A. OVERVIEW

The purpose of this staff report is to provide the Zoning Administrator with the information necessary to make a finding that the mitigation measures identified in the General Plan Update Environmental Impact Report (GPU EIR) will be undertaken for a proposed Site Plan (STP) pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15183(e)(2).

CEQA Guidelines §15183 allows a streamlined environmental review process for projects that are consistent with the densities established by existing zoning, community plan, or general plan policies for which an EIR was certified. CEQA Guidelines §15183 specifies that examination of environmental effects shall be limited to those effects that:
1) Are peculiar to the project or the parcel on which the project would be located, and were not analyzed as significant effects in a prior EIR on the zoning action, general plan, or community plan, with which the project is consistent;

2) Are potentially significant off-site impacts and cumulative impacts which were not discussed in the prior EIR prepared for the general plan, community plan or zoning action; or

3) Are previously identified significant effects which, as a result of substantial new information which was not known at the time the EIR was certified, are determined to have a more severe adverse impact than discussed in the prior EIR.

CEQA Guidelines §15183(c) further specifies that if an impact is not peculiar to the parcel or to the proposed project, has been addressed as a significant effect in the prior EIR, or can be substantially mitigated by the imposition of uniformly applied development policies or standards, then an additional EIR need not be prepared for that project solely on the basis of that impact.

CEQA Guidelines §15183(e)(2) further requires the lead agency to make a finding at a public hearing when significant impacts are identified that could be mitigated by undertaking mitigation measures previously identified in the EIR on the planning and zoning action.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15183, the project was evaluated to examine whether additional environmental review might be necessary for the reasons stated in §15183. As discussed in the attached Statement of Reasons for Exemption from Additional Environmental Review and 15183 Checklist (15183 Findings) dated March 12, 2020, the project qualifies for an exemption from further environmental review.

The approval or denial of the proposed STP would be a subsequent and separate decision made by the Director of PDS.

B. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

1. Project Description

The Aldi Site Plan (STP) (Project) for the construction and operation of a 19,857 square-foot Aldi grocery store with associated parking and landscaping. The subject property is located at the west corner of 16th Street and Main Street in the Ramona Community Planning Area. Primary and delivery access to the site will be provided by a parking lot driveway entrance connecting to 16th Street, a County-maintained road. Water and Sewer will be provided by the Ramona Municipal Water District, and earthwork will consist of 3,000 cubic yards of cut, 3,225 cubic yards of fill and 225 cubic yards of import.

The Project is subject to the Village General Plan Regional Category and the General Commercial (C-1) Land Use Designation. Zoning for the site is Ramona Village Center Zoning District (RM-V5). The proposed uses are consistent with the Zoning and General Plan Land Use Designation of the property established by the General Plan Update for which an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified by the Board of Supervisors on August 3, 2011 (GPU EIR).
Figure 1: Vicinity Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map (Project Site, Existing Conditions)
C. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

1. Key Requirements for Requested Action

The Zoning Administrator should consider the requested actions and determine if the following findings can be made:

a) The project is consistent with the development density established by existing zoning, community plan, or general plan policies for which the GPU EIR was certified.

b) There are no project specific effects which are peculiar to the project or its site.

c) There are no project specific impacts which the GPU EIR failed to analyze as significant effects.

d) There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which the GPU EIR failed to evaluate.

e) There is no substantial new information which results in more severe impacts than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

2. Project Analysis

a. Biological Resources – Biological resources on the Project site were evaluated in a Biological Technical Report prepared by Helix Environmental Planning, dated December 2019. As a result of this Project, impacts will occur to 1.6 acres of non-native grassland, 0.4 acres of eucalyptus woodland, 0.5 acres of disturbed habitat and 0.01 acres of vernal pool basins supporting the San Diego fairy shrimp. The Project site is located within the County's draft North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), and no other sensitive species (plant or wildlife) were observed onsite.

As considered by the GPU EIR, project impacts to sensitive habitat and/or species will be mitigated through ordinance compliance and through implementation of the following mitigation measures: the purchase of 0.8-acres of non-native grassland habitat and two vernal pool credits at the Ramona Grasslands Conservation Bank; and breeding season avoidance to prevent brushing, clearing, and/or grading between January 15th and September 1st. The GPU EIR identified these mitigation measures as Bio-1.6 and Bio-1.7.

A Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit dated August 26, 2015 was issued by the United Stated Fish and Wildlife Service for take of the federally endangered San Diego fairy shrimp. This permit expires on August 26, 2020, unless extended.

Please refer to the Ordinance Compliance Checklist for further information on consistency with any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, and/or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan (Attachment B). The project would not result in a biological impact which was not adequately evaluated by the GPU EIR.
b. **Cultural and Paleontological Resources** – County staff archaeologist conducted a records search on July 23, 2018, and determined that there are no historical resources on the Project site. According to the Ramona Community Plan, the eucalyptus trees along Main Street are associated with the early history of Ramona, but they are avoided by the project design and the Project will adhere to the Ramona Village Form-Based Code thoroughfare and building requirements. Additionally, based on an analysis of records (including archaeological surveys) maintained by the County and the South Coastal Informational Center, it has been determined that there are no impacts to archaeological resources because the Project site has been disturbed. The proposed Project is not subject to AB-52 consultation. As considered by the GPU EIR, potential impacts to cultural resources will be mitigated through compliance with the Grading Ordinance and through conformance with the County’s Cultural Resource Guidelines if resources are encountered.

The site does not contain any unique geologic features that have been listed in the County’s Guidelines for Determining Significance for Unique Geology Resources nor does the site support any known geologic characteristics that have the potential to support unique geologic features. A review of the County’s Paleontological Resources Maps and data on San Diego County’s geologic formations indicates that the Project is located on geological formations of Quaternary Alluvium that potentially contain unique paleontological resources. As considered by the GPU EIR, potential impacts to paleontological resources will be mitigated through ordinance compliance and through implementation of the following mitigation measures: grading monitoring under the supervision of the Project contractor and conformance with the County’s Paleontological Resource Guidelines if resources are encountered. The GPU EIR identified these mitigation measures as Cul-3.1.

c. **Stormwater Management** – A Priority Development Project Stormwater Quality Management Plan (SWQMP) was prepared for the Project by IngenAE, LLC, dated December 16, 2019. The SWQMP demonstrates that the project would comply with all requirements of the Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO). The Project will be required to implement site design measures, source control best management practices (BMPs), and/or treatment control BMPs to reduce potential pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. These measures will enable the project to meet waste discharge requirements as required by the San Diego Municipal Permit (SDRWQCB Order No. R9-2013-0001), as implemented by the San Diego County Jurisdictional Runoff Management Program (JRMP) and County of San Diego BMP Design Manual.

d. **Transportation and Traffic** - A Traffic Impact Study (TIS), prepared by LOS Engineering, Inc., dated October 4, 2017 was prepared for the Project. The Project has frontage on Main Street, a CALTRANS facility, and any improvements that may be required will comply with the CALTRANS Facility Standards and Requirements. Additionally, the project applicant will construct a full access driveway on 16th Street to the satisfaction of the County engineer.

The Project is anticipated to generate primary traffic (new trips) in the amount of 877 average daily trips (ADT), 14 a.m. peak-hour trips (14 inbound and 0 outbound), and 181 p.m. peak-hour trips (92 inbound and 89 outbound). Based on the results of the TIS, all study intersections and roadways were calculated to operate at Level of Service (LOS) D (approaching unstable flow of traffic) or better except for the intersection of Main Street/16th Street, where the Project could
cause a direct and cumulative impact. According to the TIS, the Project would not result in significant direct or cumulative impacts with the implementation of the following improvements and mitigation measures:

- The applicant would be required to implement a no left-turn at the intersection of Main Street and 16th Street per CALTRANS concurrence.

- The Project would be required to pay into the Traffic Impact Fee (TIF) program at the rate required by the Ramona TIF area to mitigate any cumulative impacts.

In addition, any required improvements to Main Street and 16th Street would be constructed to improve existing conditions as it relates to bicyclists and pedestrians. The Project would not conflict with policies related to non-motorized travel such as mass transit, pedestrian or bicycle facilities. Therefore, the Project, in combination with other cumulative projects would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for performance of the circulation system. The GPU EIR determined significant and unavoidable impacts to unincorporated County traffic and LOS standards. The Project impacts to traffic were determined to be potentially significant. However, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact with the incorporation of GPU EIR mitigation measures Tra-1.4, Tra-1.7, and Project specific mitigation measures consistent with the GPU EIR. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

D. **PUBLIC INPUT**

During the 32-day public disclosure period, from March 12 to April 13, 2020, no public comments were received. No changes were made to the CEQA document as a result.

E. **RAMONA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP / DESIGN REVIEW BOARD**

The Ramona Community Planning Group (CPG) reviewed the project at their September 6, 2018 meeting and recommended approval of the project by a vote of 10-0-0-5 (10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 5 absent) with the condition that 16th Street be improved to its actual one-half width. Additionally, the Ramona Design Review Board (DRB) reviewed the project at their August 30, 2018 meeting and recommended approval of the project by a vote of 6-0-0-0 (6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent) with the condition that cactus and succulents be removed from the conceptual landscape sheet.

F. **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the Zoning Administrator adopt the Environmental Findings included in Attachment B, which includes a finding that the project is exempt from further environmental review pursuant to §15183 of CEQA.
Report Prepared By:  
Hunter McDonald, Project Manager  
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Hunter.McDonald@sdcournty.ca.gov

Report Approved By:  
Mark Wardlaw, Director  
858-694-2962  
Mark.Wardlaw@sdcournty.ca.gov

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:  

ATTACHMENTS:  
Attachment A – Planning Documentation  
Attachment B – Environmental Documentation  
Attachment C – Site Plan and Preliminary Grading Plan  
Attachment D – Public Documentation

DARIN NEUFELD, CHIEF
Attachment A
Planning Documentation
Attachment B
Environmental Documentation
March 12, 2020

Statement of Reasons for Exemption from Additional Environmental Review and 15183 Checklist Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15183

Project Name: Aldi Ramona  
Project Record Numbers: PDS2018-STP-18-021  
Environmental Log Number: PDS2018-ER-18-09-007

APN(s): 281-171-04-00

Lead Agency Name and Address:  
County of San Diego  
Planning and Development Services  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 110  
San Diego, CA 92123-1239

County Staff Contact:  
Hunter McDonald  
(858) 495-5330  
Hunter.McDonald@sdcounty.ca.gov

Project Location:  
The Project is located within the unincorporated community of Ramona in central San Diego County. The 2.5-acre Project Site is located at the corner of 16th Street and Main Street, within the Ramona Community Plan Area. The site is adjacent to properties designated by the General Plan as Village to the north, south, and west, and Public / Semi-Public Facilities to the east. The site is accessed by 16th Street.

Project Applicant Name and Address:  
Skip Janes  
12661 Aldi Place  
Moreno Valley, CA 92555

General Plan  
Community Plan: Ramona  
Regional Categories: Village  
Land Use Designations: General Commercial
Density: N/A
Floor Area Ratio (FAR) N/A

Zoning
Use Regulation: RMV5
Minimum Lot Size: N/A
Special Area Regulation Community Design Review (B), Airport (C), Design Review (D), (D5)

Description of Project:
The Aldi Ramona Project (Project) proposes the construction and operation of a 19,857-square-foot grocery store. The building incorporates LEED and Green Globe design elements and several energy-saving design features, including a PVC/KEE roof membrane. In addition, 41,388 square feet of landscaping consisting of large flowering, canopy, and evergreen trees such as jacaranda, coastal live oak, and fruitless olive trees, and shrubs such as California buckthorn, Cleveland sage and lilac verbena is proposed to screen the building from the view of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The landscaping will be maintained by a “Smart Control” irrigation system which reduces water usage by 40%. Additionally, 88 parking spaces, including 8 reserved spaces for Clean Air Vehicles with conduits for future electric vehicle charging stations, are proposed. Pipe/swale and biofiltration facilities would be implemented as part of the project design to avoid flooding offsite. The property is currently vacant but has been previously disturbed. Total earthwork for the Project would include 3,000 cubic yards of excavation, 3,225 cubic yards of fill, and 225 yards of import. Sewer and water would be provided by the Ramona Municipal Water District, and the project has been reviewed and approved by the San Diego County Fire Authority on August 1, 2018. Primary and delivery access to the site would be provided by 16th Street, and no curb cuts or other disturbances are proposed for Main Street.

The Project Site is located along Main Street in the Paseo subarea of Ramona’s Village Center between other commercial buildings and the County of San Diego Sheriff’s Station. The Paseo is intended to be the main development area in the Village Center, as it has the most potential for Big Box and Large-Format Retail development. The Project has been reviewed by the Ramona Design Review Board and the Ramona Community Planning Group, and was approved by both with the recommended conditions that no cacti or succulents be included in the landscaping plan and that improvements be made to the intersection at 16th Street and Main Street. The Project will be implementing road improvements on 16th Street including widening and repaving the road. The Project design will also preserve the Eucalyptus trees located on the property along Main Street in conformance with the Ramona Village Form-Based Code’s general standards for the Paseo subarea of the Ramona Village Center. The Ramona Village Form-Based Code is aligned with the General Plan goals, policies, and land use designations.

Project Site Description:
The Project Site is located in the community of Ramona within unincorporated San Diego County. The Ramona Village Form-Based Code guides development within the Ramona Village Center and is intended to preserve and promote the character of Ramona while creating a balanced environment for Ramona residents, business owners, and visitors. The Project site is located within the Ramona Village Center in the Center Zoning District (RMV5) of the Paseo and is bounded by Village-zoned lots to the north, south, and west, and by the County of San Diego Sheriff’s Station to the east. Land use designations surrounding the Project Site include Village Residential, Rural, and Semi-Rural lots. The Project Site is directly adjacent and north of Main Street, which becomes State Route 67 to the southwest and State Route 78 to the northeast. The topography of the site is relatively sloped, and portions of the site have slopes between 15 and 25%.

