US Army Corps of Engineers®

Stone Bridge Christian Academy Parking Lot Expansion

Environmental Assessment

Riverside County, California

September 2013

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Los Angeles District

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I. Introduction

I.1 Background and Scope

This Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess environmental impacts associated with a proposal by the Stone Bridge Christian Academy (Academy), which is requesting a lease from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for permission to construct eight parking spaces on an adjacent Corps-controlled parcel. The Academy is a preschool learning facility serving children 2–6 years of age and is located on lands adjacent to the Prado Flood Control Basin, operated for flood risk management by the Corps. Riverside County Open Space District is the Corps' master recreation leaseholder at this area of the Prado Basin and administers a general outdoor recreation lease, which includes the small acreage requested by the Academy for lease.

This Draft EA has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 United States Code (USC) 4321 et seq., Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations published in 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 1500, and the Corps' *Implementing NEPA,* Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2. The purpose of this Draft EA is to provide sufficient information on potential environmental effects of the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative in order to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Federal laws, regulations, and executive orders have been created in response to an increased need for environmental protection and conservation. Corps' policies recognize a need for environmental stewardship that includes conservation and protection of the Nation's natural resources.

I.1.1 Scope

This analysis is offered to the interested public to solicit input for a non-recreation outgrant proposal to be situated in the northern Prado Dam Basin. The proposed action will be compared with the No Action Alternative for the same area.

This document will be made available for review and input for 30 days. Comments should be addressed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between approximately September 6 and October 7, 2013. Please direct your comments to Carvel Bass, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil or by mail at 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 11098, Los Angeles, California 90017. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Carvel Bass, Ecologist, Asset Management Division, at (213) 452-3392.

I.2 Proposed Action

The Academy is an early childhood care and education center located at 4193 Bluff Street, Norco, California. The Academy is requesting a Corps outgrant, which would allow the following proposed modifications on a proposed outgranted area of less than one (1) acre, to the Academy's existing parking area:

- Eight additional hard-surfaced parking spaces (minimal grading and paving)
- Approximately 50 feet of fencing (from existing trash enclosure to Bluff Street)
- Landscaping and mulch to surround the new parking area

The proposed parking area and landscaping would occur over an area less than 1 acre in size (Figure 1). Access to the proposed parking area would be via the existing school entrance. The parking lot would be paved with asphalt to match the adjacent parking area. Construction would require minimal grading (site is currently graded and covered in mulch). Grading and paving work would occur during approximately two days. All construction activities would take place between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. Two-way traffic would be maintained on all surrounding streets and roads throughout construction. Standard erosion control and air pollution control measures would be implemented during construction to reduce short-term erosion, runoff, and atmospheric emissions. Equipment likely to be used includes a bulldozer, asphalt paver, and dump track. Once paving is complete, landscape mulch and plantings would be added to areas surrounding the new parking lot.

I.2.1 Project Area/Location

The Prado Basin is located approximately 60 miles east of Los Angeles, California, in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The project area is within Riverside County, on the Corona North quadrangle, La Sierra (Yorba) land grant. Legal Description: Lots 7 and 8 in Block 71 of Auburndale Colony Lands as shown by Map on File in Book 6 Page 20 of Maps, Records of San Bernardino County, California.

The Academy is located in Riverside County on the southeast side of the Santa Ana River at 4193 Bluff Street in Norco, California, on the northwest corner of River Road and Bluff Street. The campus encompasses approximately 1.18 acres of land in the Prado Flood Control Basin area (Figure 2). This is a residential area, which overlooks the Santa Ana River bottomlands and which also contains an equestrian presence in the neighborhood.

Land at this location is owned by the Federal Government and controlled by the Corps for flood risk management. Recreation on lands outgranted for that purpose is determined to be a compatible use. The Riverside Department of Recreation and Parks has "operational jurisdiction" of the property under Master Lease NO.DACW 09-1-67-11,

