

INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION

CITY OF HIGHLAND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT: HOUSING ELEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
BMP	Best Management Practice
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGS	California Geologic Survey
City	City of Highland
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
DACs	Disadvantaged Communities
dB	Decibel
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GPA	General Plan Amendment
HCD	Housing and Community Development
HFHSZ	High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
IS	Initial Study
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zones
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
ND	Negative Declaration
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Assessment
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans
TDSP	Transit District Specific Plan

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide updates to the Housing Element and the Public Health, Safety and Environmental Justice Element of the City of Highland (City's) General Plan. The City's General Plan provides the policy framework for the long-range planning of physical development in the community. The City's General Plan consists of the following elements: Land Use, Circulation, Public Services and Facilities, Conservation and Open Space, Public Health and Safety, Noise, Housing, Economic Development, Community Design and Airport. This project involves an amendment to the General Plan in order to adopt, as required by State Law, an updated Housing Element as well as to update the Public Health and Safety Element through the adoption of a new Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element. The Housing Element of the General Plan is intended to address the comprehensive housing needs of the City. State law requires jurisdictions to update their Housing Elements every eight years to outline their existing and projected housing needs, to discuss barriers to providing that housing, and to propose actions to address housing needs and barriers. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan combines two state-required elements: the Safety Element and the Environmental Justice Element. The intent of the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is to prioritize actions that address the greatest health risks to the City and its residents over the next 20 years. It guides how the City is designed, regulated, and built to ensure that people can access healthy food and places to play, that the air is clean, and that hazards will not impact important buildings and services. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element also identifies and prioritizes the needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs) to address compounding health concerns.

1.2 California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a statewide environmental law described in California Public Resources Code, Sections 21000–21177, applies to most public agency decisions to carry out, authorize, or approve actions that have the potential to adversely affect the environment. The overarching goal of CEQA is to protect the physical environment. To achieve that goal, CEQA requires that public agencies identify the environmental consequences of their discretionary actions and consider alternatives and mitigation measures that could avoid or reduce significant adverse impacts when avoidance or reduction is feasible. It also gives other public agencies and the public an opportunity to comment on the information. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, reduced, or mitigated to below a level of significance, the public agency is required to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) and balance the project's environmental concerns with other goals and benefits in a statement of overriding considerations.

The City's Community Development Department directed and supervised the preparation of this Initial Study (IS)/Negative Declaration (ND). Although prepared with assistance from the consulting firm Dudek, the content contained within and the conclusions drawn by this IS/ND reflect the independent judgment of the City.

1.3 Initial Study Checklist

The following Environmental Checklist (i.e., IS) was prepared per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15063–15065. The CEQA Guidelines include a suggested checklist to indicate whether a project would have an adverse impact on the environment. The checklist is found in Section 3 of this document. Following the Environmental Checklist, Sections 3.1 through 3.21 include an explanation and discussion of each significance determination made in the checklist for the project.

For this IS/ND, the following four possible responses to each individual environmental issue area are included in the checklist:

1. Potentially Significant Impact
2. Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
3. Less-than-Significant Impact
4. No Impact

The checklist and accompanying explanation of checklist responses provide the information and analysis necessary to assess relative environmental impacts of the project. In doing so, the City will determine the extent of additional environmental review, if any, for the project.

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2 Project Description

This project involves an amendment to the General Plan in order to adopt, as required by State Law, an updated Housing Element as well as to update the Public Health and Safety Element through the adoption of a new Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element. The Housing Element of the General Plan is intended to address the comprehensive housing needs of the City. State law requires jurisdictions to update their Housing Elements every eight years to outline their existing and projected housing needs, to discuss barriers to providing that housing, and to propose actions to address housing needs and barriers. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan combines two state-required elements: the Safety Element and the Environmental Justice Element. The intent of the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is to prioritize actions that address the greatest health risks to the City and its residents over the next 20 years. It guides how the City is designed, regulated, and built to ensure that people can access healthy food and places to play, that the air is clean, and that hazards will not impact important buildings and services. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element also identifies and prioritizes the needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs) to address compounding health concerns.

2.1 Housing Element Update

Background

Since 1969, the State of California has required all local governments to adequately plan to meet the housing needs of everyone in the community. California's local governments meet this requirement by adopting housing plans as part of their "general plan." The law mandating that housing be included as an element of each jurisdiction's general plan is known as "housing-element law."

The proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element represents the City's effort in fulfilling the requirements under State Housing Element law. The California State Legislature has identified the attainment of a decent home and suitable living environment for every Californian as the State's major housing goal. Recognizing the important role of local planning and housing programs in the pursuit of this goal, the Legislature has mandated that all cities and counties prepare a housing element as part of the comprehensive General Plan.

Pursuant to State law, the Housing Element must be updated periodically according to statutory deadlines. The proposed Housing Element covers the planning period of October 15, 2021 to October 15, 2029.

State Law requires that the Housing Element include the following components:

- An evaluation of the efficacy of the previous Housing Element's progress in plan implementation and appropriateness of the goals, policies, and programs.
- An analysis of the City's population, household, and employment base, and the characteristics of the housing stock.
- A summary of the present and projected housing needs of the City's households.
- A review of potential constraints to meeting the City's identified housing needs.
- An evaluation of Fair Housing to identify disproportionate housing needs.
- A statement of the Housing Plan to address the identified housing needs, including housing goals, policies, objectives, and programs.

The Housing Element is being updated at this time in conformance with the 2021-2029 update cycle for jurisdictions in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region. The Housing Element builds upon the other General Plan elements and is consistent with the policies set forth by the General Plan, as amended. As portions of the General Plan are amended in the future, the Plan (including the Housing Element) will be reviewed to ensure that internal consistency is maintained.