Discretionary Actions:
Discretionary permits for the Project include a Site Plan for Community Design Review and a Major Grading Permit (PDS2020-LDGRMJ-30257).
Overview of 15183 Checklist
California Public Resources Code section 21083.3 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15183 provide an exemption from additional environmental review for projects that are consistent with the development density established by existing zoning, community plan or general plan policies for which an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified, except as might be necessary to examine whether there are project-specific significant effects which are peculiar to the project or its site. Section 15183 specifies that examination of environmental effects shall be limited to those effects that: (1) Are peculiar to the project or the parcel on which the project would be located, and were not analyzed as significant effects in a prior EIR on the zoning action, general plan, or community plan, with which the project is consistent, (2) Are potentially significant off-site impacts and cumulative impacts which were not discussed in the prior EIR prepared for the general plan, community plan or zoning action, or (3) Are previously identified significant effects which, as a result of substantial new information which was not known at the time the EIR was certified, are determined to have a more severe adverse impact than discussed in the prior EIR. Section 15183(c) further specifies that if an impact is not peculiar to the parcel or to the Project, has been addressed as a significant effect in the prior EIR, or can be substantially mitigated by the imposition of uniformly applied development policies or standards, then an additional EIR need not be prepared for that project solely on the basis of that impact.

General Plan Update Program EIR
The County of San Diego General Plan Update (GPU) establishes a blueprint for future land development in the unincorporated County that meets community desires and balances the environmental protection goals with the need for housing, agriculture, infrastructure, and economic vitality. The GPU applies to all of the unincorporated portions of San Diego County and directs population growth and plans for infrastructure needs, development, and resource protection. The GPU included adoption of new General Plan elements, which set the goals and policies that guide future development. It also included a corresponding land use map, a County Road Network map, updates to Community and Subregional Plans, an Implementation Plan, and other implementing policies and ordinances. The GPU focuses population growth in the western areas of the County where infrastructure and services are available in order to reduce the potential for growth in the eastern areas. The objectives of this population distribution strategy are to: 1) facilitate efficient, orderly growth by containing development within areas potentially served by the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) or other existing infrastructure; 2) protect natural resources through the reduction of population capacity in sensitive areas; and 3) retain or enhance the character of communities within the unincorporated County. The SDCWA service area covers approximately the western one third of the unincorporated County. The SDWCA boundary generally represents where water and wastewater infrastructure currently exist. This area is more developed than the eastern areas of the unincorporated County and would accommodate more growth under the GPU.

The GPU EIR was certified in conjunction with adoption of the GPU on August 3, 2011. The GPU EIR comprehensively evaluated environmental impacts that would result from Plan implementation, including information related to existing site conditions, analyses of the types and magnitude of project-level and cumulative environmental impacts, and feasible mitigation measures that could reduce or avoid environmental impacts.

Summary of Findings
The Aldi Ramona Project is consistent with the analysis performed for the GPU EIR. Further, the GPU EIR adequately anticipated and described the impacts of the Project, identified applicable mitigation measures necessary to reduce Project specific impacts, and the Project implements these mitigation measures (see http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/PDS/gpupdate/docs/BOS_Aug2011/EIR/FEIR_7.00_-_Mitigation_Measures_2011.pdf for complete list of GPU Mitigation Measures.
A comprehensive environmental evaluation has been completed for the Project as documented in the attached §15183 Exemption Checklist. This evaluation concludes that the Project qualifies for an exemption from additional environmental review because it is consistent with the development density and use characteristics established by the County of San Diego General Plan, as analyzed by the San Diego County General Plan Update Final Program EIR (GPU EIR, ER #02-ZA-001, SCH #2002111067), and all required findings can be made.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15183, the Project qualifies for an exemption because the following findings can be made:

1. **The Project is consistent with the development density established by existing zoning, community plan or general plan policies for which an EIR was certified.**
   The proposed Project consists of a commercial use and does not propose additional development density or residential uses that would be in conflict with the General Commercial Land Use Designation or the Village Regional Category for which the GPU EIR was certified.

2. **There are no Project specific effects which are peculiar to the Project or its site, and which the GPU EIR Failed to analyze as significant effects.**
   The subject property is no different than other properties in the surrounding area, and there are no Project-specific effects which are peculiar to the Project or its site. The Project Site is located adjacent to similarly sized general commercial lots in the Village Center District of the Paseo, which is designed as the primary commercial hub of the Ramona Village. Other commercial lots within one half mile on Main Street include a 99-cent store, Albertsons, Rite Aid, Stater Bros Market, CVS and Kmart. While there are vernal pools on site, these were analyzed during the preparation of the General Plan when it was determined that this property should be designated for General Commercial Use. Mitigation for these pools is drawn from the General Plan EIR and is described in more detail in Sections 4, Biological Resources. The Paseo area consists of a thoroughfare lined by commercial developments such as retail stores and restaurants, and is a logical site within the Ramona Village for a grocery store.

   In addition, as explained further in the 15183 Checklist below, all project impacts were adequately analyzed by the GPU EIR. The Project could result in potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Transportation and Traffic, and Wildfire. However, applicable mitigation measures specified within the GPU EIR have been made conditions of approval for this project and will reduce impacts to the extent feasible.

3. **There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which the GPU EIR failed to evaluate.**
   The Project is consistent with the density and use characteristics of the development considered by the GPU EIR and would represent a small part of the growth that was forecast for build-out of the General Plan. The GPU EIR considered the incremental impacts of the Project, and as explained further in the 15183 Exemption Checklist below, no potentially significant off-site or cumulative impacts have been identified which were not previously evaluated. In addition, the Ramona Village Form-Based Code found the Village Center portion of the Paseo to be the most suitable location for commercial development within the Ramona Village.

4. **There is no substantial new information which results in more severe impacts than anticipated by the GPU EIR.**
   As explained in the 15183 exemption checklist below, no new information has been identified which would result in a determination of a more severe impact than what had been anticipated by the GPU EIR. As previously stated, the Project could result in potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Transportation and Traffic, and Wildfire. The General
Plan EIR found impacts to special status species and riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities to be significant and unmitigable, but this project will mitigate the impact with measures BIO-1.6 and 1.7, as further detailed below. Additionally, the General Plan EIR found impacts to cultural resources to be potentially significant, but this project will not increase the impacts analyzed in the EIR because it is consistent with the land use designation specified in the General Plan. Impacts to traffic will also be mitigated by measures Tra-1.4 and Tra-1.7, and are therefore less than the impacts identified in the General Plan, which were determined to be significant and unmitigable. The General Plan EIR also found impacts to Wildfire to be significant and unmitigable but impacts to wildfire will be less than significant without mitigation because of the location of the site, which is 0.8 miles from the nearest fire station.

5. **The Project will undertake feasible mitigation measures specified in the GPU EIR.**
As explained in the 15183 exemption checklist below, the Project will undertake feasible mitigation measures specified in the GPU EIR. These GPU EIR mitigation measures will be undertaken through Project design, compliance with regulations and ordinances, or through the Project’s conditions of approval.

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**Signature**

3/12/2020

**Date**

**Hunter McDonald**

**Printed Name**

**Land Use/Environmental Planner**

**Title**
Overview
This checklist provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts resulting from the Project. Following the format of CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, environmental effects are evaluated to determine if the Project would result in a potentially significant impact triggering additional review under Guidelines section 15183.

- Items checked “Significant Project Impact” indicates that the Project could result in a significant effect which either requires mitigation to be reduced to a less than significant level or which has a significant, unmitigated impact.

- Items checked “Impact not identified by GPU EIR” indicates the Project would result in a Project specific significant impact (peculiar off-site or cumulative that was not identified in the GPU EIR.

- Items checked “Substantial New Information” indicates that there is new information which leads to a determination that a Project impact is more severe than what had been anticipated by the GPU EIR.

A Project does not qualify for a §15183 exemption if it is determined that it would result in: 1) a peculiar impact that was not identified as a significant impact under the GPU EIR; 2) a more severe impact due to new information; or 3) a potentially significant off-site impact or cumulative impact not discussed in the GPU EIR.

A summary of staff’s analysis of each potential environmental effect is provided below the checklist for each subject area. A list of references, significance guidelines, and technical studies used to support the analysis is attached in Appendix A. Appendix B contains a list of GPU EIR mitigation measures.
1. AESTHETICS – Would the Project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? □ □ □

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

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? □ □ □

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

Discussion

1(a) A vista is a view from a particular location or composite views along a roadway or trail, and scenic vistas often refer to views of natural lands but may also be compositions of natural and developed areas. Views from scenic roadways are discussed below in 1(b). Resource Conservation Areas (RCAs) are identified within the GPU EIR and are the closest that the County comes to specifically designating scenic vistas. Many public roads and trails in the County currently have views of RCAs or expanses of natural resources that would have the potential to be considered scenic vistas.

The Project Site would not be considered a scenic vista because the site has been previously disturbed and the area is surrounded by commercial development. The Project site is located within the vicinity of certain trail systems which may provide scenic views within the Ramona community, including the Sun Valley Pathway, Santa Maria Creekside Trail, Bulldog Pathway, and Montecito Pathway. The Project would not detract from views because the Project is consistent with surrounding development and the Ramona Form-Based Code, and visibility to the site is restricted due to intervening land uses and/or vegetation.

The GPU EIR determined impacts on scenic vistas to be less than significant. For the reasons described above, the Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, and is therefore consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR.

1(b) State scenic highways refer to those highways that are officially designated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as scenic (Caltrans - California Scenic Highway Program). Generally, the area defined within a State scenic highway is the land adjacent to and visible from the vehicular right-of-way.

No Scenic Highways designated by Caltrans are in proximity to the project site. However, the County General Plan identifies roadways that are designated as scenic corridors within the Conservation and Open Space Element and have been included as part of the County Scenic Highway System. Designated scenic roadways located in the vicinity of the project site include Highland Valley Road (Main Street) and State Route 78 (South 10th Street), which are considered County Scenic Highways. These Scenic Highways were designated because of the views they provide of oak and riparian woodland habitats in the basins and...
hills surrounding the highways. However, visibility to the site from State Route 78 would be restricted due to intervening land uses, the Eucalyptus colonnade, and screening vegetation. The project site would be visible from Highland Valley Road scenic highway, but visibility would be interrupted by the existing row of eucalyptus trees and proposed large canopy and flowering trees between the road and the Project. Additionally, the character of the Project is consistent with surrounding development and conforms with the Ramona Form-Based Code and Design Guidelines, and therefore would not substantially detract from the views along Highland Valley Road. Although the built nature of the Project would vary from the existing condition, it is not expected to demonstrate character that is inconsistent with other commercial uses in the overall area.

Lastly, no identified visual resources such as unique topographic features, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings have been identified on-site. A row of eucalyptus trees on the project site adjacent and parallel to Main Street which were planted during the early history of the Ramona Village would be avoided by the Project design in compliance with the Ramona Village Form-Based Code.

The GPU EIR determined impacts on scenic resources to be less than significant with mitigation. For the reasons described above, the Project would not substantially damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway, nor will it modify or impact any scenic resources on the property; as such, it is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR.

1(c) Visual character is the objective composition of the visible landscape within a viewshed. The Project site is within the Village of Ramona, where the existing visual character and quality include general commercial uses which conform to Ramona’s Community Design Guidelines and the Ramona Form-Based Code. The existing setting is characterized by surrounding retail stores and restaurants, with a County of San Diego Sheriff’s Station on the Site’s eastern boundary, across 16th Street. The land directly west and northwest of the Project site is undeveloped but has been previously graded. The Project site and surrounding land is generally flat with some slopes between 15 and 25% and some greater than 25% at Main Street and the northwest corner of the lot by 16th St. These slopes are avoided by the project design. Viewer groups of the Project site would primarily include motorists and pedestrians. This Project will be designed to fit the visual character of the Village Center District of The Paseo, and will be landscaped with large flowering, canopy, and evergreen trees behind the colonnade of Eucalyptus trees along Main Street, and therefore will contribute more to the visual character of the Village than the current empty lot.

The GPU EIR determined impacts on visual character or quality to be significant and unavoidable. The Project within the landscape would not detract from or contrast with the existing visual character and/or quality of the surrounding area because it is consistent with the General Plan Land Use allowance on-site and conforms with the Ramona Community Plan, Ramona Form-Based Code, and Ramona Design Guidelines. As such, it is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR.

1(d) The Project would use outdoor lighting but is not located within Zone A of the County of San Diego Light Pollution Code (within twenty miles of the Mount Laguna Observatory or the Palomar Observatory). The Project is located within Zone B of the Light Pollution Code (at least twenty miles of the Mount Laguna Observatory or the Palomar Observatory) and would not adversely affect nighttime views or astronomical observations because the Project would be required to conform to the Light Pollution Code (Section 51.201-51.209).
This would include the utilization of the Zone B lamp type and shielding requirements per fixture and hours of operation limitations for outdoor lighting and searchlights.

The GPU EIR determined impacts from light or glare to be significant and unavoidable. Because of the reasons described above, the Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. As such, the Project is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR.

**Conclusion**

With regards to the issue area of Aesthetics, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.

2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.

3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project-specific impacts would be less than significant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Agriculture/Forestry Resources</th>
<th>Significant Project Impact</th>
<th>Impact not identified by GPU EIR</th>
<th>Substantial New Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, or other agricultural resources, to a non-agricultural use?</td>
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<td>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</td>
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<td>c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production?</td>
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<td>d) Result in the loss of forest land, conversion of forest land to non-forest use, or involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Important Farmland or other agricultural resources, to non-agricultural use?</td>
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Discussion

2(a) The Project site does not contain any land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance according to the State Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). The Project is the development of a grocery store in a lot zoned for General Commercial use. The site has County candidate soils of Statewide Importance that meet the definition of FMMP pursuant to Guidelines for Determining Significance – Agricultural Resources. However, because the lot is zoned Village and the General Plan regional category is General Commercial, impacts have already been analyzed in the GPU EIR. No wells exist onsite, and the site is also surrounded by other commercial development, public services, and higher-density residential lots and is therefore not a viable agricultural resource due to potential interface conflicts. Therefore, due to the Land Use Designations in the vicinity and lack of available resources on the site, no potentially significant impact or conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance to a non-agricultural use would occur as a result of this project.