Map Source: City of Norco, 2013

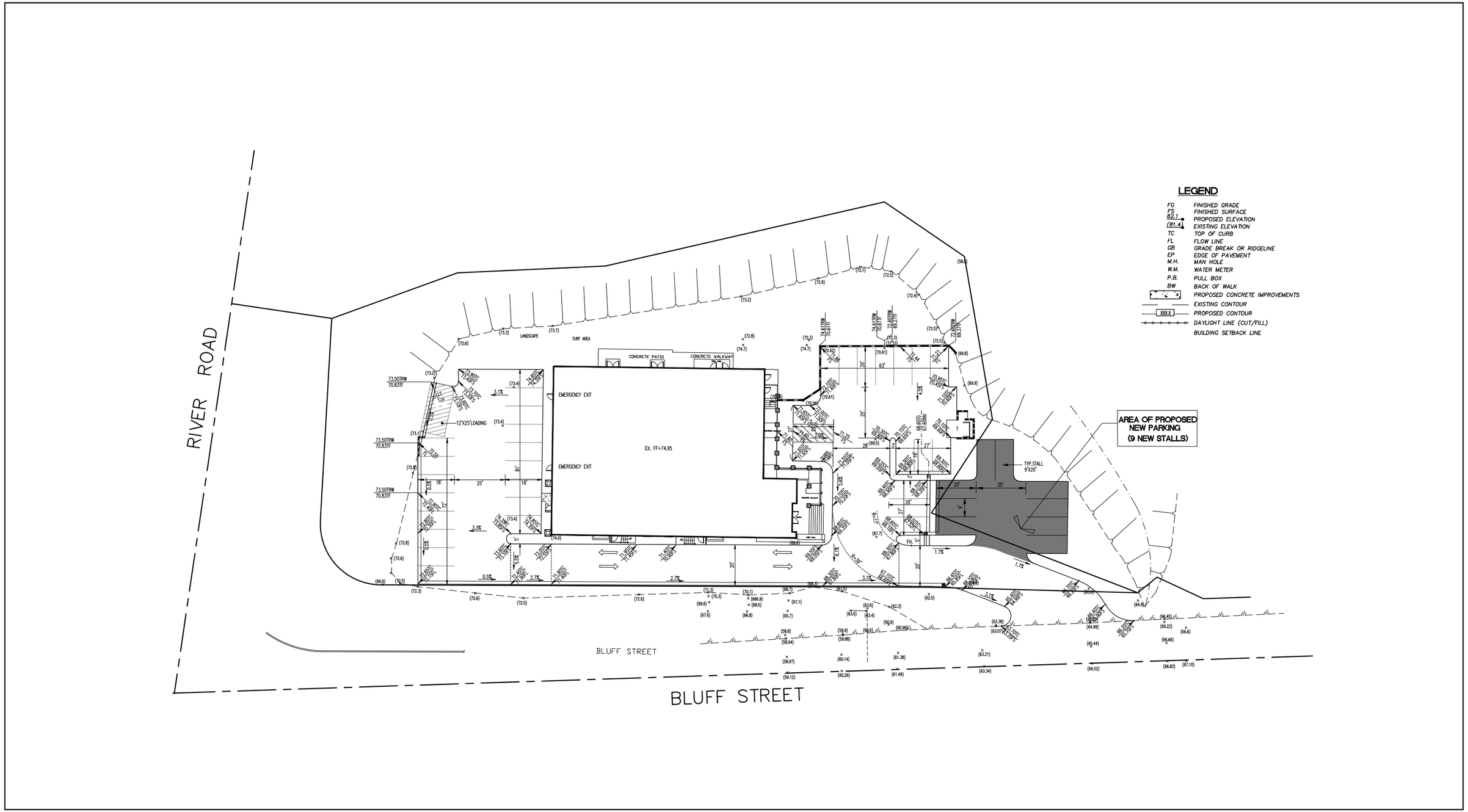

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FIGURE 1

Proposed Project Design Drawings

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Project Location

FIGURE 2

Project Location Map

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executed January 5, 1967 with four supplemental agreements, the latest executed September 24, 2002.

I.3 Purpose and Need

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Asset Management Division is responding to a request for a non-recreational outgrant, which was submitted by the Academy to construct a small parking lot expansion on Corps-administered lands within the Prado Basin. This land currently sits as a vacant lot. The Corps, via a recreational outgrant to Riverside County, currently maintains the property, although the site is not an active recreation area. Under the proposed action, the Corps would transfer active maintenance of the parcel to the current Proponent. Following the transfer as proposed, more oversight would be undertaken, since the proposed parking area would be more actively maintained.

The proposed parking area development would meet local parking space requirements for the Stone Bridge facility, which is expanding to accommodate an increased number of children. As determined by the City of Norco, to accommodate this expansion, the Academy currently reflects a shortfall of available parking at the childhood care center and should be expanded to include up to eight (8) additional spaces from its existing thirty-three (33) spaces.

I.3.1 Project Authority

The Prado Dam and Flood Control Basin was constructed pursuant to the Flood Control Act of June 22, 1936 (Public Law [PL] 74-738) for flood risk management purposes. Dam construction was completed in May, 1941. In addition, new recreation features may be developed, due to language in PL 89-72, the Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965, and PL 99-662, the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 1986. These laws (respectively) require that the Corps and other Federal agencies give full consideration to opportunities that a project affords for outdoor recreation and for fish and wildlife enhancement, and for recreation development for all elements of the Santa Ana River Project (SARP). A total of 5,397.7 acres of land in the Prado Basin have been leased for recreation development by the City of Corona, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County.

II. Alternatives

This section describes the alternatives considered that would meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. NEPA requires that Federal agencies consider a reasonable range of alternatives that may meet this need and, for alternatives eliminated from detailed study, provide a brief discussion of the reasons for their elimination. In the

following section, the Proposed Action Alternative, No Action Alternative, and reasons for elimination of other alternatives are described.

II.1 Alternatives Considered but not Carried Forward

Stone Bridge Academy is located in an urban-rural interface area with limited adjacent land development opportunities. There are no conveniently located alternative sites available for parking expansion. The Proponent did not consider off-site locations that were at an inconvenient distance from the school.

The Academy considered requesting a smaller parking lot expansion alternative, at the proposed location, which would consist of only four parking spaces. However, these alternatives were eliminated from consideration because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. Off-site parking, or four parking spaces, would not be sufficient to meet the short-fall requirements of the facility, as requested by the City of Norco.

II.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Academy parking lot expansion would not occur and the Corps would not grant approval for the project area. Without approval of the proposed action, the Corps would not receive the benefit, as proposed, of more active oversight of the parcel.

Additionally, the Academy would be unable to add sufficient extra spaces to meet the City's parking space requirement for the Academy's proposed expansion to accommodate additional students.

The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the Corps or the Academy.

II.3 Proposed Action/Preferred Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative is the Preferred Alternative. Under this alternative, the Corps would amend the existing Riverside County recreation lease and provide a new outgrant to allow Stone Bridge Academy to construct the proposed eight new parking spaces, add fencing around the area (approximately 50 feet), and landscape as proposed. Construction of the proposed action would begin during September 2013, and continue for approximately two days.

For the proposed development, a soils report has been developed as part of the recent construction and development of the school. Corps Engineering and The City of Norco

may require erosion control practices with the development of the site as stipulated and in accordance with the approved water quality management plan.

The project may be required to provide right-of-way dedication and improvements by the City of Norco or shall pay the in-lieu fees for the project's proportionate fair-share of the development cost for half-section street improvements on Bluff Street.

Development of the school requires that standard engineering practices and the City's development standards be followed to mitigate any increase of traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians. The project would conform to emergency access requirements of the City of Norco Fire Department.

III Baseline Conditions and Alternatives Analysis

III.1 Geology and Soils

III.1.1 Existing Conditions

Geology

There are no unusual geologic features present. There are no special reclamation considerations operating herein.

The Academy is located on a small bluff in Norco, California. The Santa Ana riverbed is located west of the site with dense growth of eucalyptus trees. An existing 15±-foot-high easterly facing natural slope descends from the site towards Bluff Street at an inclination of approximately 1.3:1 (horizontal:vertical) per Norco Preschool Soils Report (Soil Exploration Company 2009).

The Prado Basin consists of an alluvial valley that is relatively flat from east to west, sloping from north to south at a one to two percent grade. Ground-surface elevation ranges from about 2,000 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) adjacent to the San Gabriel Mountains to about 500 feet AMSL near Prado Dam. The Prado Basin is bounded:

- on the north by the Six Basins and the Cucamonga Basin;
- on the east by the Rialto–Colton Basin, the Riverside Basins, and bedrock outcrops of the Jurupa Hills and the Pedley Hills;
- on the south by the bedrock outcrops in La Sierra area and the Temescal Basin; and
- on the west by the Spadra Basin and bedrock outcrops in the Chino Hills and Puente Hills, and the Pomona and Claremont basins.

Most of the basin is within the category of 0–2% slope topography. Soils in the Basin are primarily alluvial consisting of recent (Holocene) alluvial materials due to active stream channel and associated floodplain deposits of the Santa Ana River, Temescal Wash, Chino Creek, and Cucamonga Creek. Additionally, lacustrine deposits in the reservoir fill the bottoms of canyons along the edge of the Chino Hills to the west. For the most part, Basin soil ratings from the National Resource Conservation Service indicate slight to moderate use limitations.