The City also recognizes that recent changes to State laws require the updating of various elements of the General Plan, upon update of the Housing Element, to address the following issues related to environmental justice, flood hazards and flood management, fire hazards, sea level rises, and other climate change-related issues.

This 2021-2029 Housing Element update is coordinated with updates to these other elements of the General Plan to ensure consistency in policy frameworks, and efficient and comprehensive outreach efforts.

Housing Plan

As required by State Housing Element law, the Housing Element Update includes a Housing Plan to facilitate and encourage the provision of housing consistent with the RHNA allocation. The goals, objectives, policies, and implementing programs of the Housing Plan emphasize: methods of encouraging and assisting in the development of new housing for all income levels; providing and maintaining adequate capacity to meet the housing need; removing government constraints to development, where feasible and legally possible; conserving and improving existing housing; providing increased opportunities for home ownership; reducing impediments to fair housing choice; and monitoring and preserving units at risk of converting from affordable to market rate. The Housing Plan also includes numerous policies to better guide decisions and achieve desired outcomes related to the development, improvement, preservation, and maintenance of housing.

The following goals are included within the new Housing Element Update:

- Goal 1: A preserved and enhanced housing stock within high quality neighborhoods.
- Goal 2: A diverse range and adequate supply of housing types that aligns with the needs of all current and future Highland households.
- Goal 3: A City with adequate sites and resources appropriate for accommodating a variety of housing types.
- Goal 4: An affordable housing supply that equitably meets the needs of extremely low-, very low-, low-, and moderate-income households.
- Goal 5: A City with a broad range of housing types to meet the diverse needs of all Highland residents.

The proposed Housing Element Update is available at: <https://www.cityofhighland.org/317/6th-Cycle-Housing-Element-Update>

2.2 Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element

A Public Safety Element is part of the City of Highland’s General Plan. The new Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element combines two state-required Elements: Safety and Environmental Justice. The Safety Element is a required Element and must be addressed by every city and County in California. Environmental Justice is a required Element for cities with disadvantaged communities (DACs), including Highland.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element outlines risk and equity concerns the City faces from natural and public health hazards. With regard to public health hazards, the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element looks at five specific public health hazards: 1) access to healthy living, 2) pollution exposure, 3) physical activity, 4) public facilities, and 5) safe and sanitary homes. With regard to natural health hazards, the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element looks at hazards associated with air quality; hazardous materials; extreme heat; flooding and extreme storms; geologic hazards including landslides and slope instability, earthquakes and liquefaction; and wildfires. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element addresses emergency preparedness and emergency response and ultimately establishes goals, policies and actions designed to minimize natural and public health hazards within the City. The following goals are included within the new Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update:

- Goal 1: Protect the health of community members by improving air quality.
- Goal 2: Promote a built environment that stays cool.
- Goal 3: Minimize risks, such as loss of life, injury, property damage, and natural resource destruction from natural and human-caused hazards.
- Goal 4: Maintain adequate emergency preparedness and response capabilities.
- Goal 5: Improve the quality of the built and natural environments to reduce disparate health and environmental impacts.
- Goal 6: Green Streets. Prevent future groundwater pollution by implementing green street strategies to support a sustainable approach to stormwater, drainage, groundwater recharge, and landscaping, and incorporating green streets standard and guidelines in all streetscape improvements where feasible. Ensure access to healthy food.
- Goal 7: Ensure safe and sanitary housing for DAC residents.
- Goal 8: Ensure that parks, public facilities and services are equitably located and distributed throughout DACs, allowing easy access for residents.
- Goal 9: Promote and ensure meaningful and effective participation and community capacity building in DACs, especially when developing, adopting, implementing, and enforcing plans and policies related to public health and environmental issues.
- Goal 10: Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of residents in DACs.

The proposed Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update is available at:<https://www.cityofhighland.org/DocumentCenter/View/1870/City-of-Highland-Draft-Public-Health-and-Safety-Element-PDF>

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3 Initial Study Checklist

1. Project title:

City of Highland General Plan Amendment: Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates

2. Lead agency name and address:

City of Highland
Planning Department
27215 Base Line
Highland, CA 92346

3. Contact person and phone number:

Lawrence A. Mainez, Community Development Director
27215 Base Line
Highland, CA 92346
(909) 864-6861, ext. 215

4. Project location:

Citywide.

5. Project sponsor's name and address:

City of Highland
Planning Department
27215 Base Line
Highland, CA 92346

6. General plan designation:

Various; Not Applicable for Adoption of Housing and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates.

7. Zoning:

Various; Not Applicable for Adoption of Housing and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates.

8. Description of project. (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary):

The proposed General Plan Amendment (GPA) would amend the City of Highland General Plan with updates to the Housing Element for the planning period of 2021 through 2029 and adoption of a new Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting (Briefly describe the project's surroundings):