The GPU EIR determined impacts from direct and indirect conversion of agricultural resources to be significant and unavoidable. The Project would not convert potential agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use. As such, the Project is consistent with the analysis provided in the GPU EIR.

2(b) The Project site is not located within a Williamson Act contract or an agricultural preserve. The nearest preserve is 1.6 miles southeast of the Project Site, and the closest land under a Williamson Act Contract is 3.4 miles east of the Project Site. No associated interface conflicts or impacts are anticipated from implementation of the Project due to intervening distances. Additionally, the Project, which proposes the development of a grocery store, is compatible with the General Plan and consistent with the land use types in the surrounding area. Therefore, the project would not present any significant impacts or interface conflicts with the surrounding environment and would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.

The GPU EIR determined impacts from land use conflicts to be less than significant with mitigation. As the Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR.

2(c) The Project site including any offsite improvements do not contain any forest lands as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g), therefore Project implementation would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use. The outer edge of the Cleveland National Forest is located approximately 3 miles to the north of the Project site. Thus, due to distance, the Project would have no impact on the Cleveland National Forest. In addition, the County of San Diego does not have any existing Timberland Production Zones.

The GPU EIR determined impacts from direct and indirect conversion of agricultural resources (including forest resources), to be significant and unavoidable. However, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact to forest resources. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

2(d) The GPU EIR concluded this impact to be significant and unavoidable. As indicated in response 2(c), the Project site and any off-site improvements do not contain any forest...
lands as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g), nor are they located near any forest lands. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

2(e) No agricultural operations are currently taking place on the Project Site, nor does the site or surrounding area within a radius of one half mile contain any active agricultural operations or lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. The surrounding areas within one half-mile radius have been categorized by the FMMP as Urban Built-up and Other land.

The GPU EIR determined impacts from direct and indirect conversion of agricultural resources (including forest resources) to be significant and unavoidable. However, the Project determined impacts to agricultural resources to be less-than-significant. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

Conclusion

With regards to the issue area of Agricultural/Forestry Resources, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.
3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.
4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project-specific impacts would be less than significant.

3. Air Quality – Would the Project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP)?

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? □ □ □ □
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? □ □ □ □

Discussion

3(a) The RAQS and SIP are based on General Plans within the region and the development assumptions contained within them. The Project is for the development of a grocery store with parking. The lot is designated for a General Commercial Land Use. Thus, the Project is consistent with the land use designation allowed under the General Plan and would not conflict with the RAQS or SIP.

The GPU EIR determined impacts on air quality plans to be less than significant. As the Project would have a less-than-significant for the reasons detailed above, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

3(b) The construction phase of the Project would involve the excavation of 3,000 cubic yards, fill of 3,225 cubic yards and the import of 225 cubic yards of material. Emissions from the grading and construction phases would be minimal, temporary and localized, resulting in pollutant emissions below the screening-level criteria established by the LUEG guidelines for determining significance.

Operational emissions for the Project would be associated with vehicle trips to and from the Project Site. The vehicle trip generation for the Project is expected to have fewer than 900 Average Daily Trips (ADT). According to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District CEQA Guidelines for Assessing the Air Quality Impacts of Projects and Plans, projects that generate less than 2,000 ADT are below the screening-level criteria established by the LUEG guidelines for determining significance. The Project ADT would be below this threshold and would therefore not have a significant impact from vehicle emissions.

The GPU EIR determined significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality violations. However, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact to air quality violations. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

3(c) The Project would contribute to particulate pollution (PM10), nitrogen oxide gases (NOx), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emissions from construction/grading activities; however, the incremental increase would not exceed established screening thresholds (see question 3(b) above). Additionally, all adhesives, sealants, paints, flooring systems, and composite wood products are specified with low VOC.

The GPU EIR determined significant and unavoidable impacts to non-attainment criteria pollutants. However, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact to non-attainment criteria pollutants. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

3(d) The Project would introduce additional commercial square footage which is not considered a new sensitive receptor. Air quality regulators typically define sensitive receptors as
schools (Preschool – 12th Grade), hospitals, resident care facilities, day-care centers, residences, or other facilities that may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. The Project would also not be considered a point-source of significant emissions.

The closest sensitive receptors to the Project Site are the Ramona Lutheran Christian School, which is located approximately 0.15 miles southeast of the site, and the Ramona Unified School District which is located approximately 0.2 miles northwest of the Project Site. Additionally, residential use are located approximately 500 feet to the west, 450 feet to the north, and 800 feet to the east. The Project would generate construction emissions in the vicinity of sensitive receptors. However, these emissions would be localized and temporary, and abidance to the County of San Diego Grading Ordinance, SDAPCD Rule 55, and to a confined construction schedule would reduce emissions and exposure to construction emissions. Additionally, the PVC/KEE roof membrane is designed to reduce the “heat island” effect and slow the reaction of smog pollutants. As such, the Project would not expose sensitive receptors to excessive concentrations of air pollutants.

The GPU EIR determined significant and unavoidable impacts to sensitive receptors. However, the Project would have a less than significant impact to sensitive receptors. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

3(e) The Project could produce objectionable odors during construction from paving, painting, and equipment operation; however, these substances, if present at all, would be minimal and temporary. The Project could also produce objectionable odors during operation of the commercial components however, these substances, if present at all, would only be in trace amounts (less than 1 μg/m³). Therefore, the Project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

The GPU EIR determined less than significant impacts from objectionable odors. As the Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

Conclusion

With regards to the issue area of Air Quality, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.

2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.

3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.
4. Biological Resources – Would the Project:

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

- [ ] Substantial Project Impact
- [ ] Impact not identified by GPU EIR
- [ ] Substantial New Information

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 Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

- [ ] Substantial Project Impact
- [ ] Impact not identified by GPU EIR
- [ ] Substantial New Information

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

- [ ] Substantial Project Impact
- [ ] Impact not identified by GPU EIR
- [ ] Substantial New Information

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?

- [ ] Substantial Project Impact
- [ ] Impact not identified by GPU EIR
- [ ] Substantial New Information

e) Conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources?

- [ ] Substantial Project Impact
- [ ] Impact not identified by GPU EIR
- [ ] Substantial New Information

Discussion

4(a) Biological resources on the Project Site were evaluated in a Biological Technical Report prepared by Helix Environmental Planning, dated December 2019. The site contains non-native grassland, eucalyptus woodland, and disturbed habitats. One sensitive wildlife species was identified onsite; the federally listed endangered San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*). No sensitive plant species were identified onsite. As a result of this project, impacts will occur to 1.6 acres of non-native grassland, 0.4 acres of eucalyptus woodland, 0.5 acres of disturbed habitat, and 0.01 acres of vernal pool basins supporting San Diego fairy shrimp. The site is located within the County’s draft North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) in land designated as outside the Pre-Approved Mitigation Area (PAMA).

As considered by the GPU EIR, project impacts to sensitive habitat and/or species will be mitigated through ordinance compliance and through implementation of the following mitigation measures: purchase of 0.8 acres of non-native grassland habitat and two vernal...
pools credits at the Ramona Grasslands Conservation Bank and breeding season avoidance to prevent brushing, clearing, and/or grading between January 15th and September 1st. The GPU EIR identified these mitigation measures as Bio 1.6 and Bio 1.7. A Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit dated August 26, 2015 was issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for take of the federally endangered San Diego fairy shrimp and expires on August 26, 2020.

4(b) Based on the Biological Resources Report, no wetlands or jurisdictional waters were found onsite or offsite. The following sensitive habitat was identified on the site: non-native grasslands. As detailed in response a) above, direct and indirect impacts to sensitive natural communities identified in the RPO, NCCP, Fish and Wildlife Code, and Endangered Species Act are mitigated.

As considered by the GPU EIR, project impacts to sensitive habitat and/or species will be mitigated through ordinance compliance and through implementation of the following mitigation measures: purchase of 0.8 acres of non-native grassland habitat and two vernal pools credits at the Ramona Grasslands Conservation Bank and breeding season avoidance to prevent brushing, clearing, and/or grading between January 15th and September 1st. The GPU EIR identified these mitigation measures as Bio 1.6 and Bio 1.7.

4(c) The Project site does not contain any wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, therefore, no impacts will occur.

4(d) Based on a GIS analysis, the County’s Comprehensive Matrix of Sensitive Species, and a Biological Resources Report, it was determined that the site is not part of a regional linkage/corridor nor is it in an area considered regionally important for wildlife dispersal. The site would not assist in local wildlife movement as it lacks connecting vegetation and visual continuity with other potential habitat areas in the general project vicinity.

4(e) The project is located within the draft North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) and outside of the South County MSCP. Therefore, it does not require conformance with the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO). The project is consistent with the County’s Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biology, the Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO), and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) with the implementation of mitigation. The project will not conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources.

Conclusion

The project could result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources; however, further environmental analysis is not required because:

1. No peculiar impacts to the project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.
3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.
4. Feasible mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR will be applied to the project, including Bio 1.6 and 1.7.

5. Cultural Resources – Would the Project:

   a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5? □ □ □

   b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5? □ □ □

   c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique geologic feature? □ □ □

   d) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site? □ □ □

   e) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? □ □ □

Discussion

5(a) Based on an analysis of records by a County staff archaeologist on July 23, 2018, it has been determined that there are no historical resources on the Project Site. According to the Ramona Community Plan, the eucalyptus trees along Main Street are associated with the early history of Ramona, but they are avoided by the project design and the Project will adhere to the Ramona Village Form-Based Code thoroughfare and building requirements.

5(b) Based on an analysis of records (including archaeological surveys) maintained by the County and the South Coastal Informational Center, it has been determined that there are no impacts to archaeological resources because the project site has been historically disturbed. The proposed project is not subject to AB-52 consultation because a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, nor Environmental Impact Report is required for this project.

As considered by the GPU EIR, potential impacts to cultural resources will be mitigated through compliance with the Grading Ordinance and through conformance with the County’s Cultural Resource Guidelines if resources are encountered.

5(c) The site does not contain any unique geologic features that have been listed in the County’s Guidelines for Determining Significance for Unique Geology Resources nor does the site support any known geologic characteristics that have the potential to support unique geologic features.

5(d) A review of the County’s Paleontological Resources Maps and data on San Diego County’s geologic formations indicates that the project is located on geological formations of Quaternary Alluvium that potentially contain unique paleontological resources.

As considered by the GPU EIR, potential impacts to paleontological resources will be mitigated through ordinance compliance and through implementation of the following mitigation measures: grading monitoring under the supervision of the project contractor.
and conformance with the County’s Paleontological Resource Guidelines if resources are encountered. The GPU EIR identified these mitigation measures as Cul-3.1.

5(e) Based on an analysis of records and archaeological surveys of the property, it has been determined that the Project Site does not include a formal cemetery or any archaeological resources that might contain interred human remains.

Conclusion
The project could result in potentially significant impacts to cultural resources; however, further environmental analysis is not required because:

1. No peculiar impacts to the project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.
3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.
4. Feasible mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR will be applied to the project, including Cul 3.1.

6. Energy Use – 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?

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

Discussion
Energy use was not specifically analyzed within the GPU EIR as a separate issue area under CEQA. At the time, Energy Use was contained within Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines and since then has been moved to the issue areas within Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. However, the issue of energy use in general was discussed within the GPU and the GPU EIR. For example, within the Conservation and Open Space Element of the GPU, Goal COS-15 promotes sustainable architecture and building techniques that reduce emissions of criteria pollutants and GHGs, while protecting public health and contributing to a more sustainable environment. Policies, COS-15.1, COS-15.2, and COS-15.3 would support this goal by encouraging the design and construction of new buildings and upgrades of existing buildings to maximize energy efficiency and reduce GHG. Goal COS-17 promotes sustainable solid waste management. Policies COS-17.1 and COS-17.5 would support this goal by reducing GHG emissions through waste reduction techniques and methane recapture. The analysis below specifically analyzes the energy use of the Project.
6(a) The Project would increase the demand for electricity and natural gas at the Project Site, and gasoline consumption in the Project area during construction and operation relative to existing conditions. CEQA requires mitigation measures to reduce “wasteful, inefficient and unnecessary” energy usages (Public Resources Code Section 21100, subdivision [b][3]). Neither the law nor the State CEQA Guidelines establish criteria that define wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary use. Compliance with the California Code of Regulations 2019 Title 24 Part 6 Building Code would result in highly energy-efficient buildings. However, compliance with building codes does not adequately address all potential energy impacts during construction and operation. It can be expected that energy consumption, outside of the building code regulations, would occur through the transport of construction materials to and from the site during the construction phase and the use of personal vehicles by residents.

Grading and Construction
During the grading and construction phases of the Project, the primary energy source utilized would be petroleum from construction equipment and vehicle trips. To a lesser extent, electricity would also be consumed for the temporary electric power for as-necessary lighting and electronic equipment. Activities including electricity would be temporary and negligible; therefore, electricity use during grading and construction would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. Any natural gas that may be consumed as a result of the Project construction would be temporary and negligible and would not have an adverse effect; therefore, natural gas used during grading and construction would also not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. Aldi uses regional building materials and products that are extracted and manufactured within the region, which reduces energy usage associated with transporting construction materials to the Project site. Petroleum fuel consumed by construction equipment would be the primary energy resource expended over the course of grading and construction. Vehicle trips associated with the transportation of construction materials and construction workers commutes would also result in petroleum consumption, but to a lesser extent. Petroleum consumptions would be necessary for operation and maintenance of construction equipment and would not be beyond what is necessary for construction of the Project.