Earthquake Faults

Prado Basin is near the Whittier–Elsinore fault zone which includes the Whittier, Elsinore, Chino, and Central Avenue faults. Both the Chino and Central Avenue faults pass through southwest Prado Basin. Prado Dam is approximately 27 miles (43 kilometers) from the San Andreas Fault Zone. Post-earthquake stability analysis conducted for the Prado Dam and Spillway indicated that the embankment and foundation materials for those structures would have sufficient strength to preclude instability when subjected to either the regional (8+ magnitude) or local (6.5–7.0 design earthquakes).

III.1.2 Significance Threshold

A significant impact would occur if the proposed action:

- Significantly increases wind or water erosion of soils or loss of topsoil, either on- or off-site.
- Significantly alters the physical or chemical quality of sediments or soils.
- Triggers or accelerates geologic processes such as erosion or sedimentation brought about by disturbance of landforms.

III.1.3 Potential Impacts

Sedimentation occurs naturally during high rainfall events. Anthropogenic practices may also exacerbate sedimentation rates. Introduction of heavy machinery; increased foot, horse, bicycle, or vehicular traffic; or changes in water control management may all result in erosion or increases in sedimentation.

III.1.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

A soils report was developed prior to an expansion project for the development of the Academy in November 2009. Recommendations for construction at the proposed site were made and are provided here, and would be followed during and pre-construction:

- The soil engineer or his representative should observe the placement of fill and take sufficient tests to verify the moisture content and the uniformity and degree of compaction obtained (Norco Preschool Soils Report, 2009).
- Positive drainage should be provided around the perimeter of all structures and all foundations toward streets or approved drainage devices to minimize erosion and water infiltrating into the underlying natural and engineered fill soils.
- Any soil to be placed as fill, whether presently on-site or import, would be approved by the soil engineer or his representative prior to their placement. Any imported soils should be sandy (preferably Unified Soil Classification System "SM", "SP-SM", or "SW", and very low in expansion potential, EI<20) and approved by the soil engineer.

III.1.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.1.5.1 No Action Alternative

There would be essentially no change to the area's current soil or geological conditions. Current seismic activity, earthquake fault zones, areas of liquefaction, and soil types would remain unchanged. The No Action Alternative would result in no appreciable change to existing geologic/soil conditions and would result in no significant new adverse effects.

III.1.5.2 Preferred Alternative

Under the Preferred Alternative to construct eight additional parking spaces, there would be no impact on the existing soil stability, topography, and landform, because the site's topography is generally flat. Sedimentation rates would continue unchanged in the area. Current seismic activity, earthquake fault zones, areas of liquefaction, and soil types would remain unchanged.

The grading necessary to accommodate the parking spaces may have potential to increase run-off and erosion and, as such, a precise grading plan for review and approval by the City Engineer would be required, and the project would be required to comply with City standard grading practices and a water quality management plan. The plan has also been submitted to Corps engineers for their review. The potential for real geotechnical hazards to significantly affect, or be affected by, the proposed additional parking spaces would be low.

No significant adverse impact is anticipated to result from this alternative.

III.2 Hydrology/Water Quality

III.2.1 Existing Conditions

Water supply to an area can be described in such indices as precipitation, snow pack, and runoff. Analysis of data and weather records are studied to determine the trend and the variability in the indices (e.g., precipitation and runoff), which affect water availability.

Most precipitation events in California occur between October and April. Recent evidence indicates that the amount of precipitation that occurs on an annual basis is becoming more variable (i.e., periods of both high and low rainfall are becoming more common). A Corps of Engineers draft *Prado Basin Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (2005) indicates that present day variability in annual precipitation is about 75% greater than that of the early 20th century, and precipitation across California appears to have increased over the past century, with individual water years having become more variable in terms of the amount of precipitation occurring. Similar trends are observed for runoff, although for summer months the average runoff from April to July appears to be decreasing.

No groundwater and/or seepage were encountered at the school during the soils study performed in 2009 (from Norco Preschool Soils Report, 2009).

Precipitation

The Chino Basin has a semi-arid Mediterranean climate. Precipitation is a major source of local groundwater recharge for the Basin, and thus the availability of this recharge can be understood by analyzing long-term precipitation records. Four precipitation stations in the Basin were used to characterize the long-term precipitation patterns in the Basin. The long-term average annual precipitation for these stations was 17.8 inches (1900 through 2008). The ratio of dry years to wet years is about three to two: thus, for each ten years, about six years will have below-average precipitation, and four years will have greater-than-average precipitation.

Surface Water

The Basin is traversed by a series of ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams that include: Chino Creek, San Antonio Creek, Cucamonga Creek, Deer Creek, Day Creek, Etiwanda Creek, and San Sevaine Creek.

The principal drainage course through the Chino Basin is the Santa Ana River. It flows 69 miles across the Santa Ana Watershed from its origin in the San Bernardino Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The Santa Ana River enters the Basin at the Riverside Narrows and flows along the southern boundary of the Basin to the Prado Flood Control

Reservoir, where it is eventually discharged through the outlet at Prado Dam and, from the dam, the river flows the remainder of its course to the Pacific Ocean.

Groundwater

The Chino Basin is one of the largest groundwater basins in southern California and is an integral part of the regional and statewide water supply system. Local estimates of groundwater in storage (which relates to current Inland Empire Utilities Agency research) equal approximately 5,000,000 acre-feet of water in the Basin and an unused storage capacity about 1,000,000 acre-feet, with the actual groundwater volume for water which may be stored in the Basin as 6,000,000 acre-feet, or greater. Cities and other water supply entities produce groundwater for all or part of their municipal and industrial supplies; approximately 300–400 agricultural users produce groundwater from the Basin using wells.

Water Quality

The Santa Ana River floodplain's hydrology and water quality within Prado Basin is directly influenced by the quality of inflows into the Basin including several tributaries (Cucamonga/Mill Creek, Chino Creek, Temescal Wash), rising groundwater, municipal sewage effluent, and non-point discharges from agricultural and urban runoff. Water quality of the inflows is variable and elements of concern include Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), nitrates, iron, and manganese. A potential exists for cadmium, lead, mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and lindane to accumulate in freshwater organisms in the Santa Ana River. This is because anaerobic conditions may contribute to release these trace substances from sediments. Local nuisance conditions such as algal blooms and mosquito breeding can also occur and may be exacerbated by long periods of water storage, especially during summer months, when higher temperatures facilitate stratification and anaerobic conditions.

Since approximately year 2000, two land use trends have extensively modified land uses in the Basin. Throughout the Basin, urbanization has progressed rapidly and included substantial changes in the southern portion of the Basin in areas annexed by the City of Chino and City of Ontario, San Bernardino County, and in the Riverside County portion of the Basin. Agricultural uses, particularly dairies, are gradually being removed from the southern portion of the Chino Basin and are being replaced with suburban uses, primarily residential subdivisions.