The City of Highland is predominantly a residential community; over 60 percent of the City's 11,948 acres of land is planned for residential development. Additionally, more than 20 percent of the City is designated primarily for open space, due primarily to the City's proximity to the San Bernardino Mountains, the San Bernardino International Airport, the Santa Ana River Basin and City Creek and Plunge Creek running through the southern part of Highland. The City of Highland is bound by City of San Bernardino to the west, San Bernardino National Forest to the north and east, and City of Redlands to the south. Both San Bernardino and Redlands are developed with established residential neighborhoods, commercial corridors, light industrial and office uses, parks, schools and other community-serving facilities, public services, and utilities.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) reviews and determines whether the proposed Housing Element complies with state law; however, HCD approval is not required for the City's adoption of the Housing Element. There are no other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement) for the proposed Housing Element and Public Safety Element.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Yes; the City sent letters to tribes on June 18, 2021. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians requested consultation. The City and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians met on July 6, 2021. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians submitted email correspondence to the City on August 4, 2021 concurring with the findings that the project would not result in adverse effects to tribal cultural resources. The San Manuel Band of Missions Indians attached preferred language regarding mitigation measures for any future projects developed after adoption of the proposed project. Future new development will undergo future environmental review, as necessary, and the provided mitigation measures will be considered in that future process. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians submitted email correspondence to the City on October 5, 2021 confirming that the tribe has no further comments at this time and that the consultation ended after the July 6 meeting with the City.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT 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, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (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. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project’s environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

3.1 Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS – Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–d: No Impact.

The Housing Element update is a policy document, and adoption of this Element alone would not produce environmental impacts. The Housing Element Update consists of an updated housing program for which, no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s 2021-2029 RHNA allocation. To accommodate this RHNA allocation, City staff reviewed the inventory of vacant and underutilized sites and identified sites that can accommodate the current RHNA allocation for the 2021-2029 Housing Element Update. Any such development would be expected to conform to existing General Plan policies, municipal code, and zoning code development standards. As such, the adoption of the General Plan Amendment and the Housing Element update would not degrade the visual character or quality, scenic resources, or generate light and glare impacts. Additionally, there are no designated state scenic highways within the City of Highland jurisdictional boundaries. Portions of State Route (SR-) 330 are classified as eligible state scenic highway; however only a small segment, approximately 350 feet, extends into Highland City limits at the northern jurisdictional boundary between Highland Avenue and Boulder Avenue (Caltrans 2019). The Housing Element Update would not include policies that would result in impacts to scenic resources within a state scenic highway. No aesthetic impacts would occur from the adoption of this policy document.

The new Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element includes updated goals policy information related to natural and public health and hazards information. These goal and policy updates are procedural and will not result in physical changes to the environment such that aesthetics or visual character would change. In fact, implementation of some of the policies included within the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element could in fact enhance aesthetics in the City. These include the following:

Policy 2.1: Promote a healthy urban forest to reduce air pollution and extreme heat.

Policy 8.2: Expand park availability by converting underutilized land.

Policy 8.3: Create inviting public spaces in DACs where residents people feel safe to use during the day and night for everyday play, family gatherings, and community events.

As such, no aesthetic impacts would occur from the adoption of this policy document.

3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES – In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION – HOUSING ELEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT UPDATES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–e: No Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program, and its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts, because no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Although implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation, such development would not impact agricultural resources. The Housing Element Update does not propose any improvements within lands designated Prime Farmland or Unique Farmland by the CDOC FMMP (CDOC 2014). The Housing Element Update does not change any boundaries or the potential for agricultural activities. There are also no programs that would conflict with existing agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act contract. In addition, because the City does not contain forest land, there is no rezoning or development proposed on forest land, or land or timber property zoned as Timberland Production.

The new Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element includes updated goals and policy information related to natural and public health and hazards information. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element does not propose any policies or actions that would result in negative impacts to agricultural and forestry resources, as there is no land within the City that is designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the Los Angeles County Important Farmland map. However, the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element does encourage the promotion of urban agriculture (Action 6.1b), which would result in beneficial impacts to the community. As such, based on the above, updates to the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element would have no impacts upon agricultural and forestry resources.

3.3 Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–c: Less Than Significant Impact. d: No Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. The City lies within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the regional government agency that monitors and regulates air pollution within the SCAB and is responsible for measuring the air quality of the region. The SCAB is designated as a nonattainment area for federal and state O₃ standards and federal and state PM_{2.5} standards. The SCAB is designated as a nonattainment area for state PM₁₀ standards; however, it is designated as an attainment area for federal PM₁₀ standards. The SCAB is designated as an attainment area for federal and state CO standards, federal and state NO₂ standards, and federal and state SO₂ standards. While the SCAB has been designated as nonattainment for the federal rolling 3-month average lead standard, it is designated attainment for the state lead standard

The Housing Element Update would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the State Implementation Plan by the SCAQMD because the growth anticipated in the Housing Element Update (RHNA allocation) is consistent with SCAG's growth projections that were also factored into the Regional Air Quality Strategy. The Housing Element Update would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, nor would it result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard. Additionally, the Housing Element Update would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, specifically because, with the adoption of the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element, as discussed below, goals and policies are included therein to protect residents from exposure to pollutant concentrations. Lastly, because the Housing Element Update does not affect land uses that are typically associated with the creation of objectionable odors (such as rendering plants, landfills, treatment plants, etc.), its adoption would have no impact from odors.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City's goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update incorporates the following goals and policies specifically related to air quality and its effects on City residents:

Goal 1: Protect the health of community members by improving air quality.

Policy 1.1: Reduce air pollution from mobile sources.

Policy 1.2: Reduce localized air pollution exposure near major roads.

Goal 2: Promote a built environment that stays cool.

Policy 2.1: Promote a healthy urban forest to reduce air pollution and extreme heat.

Policy 2.2: Adopt policies and standards for the built environment that reduce urban heat island.

Goal 5: Improve the quality of the built and natural environments to reduce disparate health and environmental impacts.

Policy 5.1: Adopt land use regulations that protect residential and park uses from the impacts of industrial and roadway pollution.

Policy 5.2: Remediate and prevent pollution arising from industrial and household sources.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on air quality, and with implementation of the goals and policies in the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element, as identified above, could improve air quality and its effects on City residents.