The energy needs for the Project construction would be temporary and are not anticipated to require additional capacity or increase peak or base period demands for electricity or other forms of energy. Construction equipment use and associated energy consumptions would be typical of that associated with the construction of commercial projects of this size in a village setting. Additionally, the Project is consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Thus, the Project’s energy consumption during the grading and construction phase would not be considered wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary.

Operational
Operation of the Project would be typical of commercial land uses requiring natural gas and electricity and landscape maintenance activities. The Project would meet the California Code of Regulations Title 24 Standards for energy efficiency that are in effect at the time of construction. The Project would increase ADT by 877 trips, but the incorporation of bike parking and Clean Air Vehicle parking on site will promote a 15.8% reduction of VMT at the site. Additional energy-saving measures are incorporated into the building design, including:

- “Smart Control” Irrigation systems, which reduce water usage by 40%
• PVC/KEE roof membrane which reduces energy consumption and packaged rooftop units with R410A, a more environmentally friendly refrigerant
• Energy Management Systems and Smart Sub-meters which control HVAC and lighting and monitor electricity consumption, reducing energy use up to 9%
• Metered plumbing, XLerator energy efficient hand dryers, LED lighting with occupancy sensors, CO2 Advansor Compressor energy efficient refrigeration system, and leak detection.

Additionally, ALDI is incorporating photovoltaic systems at many stores, and this may be added as a feature to the Project at a later date. As such, the project would not be expected to result in wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary petroleum usage throughout Project operations.

As previously discussed, the GPU EIR did not analyze Energy as a separate issue area under CEQA. Energy was analyzed under the GPU and GPU EIR and has been incorporated within General Plan Elements. The Project would not conflict with policies within the GPU related to energy use, nor would it result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, as specified within Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines.

6b. The Project includes the following energy conservation measures:

• “Smart Control” Irrigation systems, which reduce water usage by 40%
• PVC/KEE roof membrane which reduces energy consumption and packaged rooftop units with R410A, a more environmentally friendly refrigerant
• Energy Management Systems and Smart Sub-meters which control HVAC and lighting and monitor electricity consumption, reducing energy use up to 9%
• Metered plumbing, XLerator energy efficient hand dryers, LED lighting with occupancy sensors, CO2 Advansor Compressor energy efficient refrigeration system, and leak detection.
• Bike parking facilities and Clean Air Vehicle parking with a conduit for future EV charging stations

The County’s Climate Action Plan is a long-term plan that identifies strategies and measures to meet the County’s targets to reduce GHG emissions by 2020 and 2030, consistent with the State’s legislative GHG reduction targets, and demonstrates progress towards the State’s 2050 GHG reduction goal (County of San Diego, 2017). Implementation of the CAP requires that new development Projects incorporate more sustainable design standards and implement applicable reduction measures consistent with the CAP. To help streamline this review and determine consistency of Projects with the CAP during development review, the County has prepared a CAP Consistency Review Checklist (Checklist). The Project would implement all applicable measures identified in the Checklist and would therefore be consistent with the County’s Climate Action Plan. In addition, the Project would be consistent with several energy reduction policies of the County General Plan including policies COS-14.1, 14.2, 16.2, and COS-16.5. Additionally, the Project would be consistent with sustainable development and energy reduction policies, such as policy CO-15.4, through compliance with the most recent Title 24 standards at the time of Project construction. Therefore, the Project would implement energy reduction design features and comply with the most recent energy building standards consistent with applicable plans and policies. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.
As previously discussed, the GPU EIR did not analyze Energy as a separate issue area under CEQA. Energy was analyzed under the GPU and GPU EIR and has been incorporated within General Plan Elements. The Project would not conflict with policies within the GPU related to energy use or conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency as specified within Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines.

Conclusion
With regards to the issue area of Energy, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.
3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.
4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

7. Geology and Soils – Would the Project:

   a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: (i) rupture of a known earthquake fault, (ii) strong seismic ground shaking or seismic-related ground failure, (iii) liquefaction, and/or (iv) landslides? [ ] [ ] [ ]

   b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? [ ] [ ] [ ]

   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 an on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? [ ] [ ] [ ]

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

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

Discussion

7(a(i) The Project is not located in a fault rupture hazard zone identified by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, Special Publication 42, Revised 1997, Fault-Rupture Hazards Zones in California. or located within any other area with substantial evidence of a known fault. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact from the exposure of people or
structures to adverse effects from a known fault-rupture hazard zone would occur as a result of this project, which is consistent with the GPU EIR determination.

7(a)(ii) The GPU EIR concluded this impact to be less than significant. To ensure the structural integrity of all buildings and structures, the Project must conform to the Seismic Requirements as outlined within the California Building Code. In addition, a soils report and compaction report with proposed foundation recommendation would be required to be approved before the issuance of a building permit per California Building Code Sections 1803 and 1804. Therefore, compliance with the California Building Code and the County Building Code would ensure that the Project would not result in a significant impact.

7(a)(iii) The Project site is within a “Potential Liquefaction Area” as identified in the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Geologic Hazards, and it is underlain by some high shrink swell soils (expansive soils). As stated previously, the County requires a soils report and compaction report with proposed foundation recommendations to be approved prior to the issuance of a building permit. Therefore, there would be a less-than-significant impact from the exposure of people or structures to adverse effects from liquefaction, which is consistent with the GPU EIR determination.

7(a)(iv) The Project site is not located within a “Landslide Susceptibility Area” as identified in the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Geologic Hazards. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, which is consistent with the GPU EIR determination.

7(b) According to the Soil Survey of San Diego County, the soils on-site are identified as alfisols which have a soil erodibility rating of severe. However, the Project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil because the Project would be required to comply with the Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO) and Grading Ordinance which would ensure that the Project would not result in any unprotected erodible soils, would not alter existing drainage patterns, and would not develop steep slopes. Additionally, the Project would be required to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) per the Priority Development Project Storm Water Quality Management Plan to prevent fugitive sediment. As such, the project would have a less-than-significant impact on soil erosion and topsoil loss, which is consistent with the GPU EIR determination.

7(c) As indicated in response (a)(iv), the site is not located on or near geological formations that are unstable or would potentially become unstable as a result of the project, nor is it within a “Landslide Susceptibility Area” as identified in the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Geologic Hazards. Furthermore, the project will be required to comply with the WPO and Grading Ordinance which will ensure that the project would not result in any unprotected erodible soils and will not develop steep slopes that could cause landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. As such, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact on soil stability, which is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

7(d) The project is underlain by expansive soils as defined within Table 18-I-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994). However, as indicated in response 6(a)(iii), the project will not result in a significant impact because compliance with the Building Code and implementation of standard engineering techniques will ensure structural safety. The Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, which is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.
7(e)  The Project Site would rely on public water and sewer for the disposal of wastewater. No septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are proposed. As such, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact on wastewater disposal systems, which is consistent with the GPU EIR determination.

**Conclusion**

With regards to the issue area of Geology and Soils, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.

2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.

3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

**8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions** – Would the Project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Significant Project Impact</th>
<th>Impact not identified by GPU EIR</th>
<th>Substantial New Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?</td>
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</table>

**Background on CAP and Litigation**

The County of San Diego adopted a Climate Action Plan on February 14, 2018 which outlines actions that the County will undertake to meet its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions targets. Implementation of the CAP requires, among other things, that new development Projects incorporate more sustainable design standards and implement applicable reduction measures consistent with the CAP.

**Discussion**

**Project Design Features:**

The Project has incorporated design features to reduce the impacts associated with GHG. The below design features have been incorporated into this analysis:

- “Smart Control” Irrigation systems, which reduce water usage by 40%
- PVC/KEE roof membrane which reduces energy consumption and packaged rooftop units with R410A, a more environmentally friendly refrigerant
- Energy Management Systems and Smart Sub-meters which control HVAC and lighting and monitor electricity consumption, reducing energy use up to 9%
- Metered plumbing, Xlerator energy efficient hand dryers, LED lighting with occupancy sensors, CO2 Advansor Compressor energy efficient refrigeration system, and leak detection
• Provision of bicycle parking facilities and Clean Air Vehicle parking with conduits for future Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
• Use of regional, recycled, and low-emitting (VOC) materials in building construction

Analysis
8(a) The Project would produce GHG emissions through grading and construction activities, as well as operational GHG emissions from vehicle trips to and from the site. Indirect GHG uses would also be produced from offsite sources such as water conveyance and utilities. However, the Project falls below the screening criteria that were developed to identify project types and sizes that would have less than cumulatively considerable GHG emissions. Additionally, from an operational perspective, the Project would be consistent with the density established under the General Plan. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact for that, and other reasons, as detailed below.

To help streamline this review and determine consistency of Projects with the CAP during development review, the County has prepared a CAP Consistency Review Checklist (Checklist). The Project would implement all applicable measures identified in the Checklist and would therefore be consistent with the County’s Climate Action Plan. Additionally, the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) prepared a white paper which recommends a 900 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) per year screening level to determine the size of projects that would be likely to have a less-than considerable contribution to the cumulative impact of climate change.

The Project would develop a grocery store that would fall below the aforementioned criteria. Additionally, the LEED and Green Globe design features described above also reduce impacts related to GHG emissions from the project. Due to the aforementioned factors, the Project would not generate GHG emissions that would have a significant impact on the environment.

The GPU EIR determined impacts to be less than significant with mitigation. As the Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

8(b) As described above, the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to global climate change. As such, the Project would be consistent with County goals and policies included in the County General Plan that address greenhouse gas reductions. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with emissions reduction targets of Assembly Bill 32 and the Global Warming Solutions Act. Thus, the Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing emissions of greenhouse gas emissions.

The GPU EIR determined impacts to applicable regulation compliance to be less than significant. As the Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

Conclusion
With regards to the issue area of Global Climate Change, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.

3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials – Would the Project:

   a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or wastes or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐

   b) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? ☐ ☐ ☐

   c) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or is otherwise known to have been subject to a release of hazardous substances and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐

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

   e) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? ☐ ☐ ☐

   f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? ☐ ☐ ☐

   g) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? ☐ ☐ ☐
h) Propose a use, or place residents adjacent to an existing or reasonably foreseeable use that would substantially increase current or future resident's exposure to vectors, including mosquitoes, rats or flies, which are capable of transmitting significant public health diseases or nuisances?

Discussion

9(a) The Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment because it does not propose the storage, use, transport, emission, or disposal of Hazardous Substances, nor are Hazardous Substances proposed or currently in use in the immediate vicinity. In addition, the project does not propose to demolish any existing structures onsite and therefore would not create a hazard related to the release of asbestos, lead based paint or other hazardous materials from demolition activities. As the Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

9(b) The Project is located within one-quarter mile of an existing school (Ramona Lutheran Christian School). This school is located 0.2 miles directly southwest of the Project site on 16th street. Although the school is in close proximity to the Project site, the Project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of the schools. Furthermore, the Project is required to comply with applicable regulations pertaining to hazardous waste to ensure that impacts related to hazardous emissions and schools is less than significant. As such, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, which is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

9(c) Based on a comprehensive review, the Project site has not been subject to a release of hazardous substances, as the lot has never been developed or farmed. Additionally, the Project does not propose structures for human occupancy or significant linear excavation within 1,000 feet of an open, abandoned, or closed landfill, is not located on or within 250 feet of the boundary of a parcel identified as containing burn ash (from the historic burning of trash), and is not on or within 1,000 feet of a Formerly Used Defense Site. As such, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, which is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

9(d) The Project is located within Airport Influence Area two (2) of the Ramona Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan and is consistent with the Plan. The Project is not located within an Airport Safety Zone, within an Avigation Easement, or an Overflight area. The Project is located within a Federal Aviation Administration Height Notification Surface area. However, the Project does not propose construction of any structure equal to or greater than 150 feet in height, constituting a safety hazard to aircraft and/or operations from an airport or heliport. The Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, which is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

9(e) The Project is not within one mile of a private airstrip. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.
9(f)(i) OPERATIONAL AREA EMERGENCY PLAN AND MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:
The Project would not interfere with this plan because it would not prohibit subsequent plans from being established or prevent the goals and objectives of existing plans from being carried out.

9(f)(ii) SAN DIEGO COUNTY NUCLEAR POWER STATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN:
The property is not within the San Onofre emergency planning zone.

9(f)(iii) OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY ELEMENT:
The Project is not located along the coastal zone.

9(f)(iv) EMERGENCY WATER CONTINGENCIES ANNEX AND ENERGY SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN:
The Project would not alter major water or energy supply infrastructure which could interfere with the plan.

9(f)(v) DAM EVACUATION PLAN:
The Project is not located within a dam inundation zone. Additionally, the development would not constitute a “Unique Institution” such as a hospital, school, or retirement home pursuant to the Office of Emergency Services included within the County Guidelines for Determining Significance, Emergency Response Plans. Therefore, the Project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted dam evacuation plan.

9(g) The GPU EIR concluded this impact as significant and unavoidable. The Project is adjacent to wildlands that have the potential to support wildland fires. However, the project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires because the project will comply with the regulations relating to emergency access, water supply, and defensible space specified in the Consolidated Fire Code for the 16 Fire Protection Districts in the County of San Diego. Implementation for these fire safety standards will occur during the building permit process. Additionally, the San Diego County Fire Authority reviewed and approved the project on August 1, 2018. Therefore, based on the review of the project by County staff and compliance with the County of San Diego Fire Authority, the project is not expected to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving hazardous wildland fires. Moreover, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact, because all past, present and future projects in the surrounding area are required to comply with the Consolidated Fire Code.