Flood Hazards

Due to high evaporation and percolation rates associated with the surrounding soils and the climate, runoff from normal rainfall generally soaks into the ground quickly if it falls onto permeable surfaces. However, during abnormally intense rainfall, localized flooding may occur with storm water collecting in slight topographic lows or along streets due to

the limited capacity of storm drains and collection systems, and before being conveyed into regional storm water facilities.

The Corps utilizes a formal plan to address actions to be taken during emergency situations at the Prado Dam resulting from earthquakes, large floods, or security alerts. This *Emergency Action and Notification Sub-plan for Prado Dam* prescribes notifications necessary for: 1) prompt evacuation of downstream residents; 2) ensuring safety; 3) vacating project areas where emergency operations may be conducted; and 4) coordination with Federal agencies and non-Federal units of government.

The proposed additional parking spaces project would have little potential to make a cumulatively significant exposure to or addition to flood hazards.

III.2.2 Significance Threshold

A significant impact would occur if the proposed project:

- Substantially alters the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial increase in erosion or siltation on- or off-site.
- Substantially alters the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river in a manner that would result in a substantial reduction in the quantity of surface water.
- Substantially alters the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increases the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.
- Increases substantial erosion or sedimentation in relation to existing conditions.

III.2.3 Potential Impacts

Water quality impairments are typically caused by the introduction of pollutants into a water body, either by direct dumping of pollutants into the water, urban runoff during storm events, or urban runoff not associated with a storm event. Groundwater recession may also occur on a seasonal basis as a result of drought or through artificial pumping. Diminished groundwater levels could affect groundwater-dependent riparian vegetation and, in turn, diminish habitat quality.

III.2.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

No additional mitigation or minimization measures would be required to minimize potential erosion other than Corps- and City-approved structural changes at this location.

III.2.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.2.5.1 No Action Alternative

There would be no new change to ground- or surface water conditions in the area. At present, some minor sheet erosion occurs at the parcel's northern edge; this tendency to erode would continue but is minor. Water activities would continue at present trends and with similar, seasonal dynamics. Winter sheet-flow contributes to minor slope erosion at this location and, without additional protections, could continue and be accelerated by grading and construction activities. Roadside sites in semi-rural Riverside County have been used for occasional illegal dumping that can be a minor, but ubiquitous, local problem resulting in ground- and/or surface water contamination, as well as in land-based community trash problems.

No significant impacts to soils/geology are anticipated due to the No Action Alternative.

III.2.5.2 Preferred Alternative

The installation of the proposed additional parking spaces would have minimal impact on surface water, and less impact on groundwater conditions. The additional parking spaces would be engineered to reduce erosion, and the plans would be inspected and approved, prior to construction, by both Corps and City engineers.

Existing water quality protection programs, which are administered at the state and local levels, would continue to address local issues as they arise, including those at the Basin. No physical changes to water regime are proposed for implementation at the Basin as a result of the proposed action. No land clearing activities are proposed. Human use and maintenance activities within the Basin are not expected to significantly change as a result of the proposed action. Groundwater usage and recharge would not change as a result of the proposed action.

The proposed additional parking spaces would not likely violate water quality or discharge requirements, or significantly alter drainage courses, since the project would be required to comply with City and other local development standards designed to mitigate potential adverse impacts to levels of insignificance. The proposed action, where applicable, would be required to comply with water quality management plans that are monitored by the City, county, and state.

No significant adverse impact to water resources would be anticipated as a result of the Preferred Alternative.

III.3 Air Quality

III.3.1 Existing Conditions

Prado Basin is in the central part of the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) and within the district of the local air pollution control agency for the basin, which is the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD establishes regional air quality thresholds for pollutants in the Basin. The Basin continues to have a transitional attainment status of Federal standards for ozone (O_3), particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less (PM_{10}), and particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$). The Basin is either in attainment or unclassified for Federal standards of carbon monoxide (CO), SO_2 (sulphur dioxide), NO_2 (nitrogen dioxide), and lead. The closest monitoring stations reported exceeding O_3 and PM_{10} standards. All other criteria pollutants were within Federal standards or are not monitored. Existing air quality conditions in the SCAQMD, including specific regions of the Prado Basin study area, are determined by climate, ambient air quality, and air quality management planning.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) coordinates and oversees state and Federal air pollution control programs in California, oversees activities of local air quality management agencies, and maintains air quality monitoring stations throughout the state in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and local air districts.

The area of the proposed action is part of the central, South Coast Air Basin (SCAB). SCAB is currently in attainment for SO_2, NO_2, and is in non-attainment for $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, carbon dioxide (CO_2), 1-hour ozone, and 8-hour ozone per EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The SCAB is a coastal plain with connecting broad valleys and low hills bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the southwest and high mountains on the north, east, south, and west in the semi-permanent high-pressure zone of the eastern Pacific Ocean which results in a mild, Mediterranean-type climate characterized by warm, dry summers, mild winters with infrequent rainfall, light winds, and frequent early morning clouds/fog that turn to hazy afternoon sunshine. Inland areas such as Prado Basin have hot summer afternoons, low rainfall, and little fog or cloud cover. Annual temperatures average 76 degrees Fahrenheit (F), and annual rainfall varies from 9 inches (Riverside) to 14 inches (downtown Los Angeles). The climate of Prado Basin has characteristics similar to that of the Mediterranean region: warm dry summers and moderately cool winters with temperature records ranging from the low 20 degrees F in the winter to well in excess of 100 degrees F in the late summer.

Due to low average wind speeds, the SCAB has a limited capability to horizontally disperse air pollutants. In areas of topographical restriction such as the Santa Ana River Valley and foothills canyons, airflow is constricted and accelerates into stronger daytime winds. During the summer, temperature inversion layers occur and may persist until late afternoon. Low mixing heights and wind speeds typically combine to produce the highest concentrations of wind-borne pollutants.

Air pollutants are classified as either primary or secondary pollutants, depending on how formed. Primary pollutants are emitted directly from a point source into the atmosphere, and include CO, oxides of nitrogen (NOx) as nitrogen dioxide, SO_2, particulates, and various hydrocarbons. Secondary pollutants, which represent the major air quality problem SCAB-wide, are created over time in the air mass, by chemical and photochemical reactions that often involve primary pollutants, such as O_3 and photochemical aerosols.

The SCAB previously was in non-attainment for all Federal ambient air quality standards except SO_2 but is now defined as in attainment for NO_2, lead, and SO_2, and CO approaching attainment. PM_{10} and O_3 are still beyond attainment levels.

The primary source of pollutants in the SCAB is motor vehicles, whose emissions account for over 90% of the total CO. The primary source of automobile emissions/pollutants in the study area is from traffic on State Route 91 (SR-91), SR-71, and SR-83, each of which passes through or within Prado Basin. A related problem concerns pollutants (particularly O_3 and particulates), which are transported from upwind vehicular sources in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Odor emissions are prevalent in the area, although less so now that many acres of dairy land have been converted to housing developments. The dairy activities produce highly noticeable odors of methane gas and ammonia, generated from waste and manure from livestock pens, barns, and pastures.