3.4 Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–f: Less than Significant Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. Future residential development to meet the RHNA allocation is expected to be located on infill sites within urbanized areas where little or no native vegetation exists and where little potential exists for the occurrence of sensitive species habitat, riparian habitat, a sensitive natural community, federally protected wetlands, or wildlife corridors or nursery sites. In the event that any biological resources, habitat or trees would be affected, proper mitigation would be implemented, on a project-by-project basis.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. Policies are included within the plan that would actually protect and enhance biological resources in the City; these include the following:

Goal 2: Promote a built environment that stays cool.

Policy 2.2: Promote a healthy urban forest to reduce air pollution and extreme heat.

Action 2.1a: Climate-Appropriate Trees. Develop a new street tree species palette that prioritizes trees based on having low water needs and adaptability to climate change and future environmental conditions.

Action 2.1b: Diverse Urban Forest. Maintain a healthy urban forest by ensuring a diversity of tree species.

Action 2.1c: Increase the Tree Canopy. Identify grant funding to develop a program to install additional street trees or provide canopy trees to residents for planting.

Goal 5: Improve the quality of the built and natural environments to reduce disparate health and environmental impacts.

Therefore, while adoption of the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts, adoption would result in the implementation of goals and policies designed to minimize impacts to biological resources.

3.5 Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–c: Less than Significant Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. Additionally, per the Resources Element of the City’s General Plan, no historic or archaeologically significant sites have been located in the City.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts.

The Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would not change or alter policies to protect and/or review cultural resources. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

3.6 Energy

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. Energy – Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–b. No Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. However, future development would be required to adhere to all state and/or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element does not propose any policies or actions that would result in impacts to energy.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would result in less than significant impacts associated with energy.

3.7 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a-f: Less than Significant Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental

impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet City's RHNA allocation.

Areas with seismic (earthquake) hazards are identified by earthquake fault zones as established by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Act of 1972. The California Geological Survey (CGS; formerly the California Division of Mines and Geology [CDMG]) classifies faults as active, potentially active, or inactive according to standards developed for implementation of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Act. A fault that has exhibited surface displacement within the Holocene Epoch (the last 11,000 years) is defined as active. A fault that has exhibited surface displacement during Quaternary time (i.e., within the past 1.6 million years) but that cannot be proven to have moved or not moved during Holocene time is defined as potentially active.

a: According to the City's existing Public Health and Safety Element, like most areas throughout Southern California, Highland is susceptible to seismic hazards (City of Highland 2006). The San Andreas fault zone traverses the northern part of the City and while the San Jacinto fault does not run through any part of the City it is nearby to the west. The seismic setting of Highland and surrounding areas is dominated by the San Andreas Fault. Several "active" and "potentially active" faults of the San Andreas Fault are present within and nearby Highland. North and south branches of the San Andreas Fault run through Highland. The last major earthquake along the south branch of the San Andreas was the 1857 Fort Tejon earthquake, estimated at a Richter magnitude of 8.0 plus. The San Andreas Fault is capable of generating an earthquake magnitude of up to 8.3 on the Richter scale. Located approximately 4.5 miles southwest of Highland, the San Jacinto Fault Zone has a maximum credible earthquake Richter magnitude of 8.5 and has the potential for significant ground shaking within the region. Despite the potential of the San Andreas fault system to produce severe ground shaking in the City, no significant impact regarding fault hazards would occur, because the Housing Element Update would be consistent with the other elements of the General Plan, including the Safety Element. Additionally, the potential for significant adverse impacts to result from these phenomena would be substantially reduced through adherence to requirements specified in the Alquist-Priolo Act, the Uniform Building Code, Title 24 of the California Building Code, and all development regulations of the City. Compliance with these building standards would minimize impacts associated with seismic hazards. Additionally, the following goals and policies are included in the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element to address disaster preparedness and recovery:

Goal 3: Minimize risks, such as loss of life, injury, property damage, and natural resource destruction from natural and human-caused hazards.

Policy 3.5: Enforce development standards to reduce geologic risk.

Goal 4: Maintain adequate emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Policy 4.1: Create culturally appropriate hazard preparation and education.

Policy 4.2: Create resilience centers throughout highland.

Policy 4.4: Ensure the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has adequate capacity to respond to hazard events.

b-e: Most lowland areas with relatively level ground surface are not prone to landslides. Other forms of slope instability are also unlikely to occur except along stream banks and terrace margins. The highland areas are more susceptible to slope instability. The strong ground motion that occurs during earthquakes is capable of inducing

landslides and debris flow (mudslides). These types of failure generally occur where unstable slope conditions already exist. The City has in place geologic review procedures to address these hazards. Hillside areas with landslide potential are of particular concern, and slope stability requires appropriate treatment of vegetative cover during and after residential development. The City's General Plan and zoning designations do not prohibit new development on areas of geologic hazard; however, many precautionary recommendations and restrictions are established in the policies and Municipal Code in order to minimize potential impacts from developing on geologically hazardous land or resulting in substantial soil erosion (City of Highland 2006). City regulations and policies cover landslides, seismic shaking, surface rupture, seiches, liquefaction, subsidence, expansive soils, and soil erosion. All new development is required to be consistent with these regulations.

f: Depending on the location, future development in the City has the potential to directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. The existing General Plan contains policies for the protection of paleontological resources, and all new development must be consistent with these policies. The Housing Element Update would not change or alter these policies.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City's goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element as proposed includes updated goals and policies that support the reduction of impacts related to natural hazards, including those associated with geologic conditions (e.g. ground shaking, liquefaction, lateral spreading, etc.). Specifically, these include the following:

Goal 3: Minimize risks, such as loss of life, injury, property damage, and natural resource destruction from natural and human-caused hazards.