The GPU EIR determined impacts from wildland fires to be significant and unavoidable. However, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact with no required mitigation for the reasons detailed above. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.
9(h) The project does not involve, or support uses that allow water to stand for a period of 72 hours (3 days) or more (e.g. artificial lakes, agricultural irrigation ponds). Also, the project does not involve, or support uses that will produce or collect animal waste, such as equestrian facilities, agricultural operations (chicken coops, dairies etc.), solid waste facility or other similar uses. Therefore, the project will not substantially increase exposure to vectors, including mosquitoes, rats or flies, which is consistent with the GPU EIR determination of less than significant.

**Conclusion**

With regards to the issue area of Hazards and Hazardous Materials, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.
3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.
4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydrology and Water Quality – Would the Project:</th>
<th>Significant Project Impact</th>
<th>Impact not identified by GPU EIR</th>
<th>Substantial New Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Violate any waste discharge requirements?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Is the project tributary to an already impaired water body, as listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list? If so, could the project result in an increase in any pollutant for which the water body is already impaired?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Could the Project cause or contribute to an exceedance of applicable surface or groundwater receiving water quality objectives or degradation of beneficial uses?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
f) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site? □ □ □
g) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems? □ □ □
h) Provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? □ □ □
i) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map, including County Floodplain Maps? □ □ □
j) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? □ □ □
k) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding? □ □ □
l) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? □ □ □
m) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? □ □ □

Discussion

10(a) The Project is required to implement water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address site design, source control, and construction BMP requirements. A Priority Development Project Stormwater Quality Management Plan (SWQMP) was prepared for the project by IngenAE, LLC, dated December 16, 2019. The SWQMP demonstrates that the project will comply with all requirements of the County of San Diego BMP Design Manual County BMP DM) and the Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO). The Project proposes and will be required to implement the following site design measures and/or source control BMPs and/or treatment control BMPs: vegetation stabilization planting, bonded fiber matrix or stabilized fiber matrix for flat areas and disturbed slopes, silt fence, gravel and sand bags, stabilized construction entrance, materials management, and waste management. These measures will enable the Project to meet waste discharge requirements as required by the Land-Use Planning for New Development and Redevelopment Component of the San Diego Municipal Permit (SDRWQCB Order No. R9-2015-0100), as implemented by the County of San Diego Jurisdictional Runoff Management Program (JRMP) and County BMP DM. Due to the reasons described above, the project will not violate any wastewater discharge requirements.

10(b) The Project lies in the Ramona (905.41) hydrologic subarea, within the San Dieguito Watershed hydrologic unit. According to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list, a portion of these watersheds are impaired: Pacific Ocean Shoreline at the San Dieguito Lagoon
and the San Dieguito River. The Project could contribute to release of pollutants; however, the Project will comply with the WPO and implement site design measures, source control BMPs, and treatment control BMPs to prevent a significant increase of pollutants to receiving waters.

10(c) As stated in responses 9(a) and 9(b) above, implementation of BMPs and compliance with required ordinances will ensure that the Project could not cause or contribute to an exceedance of applicable surface or groundwater receiving water quality objectives or degradation of beneficial use.

10(d) The Project will obtain its water supply from the Ramona Water District which obtains water from surface reservoirs or other imported sources. The Project will not use any groundwater. In addition, the Project does not involve operations that would interfere substantially with groundwater recharge.

10(e) As stated in response 9(a), the Project’s PDP SWQMP would require the implementation of source control and/or treatment control BMP’s to reduce potential pollutants, including sediment from erosion or siltation, to the maximum extent practicable from entering storm water runoff.

10(f) The Project will not significantly alter established drainage patterns or significantly increase the amount of runoff for the following reasons: based on a Drainage Study prepared by IngenAE, LLC on December 16, 2019, drainage will be conveyed to pipes/swale and a biofiltration system that matches existing drainage patterns.

10(g) The Project proposes to route runoff to pipes/swale and biofiltration facilities to avoid flooding off-site by attenuating velocities and reducing peak flows to pre-development conditions. Therefore, the project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems.

10(h) The Project has the potential to generate pollutants; however, site design measures, source control BMPs, and treatment control BMPs will be employed such that potential pollutants will be reduced to the maximum extent practicable. Therefore, impacts related to pollutant runoff will be less than significant.

10(i) No FEMA mapped floodplains, County-mapped floodplains or drainages with a watershed greater than 25 acres were identified on the Project Site or off-site improvement locations.

10(j) No 100-year flood hazard areas were identified on the Project Site.

10(k) The Project site lies outside any identified special flood hazard area.

10(l) The Project site lies outside a mapped dam inundation area for a major dam/reservoir within San Diego County. In addition, the Project is not located immediately downstream of a minor dam that could potentially flood the property.

10(m)(i) SEICHE: The Project site is not located along the shoreline of a lake or reservoir.

10(m)(ii) TSUNAMI: The Project site is not located in a tsunami hazard zone.

10(m)(iii) MUDFLOW: Mudflow is a type of landslide. See response to question 6(a)(iv).
Conclusion

With regards to the issue area of Hydrology and Water Quality, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the project or its site have been identified.

2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.

3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Significant Project Impact</th>
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<th>Substantial New Information</th>
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11. Land Use and Planning – Would the Project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

☐ ☐ ☐

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

☐ ☐ ☐

Discussion

11(a) The Project would not propose any new infrastructure or major expansion of existing infrastructure, including public roads, major water or wastewater pipeline extensions, or utilities. The Project would develop a commercial use, a grocery store, in a lot designated for general commercial development, in an area surrounded by commercial and Public / Semi-Public land use types; therefore, build-out of the site was anticipated by the General Plan EIR. As such, the Project would not physically divide an established community.

11(b) The discretionary actions for the Project to develop a grocery store include a Site Plan for a “B” and “D” Designator for conformance with the Ramona Community Design Review Guidelines. The Project Site is zoned Village and has a General Plan designation of General Commercial. The Project falls within the Ramona Community Plan Area, and would be consistent with the Ramona Community Plan, the Ramona Form-Based Code, the General Plan, and the Ramona Design Review Guidelines. A site plan was prepared for the Project and was conceptually approved by the Ramona Design Review Board on August 8, 2019 and the Ramona Community Planning Group on September 6, 2018. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project adopted for the purposes of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. As such, the Project would have a less-than significant impact for the reasons detailed above, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

Conclusion
With regards to the issue area of Land Use and Planning, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.

2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.

3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

6. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

### 12. 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?

- [ ] Significant Project Impact
- [ ] Impact not identified by GPU EIR
- [ ] Substantial New Information

#### 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?

- [ ] Significant Project Impact
- [ ] Impact not identified by GPU EIR
- [ ] Substantial New Information

12(a) The GPU EIR determined that impacts to mineral resources would be significant and unavoidable. The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) required classification of land into Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs). The Project Site has been classified by the California Department of Conservation – Division of Mines and Geology as MRZ-3. Areas classified as MRZ-3 contain known mineral deposits that may qualify as mineral resources. Further exploration work within these areas could result in the reclassification into the MRZ-2 category, which are areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data show that significant measured or indicated resources are present. However, the Project Site is not within the vicinity (1300 feet) of an identified MRZ-2 area as identified by the County Guidelines for Determining Significance, and the nearest identified MRZ-2 area to the site is more than 4 miles to the northwest. Additionally, the Project Site is approximately .08 miles from high density residential development, and as such, a future mining operation at the Project Site would likely create a significant impact to neighboring properties for issues such as noise, air quality, traffic, and possibly other impacts. Therefore, the Project will not result in the loss of a known mineral resource because the resource has already been lost due to incompatible land uses, an outcome analyzed in the GPU EIR.

12(b) The Project Site is not located in an Extractive Use Zone (S-82), nor does it have an Impact Sensitive Land Use Designation (24) with an Extractive Land Use Overlay (25). Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, which is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

### Conclusion

With regards to the issue area of Mineral Resources, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.

3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

7. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

12. **Noise** – Would the Project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?</td>
<td>(\square)</td>
<td>(\square)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?</td>
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<td>(\square)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?</td>
<td>(\square)</td>
<td>(\square)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?</td>
<td>(\square)</td>
<td>(\square)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?</td>
<td>(\square)</td>
<td>(\square)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?</td>
<td>(\square)</td>
<td>(\square)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion**

12(a) The area surrounding the Project Site consists of multi-family use and commercial uses. The project will not expose people to potentially significant noise levels that exceed the allowable limits of the General Plan, Noise Ordinance, or other applicable standards for the following reasons:

General Plan – Noise Element: Policy 4b addresses noise sensitive areas and requires projects to comply with a Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) of 60 decibels (dB(A)). Projects which could produce noise in excess of 60 dB(A) are required to incorporate design measures or mitigation as necessary to comply with the Noise Element. Based on a review of the County’s noise contour maps, the project is not expected to expose existing or planned noise sensitive areas to noise in excess of 60 dB(A).
Noise Ordinance – Section 36-404: Non-transportation noise generated by the project is not expected to exceed the standards of the Noise Ordinance at or beyond the project’s property line. The site as well as adjacent surrounding areas are zoned RMV5 that has a one-hour average sound limit of 60 dBA daytime and 55 dBA nighttime. Based on Staff’s analysis of the information provided, the project does not involve any noise producing equipment that would exceed applicable noise levels at the adjoining property line.

Noise Ordinance – Section 36-410: The project will not generate construction noise in excess of Noise Ordinance standards. Construction operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation. Also, it is not anticipated that the project will operate construction equipment in excess of an average sound level of 75dB between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM.

12(b) The project does not propose residential uses which are sensitive to low ambient vibration. The Project consists of a 19,857 square-foot grocery store. In addition, the Project does not include any activities that would expose existing or foreseeable noise sensitive land uses to vibration noise that exceeds the noise standards.

12(c) As indicated in the response listed under Section 12(a), the project would not expose existing or planned noise sensitive areas in the vicinity to a substantial permanent increase in noise levels that exceed the allowable limits of any applicable noise standards. Also, the project is not expected to expose existing or planned noise sensitive areas to noise 10 dB CNEL over existing ambient noise levels.

12(d) The project does not involve any operational uses that may create substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. Also, general construction noise is not expected to exceed the construction noise limits of the Noise Ordinance. Construction operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation. Also, the project will not operate construction equipment in excess of 75 dB for more than an 8-hours during a 24-hour period.

12(e) The project is located within an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) for airports or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport. However, the project is not proposing any noise sensitive land uses.

12(f) The project is not located within a one-mile vicinity of a private airstrip, however, its located at approximately 1.3 miles away from the Ramona Airport. The Project Site is not proposing any noise sensitive land uses.

Conclusion
With regards to the issue area of Noise, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.
3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.
4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.
14. **Population and Housing** – Would the Project:

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

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? □ □ □

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? □ □ □

**Discussion**

14(a) The Project Site is zoned as Village and has a General Plan Land Use Designation of General Commercial. The Project is for the development of a grocery store, and does not propose, nor would the site be compatible with, residential development. Additionally, the Project would take access from Main Street and 16th Street and does not propose the extension of roads or other infrastructure. The Project does not propose any physical or regulatory change that would remove a restriction to or encourage population growth in the area. The Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, which is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

14(b) The Project would not displace existing housing. As such, replacement housing would not be required elsewhere. Because this Project would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided in the GPU EIR.

14(c) The Project would not displace a substantial number of people. As such, replacement housing would not be required elsewhere. Because this Project would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided in the GPU EIR.

**Conclusion**

With regards to the issue area of Population and Housing, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.

2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.

3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.
15. **Public Services** – Would the Project:

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance service ratios for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities?

**Discussion**

15(a) Based on the review by County staff, the project’s service availability forms, and concurrence received from the San Diego County Fire Authority on August 1, 2018 for the project, the project would not result in the need for significantly altered services or facilities. Because the Project does not generally affect the general population, it will not affect school, park, or library services. Additionally, the project does not involve the construction of new or physically altered governmental facilities including but not limited to fire protection facilities, sheriff facilities, schools, or parks in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance service ratios or objectives for any public services. Therefore, the project will not have an adverse physical effect on the environment because the project does not require new or significantly altered services or facilities to be constructed. Because this Project would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided in the GPU EIR.

**Conclusion**

With regards to the issue area of Public Services, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.

2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.

3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

16. **Recreation** – Would the Project:

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

Discussion
16(a) The Project proposes development of a grocery store. No new residential use types are proposed. As such, the Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that physical deterioration of the facility would be accelerated. The Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above; therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

16(b) As described about in 16(a), the Project proposed the construction of a grocery store and thus does not include recreational facilities, nor require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. As such, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact and would therefore be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR.

Conclusion
With regards to the issue area of Recreation, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.
3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.
4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

17. Transportation and Traffic – Would the Project:

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of the effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths and mass transit?

b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

☐ ☐ ☐

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

☐ ☐ ☐

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

☐ ☐ ☐

f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

☐ ☐ ☐

Discussion

A Traffic Impact Study, prepared by LOS Engineering, Inc. and dated October 4, 2017 was prepared for the Project. The Project has frontage on Main Street, and improvements will be constructed to maintain existing conditions. Additionally, the project applicant will construct a full access driveway on 16th Street to the satisfaction of the County engineer.

17(a) The County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance for Traffic and Transportation (Guidelines) establish measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. These Guidelines incorporate standards from the County of San Diego Public Road Standards, Mobility Element, and the Transportation Impact Fee Program.

The Traffic Impact Fee (TIF) program is designed to mitigate potential cumulative impacts to roadways in the unincorporated portion of San Diego County by funding future roadway improvements. As discussed in the traffic study, new Project trips would be distributed onto Mobility Element roadways in the County as analyzed by the TIF program, some of which are currently projected to operate at inadequate levels of service (LOS). The Project would result in an additional 877 average daily trips (ADT) to roadways in the Project area.