Potentially sensitive receptors locally include new housing developments and rural residences and farms, as well as the California Institute for Women (prison).

Over the past 8-10 years state and Federal ambient air quality standards for particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) and ozone have been revised; greenhouse gas emissions (CO_2 and CH_4) and climate change have been identified as emissions of concern; and the emission forecast model used by SCAQMD, URBEMIS, has been updated and local significance thresholds have been established by SCAQMD to further refine the potential air quality impact forecast of projects within the SCAB.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are compounds in the atmosphere that absorb infrared radiation and reradiate a portion of that back toward the earth's surface, thus trapping heat and warming the earth's atmosphere. The most important naturally occurring GHG compounds are CO_2, CH4, nitrous oxide (N_2O), ozone, and water vapor. CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O are produced naturally by respiration and other physiological processes of plants, animals, and microorganisms; by decomposition of organic matter; by volcanic and geothermal activity; by naturally occurring wildfires; and by natural chemical reactions in soil and water. Ozone is not released directly by natural sources, but forms during complex chemical reactions in the atmosphere among organic compounds and nitrogen oxides in the presence of ultraviolet radiation. While water vapor is a strong greenhouse gas, its concentration in the atmosphere is primarily a result of changes in surface and lower atmospheric temperature conditions.

Climate Change

Climate change is a shift in the average weather patterns observed on earth, which can be measured by such variables as temperature, wind patterns, storms, and precipitation. Scientific research to date indicates that observed climate change is most likely a result of increased emission of GHGs associated with human activity. If California were a country, it would rank between the 12th and 16th largest emitters of CO_2 in the world.

Climate change is expected to exacerbate air quality problems and adversely affect human health by increasing heat stress and related deaths; increase the incidence of infectious diseases, asthma and respiratory health problems; cause sea level rise threatening urban and natural coastal areas; cause variations in natural plant communities affecting wildlife; and cause variations in crop quality and yields. Climate change is also expected to result in more extreme weather events and heavier precipitation events that can lead to flooding as well as more extended drought periods.

III.3.2 Significance Threshold and Potential Impacts

Impacts would be considered significant if the alternative:

- Violates state and/or Federal air quality standards.

There could be significant impacts caused by climate change if the proposed project:

- Increases heat stress and related deaths.
- Increases the incidence of infectious diseases, asthma, and respiratory health problems.
- Causes variations in natural plant communities affecting wildlife.

Per Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990, the Corps must make a determination of whether the proposed project (i.e., proposed action) "conforms" to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). If the total direct and indirect emissions from the proposed project are below the General Conformity Rule *de minimis* emission thresholds, the proposed project is exempt from performing a comprehensive Air Quality Conformity Analysis and would be considered to be in conformity with the SIP.

III.3.3 Potential Impacts

Most air pollution results from motor vehicle emissions, particularly in densely populated areas. Other sources include industrial amenities, agricultural areas, and construction zones. The proposed additional parking spaces would have short term, temporary impacts on air quality as a result of construction. Traffic generated from the use of the proposed additional parking spaces would be minimal compared to the existing traffic in the area. As such, the proposed additional parking spaces would not likely create any long-term air quality impacts and would not likely contribute to existing impacts.

III.3.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

The site is located within a residential neighborhood. The construction site would be watered down during construction to control dust and to avoid impacts on air quality, and would otherwise be subject to local air quality-regulated Construction Best Practices.

III.3.5 Alternatives Analysis

Impacts would be significant if they compromised existing air quality standards.

III.3.5.1 No Action Alternative

Air quality would continue to be influenced by climatic conditions and local and regional emissions from mobile and stationary sources. Under the No Action Alternative, no additional pollutant or particulate materials would be produced. Local vehicle traffic on Bluff Street and River Road would continue at current levels. Greenhouse gases produced locally, including in the Santa Ana wetlands, would occur as at present. The No Action Alternative would result in no significant adverse impacts to air quality at the site.

III.3.5.2 Preferred Alternative

The proposed additional parking spaces would include some emission of air pollutants during the short proposed construction (less than week), with minor follow-up operational emissions generated once construction has concluded and use of the parking spaces begins. All daily emissions for construction are well below the regional significance thresholds.

No significant long-term air quality impacts would occur during paving of the additional parking spaces and the proposed action would not contribute to existing air quality impacts except for temporary exhaust from grading and from construction/paving vehicles. These impacts are temporary and are not considered to be significant.

Based on information presented in this analysis, the Preferred Alternative would not result in a cumulatively significant contribution to air quality degradation.

III.4 Noise

Noise can be defined as unwanted sound or combination of sounds that may interfere with conversation, work, rest, recreation, and sleep, or in the extreme may produce physiological or psychological damage. Sound travels from a source in the form of wave, which exerts a pressure on a receptor such as a human ear. The amount of pressure a sound wave exerts is referred to as sound level, commonly measured in decibels (dB). As a reference, a sound level of zero dB corresponds roughly to the threshold of human hearing, and a sound level in the range of 120 to 140 dB can produce human pain.

Sound has two main components to a human ear: pitch and loudness. While the pitch of a sound is generally associated with an annoyance, sound loudness can interfere with activities such as conversation, sleep, and learning, and can even have lasting physiological effects, such as hearing loss. Those who are more sensitive to noise such as children and the elderly are at higher risk of being adversely affected by excessive noise levels. Table 1 lists some sources and effects associated with a typical range of noise levels.

Table 1. Source and Effects of Common Noise Levels

Noise Level	Effects	Evidence	Source
130	Hearing Loss	Pain Threshold	Hard Rock Band
120		Deafening	Thunder
110			Jet Takeoff
100			Loud Auto Horn at 10 feet
90		Very Loud	Noisy City Street
85			
80			School Cafeteria
75			
70	Physiological Effects	Loud	Vacuum Cleaner at 10 Feet
65			
60	Interference with Conversation		Normal Speech at 3 Feet
55			
50	Sleep Interruption	Moderately Loud	Average Office
45			Dishwasher in Next Room
40	Sleep Disturbance		Soft Radio Music
35			Quiet Residential Area
30		Faint	Interior of Average Residence
20			Average Whisper at 6 Feet
10			Rustle of Leaves in Wind
5		Very Faint	Human Breathing
0		Hearing Threshold	

Source: Various sources

Noise can be one of the most widespread environmental pollutants affecting communities. “Community noise,” or environmental noise, varies continuously in any given area over a period of time depending on the contributing sound sources within and surrounding the area. Such community noise is typically made up of a combination of relatively stable background noise, where individual contributors are not identifiable and the periodic addition of short duration noise sources such as aircraft flyovers, motor vehicles, sirens, etc. Some land uses can be considered more sensitive to community noise levels than others, and are often referred to as sensitive receptors. These include residences, schools, hotels, hospitals, nursing homes, churches, libraries, and cemeteries. Shopping centers, commercial parks, strip malls, industrial areas, and active recreation areas can be considered less noise-sensitive receptors.