Based on the above, the Housing Element Update and the Public Health, Safety and Environmental Justice Element Updates. Element would result in less than significant impacts associated with geology and soils.

3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–b: Less Than Significant Impact.

Certain gases in the earth’s atmosphere, classified as GHGs, play a critical role in determining the earth’s surface temperature. Solar radiation enters the earth’s atmosphere from space. A portion of the radiation is absorbed by the earth’s surface and a smaller portion of this radiation is reflected back toward space. This absorbed radiation is then emitted from the earth as low-frequency infrared radiation. The frequencies at which bodies emit radiation are proportional to temperature. Because the earth has a much lower temperature than the sun, it emits lower-frequency radiation. Most solar radiation passes through GHGs; however, infrared radiation is absorbed by these gases. As a result, radiation that otherwise would have escaped back into space is instead “trapped,” resulting in a warming of the atmosphere. This phenomenon, known as the greenhouse effect, is responsible for maintaining a habitable climate on earth. Without the greenhouse effect, the earth would not be able to support life as we know it.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the burning of fossil fuels, along with deforestation and other activities, has caused the concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHGs) to increase significantly in the earth’s atmosphere (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2021). The increase in GHGs results in global warming, as more heat is trapped in the atmosphere. Given the already built-out nature of the City and lack of substantial vacant land, future residential projects that may be developed to meet the RHNA requirement are expected to be located on infill sites where pedestrian- and transit-oriented development is highly feasible and would be encouraged. Such development should reduce the number of new vehicle trips typically associated with residential projects and, thus, would help reduce GHG production resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels for transportation purposes. Based on the above, the Housing Element Update would result in less than significant impacts associated with GHG emissions. New development projects will be required to comply with the Green Building Code, which also reduces GHG emissions.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element proposes the following updated goals and policies that would result in potential overall improvements to the City associated with GHG emissions:

Goal 1: Protect the health of community members by improving air quality.

Policy 1.1: Reduce air pollution from mobile sources.

Policy 1.2: Reduce localized air pollution exposure near major roads.

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site that 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–c and e–g: No Impact. d: Less Than Significant Impact.

As defined in Chapter 6.95 of Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 25501(o), a hazardous material is “...any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. Hazardous materials include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances,

hazardous waste, and any material which a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.”

a–c: The Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates are policy documents, and therefore, adoption would not, in itself, result in potential impacts from hazards and hazardous material that may endanger residents or the environment. Implementation of the updated Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element would also not result in the routine use, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials or generate significant quantities of hazardous materials. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element actually includes goals and policies specifically designed to reduce impacts from hazards to City residents and the environment. As such, no negative impacts would occur.

The Housing Element Update facilitates the development of new housing by creating a regulatory setting in which affordable housing can be developed. New housing units would not be constructed by the City but by private contractors with City approval. During construction of new housing units, construction equipment would require the use of fuel and petroleum-based lubricants and would require regular maintenance of equipment. Both the frequency of maintenance and the large volumes of fluids required to service the equipment increase the risk of accidental spillage. Any new units would be required to adhere to federal, state, and local regulations regarding handling hazardous materials and cleanup standards in case of a spill. New residential units may contain household hazardous materials such as paint, herbicides/pesticides, diesel fuel, and cleaning products that have the potential to spill. Residential uses typically do not use or store large quantities of hazardous materials. Adherence to regulations and standard protocols during the storage, transportation, and usage of any hazardous materials, as discussed above, would minimize and avoid the potential for significant upset and accident condition impacts. Following these standards and regulations at the time of future development would make impacts less than significant.

The Public Health and Safety Element does not include any new policies that would impact the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, nor would it 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. The purpose of this element is to establish policies that would reduce the likelihood of hazards within the City’s jurisdictional boundary. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

d: The Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates are policy documents and adoption will not, in itself, result in negative environmental impacts. However, implementation of the programs contained in the document will accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time.

All sites of future residential projects will be evaluated using appropriate databases including the California Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database which, pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, lists Federal Superfund, State Response, Voluntary Cleanup, School Cleanup, Hazardous Waste Permit, and Hazardous Waste Corrective Action sites. The potential impacts related to any listed hazardous materials sites associated with any specific future residential projects will be assessed at the time the projects are actually proposed. Mitigation measures would then be adopted if and as necessary, in conformance with CEQA. As such, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would result in less than significant impacts.

e-g: The City of Highland has two airports within its SOI, the San Bernardino International Airport, located south of the southwestern portion of the City, and Redlands Municipal Airport, located south of the southeastern portion of the City. The City of Redlands adopted the Redlands Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (LUCP) in 1997 and made amendments as recently as 2003. The San Bernardino International Airport does not currently have an adopted Airport Land Use Plan (ALUP). The Housing Element Update would not create additional residential opportunities in the 65 decibel (dB) Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) contour for the Redlands Municipal LCUP or San Bernardino International Airport. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

The Public Health and Safety Element does not include any new policies that would result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the City. The purpose of this element is to establish policies that would reduce the likelihood of hazards within the City's jurisdictional boundary. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

The Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would be consistent with General Plan policy. Within the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update are details related to the City's emergency response plan to prepare for, and respond to, natural hazards including extreme heat, flooding, geologic hazards such as earthquakes, exposure to hazardous materials, and wildfires. Future development would be consistent with the City's emergency response plans related to risk from natural- and human-caused hazards. Goals and policies included in the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element specifically related to hazards include the following;

Goal 3: Minimize risks, such as loss of life, injury, property damage, and natural resource destruction from natural and human-caused hazards.