Level of Service (LOS) is a professional industry standard by which the operating conditions of a given roadway segment or intersection is measured. Level of Service is defined on a scale of A to F; where LOS A represents the best operating conditions and LOS F represents the worst operating conditions. LOS A facilities are characterized as having free flowing traffic conditions with no restrictions on maneuvering or operating speeds; traffic volumes are low and travel speeds are high. LOS F facilities are characterized as having forced flow with many stoppages and low operating speeds. The LOS ranges are defined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Service</th>
<th>Roadway Segments – Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Volume 1</th>
<th>Signalized Intersections – Delay (Seconds/Vehicle)</th>
<th>Unsignalized Intersections – Delay (Seconds/Vehicle)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Less Than 1,900</td>
<td>Less Than or Equal to 10.0</td>
<td>Less Than or Equal to 10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1,901 to 4,100</td>
<td>10.1 to 20.0</td>
<td>10.1 to 15.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The volume ranges are based on the County of San Diego Circulation Element of a Light Collector, the average divided in Appendix A.

Highway Capacity Manual (HCM).

1 Project Conditions

The Project is anticipated to generate primary traffic (new trips) in the amount of 877 average daily trips (ADT), 14 a.m. peak-hour trips (14 inbound and 0 outbound), and 181 p.m. peak-hour trips (92 inbound and 89 outbound). Based on the results of this TIS, all study intersections and roadways were calculated to operate at LOS D or better except for the intersection of SR-67/16th Street, where the Project could cause a direct and cumulative impact.

According to the Traffic Impact Study, the Project would not result in significant direct or cumulative impacts with the implementation of improvements and mitigation measures. Please see below for a list of Project improvements and mitigation measures.

Project Mitigation

The following are the proposed mitigation measures for the Project:

- SR-67 (Main Street) and 16th Street (August 21, 2018 Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE))
  - The applicant would be required to implement a no left-turn at the intersection of Main Street and 16th Street per CALTRANS concurrence

The SANDAG Regional Transportation Model was utilized to analyze projected build-out development conditions on the existing mobility element roadway network throughout the unincorporated area of the County. Based on the results of the traffic modeling, funding necessary to construct transportation facilities that will mitigate cumulative impacts from new development was identified. Existing roadway deficiencies will be corrected through improvement project funded by other public funding sources, such as TransNet, gas tax, and grants. Potential cumulative impacts to the region's freeways have been addressed in SANDAG’s Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Another element of this programmatic solution is the TIF program, which is designed to mitigate potential cumulative impacts to roadways in the unincorporated portion of San Diego County by funding future roadway improvements.

- The Project would be required to pay into the TIF program at the rate required by the Ramona TIF area to mitigate any cumulative impacts.

In addition, any required improvements to SR-67 and 16th Street would be constructed to improve existing conditions as it relates to bicyclists and pedestrians. The Project would not conflict with policies related to non-motorized travel such as mass transit, pedestrian or bicycle facilities. Therefore, the Project, in combination with other cumulative Projects would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for performance of the circulation system.

The GPU EIR determined significant and unavoidable impacts to unincorporated County traffic and LOS standards. The Project determined impacts to be potentially significant.
However, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact with the incorporation of GPU EIR mitigation measures Tra-1.4, Tra-1.7, and (as well as Project specific mitigation measures consistent with the GPU EIR) for a less than significant impact with mitigation. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

17(b) The designated congestion management agency for the County is the San Diego Association of governments (SANDAG). In October 2009, the San Diego region elected to be exempt from the State CMP and, since this decision, SANDAG has been abiding by 23 CFR 450.320 to ensure the region’s continued compliance with the federal congestion management process. Therefore, the project would not conflict with an applicable congestion management program and would be consistent with the analysis within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

17(c) The Project is located within an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) for airports (Ramona Airport) and is consistent with the plan. The Project is located within Airport Influence Area 2 and is not located within an Airport Safety Zone, an Avigation Easement, or an Overflight Area; therefore, no specific Project requirements are required. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

17(d) The Project would not substantially alter traffic patterns, roadway design, place incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) on existing roadways, or create curves, slopes or walls which would impede adequate sight distance on a road, and therefore would have a less than significant impact on rural road safety. As such, the Project is consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

17(e) The San Diego County Fire Authority has reviewed the Project and its Fire Protection Plan and have determined that there is adequate emergency fire access. In addition, consistent with GPU EIR mitigation measure Tra-4.2, the Project would implement the Building and Fire codes to ensure emergency access accessibility. The Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above and is consistent with GPU EIR Mitigation Measure Tra-4.2; as such the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

17(f) The Project would not result in the construction of any road improvements or new road design features that would interfere with the provision of public transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities, and includes the construction of bike parking facilities on site to facilitate bicycle transit to the site. As such, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

Conclusion
With regards to the issue area of Transportation and Traffic, the following findings can be made

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.
3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.
4. Feasible mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR (Tra-1.4, Tra-1.7, and 4.2) would be applied to the Project. The mitigation measures, as detailed above, would require the Project applicant to comply with the Guidelines for Determining Significance and County TIF Ordinance, coordinate with other jurisdictions to identify appropriate mitigation and implement the Building and Fire Codes to ensure adequate services are in place.

18. **Utilities and Service Systems** – Would the Project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact not identified by GPU EIR</th>
<th>Substantial New Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?  

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?  

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?  

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?  

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?  

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs?  

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?  

**Discussion**

18(a) The Project would discharge domestic waste to a community sewer system that is permitted to operate by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). A Project facility availability form has been received from the Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) that indicates that there is adequate capacity to serve the Project. As the Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

18(b) The project does not involve new water and wastewater pipeline extensions beyond the property frontage.
18(c) The project involves new storm water drainage facilities. However, these facilities (pipe/swale and biofiltration system) will not result in adverse physical effects because the layout would maintain existing drainage patterns. Because the Project would have a less-than-significant impact for the reasons detailed above, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR.

18(d) A Service Availability Letter from the Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) has been provided which indicates that there is adequate water to serve the Project. The GPU EIR determined impacts to adequate water supplies be significant and unavoidable. However, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact with no required mitigation for the reasons detailed above. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

18(e) A Service Availability Letter from the RMWD District has been provided, which indicates that there is adequate wastewater capacity to serve the Project. As such, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact to adequate wastewater facilities, which would not increase impacts identified in the GPU EIR.

18(f) All solid waste facilities, including landfills require solid waste facility permits to operate. There are five, permitted active landfills in San Diego County with remaining capacity to adequately serve the Project. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

18(g) The Project would deposit all solid waste at a permitted solid waste facility. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

**Conclusion**

With regards to the issue area of Utilities and Service Systems, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.

2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.

3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.

4. No mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR would be required because Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Significant Project Impact</th>
<th>Impact not identified by GPU EIR</th>
<th>Substantial New Information</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19. Wildfire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? 

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? 

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 in the environment? 

d) Expose people or structures to significant risk, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire instability, or drainage changes?

Discussion

Wildfire was analyzed within the GPU EIR within Section 2.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials. The guidelines for determining significance stated: the proposed General Plan Update would have a significant impact if it would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. In 2019, the issue of Wildfire was separated into its own section within Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines to incorporate the four issue questions above. The GPU EIR did address these issues within the analysis; however, they were not called out as separate issue areas. Within the GPU EIR, the issue of Wildland Fires was determined to be significant and unavoidable.

19(a) The Project Site is not located within a very high fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ), but an urban un-zoned area. The site is not under the jurisdiction of a specific fire protection district, but it is located approximately 0.8 miles from the nearest fire station, CalFire San Diego Ramona Fire Station 80, and 2.4 miles from CalFire San Diego Ramona Fire Station 82. Based on a review by County Staff of GIS Aerial Imagery, the site would have an Emergency Response Travel Time of 0 to 5 minutes (estimated travel time of 4 minutes from nearest station) which meets the General Plan Safety Element standard for lands designated as Village of 5 minutes.

Wildfire was analyzed within the GPU EIR within Section 2.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials and was determined to be significant and unavoidable. However, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact with no required mitigation for the reasons detailed above. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

19(b) The 2.5-acre Project Site is mostly flat with some relatively steep (15-25%) and steep (>25%) slopes throughout the parcel. The project will however be required to comply with the Building and Fire Code and has been reviewed and approved by the San Diego County Fire Authority on August 1, 2018. The nearest fire station is 0.8 miles away, and the emergency response time is estimated to be between 0 and 5 minutes.

As previously stated, Wildfire was analyzed within the GPU EIR within Section 2.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials and was determined to be significant and unavoidable.
However, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact with the incorporation of Project conditions consistent with GPU EIR Mitigation Measure Haz-4.3 for compliance with the Building and Fire Code. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis provided within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

19(c) The Project would not require the installation of any new infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk. All infrastructure associated with the Project has been incorporated within this analysis. Therefore, no additional temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment related to associated infrastructure would occur that have not been analyzed in other sections of this environmental document.

As previously discussed, the GPU EIR determined impacts from Wildfire to be significant and unavoidable. However, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact with the incorporation of Project design features and conditions consistent with GPU EIR Mitigation Measure Haz-4.3. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the analysis within the GPU EIR because it would not increase impacts identified within the GPU EIR.

19(d) The GPU EIR concluded this impact to be significant and unavoidable. As previously stated in 19(b), the Project would comply with regulations relating to emergency access, water supply, and defensible space specified in the County Fire Code and Consolidated Fire Code. Furthermore, the Project Site is not located within a Landslide Susceptibility Area and a soils compaction report with proposed foundation recommendation would be required to be approved prior to the issuance of a building permit. With incorporation of GPU EIR mitigation measures Haz-4.3, it is not anticipated that the Project would expose people or structures to significant risk due to post-fire instability. Therefore, for the reasons stated above, the Project would not expose people or structures to significant risk, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire instability, or drainage changes.

Conclusion

With regards to the issue area of Wildfire, the following findings can be made:

1. No peculiar impacts to the Project or its site have been identified.
2. There are no potentially significant off-site and/or cumulative impacts which were not discussed by the GPU EIR.
3. No substantial new information has been identified which results in an impact which is more severe than anticipated by the GPU EIR.
4. Feasible mitigation measures contained within the GPU EIR (Haz-4.3) would be applied to the Project. This mitigation measure, as detailed above, requires the Project applicant to comply with the building and fire codes.
Appendices

Appendix A – References

Appendix B – Summary of Determinations and Mitigation within the Final Environmental Impact Report, County of San Diego General Plan Update, SCH # 2002111067
Appendix A

The following is a list of Project specific technical studies used to support the analysis of each potential environmental effect:

**Biological Resources:**
Biological Technical Report, Helix Environmental Planning, December 2019

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions:**
Climate Action Plan Checklist, December 19, 2019

**Hydrology/Water Quality:**
Drainage Study, IngenAE, LLC, December 16, 2019
Priority Development Project (PDP) Stormwater Quality Management Plan (SWQMP), December 16, 2019

**Service Availability Forms:**
Project Facility Availability – Water, Ramona Municipal Water District, February 18, 2020
Project Facility Availability – Sewer, Ramona Municipal Water District, February 18, 2020

**Traffic/Transportation**
Traffic Impact Study, LOS Engineering, March 4, 2020
Caltrans Concurrence Letter / Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Report, Michael Baker International, August 21, 2018
Intersection Sight Distance Exhibit/Certification, IngenAE, LLC, October 31, 2019

For a complete list of technical studies, references, and significance guidelines used to support the analysis of the General Plan Update Final Certified Program EIR, dated August 3, 2011, please visit the County’s website at: [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/GP/GP-EIR.html#EIR](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/GP/GP-EIR.html#EIR)
Appendix B

A Summary of Determinations and Mitigation within the Final Environmental Impact Report, County of San Diego General Plan Update, SCH # 2002111067 is available on the Planning and Development Services website at:
TO: Recorder/County Clerk  
Attn: James Scott  
1600 Pacific Highway, M.S. A33  
San Diego, CA 92101

FROM: County of San Diego  
Planning & Development Services, M.S. O650  
Attn: Project Planning Division Section Secretary

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152

Project Name: Aldi Ramona Site Plan; PDS2018-SP-18-021; PDS2018-ER-18-09-007

Project Location: West corner of 16th Street and Main Street; Ramona

Project Applicant: Skip Janes, 12661 Aldi Place, Moreno Valley, CA 92555 (951-530-5750)

Project Description: The project proposes the construction and operation of a 19,857 square-foot Aldi grocery store with associated parking and landscaping. The subject property is located at the west corner of 16th Street and Main Street in the Ramona Community Planning Area. Primary and delivery access to the site will be provided by a parking lot driveway entrance connecting to 16th Street, a County-maintained road. Water and Sewer will be provided by the Ramona Municipal Water District, and earthwork will consist of 3,000 cubic yards of cut, 3,225 cubic yards of fill and 225 cubic yards of import.

The Project is subject to the Village General Plan Regional Category and the General Commercial (C-1). Zoning for the site is Ramona Village Center Zoning District (RM-V5). The proposed uses are consistent with the Zoning and General Plan Land Use Designation of the property established by the General Plan Update for which an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified by the Board of Supervisors on August 3, 2011 (GPU EIR).

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

County Contact Person: Hunter McDonald  
Telephone Number: (858) 495-5330

Date Form Completed: May 21, 2020

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Director of Planning & Development Services has approved the above described project on May 21, 2020 and found the project to be exempt from the CEQA under the following criteria:

1. Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)
   - Declared Emergency [C 21080(b)(3); G 15269(a)]
   - Emergency Project [C 21080(b)(4); G 15269(b)(c)]
   - Statutory Exemption. C Section:
     - G 15061(b)(3) - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and the activity is not subject to the CEQA.
   - G 15182 – Residential Projects Pursuant to a Specific Plan
   - G 15183 – Projects Consistent with a Community Plan, General Plan, or Zoning
   - Activity is exempt from the CEQA because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378.