In addition, wildlife may be sensitive receptors to noise and vibrations. Animals rely on meaningful sounds for communication, navigation, avoiding danger and finding food. “Noise” may be defined for wildlife as any human- or other exterior sound that alters the behavior of animals or interferes with their functioning. The level of disturbance may be qualified as damage, which may harm health, reproduction, survivorship, habitat use, distribution, abundance or genetic distribution, or disturbance which causes a detectable change in behavior. Behavioral and physiological responses of wildlife to noise have the potential to cause injury, energy loss, decrease in food intake, habitat avoidance and abandonment, and reproductive losses.

III.4.1 Existing Conditions

Significant existing noise sources include SR-71, SR-91, SR-83; aircraft noise from Chino and Corona municipal airports; and rail traffic from the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe (Burlington Northern and Santa Fe) Railroad line, which runs east–west in the extreme southern Basin. Due to the location of the SR-71, SR-91, and SR-83, noise levels are generally much higher along the Basin’s periphery and then drop off to quieter levels in the more central, rural Basin regions. Ambient noise levels range from over 70 dB where SR-71 passes by Prado Dam to approximately 45 dB in quiet residential areas in the eastern Basin.

Because the proposed Action area is not typically used for anything other than as peripheral areas of intermittent, low-impact informal recreation activities such as equestrians or bicyclists passing by, there is limited human-made noise in the immediate area. Noise from local (distant) freeways and sparse streets is limited to a low background hum, if at all, depending on wind direction.

Roadway vehicle traffic is the primary source of noise in and around the Prada Basin. The project area is located at the corner of River Road and Bluff Street. In addition, the play of children at Stone Bridge is noisy but managed and is contained to workable levels by the Stone Bridge staff.

An acoustical analysis of the play areas of a Proposed Child Care Center was performed in 2009. This analysis was done at two sites, one was the closest point to River Road, and the other was located where playground equipment was being built. The measured and projected noise levels were shown to be less than 60 dBA as a worst-case condition, and no further mitigation measures were required at that time.

III.4.2 Significance Threshold

A significant impact would occur if the proposed project:

- Results in Federal, state, or local noise standard levels being exceeded significantly during implementation.

- Results in noise level ranges above the ambient noise level ranges that characterize the Basin.
- Produces noise levels that would result in abandonment of bird nests.

III.4.3 Potential Impacts

The proposed additional parking spaces would temporarily add minor levels of construction noise, due primarily to heavy machinery during daylight working hours, for two days during construction with temporary noise and vibration impacts from construction equipment. The effects to the noise environment in the proposed project area would be temporary in nature and not significant. Noise impacts would continue to be managed by local ordinances and state laws, as applicable. The proposed additional parking spaces would not result in the significant development of additional recreation amenities, roadways, or events that might significantly increase noise levels within the Basin. There are no anticipated significant adverse impacts to the noise condition within the Basin, as a result of the development of the proposed additional parking spaces.

III.4.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

Paving and grading of proposed additional parking spaces would be expected to last approximately two days. All construction activities would take place between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

III.4.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.4.5.1 No Action Alternative

There would be no change in local noise levels under the No Action Alternative. Additional parking space development would not occur, and the Baseline noise level would remain as at present. No significant adverse impact would occur under the No Action Alternative.

III.4.5.2 Preferred Alternative

Noise would be generated during approximately two days of construction of the proposed additional parking spaces. Subsequent new traffic noise levels would be raised to a slightly higher level at this location, during school days. Long-term noise impacts would continue as at present, which is a local noise environment largely influenced by local traffic and by children at play. The Preferred Alternative would not result significant adverse impacts to noise conditions.

The construction noise and additional operational noises expected to be generated during school days would not result in cumulatively significant adverse noise impacts.

The Preferred Alternative would not create significant adverse impacts on noise quality, due to the project management techniques set in place including: hours of operation, scope of effort, and the short estimated construction time.

III.5 Biological Resources

III.5.1 Existing Conditions

The Prado Basin includes urban, agricultural, industrial, flood control, habitat conservation, and vacant land uses. The project area is located on coalescing alluvial fans from ancient flood flows from the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains to the north and east.

Historic development activities have removed native habitat from many portions of the project area, but sensitive biological resources remain on limited areas of undeveloped and fallowed lands. In particular, significant biological resources within the project area are associated with the Prado Basin (the largest remaining wetland in southern California), the Santa Ana River floodplain and other drainages, remnant sand dunes, the Jurupa Mountains, remaining undeveloped portions of alluvial fans, and the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. The principal drainage course for the Basin is the Santa Ana River. Additional information on Basin biological resources may be found in the Corps' draft *Prado Basin Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (2005).

Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for some federally listed threatened and endangered species. Critical habitat status within the Chino Basin is summarized below. Federal agencies must consult with the USFWS when the agencies determine that their actions (funding, permitting, or undertaking projects) may affect designated critical habitat.

Critical habitat for least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus)* occurs within the Chino Basin. Portions of the Santa Ana River in Riverside County that support suitable habitat were excluded from southwestern willow flycatcher and Santa Ana sucker critical habitat designation because those areas are within the boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).

Vegetation and Wildlife

Vegetation at lower elevations of the Prado Basin comprises willow/riparian forest in various seral stages, *Baccharis* (mule fat) and other riparian scrubland, freshwater ponds with emergent marsh, flowing streams and adjacent sandy washes, periodically flooded and/or fallow fields, and ruderal vegetation in highly disturbed areas. At higher

elevations such as above 510 feet AMSL, upland habitats predominate, with minor elements of coastal sage scrub and oak woodland at the western Basin edge. Thirteen plant communities are recognizable and include: freshwater/aquatic; five riparian; and four upland (including two ruderal communities). Floodplain riparian communities dominate the Basin with upland habitats primarily restricted to perimeter areas. An estimated 311 species of plants representing 65 families of vascular plants have been identified in the Prado Basin and surrounding areas. Approximately 32% (99 species) are associated with floodplain and riparian habitats; 64% (200 species) found on slopes and upland; and 4% (12 species) found in both riparian and upland communities. About 100 species are non-natives, a small number of which are remnants of previous cultivation in the area. A small number of riparian woodland species (especially Goodding's black willow) are responsible for much of the Basin's plant cover. The dominant plant communities are willow woodland, mostly below 510 feet, and upland ruderal and agricultural communities, mostly above the 510-foot line.