Policy 3.1: Minimize flooding risks through appropriate siting and protection of structures and occupants.

Policy 3.3: Implement programs and standards to mitigate wildfire risk in high wildfire hazard severity zones.

Policy 3.4: Ensure that public facilities and infrastructure have adequate capacity to respond to wildfires and other relevant hazard events.

Policy 3.4: Enforce development standards to reduce geologic risk.

Policy 3.6: Limit the potential hazards from the transportation and disposal of hazardous waste.

Goal 4: Maintain adequate emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Policy 4.1: Create culturally appropriate hazard preparation and education.

Policy 4.2: Create resilience centers throughout highland.

Policy 4.3: Prepare residential areas for flooding and wildfire.

Policy 4.4: Ensure the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has adequate capacity to respond to hazard events.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would result in no negative impact on hazards or hazardous materials.

3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a, c–d: Less than Significant Impact. b and e: No Impact.

The Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates are policy documents, consisting of a housing program and updates to the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element to address new requirements in Environmental Justice and Safety Elements specifically related to environmental justice issues for socially disadvantaged residents, air pollution and extreme heat; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, adoption of these updates would not, in itself, produce negative environmental impacts. However, implementation of the programs contained in the documents would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. Future residential development that would qualify to meet the RHNA requirement are expected to be located on infill sites in urbanized areas and the City has procedures and regulations in place to ensure that there would be no significant impacts associated with hydrology and water quality.

a: Per the East Valley Water District (EVWD) 2019 Sewer System Master Plan, wastewater collection and treatment is managed by the EVWD. All demolition, relocation and/or construction phases of future housing development would be subject to compliance with applicable local, regional, state and federal regulations designed to protect water resources, including those regulations requiring implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), preparation of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs), and submittal of Erosion Control Plans in compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) provisions. Consistency with this regulatory framework would adequately ensure that such impacts would be avoided or reduced to less than significant. The Housing Element Update would not generate a significant impact on water quality over current projections for population and housing units.

b: Water service in the City is provided by the EVWD. The EVWD’s sole supply source is groundwater that is extracted at depths exceeding 600 feet from an aquifer known as Bunker Hill Basin. Groundwater from this basin has consistently met both State of California and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards, and supply is projected to meet demand for the foreseeable future. However, energy requirements, drought and potential contamination will continue to put pressure on unlimited use of groundwater. Surface water is also available to the East Valley Water District through developable rights to local streams including the Santa Ana River, City Creek and Plunge Creek. Some of the flow from these sources is already diverted by other agencies or used for agricultural purposes. Access to this water is made possible, in part, by the EVWD’s stock ownership in local irrigating companies.

The Conservation and Open Space Element as well as the proposed Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Elements of the City's General Plan includes goals focused on protecting and preserving the water supply and water quality within the groundwater basin. Adoption of the General Plan Amendment for the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would not affect the City's ability to implement the water goals outlined within the Resources Element of the General Plan as no physical development is current proposed. Therefore, implementation of the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element update would not deplete groundwater supplies. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element also includes the following goals and policies specifically related to groundwater supplies:

Policy 3.2: Build and maintain public infrastructure that collects and conveys stormwater and enhances water quality.

Policy 5.2: Remediate and prevent pollution arising from industrial and household sources

Goal 6: Green Streets. Prevent future groundwater pollution by implementing green street strategies to support a sustainable approach to stormwater, drainage, groundwater recharge, and landscaping, and incorporating green streets standard and guidelines in all streetscape improvements where feasible. Ensure access to healthy food.

c–d: City regulations prohibit new development that would create runoff volumes or velocities that may cause the City's existing drainage system to exceed its design capacity. In regard to risks due to dam or levee failure, the City is not located within an area that would be impacted by any dam or levee failure. Seiche and mudflow risk would also be negligible, as the City is not located near a large contained body of water or downslope from an unstable hillside. With regard to tsunami risk the City is not located within a mapped tsunami inundation area. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element also includes the following goals and policies specifically related to minimizing flood hazard risks:

Goal 3: Minimize risks, such as loss of life, injury, property damage, and natural resource destruction from natural and human-caused hazards.

Policy 3.1: Minimize flooding risks through appropriate siting and protection of structures and occupants.

Policy 3.2: Build and maintain public infrastructure that collects and conveys stormwater and enhances water quality.

Policy 3.4: Ensure that public facilities and infrastructure have adequate capacity to respond to wildfires and other relevant hazard events.

Goal 4: Maintain adequate emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Policy 4.3: Prepare residential areas for flooding and wildfire.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would result in no impact or a less than significant impact on or from hydrology and water quality.

e: As stated above, the EVWD provides potable water to residences and businesses within the City. The Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan associated with the EVWD.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The current Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update does not propose any policies or actions that would result in negative impacts related to hydrology and water quality, and instead, as outlined above, includes goals and policies specifically designed to minimize risks from flood hazards.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on hydrology and water quality.

3.11 Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a: No Impact. b: Less than Significant.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. Although implementation of the programs contained in the document would encourage residential development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation, such residential projects are expected to be located on infill sites within existing neighborhoods, and because infill

sites are part of the existing urban fabric, projects developed on them would not be likely to physically divide an established community. The proposed update would not conflict with General Plan policy or Municipal Code regulations, adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update does not propose any policies or actions that would result in physically dividing an existing community. Additionally, the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update would not conflict with General Plan policy or Municipal Code regulations, adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The intended purpose of the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is to guide land use decisions in such a way and natural- and human-caused hazards are avoided to maximum extent feasible.

