in the loss of forest land or</u> conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				
e.	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use <u>or</u> <u>conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</u>				
	Discussion:				

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

a.	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? (Source: 11)		
	Discussion:		
b.	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? (Source: 11)		
	Discussion:		
c.	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? (Source: 11)		
	Discussion:		
d.	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? (Source: 11)		
	Discussion:		
e.	Create objectionable odors affecting a		

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
substantial number of people? (Source: 11)				
Discussion:				

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

Discussion:

a.	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		
	Discussion:		
b.	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?		
	Discussion:		
c.	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		
	Discussion:		
d.	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?		
	Discussion:		
e.	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f.	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				
	Discussion:				
v.	CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the proje	ct:			
a.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?				
	Discussion:				
b.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to \$15064.5?				
	Discussion:				
c.	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				
	Discussion:				
d.	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				
	Discussion:				
VI	. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project	:			
a.	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist- Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. (Sources: 1, 2, & 3)				
	Discussion:				
	ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?				

			Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		(Sources: 1, 2, & 3)		-		
		Discussion				
	iii.	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? (Sources: 1, 2 & 3)				
		Discussion:				
	b.	Landslides?				
		Discussion:				
		tesult in substantial soil erosion or the loss topsoil? (Sources: 1, 2, & 3)				
		Discussion:				
	uns rest on-	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is stable, or that would become unstable as a ult of the project, and potentially result in or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, osidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
	Dis	scussion:				
	Co	Be located on expansive soil, as defined Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building de (1994), creating substantial risks to life property?				
	Dis	scussion:				
	alte wh	Have soils incapable of adequately oporting the use of septic tanks or ernative waste water disposal systems ere sewers are not available for the posal of waste water?				
	Dis	scussion:				
_	_					
		REENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Woul	d the project:			
a.	dir	nerate greenhouse gas emissions, either ectly or indirectly, that may have a nificant impact on the environment?				
	Dis	scussion:				
b.	Co	nflict with any applicable plan, policy, or				

	regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	greenhouse gasses?				
	Discussion:				
VI	II. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERI	IALS: Would	the project:		
a.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
	Discussion:				
b.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				
	Discussion:				
c.	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
	Discussion:				
d.	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
	Discussion:				
e.	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
	Discussion:				
f.	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	project area?		F		
	Discussion:				
g.	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
	Discussion:				
h.	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				
	Discussion:				
	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY:	Would the proj	ect:	_	_
a.	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				
	Discussion:				
b.	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., Would the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? Would decreased rainfall infiltration or groundwater recharge reduce stream baseflow? (Source: 7)				
	Discussion:				
c.	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off- site? (Source: 10)				
	Discussion:				
d.	Substantially alter the existing drainage				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site? (Source: 10)		incorporated		
	Discussion:				
e.	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? (Source: 10)				
	Discussion:				
f.	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				
	Discussion:				
g.	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				
	Discussion:				
h.	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				
	Discussion:				
i.	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				
	Discussion:				
j.	Inundation by mudflow?				
	Discussion:				
k.	Conflict with any Best Management Practices found within the City's Storm Water Management Plan?				
	Discussion				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1.	Substantially decrease or degrade watershed storage of runoff, wetlands, riparian areas, aquatic habitat, or associated buffer zones? Discussion:				
_					
X.	LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the pro	oject:			
a.	Physically divide an established community? Discussion:				
b.	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				
	Discussion:				
c.	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				
	Discussion:				
	MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project	t:			
a.	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? (Source: 1)				
	Discussion:				
b.	Result in the loss of availability of a locally- important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? (Source: 1)				
	Discussion:				
хт	I. NOISE: Would the project result in:				
a.	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? (Source: 1)				
	Discussion:				
b.	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				
	Discussion:				
c.	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
	Discussion:				
d.	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
	Discussion:				
e.	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (Sources: 1, 4)				
	Discussion:				
	II. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would t	he project:			
a.	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? (Source: 1)				
	Discussion:				
b.	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				
	Discussion:				
c.	Displace substantial numbers of people,				

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

necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Discussion:

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

a.	Fire protection? (Sources: 1,10) Discussion:		
b.	Police protection? (Sources: 1,10) Discussion:		
c.	Schools? Discussion		
d.	Parks? Discussion:		
e.	Other public facilities? (Sources: 1,10) Discussion:		
XV	. RECREATION		
a.	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?		
	Discussion:		
b.	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?		
	Discussion:		

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a.	VI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: Would Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit? Discussion:	the project:			
b.	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, <u>Conflict with an applicable congestion</u> <u>management program, including but not</u> <u>limited to</u> a level of service standards <u>and</u> <u>travel demand measures, or other standards</u> established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				
c.	Discussion: Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? Discussion:				
d.	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				
e.	Discussion: Result in inadequate emergency access? Discussion:				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f.	Result in inadequate parking capacity?			H	H
	Discussion:				
<u>.f</u> .g.	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs <u>regarding public transit, bicycle,</u> <u>or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise</u> <u>decrease the performance or safety of such</u> facilities supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				
	Discussion:				
XV	II. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: \	Would the proj	ect.		
a.	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				
	Discussion:				
b.	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
	Discussion:				
c.	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
	Discussion:				
d.	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				
	Discussion:				
e.	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project=s projected demand in addition to the provider=s existing				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	commitments?				
	Discussion:				
f.	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				
	Discussion:				
g.	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				
	Discussion:				

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

Discussion:

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

Discussion:

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

Discussion:

EARLIER ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND MATERIALS.

Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063 (c)(3)(D).

Earlier Documents that may have been used in this Analysis and Background / Explanatory Materials

Reference #	Document Title	Available for Review at:
1	City of Paso Robles General Plan	City of Paso Robles Community Development Department 1000 Spring Street Paso Robles, CA 93446
2	City of Paso Robles Zoning Code	Same as above
3	City of Paso Robles Environmental Impact Report for General Plan Update	Same as above
4	2005 Airport Land Use Plan	Same as above
5	City of Paso Robles Municipal Code	Same as above
6	City of Paso Robles Water Master Plan	Same as above
7	City of Paso Robles Urban Water Management Plan 2005	Same as above
8	City of Paso Robles Sewer Master Plan	Same as above
9	City of Paso Robles Housing Element	Same as above
10	City of Paso Robles Standard Conditions of Approval for New Development	Same as above
11	San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Guidelines for Impact Thresholds	APCD 3433 Roberto Court San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
12	San Luis Obispo County – Land Use Element	San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning County Government Center San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
13	USDA, Soils Conservation Service, Soil Survey of San Luis Obispo County, Paso Robles Area, 1983	Soil Conservation Offices Paso Robles, Ca 93446
14	Draft Bike Plan, 2009	City of Paso Robles Community Development Department 1000 Spring Street

Paso Robles, CA 93446

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

LEGAL NEWSPAPER NOTICES

PLANNING COMMISSION/CITY COUNCIL PROJECT NOTICING

Newspaper: _____ Tribune

Date of Publication:

March 15, 2011

Hearing Date:

April 12, 2011 (Planning Commission)

Project: <u>2011 CEQA Update</u>

I, <u>Theresa Variano</u>, employee of the Community Development Department, Planning Division, of the City of El Paso de Robles, do hereby certify that this notice is a true copy of a published legal newspaper notice for the above named project.

Signed: Theresa Variano

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CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of El Paso de Robles will hold a Public Hearing to consider an update to the City's Guidelines on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

State law requires that the City establish procedures on how the City complex with CEQA. The City's current procedures which were last updated in September. 2009 are in need of revision to reflect new laws put into effect in 2010. It is important to point out that the policies within the Update implement existing State law and does not create new "laws." In essence the Update provides a recipe on how the City navigates the complex CEOA process in a streamlined manner.

The Planning Commission hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. This hearing will take place at 1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles, California, in the City Council Chambers at 7:30 pm, at which time all interested parties may appear and be heard.

Comments on the proposed Update may be mailed to the Community Development Department, 1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446 provided that such comments are received prior to the time of the hearing. Should you have any questions regarding this application, please call Susan DeCattl at (805) 237-3970.

The Draft Update is available for review at the Community Development Department, 1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446.

If you challenge the 2011 CEQA Update in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Susan DeCarli, AICP Planning Mgr. March 15, 2011 6933165