The Basin's wildlife resources are unique, as the continuous, riparian woodland network supports a number of rare and declining species, especially riparian-dependent birds. At least 15 fish species are found within the Santa Ana River and its three tributaries (Chino, Cucamonga, and Temescal creeks). Two species, the Santa Ana sucker and the Arroyo chub, are native to southern California. The two most abundant fish species are the flathead minnow and mosquito fish, which with the carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) comprise about 95% of all fish in the Basin.

Approximately seven amphibian species, including non-native anurans, and up to 13 reptile species, are known to the Basin.

Over 200 species of birds have been recorded within the Basin and of these, approximately 95-100 species breed in the Basin. Several federally listed species and other species of concern utilize the abundant nesting and foraging resources offered by the extensive vegetative cover. A substantial raptor population resides within the Basin, including eleven breeding species. Shorebirds include breeding species as well as vagrants. Upland species frequent grasslands as well as eucalyptus groves.

Twenty-three species of mammals, including three non-natives and seven carnivore species, have been observed in the Prado Basin.

In some areas, the Basin serves purposes of wildlife refugia, and/or corridors which link areas of suitable wildlife habitat and allow movement during dispersal, seasonal migration, and home range activities such as foraging and breeding.

III.5.2 Significance Threshold

Impacts to biological resources are considered to be significant if the direct, indirect or cumulative effects of the proposed project:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or USFWS.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.
- 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, coast, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means.
- 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.
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

No designated habitat conservation areas are located in the project area or adjacent to the site, which borders an Open Space, locally zoned property on the north and west side and consists of a riparian scrub, woodland, and forest vegetation settings adjacent to the Santa Ana River. Neither the project area nor adjacent properties are within cell groups keyed to the Riverside County MSHCP. As such, the proposed additional parking spaces would not result in a reduction of numbers of any unique, rare, or endangered species of animals. There are, further, no permanent changes of seasonal bodies of water on or near the project area.

III.5.3 Potential Impacts

Possible sources of effect may include 1) changes to the lighting regime that may affect foraging or breeding of nocturnal creatures, 2) water diversions that may affect the groundwater table or diminish aquatic habitat value, and 3) creating conditions that would increase noise in areas containing sensitive (i.e., nesting, breeding, or fledging) wildlife.

III.5.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

Approval of the proposed additional parking spaces would not affect vegetation diversity or natural resources management at this location in Prado Basin. The project area is largely developed and is outside of vegetation or habitat management zones at the Basin. No additional mitigation measures are needed to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

III.5.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.5.5.1 No Action Alternative

The location is not significantly used by wildlife, including sensitive wildlife species, because even at this rural interface, the location is within a residential neighborhood. Some wildlife may pass through the area, especially at night. There would be no change in the trend or status of existing biological resources in the project area and, hence, no significant adverse impact is anticipated. The No Action Alternative would not alter existing impacts to wildlife.

III.5.5.2 Preferred Alternative

Based on the significance criteria provided above, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated to biological resources as a result of the Preferred Alternative.

The project area is situated in a disturbed or semi-urbanized setting. There may be sensitive species, such as least Bell's vireos (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and sensitive (riparian) habitat within 1,000 feet near the project area, but these resources would not be directly impacted by the development of the proposed additional parking spaces due to avoidance and minimization methods. The temporary construction work is planned to be conducted outside the nesting season and also would not directly impact sensitive species' or other habitat at this location.

There would be no significant adverse impact anticipated to wildlife or other biological resources as a result of the Preferred Alternative.

III.6 Land Use

III.6.1 Existing Conditions

The project area is classified in Corps' planning documents, such as in the draft *Prado Basin Master Plan and EIS* (2005), as recreation-leased lands; the lands are leased by Riverside County, for outdoor recreation, over mostly unbuilt open space and outdoor recreation lands. Much of the acreage is available for passive recreation such as hiking and picnicking; most acreage is undeveloped and vegetated in native and/or non-native vegetation ranging from grass and forb species to shrubs and stands of various tree species. In addition, other land uses in this area of the Basin include both older and more recent residential housing neighborhoods, some with equestrian activities.

The Academy's location is a small open space parcel in Riverside County and is included under recreation lease with Riverside County Open Space District.

The proposed additional parking spaces would not offer impediment to recreation or natural resources management, because they are not used for recreation in a formal or approved manner.

III.6.2 Significance Threshold

A significant impact would occur if the proposed project:

- Were to change land use due to implementation of the project.
- By its implementation was not in compliance with the land use classification identified in the Prado Basin Master Plan.

III.6.3 Potential Impacts

An increase of eight parking spaces, as proposed, would result in additional new activities in this area of Norco, which is a residential neighborhood at the edge of the City overlooking the Santa Ana River bottomlands. The result of additional parking spaces would include additional new levels of street traffic near the intersection of River Road and Bluff Street. Air quality and noise levels would be adversely affected but to a relatively minimal degree.

III.6.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

No additional measures are required as the proposed additional parking spaces would be managed within existing City land-use parameters.

III.6.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.6.5.1 No Action Alternative

The City of Norco has stated that the existing Academy at this location may increase its enrollment only if it can increase its parking capability. Without implementing the proposed additional parking spaces, the Academy would not increase its enrollment and thus there would also be no new increased levels of traffic with its associated effects. There would be no significant adverse effect to land use as a result of the No Action Alternative.

III.6.5.2 Preferred Alternative

The project area would no longer be part of an active, if informal, recreation lease and would be removed from the current recreation lease, which would lead to a change in the designated land use classification. Instead, the new designation would be, instead, an outgrant for non-recreational purposes. This would benefit the pre-school's activities. By implementing the Preferred Alternative, the existing Academy would increase its enrollment and thus there would be new, somewhat increased levels of traffic with its

associated effects. However, the scope of these changes in the project area would neither be significant nor significantly adverse, because an addition of eight spaces in addition to the existing 33 spaces on the other side of the building is not a large relative addition to this area of Bluff Street.

There would be no significant adverse effect to land use as a result of the Preferred Alternative.

III.7 Cultural Resources

III.7.1 Existing Conditions

Cultural resource areas are locations of human activity, occupation, or use. They include expressions of human culture and history in the physical environment, such as archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, or other culturally significant places. Cultural resources can also be natural features, plants, and animals or places that are considered to be important or sacred to a culture, subculture, or community. Resources may be important individually or as part of a grouping of complementary resources, such as a historic neighborhood. Cultural resources that may be present include three general categories: archaeological resources, historic buildings and structures, and traditional cultural properties.