2. Mitigation measures ☑ were ☐ not made a condition of the approval of the project.

3. A Mitigation reporting or monitoring plan ☑ was ☐ not adopted for this project.

Statement of reasons why project is exempt: Section 15183 consists of projects which are consistent with development density established by existing zoning, community plan, or general plan policies for which an EIR was certified. These projects shall not require additional environmental review, except as might be necessary to examine whether there are project-specific effects which are peculiar to the project or its site. This streamlines the review of such projects and reduces the need to prepare repetitive environmental studies.

The following is to be filed in any formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature: ___________________________  Telephone: (858) 495-5330

Name (Print): Hunter McDonald  
Title: Land Use/Environmental Planner

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than twelve months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15662.
I. HABITAT LOSS PERMIT ORDINANCE – Does the proposed project conform to the Habitat Loss Permit/Coastal Sage Scrub Ordinance findings?

YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT ☒

Discussion:

While the proposed project and off-site improvements are located outside of the boundaries of the Multiple Species Conservation Program, the project site and locations of any off-site improvements do not contain habitats subject to the Habitat Loss Permit/Coastal Sage Scrub Ordinance. Therefore, conformance to the Habitat Loss Permit/Coastal Sage Scrub Ordinance findings is not required.

II. MSCP/BMO - Does the proposed project conform to the Multiple Species Conservation Program and Biological Mitigation Ordinance?

YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT ☒

Discussion:

The proposed project and any off-site improvements related to the proposed project are located outside of the boundaries of the Multiple Species Conservation Program. Therefore, conformance with the Multiple Species Conservation Program and the Biological Mitigation Ordinance is not required.

III. GROUNDWATER ORDINANCE - Does the project comply with the requirements of the San Diego County Groundwater Ordinance?

YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT ☒

Discussion:

The project will obtain its water supply from the Ramona Municipal Water District which obtains water from surface reservoirs and/or imported sources. The project will not use any groundwater for any purpose, including irrigation or domestic supply.
IV. RESOURCE PROTECTION ORDINANCE - Does the project comply with:

The wetland and wetland buffer regulations (Sections 86.604(a) and (b)) of the Resource Protection Ordinance?  YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT

The Floodways and Floodplain Fringe section (Sections 86.604(c) and (d)) of the Resource Protection Ordinance?  NO  NO  NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT

The Steep Slope section (Section 86.604(e))?  YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT

The Sensitive Habitat Lands section (Section 86.604(f)) of the Resource Protection Ordinance?  YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT

The Significant Prehistoric and Historic Sites section (Section 86.604(g)) of the Resource Protection Ordinance?  YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE/EXEMPT

Discussion:

Wetland and Wetland Buffers:
The site contains no wetland habitats as defined by the San Diego County Resource Protection Ordinance. The site does not have a substratum of predominately undrained hydric soils, the land does not support, even periodically, hydric plants, nor does the site have a substratum that is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by water at some time during the growing season of each year. Therefore, it has been found that the proposed project complies with Sections 86.604(a) and (b) of the Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO).

Floodways and Floodplain Fringe:
The project is not located near any floodway or floodplain fringe area as defined in the San Diego County Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO), nor is it near a watercourse plotted on any official County floodway or floodplain map. Therefore, it has been found that the proposed project complies with Sections 86.604(c) and (d) of the RPO.

Steep Slopes:
Slopes with a gradient of 25 percent or greater and 50 feet or higher in vertical height are required to be placed in open space easements by the San Diego County Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO). There are no steep slopes as defined by the RPO on the property. Therefore, it has been found that the proposed project complies with Section 86.604(e) of the RPO.

Sensitive Habitats:
A 0.01-acre basin on the project site was found to contain San Diego fairy shrimp, a federally endangered species. While this 0.01-acre basin qualifies as sensitive habitat lands in accordance with the Resource Protection Ordinance, development of the site,
including the 0.01 acres basin will be permitted to occur as all feasible mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project and the mitigation has been determined to provide an equal or greater benefit to the affected species. The project is conditioned to purchase two vernal pool credits from the Ramona Grasslands Conservation Bank and has received an Incidental Take Permit from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Therefore, it has been found that the proposed project complies with Section 86.604(f) of the RPO.

**Significant Prehistoric and Historic Sites:**
Based on an analysis of records (including archaeological surveys) maintained by the County and the South Coastal Information Center, it has been determined that the property does not contain any archaeological and/or historical sites. Therefore, it has been found that the proposed project complies with Section 86.604(g) of the RPO.

**V. STORMWATER ORDINANCE (WPO)** - Does the project comply with the County of San Diego Watershed Protection, Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance (WPO)?

- [ ] YES
- [X] NO
- [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

Discussion:

The project Storm Water Management Plan and Hydromodification Management Study have been reviewed and are found to be complete and in compliance with the WPO.

**VI. NOISE ORDINANCE** – Does the project comply with the County of San Diego Noise Element of the General Plan and the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance?

- [ ] YES
- [X] NO
- [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

Discussion:

Even though the proposal could generate potentially significant noise levels (i.e., in excess of the County General Plan or Noise Ordinance), the following noise mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the noise impacts to applicable limits:

Staff has reviewed the plot plan and noise information provided. Staff determined that the information provided is sufficient. The project consists of a construction of a 19,857 square foot Aldi market. The project site and surrounding parcels are zoned RMV5, therefore, is subject to the one-hour average sound level limits of 60 dBA daytime and 55 dBA nighttime. The main source of operational noise from this project would be from the trucks and mechanical units. Since the project will only be operating during the daytime hours between (7:00 a.m to 10:00pm), the project will be required to meet the 60 dBA Leq at the nearest property line.
The project proposal consists of one loading dock. Regular trucks create noise level of approximately 87 dBA at 4 feet. For fixed or point sources, sound levels attenuate or drop off at a rate of 6 dBA for each doubling of distance. The truck loading is located at approximately 200 feet from the nearest noise sensitive receptor property line. Noise reduction due to distance would be approximate -33.9 dBA, with the resultant decibel of 53 dBA at the nearest NSLU property line. It is anticipated that the round trip would be approximately 15 minutes. The State of California does not allow trucks to idle for more than 5 minutes. Deliveries will occur only during the daytime hours of operation. Therefore, if the truck was to fully operate for the one hour on-site, the noise levels would be in conformance with the County’s noise standards.

Based on the information provided, the noise level from that equipment is approximately 70 dBA (most conservative scenario) at 10 feet. The nearest property line is at 24 feet from the equipment. The equipment would be further attenuated by the CMU enclosure reducing the noise levels to conformance with the Noise Ordinance, Section 36.404. The proposed mechanical equipment and other stationary noise producing sources would be located either inside the store or within a CMU, which would provide adequate attenuation for the noise levels from the equipment. Based on the information above, the noise levels from these sources are not anticipated to exceed the standards.

Additionally, the project is also subject to the County Noise Ordinance that regulates the temporary noise limits. Temporary construction noise is subject to Section 36.408, 409, and 410. Noise from construction activities is one of the main noise-producing sources from this project. Construction work would be limited to Monday through Saturday between 7a.m. to 7 p.m with some exceptions as required for safety considerations or certain construction procedures that cannot be interrupted. Blasting and/or rock crushing is not proposed. The project demonstrates Noise Ordinance compliance and conformance to the County Noise Element. Temporary noise from construction and grading is not expected to exceed the 75 dBA. Staff have the following conditions for this project to ensure compliance with the Noise Ordinance.
Attachment C
Site Plan and Preliminary Grading Plan
Attachment D
Public Documentation
A regular meeting of the Ramona Community Planning Group (RCPG) was held on September 6, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., at the Ramona Community Library, 1275 Main Street, Ramona, California.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL (Scherer, Chair)

In Attendance: Jim Cooper, Frank Lucio, Chris Holloway, Casey Lynch, Kristi Mansolf, Robin Joy Maxson, Donna Myers, Dan Scherer, Paul Stykel, and Dan Summers.


Dan Scherer, RCPG Chair, acted as Chair of the meeting, Casey Lynch, RCPG Member, acted as Vice-Chair of the meeting, and Kristi Mansolf, RCPG Secretary, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF 8-2-18

Ms. Maxson had a correction to the minutes on page 5, under Item 7-E, paragraph 4 – last words to be Equestrian Trail, replacing Royal Vista.

Ms. Myers had a correction on page 1, last paragraph, for South Subcommittee jurisdiction – she added Dye Road and San Vicente Road.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING AUGUST 2, 2018, WITH THE CORRECTIONS NOTED ON PAGE 1 AND PAGE 5.

Upon motion made by Frank Lucio and seconded by Robin Joy Maxson, the motion passed 10-0-0-0-5, with Torry Brean, Scotty Ensign, Elio Noyas, David Ross and Richard Tomlinson absent.

ITEM 4: Announcements and Correspondence Received

Ms. Mansolf announced that the County would be holding a Traffic Workshop for Public Officials on September 28, and all RCPG members are invited. The RCPG received the PLDO request from the County for prioritizing Ramona parks project, and this item will need to go on a future agenda. The Village Place Apartments went to the Zoning Administrator on August 23 for CEQA findings. The project is 25 units on 3.4 acres on 16th Street, and it will go to the Director of PDS for final approval. Vector Control CEQA for the Integrated Vector Management Program is out for public review with comments due by September 21. Caltrans is waiting for the permit to check out the boulders over Highway 67 in the vicinity of Rockhouse Road.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Group on any subject matter within the Group’s jurisdiction that is not on posted agenda – No Speakers

ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF ORDER OF THE AGENDA (Action)
MOTION: TO APPROVE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA.

Upon motion made by Casey Lynch and seconded by Paul Stykel, the motion passed 10-0-0-0-5, with Torry Brean, Scotty Ensign, Elio Noyas, David Ross and Richard Tomlinson absent.

ITEM 7: ACTION ITEMS:

7-A: Informational presentation on 344 Main Street, the former Sizzler property, for a family style western themed restaurant that includes the serving of alcoholic beverages (ABC license).

Henry Preciado is in negotiations to buy the old Sizzler Restaurant building. He works on projects that demonstrate fine craftsmanship in La Jolla and lives in Ramona. He wants to have a country western theme restaurant with a band and a dance floor, with dancing on Friday and Saturday nights. He plans to get an ABC license. The project time frame would be based on how well his proposal is accepted.

Mr. Gan, who owns the building, said the restaurant hasn’t changed.

Speaker: Beth Prinz, Ramona Resident

Ms. Prinz lives in very close proximity to the property. Her husband gets up early in the morning. She is concerned with the potential for late night noise that may disturb the peaceful neighborhood. They are kept awake by the Ramona Rodeo, when that event occurs annually. She wanted to know how late the dancing would go on Friday and Saturday nights?

Mr. Preciado said there will be no dancing during the week. There may be activities during the week, but no dancing. Mr. Preciado said they would also like to have a multi-purpose building and offer wine tasting, etc. There are 47 ABC licenses issued in Ramona. He was asked to present to the RCPG to see how they felt about the project and to get feedback. He would like to take the length of the building and put grills along it to barbecue on.

Mr. Stykel said the building is enclosed and insulated.

Ms. Myers said that we are trying to make Ramona a destination. She supports anything that brings people to Ramona.

Mr. Lynch said he is encouraged by the project. Ramona needs more nice restaurants and more choices.

7-B: STP-18-021, Aldi Food Market, West side of 16th Street and Main. The proposed project is a 19,000+ sq. ft Food Market/Grocery Store, fronting onto Main Street, on 2.5 acres located on APN 281-171-04-00. The parking is accessed by Main Street and 16th Street as it wraps around the building with the majority of the parking in the rear of the lot. Service access is off 16th Street and rear of the building. D and D5 Special Area Regulations apply.

Austin Short and Skip Janes presented the project. Aldi is a small format grocery store. The aisles are 5-1/2 to 6 feet wide. They sell 1,800 of the most commonly used/bought type of products, and many with the Aldi brand. Aldi has approximately 1,800 stores in the US, and just opened up the 57th store in California in La Mesa. The building will be 19,000 square feet and there will be 90 parking spaces. Access will be from 16th Street. There will be no curb cuts on Main Street and no
disruption to the eucalyptus trees. They will be required to do storm water and drainage requirements according to current standards.

Mr. Cooper said they expect about 1950 vehicles per day. At the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee meeting, there was discussion on the location of the driveway and vehicle management. There will be a pork chop at 16th and Main, similar to the one at Starbucks. Everyone will have to turn right, and if they want to go back the other way, they will need to make a u-turn at Ramona Street. There are apartments in the back, and this is a dangerous intersection for kids. Eighteen wheelers will be pulling in and out of 16th Street.

CUDA approved the project.

Mr. Lynch discussed the motions made at the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee. One motion discussed Aldi widening 16th Street.

Mr. Janes said Caltrans does not want a signal at 16th and Main. Caltrans had them look at a couple of options for the intersection. The trees can’t be touched. Caltrans’ standard is a left turn pocket. He said he had no issue with widening 16th Street.

Ms. Maxson asked if Caltrans addressed people going right and then making a u-turn to go east?

Mr. Janes said customer counts were turned in on the traffic study. There will be no adjustment to the speed limit.

Mr. James was asked how Aldi mitigated for the vernal pool?

Mr. Janes said they bought the last vernal pool mitigation land in Ramona 4 or 5 years ago.

Mr. Cooper said that there were concerns with the pork chop at 16th and Main, and the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee strongly recommended a stop light at the intersection.

The Chair said Aldi is not opposed to putting in a stoplight, but Caltrans does not want it.

Mr. Lynch had concerns with putting in another stoplight so there will be light after light on Main Street.

Mr. Summers said the kids from the apartments cross now at 16th Street. A stoplight would help with their safety and traffic flow.