Neither the Housing Element Update or Public Health and Safety Element Update propose policies that would encourage future projects that could divide an established community. The proposed locations for future housing within the Housing Element update are located within or adjacent to existing development. Future projects are subject to the General Plan and Zoning Code, which include standards to protect aesthetic quality and scenic viewsheds, biological resources, cultural resources, and public health and safety. Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on land use and planning.

3.12 Mineral Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–b: No Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is

not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. Although implementation of the programs contained in the document would encourage residential development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation, such residential projects are expected to be located on infill sites within existing neighborhoods, and because infill sites are part of the existing urban fabric, projects developed on them would not be likely to physically divide an established community. The proposed update would not conflict with General Plan policy or Municipal Code regulations, adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

The City of Highland, due to its large washes and stream channels, contains regionally significant construction aggregate and mineral resources. The primary minerals found in the area are iron, decorative rocks, clay, limestone, sand and gravel. The City has identified Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs, Categories 1–3). If future development of housing units near areas that may be rich in mineral resources occurs, precautions would be taken regarding mineral resources. Goal 5.9 in the Conservation Element of the City’s General Plan outlines policies that would be considered for future development specific to mineral resources. Therefore, with compliance of necessary policies and regulations, construction of housing units impact to mineral resources would be less than significant. The Public Health and Safety Element Update does not propose any polices that would result in the loss of mineral resources; therefore, there would be no impact associated with adoption of the Element.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on mineral resources.

3.13 Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. NOISE – Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–b: Less Than Significant Impact. c: No Impact.

Noise varies with time, geographic location, proximity to the source, and duration of the noise event. The effects of noise are considered in several ways: how a proposed project may increase existing noise levels, how those noise levels would affect surrounding land uses, and how a proposed land use may be affected by noise from existing and surrounding land uses. Certain land uses are considered more sensitive to ambient noise levels than others, due to the amount of noise exposure and the types of activities involved.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City's RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. The majority of such development is expected to be located on infill sites. The Housing Element Update does not propose specific development plans for new housing units. Future construction of housing units would be subject to policies and regulations regarding construction-related noise. The Noise Element and Chapter 21.60 (Noise) of the City's Zoning Ordinance includes noise reduction measures to be incorporated into construction, including the use of sound-control devices on equipment, avoiding idling equipment, and public notification of proposed construction activities. Limiting construction activities to daytime hours would minimize the effect on nearby residents. Noise related impacts should be reviewed for individual project proposals and compliance with applicable regulations would make potential impacts less than significant. Adherence to the City's Noise Ordinance would ensure that any such noise and vibration increases, both temporary and permanent, would result in less than significant impacts within project areas. No active airports are located within the City; as such, the City is not exposed to excessive aircraft noise.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City's goals, policies and actions related to the natural- and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update does not propose any policies or actions that would result in negative impacts related to noise.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on noise.

3.14 Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a–b: Less Than Significant Impact.

The Housing Element Update utilizes the 2021-2029 RHNA to plan for and accommodate population growth. Therefore, it would not induce population growth within the City. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. Future development would occur on vacant or underutilized sites. With the implementation of programs in the Housing Element Update to increase housing capacity, there would be adequate land available to accommodate the City’s RHNA allocation. Therefore, the update would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere (outside of the City) or result in environmental impacts related to growth. Based on the above, the Housing Element Update would result in a less than significant impact associated with population and housing.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update does not propose any policies or actions that would result in impacts related to population and housing.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on population and housing.

3.15 Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES				
a) 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:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a(i-v): Less Than Significant Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. As a highly urbanized community, all of the residentially designated land in the City is served with sewer and water lines, streets, storm drains, and other infrastructure and utilities.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update does not propose any policies or actions that would 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.

The Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates, therefore, would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or the 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 listed above. These general plan updates would not change or impact standards, policies, programs and regulations in place that ensure adequate provision of public services. Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on public services.

Furthermore, the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update proposes the policies that would result in beneficial impacts related to public services.

Goal 4: Maintain adequate emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Policy 4.1: Create culturally appropriate hazard preparation and education.

Policy 4.2: Create resilience centers throughout highland.

Policy 4.3: Prepare residential areas for flooding and wildfire.

Policy 4.4: Ensure the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has adequate capacity to respond to hazard events.

3.16 Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. RECREATION				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a-b: Less Than Significant Impact.

Park and recreation facilities are in short supply in the City, partly the result of a lack of developable space. For future planning, given a projected build-out population of 69,582, Highland should have approximately 143.8 acres of developed park acreage and 36 acres of undeveloped natural parkland, totaling 179 acres based on the standard of two acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Highland's recreational facilities include: Central Avenue Park (17-acres), Aurantia Park (10-acres), Cunningham Park (2-acres), and Canyon Oaks Park (2-acres). The Jerry Lewis Community Center, consisting of a 30,000 square-foot multi-use facility containing a gymnasium, several multipurpose rooms, a kitchen and office is within Central Avenue Park (City of Highland 2021). Additional recreational needs of the City are met by the sports fields and playgrounds of the eight schools in the City, parks or schools in surrounding cities, vacant lots and a few privately held fields that serve as informal ball fields and gathering places.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program. No specific recreational facilities or the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment are included in the Housing Element Update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. The Housing Element Update has the potential to increase the number of residents that would use public recreation facilities in the area. However, new development would be subject to development impact fees that would be put toward continued maintenance of the facilities. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City's RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. The availability, maintenance, and management of park and recreation facilities are covered under the General Plan and the Capital Improvement Program. Based on the above, the Housing Element Update would result in a less than significant impact on recreation.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City's goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update proposes the policies that would result in beneficial impacts related to recreation.