Mr. Stykel said he felt the project was well thought out. He feels the pork chop is the best option. If people can’t build here, properties will be rendered useless.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE WITH THE CONTINGENCY THAT 16TH STREET BE IMPROVED TO ITS ACTUAL ONE-HALF WIDTH.**

Upon motion made by Jim Cooper and seconded by Casey Lynch, the motion passed 10-0-0-0-5, with Torry Brean, Scotty Ensign, Elio Noyas, David Ross and Richard Tomlinson absent.

The second motion from the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee was discussed.
Ms. Myers asked that the RCPG doesn’t make it too hard for people to come to live in Ramona.

Mr. Stykel said there are already too many stoplights.

Mr. Lynch said he hopes the porkchop discourages kids to cross the street between the stoplights. There are many stoplights to help the children cross

**MOTION: TO REQUEST CALTRANS WORK WITH ALDI TO PUT A TRAFFIC SIGNAL IN AT 16TH STREET AND MAIN.**

Upon motion made by Jim Cooper and seconded by Frank Lucio, the motion failed 5-5-0-0-5, with Chris Holloway, Casey Lynch, Donna Myers, Dan Scherer and Paul Stykel voting no, and Torry Brean, Scotty Ensign, Elio Noyas, David Ross and Richard Tomlinson absent.

**7-C: Consideration of requesting the County to look at having a double yellow line on Pile Street, due to hilly topography/poor visibility, to make this road facility safer. Currently there is a single dotted line.**

The Transportation/Trails Subcommittee considered a request for a double yellow line on Pile Street.

Members of the public were invited to speak.

**Speaker: Jenine Klatt, Ramona Resident**

Ms. Klatt is against having a double yellow line on Pile Street. She doesn’t feel it will make a difference on reducing the speeds of 60 mph or more on Pile Street. She is very careful entering her driveway that is located at the top of Pile Street.

**Speaker: Harry Williamson, Ramona Resident**

Mr. Williamson lives on a country road. From stop sign to stop sign is less than a mile. The hill is in the middle of the stop signs. The sides of the road are not really improved for bikes pedestrians, and the road is used by both bikes, pedestrians, and trucks.

Mr. Stykel asked Mr. Williamson if people pass on the road?

Mr. Williamson said that people do sometimes pass.

**Speaker: Richard Jarrett, Ramona Resident**

Mr. Jarrett looked at the San Diego Active Transportation Plan (ATP) at the August 2 RCPG meeting to see how Pile Street will be affected by the plan. The ATP shows it will be upgraded to include a bike lane. His 2 concerns are passing and that no speed limit is posted. On both Elm and Haverford, there is a posted speed limit. Pile is part of the North Bypass for Ramona

Lt. Davis, who was sitting in the audience, was asked what he thought the speed limit was on Pile Street?

Lt. Davis said that it should be 25 mph if it is residential.
Mr. Jarrett said Ramona Disposal had to change their method to pick up trash on Pile Street because they can’t back up.

Speaker: Ginny Williamson, Ramona Resident

Ms. Williamson said she lives on the west side of Pile Street. She feels speed is a problem. People ride their lawn mowers on the road and there are moms with strollers, bikes, trucks and dog walkers. She feels it is dangerous now. She feels that a double yellow line will make it more dangerous because people will not move over to cross the line when they come up to someone walking or biking on the road.

Mr. Cooper said there is a hill in the area of Pile. Motorists approach the hill in either direction. Over the hill there is a dotted line.

Mr. Lynch said they had some speed control measures done on Elm and Haverford, such as paint on the ground.

MOTION: CONSIDERATION OF ASKING THE COUNTY TO STOP PURSUING A DOUBLE YELLOW LINE IN PILE STREET.

(Discussion on the motion.)

There was discussion on what should be asked for regarding this issue from the County. It was pointed out that the double yellow line was what was on the agenda.

Lt. Davis said it sounded like a speed problem. People need to slow down. A yellow line won’t help.

(Voting)

Upon motion made by Frank Lucio and seconded by Robin Joy Maxson, the motion passed 10-0-0-0-5, with Torry Brean, Scotty Ensign, Elio Noyas, David Ross and Richard Tomlinson absent.

MOTION: TO REQUEST THE COUNTY LOOK AT SPEED ON THIS ROAD AND PUT IN ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE REGARDING SPEED. CONSIDER LOWERING THE SPEED LIMIT.

Upon motion made by Jim Cooper and seconded by Robin Joy Maxson, the motion passed 10-0-0-0-5, with Torry Brean, Scotty Ensign, Elio Noyas, David Ross and Richard Tomlinson absent.

7-D: Ramona Community Protection and Evacuation Plan – Discussion on concerns from members, Section E. Discussion on Emergency Evacuation Route through the Grasslands (proposed but not adopted - not part of Ramona CPEP)

Mr. Cooper said Section E of the Evacuation Plan identifies the evacuation process depending on fire direction. There are 2 pending housing developments coming to Ramona – Cumming Ranch with 125 homes and Montecito Ranch with 417 homes. Montecito Ranch will add 3 stoplights – 1
at Montecito Way and Montecito Road, 1 at Ash and Hwy 78, and 1 at Archie Moore and Highway 67. Mr. Cooper was involved with creating the evacuation plan for 2 military bases. First a traffic study was done. He is concerned there is no evidence of documentation of engineering modeling for road capacity for evacuation purposes. Scientific studies and road capacity can provide information to tell us what an evacuation would look like. Without a study, a lot of people will be thrown on the road and a parking lot created. If roads can only handle so much, then we need to look at sheltering in place.

The Transportation/Trails Subcommittee reviewed a letter that was drafted for this purpose, and Mr. Cooper read the letter.

Mr. Stykel said that twice it has been proven that our roads are insufficient for an evacuation. Once we get the results of the study, what do we do?

Mr. Cooper said it would be reviewed by the RCPG.

Mr. Lynch waid we are part of the group that is responsible for the plan. He had concerns with the last few fires that were down Highway 78 recently. Social media and information resources need to be identified. He has been in Ramona 8 years and never heard of the evacuation plan. Realtors and others should be aware of the plan.

Mr. Cooper said that evacuation should occur from the outside in, as it was done for the military bases, rather than the inside of a community to the outside.

Speaker: Lt. Davis, Ramona Sheriff’s Substation

Lt. Davis reviewed the evacuation plan for Ramona. There are 1,000 different possible scenarios when there is an incident. He does not feel the proposed evacuation through the grasslands is practical. He would never order people to go through there, on an unmarked, unpaved road. With each fire there are communications to the public. A lot has improved since 2003 and 2007. Every fire is a learning experience. He will make an order to do an evacuation when there is a fire. The Fire Department will say what areas need to be evacuated. An area will be produced for people to evacuate to. When there is an incident, there is a unified command and all agencies come together. Issues are worked through as they come up. There are only so many roads. A trailer jackknifed on Highland Valley Road in one of the recent fires. When there is an incident, the studying of roadways can be cumbersome and take time. They have to work quickly and deal with what is practical. They will close roads to let people out and to let emergency vehicles come in. They have to do whatever it takes at the time to get people out safely.

Mr. Lynch said that when there is lane reversal, people can be cut off from their families and have to find another way to get home. They may have to call someone to pick up their children.

Mr. Cooper said if we know what the capacity of the road is, it will help evacuation. Can 10,000 cars get down Highway 67 in 2 hours? The emergency evacuation route is not on any plan. He wants it to continue to be on the agenda next month.

**MOTION: TO TAKE THE LETTER ON THIS ISSUE DRAFTED BY THE TRANSPORTATION/TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE AS IT STANDS.**

Upon motion made by Dan Scherer and seconded by Donna Myers, the motion **passed 10-0-0-0-5**, with Torry Brean, Scotty Ensign, Elio Noyas, David Ross and Richard Tomlinson absent.
7-E: Ramona Transportation Summit ad hoc: Report from ad hoc committee on progress made on political support for Highway 67 improvements to move up on the list to before 2050

Mr. Summer said the ad hoc committee has learned a lot as they explore looking for funding for Highway 67. The community has outgrown Highway 67. Original plans to widen it began in 1988. Mr. Summer learned of the San Diego Forward Plan, 2036 to 2050, which discusses transportation plans throughout the entire region. We had thought there was federal funding available for transportation improvements. We had asked for a meeting with Duncan Hunter, but he was going to be in Washington for several weeks so he was not available. We had thought California had a funding problem, but Michael Harrison of Duncan Hunter’s office (who met with us) said no, it is not a funding problem but a priority issue. He suggested making a case and asking for Highway 67 to be moved up on the list.

Duncan Hunter, Joel Anderson, Supervisor Jacob, Randy Voepel, Bryan Jones and Steve Vaus are all ready to sign the letter to SANDAG asking for Highway 67 to be moved up on the priority list. The letter has been written and revised. He would like to go to SANDAG and present the letter, and also to present the 30 year study, to get the priority of Highway 67 moved up.

Mr. Lynch asked if Mr. Summers researched the priority?

Mr. Summers said he did, and there are many projects ahead of Highway 67 on the list.

Mr. Stykel asked if the letter would go with the binder that was presented to the RCPG about a year ago? He supports the letter, but not the binder and it does not show any scientific evidence.

Mr. Summers said the binder can serve a purpose. The binder contains information that addresses the curve on Highway 67, but the rest of the information is generic information on Highway 67.

Ms. Maxson suggested taking out the first part of the information in the binder that relates to the curve issue.

MOTION: THE RCPG APPROVE CIRCULATION OF THE LETTER, AS PRESENTED, TO POLITICAL SUPPORTERS OFFICES FOR REVIEW AND SIGNATURES.

Upon motion made by Jim Cooper and seconded by Robin Joy Maxson, the motion passed 8-1-0-1-5, with Paul Stykel voting no, Kristi Mansolf stepping down, and Torry Brean, Scotty Ensign, Elio Noyas, David Ross and Richard Tomlinson absent.

7F: Botanical Garden in Ramona South of Boundary Avenue

The South Subcommittee met and in Mr. Noyas absence, Mr. Cooper gave the report. The botanical garden was tabled, and it is not expected to be seen by the South Subcommittee again in the future. It is possible a Major Use Permit may be needed to go ahead with the project.

7-G: Warnock Solar Project Landscaping Update

The South Subcommittee is waiting for a meeting date with Supervisor Jacob’s office on this topic.
Ms. Mansolf said she contacted Adam Wilson by phone to follow up on a meeting date, and also sent a follow up email, and has not received a response.

ITEM 8: GROUP BUSINESS (Possible Action)

8-A: DESIGN REVIEW REPORT (Ensign) – Update on Projects Reviewed

Mr. Ensign was not in attendance to give the report and no one received the minutes of the meeting. Mr. Cooper said the Aldi project was reviewed at the Design Review Board meeting.

8-B: Discussion Items (Possible Action)
8-B-1: Concerns from Members

8-B-2: Future Agenda Item Requests

Mr. Cooper asked to have the Ramona CPEP and the Emergency Evacuation Route through the Grasslands on the next Transportation/Trails Subcommittee agenda.

Ms. Mansolf said she would like to put the PLDO request item from County Parks on the agenda.

Mr. Lynch said he planned to have a Parks meeting on September 24 to discuss the PLDO list.

A request was made to schedule a Mt. Woodson parking lot ad hoc committee meeting. Mr. Lynch said he is currently working on a project for Mt. Woodson, so he feels he needs to step down as chair of the committee. He asked Ms. Mansolf if she would consider taking over for now, and possibly Mr. Wallace can take over the subcommittee when he is seated in January as an RCPG member.

Ms. Mansolf agreed to do so.

8-B-3: Addition and Confirmation of New/Continuing Subcommittee Members – None brought forward

8-B-4: Old Business

Mr. Lynch said he would like to see a list of old business added to the RCPG subcommittee agendas. Regarding the Parks Subcommittee, Dawn Perfect and Mr. Lynch had a meeting at Supervisor Jacob’s office on August 9 with Adam Wilson to discuss a stormwater study.

Ms. Mansolf said, regarding the election, because only 5 people were running as candidates for the RCPG and there are 7 seats that will be vacant in January, all 5 people who signed up will be seated in January at the beginning of the meeting. The first meeting will have to be after the first Board of Supervisors meeting of the year, at which time they will appoint all the new people who signed up to run in the election and were successful, or those who signed up and there was no contest. At the end of the first meeting, the RCPG can listen to people who want to fill those 2 seats, and vote on 2 replacements. All new members will have to take the training before they can be seated and be officially appointed by the Board of Supervisors, as well.

8-C: Meeting Updates

8-C-1: Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and TAC Meetings – No Information Brought Forward
8-C-2: Future Group Meeting Dates – Next RCPG Meeting to be 10-4-18 at the Ramona Community Library, 7 p.m.

ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Mansolf

The RCPG is advisory only to the County of San Diego. Community issues not related to planning and land use are not within the purview of this group. Item #5: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the RCPG on any subject within the group’s jurisdiction that does not appear as an item on this agenda. The RCPG cannot discuss these matters except to place them on a future agenda, refer them to a subcommittee, or to County staff. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes. Please fill out a speaker request form located at the rear of the room and present to Vice Chairperson.

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Record ID(s): PDS2018-STP-18-021

Project Name: Aldi

Results of Design Review Board Review

Design Review Board: Ramona  Meeting Date: ____________

A. Comments made by the DRB on the proposed project. Reference the applicable section of the Community Design Review Guidelines.


B. Advisory Vote: The Group □ Did □ Did Not make a formal recommendation, approval or denial on the project at this time.

If a formal recommendation was made, please check the appropriate box below:

MOTION:

□ Approve without specific recommendations
□ Approve with recommended conditions
□ Deny (DRB should provide comments)
□ Waive site plan review

VOTE: □ Yes □ No □ Abstain

C. Recommended conditions of approval:

USE OF CACTUS OR SUCCULENTS NOT PERMITTED IN FBC

Reported by: [Signature] Position: Vice Chair  Date: 8-30-18

Please email recommendations to: CommunityGroups.LUEC@sdcounty.ca.gov

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http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pde

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