Goal 8: Ensure that parks, public facilities and services are equitably located and distributed throughout DACs, allowing easy access for residents.

Policy 8.1: Improve existing park quality by providing amenities and programs for play, exercise, and enhanced safety. Prioritize efforts should be deployed quickly in under-parked communities.

Policy 8.2: Expand park availability by converting underutilized land.

Policy 8.3: Create inviting public spaces in DACs where residents people feel safe to use during the day and night for everyday play, family gatherings, and community events.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on air quality, and with implementation of the goals and policies in the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element, as identified above, could improve air quality and its effects on City residents.

3.17 Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. TRANSPORTATION – Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–d: Less Than Significant Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City's RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. The development anticipated by the Housing Element would occur primarily on urban infill sites and consist primarily of multi-family and mixed-use development. Therefore, future development associated with implementation of the Housing Element Update would be expected to generate fewer vehicle miles traveled and more multi-modal trips than conventional development. Potential traffic impacts related to increased transportation system demands associated with specific future residential projects would be assessed at the time the projects are actually proposed using the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) methodology, consistent with state guidelines. Mitigation measures would then be adopted as necessary, in conformance with CEQA. The Housing Element Update would not increase hazards due to a design feature, result in inadequate emergency access, or conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Based on the above, the Housing Element Update would result in a less than significant impact on transportation/traffic.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The following policy is included within the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element that would address adequacy of emergency access to City residents:

Goal 4: Maintain adequate emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on transportation, and implementation of Policy 7.4 from the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element would result in a beneficial transportation impact.

3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES				
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a-b: Less Than Significant Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required

to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. The Housing Element Update would not change or alter policies to protect tribal cultural resources.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update would not change or alter policies to protect tribal cultural resources.

The City completed the tribal consultation process, consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill 18 and Assembly Bill 52. The City sent letters to tribes on June 18, 2021. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians requested consultation. The City and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians met on July 6, 2021. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians submitted email correspondence to the City on August 4, 2021 concurring with the findings that the project would not result in adverse effects to tribal cultural resources. The San Manuel Band of Missions Indians attached preferred language regarding mitigation measures for any future projects developed after adoption of the proposed project. Future new development will undergo future environmental review, as necessary, and the provided mitigation measures will be considered in that future process. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians submitted email correspondence to the City on October 5, 2021 confirming that the tribe has no further comments at this time and that the consultation ended after the July 6 meeting with the City. Based on the outcome of the consultation process and on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would result in less than significant impacts to tribal cultural resources.

3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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 commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION – HOUSING ELEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT UPDATES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–c and e: No Impact; d: Less than Significant Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. Because the development anticipated by the Housing Element would occur primarily on infill sites already served by well-established utilities service systems, the need for the expansion of existing systems or the construction of new systems, in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, would be less than significant.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update does not propose any policies or actions that would result in impacts related to utilities and service systems.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on utilities and service systems.

3.20 Wildfire

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. WILDFIRE – If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a–d: Less Than Significant Impact.

The Housing Element Update is a policy document, consisting of a housing program; no actual development or rezoning is proposed as part of the update. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, produce environmental impacts. Implementation of the programs contained in the document would accommodate development required to meet the City’s RHNA allocation. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. Because the development anticipated by the Housing Element would occur primarily on infill sites identified outside of the High Fire Hazard Severity Zone the impacts associated with wildfire would be less than significant.

The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element is a policy document that establishes the City’s goals, policies and actions related to the natural and human-caused hazards and the risk to human life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazard events within the City. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update proposes updated goals, policies and actions that support the reduction of

impacts related to wildfire as well as response to hazardous conditions, including fires. Specifically, the following goals and policies are related to preparation for, response to, and recovery from wildfires:

Goal 3: Minimize risks, such as loss of life, injury, property damage, and natural resource destruction from natural and human-caused hazards.

Policy 3.3: Implement programs and standards to mitigate wildfire risk in high wildfire hazard severity zones.

Policy 3.4: Ensure that public facilities and infrastructure have adequate capacity to respond to wildfires and other relevant hazard events.

Goal 4: Maintain adequate emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Policy 4.3: Prepare residential areas for flooding and wildfire.

Based on the above, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates would have a less than significant impact on wildfire.

3.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Checklist Judgements:

a-c: Less Than Significant Impact.

As discussed throughout the above portions of the Initial Study/Negative Declaration, the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates are policy documents and adoption of these Element Updates alone would not produce environmental impacts. Although implementation of the programs contained in the Housing Element Update would accommodate development required to meet the City's RHNA allocation, the Housing Element does not identify, describe, promote, entitle, or permit any particular residential development project. While a rezoning program is identified within the Housing Element Update, the actual rezoning of property within the City to accommodate RHNA allocations would occur at a future date and is not one of the discretionary actions being undertaken at this time. The Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Update is also a policy document that does not identify, describe, promote, entitle, or permit any particular development projects. Instead, however, the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element sets forth goals, policies, and actions designed to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural- and human-caused disasters.

The Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates do not change the allowed densities or type of development that may occur within the City. The act of adopting the Housing Element and Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Justice Element Updates does not, therefore, have the potential to result in environmental impacts, either limited or cumulative, affecting habitat; plant or animal communities; rare, endangered or threatened species; historic resources; or human beings. As discussed in Sections 3.1 through 3.20 of this Initial Study/Negative Declaration, impacts associated with the adoption of these Element Updates would either result in no negative impacts, or less than significant impacts.

4 References and Preparers

4.1 References Cited

14 CCR 15000–15387 and Appendices A through L. Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended.

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