Archaeological resources refer to surface or buried material remains, buried structures, or other items used or modified by people. Prehistoric archaeological resources date to the time before the European presence and can include village or campsites, food remains, and stone tools and tool-making debris. Ethnohistoric or protohistoric archaeological resources are relatively rare but include evidence of European contact, such as trade beads in a site that otherwise appears to be prehistoric. Historic archaeological sites are those deposits that post-date European contact. Examples of historic archaeological sites are structural ruins, trash deposits, agricultural features, water control, and privies. Archaeological sites can have components from multiple time periods and are typically discovered and recorded through pedestrian survey. A pedestrian survey is a method of examining an area for archaeological artifacts and features in which surveyors, spaced at regular intervals, systematically walk over the area being investigated. In urban or other disturbed areas, archival research, selective trenching, and construction monitoring are often the only way to determine archaeological presence or sensitivity.

Consideration of “important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our natural heritage” is required through NEPA and principally regulated by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 USC Section 470). Under Section 110 of the NHPA, Federal agencies are required to fully integrate the management of cultural resources in ongoing programs and to proactively identify, evaluate, nominate and

protect historic properties. Historic properties are cultural resources that meet specific criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Agencies are not required to preserve all historic properties, but agencies must follow a process to ensure that their decisions concerning the treatment of these places result from meaningful consideration of cultural and historic values and the options available to protect the properties. Section 106 of the NHPA describes the procedures for identifying and evaluating historic properties, for assessing the effects of Federal actions on historic properties, and for project proponents consulting with appropriate agencies, including the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), to avoid, reduce, or minimize adverse effects.

The project area is located at upper banks of the Santa Ana River where Bluff Street meets River Road. Federal lands at the Prado Basin, including this area, have generally been studied with respect to cultural and historical resources.

The Prado Basin area has been most extensively studied over the past few decades. Many previous studies were conducted in association with flood-control projects initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These and other similar studies have revealed a rich cultural landscape in the Prado Basin area, where some 60 historical/ archaeological sites have been identified within the scope of the records search.

Most remarkable among the previously reported prehistoric—i.e., Native American—cultural resources is the Prado Basin Archaeological District (District), which measures approximately 5 miles long and 3.75 miles wide at the maximum, and encompasses 22 recorded prehistoric sites ranging from 0.33 acre to 17.5 acres in size.

The 22 recorded sites in the District include habitation areas, camps and field camps, food procurement and processing areas, and lithic reduction areas. While some of the sites were recorded on the basis of scant assemblages of ground stone and chipped-stone artifacts found on the ground surface, others contained extensive surface finds and deep multi-layered subsurface deposits. Among the artifacts discovered were projectile points, bifaces, scrapers, flakes, gravers, choppers, cores, flakes, hammerstones, manos, metates, mullers, pestles, mortars, cogstones, bone tools, stone and shell beads, bone fragments, shells, ecofacts, charcoal, and fire-affected rock. Archaeological testing was carried out on 13 of the 22 sites during several studies between 1983 and 1986, and all of the sites yielded subsurface artifacts of varying quantities.

Elsewhere in the District, previously recorded cultural resources also included some three dozen sites that dated to the historic period. These sites represented ranches, farmsteads, dairies, and water conveyance features, many of which have since given way to residential and commercial development, along with a handful of refuse deposits. One large multi-component site consisted of a prehistoric village site within the District as well as the Bandini–Cota Adobe, which is listed in the National Register and

designated a Point of Historical Interest (State of California 1969). Also found within the scope of the records search were a small number of prehistoric sites outside the District, consisting mostly of lithic scatters and four isolates—i.e., localities with fewer than three artifacts.

III.7.2 Significance Threshold

A significant impact would occur to cultural resources if the proposed project:

- Alters the characteristics of a property that may qualify for inclusion in the National Historic Register. For the purpose of determining effect, alteration to features of a property's location, setting, or use may be relevant depending on a property's significant characteristics and should be considered.
- Introduces visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property or alters its setting.

III.7.3 Potential Impacts

The project area, which is adjacent to a constructed school, has been previously disturbed. The area had no known significant historical or archaeological resources that could be impacted during the development of the proposed additional parking spaces. Although located at a riverine corridor bluff, no specific cultural resources are known in the project area.

III.7.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

The NHPA requires that all new projects cease construction upon the finding of any historical or archaeological resources until their magnitude and importance can be determined.

III.7.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.7.5.1 No Action Alternative

Without ground-disturbing activities, no impacts would occur. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would not result in significant adverse impacts to cultural resources.

III.7.5.2 Preferred Alternative

The project area was reviewed by a Corps archaeologist. Further cultural resource investigation was not recommended for the project area, as there are no known cultural resources in the area, which is disturbed, and it is unlikely that construction or operation of the proposed additional parking spaces would result in significant adverse effects to cultural resources. The Corps Los Angeles District archaeologist stated that the Preferred Alternative would not be likely to impact cultural resources.

The Preferred Alternative is not likely to adversely impact cultural resources.

III.8 Hazardous Waste and Materials

III.8.1 Existing Conditions

Hazardous or toxic materials such as oils, grease, fertilizers, or pesticides may have been introduced into Corps-controlled Basin areas as a result of the use of compounds for construction, development, agricultural, or vegetation management. An increase of exposure to hazardous or toxic compounds already existing within the Basin may result from spillage or leakage of containment units if they are inadvertently damaged through Basin activities. No known hazardous materials or historical incidents are known in the project area.

III.8.2 Significance Threshold

A significant impact would occur if the proposed project:

- Caused soil contamination, including flammable or toxic gases, at levels exceeding Federal, state, and local hazardous waste limits established by 40 CFR Part 261.
- Exposed the general public to hazardous situations through the transport, use, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- Created a significant hazard to the public or environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.
- Caused mobilization of contaminants, creating potential pathways of exposure to workers, the public or other sensitive receptors to contaminated or hazardous materials and such exposure exceeded permissible exposure levels set by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in California Code of Regulations Title B, and Federal OSHA in Title 29 CFR Part 1910.

III.8.3 Potential Impacts

Hazards associated with the proposed additional parking spaces include a potential to accidentally spill hazardous materials during construction.

III.8.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

Mitigation (avoidance/minimization) is incorporated into the proposed construction planning to control any accidentally released hazardous substances during construction; thus, the potential health hazards such substances could pose, if released into the environment, would be effectively controlled. Any potential health hazards, which such substances could pose if released into the environment, would be effectively controlled

at this location. Corps policy as well as state and local policies guide the management of and response to spills of oils, grease, and other compounds that could be introduced into the Basin as a result of typical maintenance procedures.

III.8.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.8.5.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, baseline conditions regarding hazardous and toxic materials usage, and the generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous and toxic wastes, in the Basin would continue as at present into the foreseeable future. Any found hazardous material sites requiring additional investigation may continue to pose threats to the human environment if they are not investigated. Existing groundwater conditions would remain the same, or could worsen, but would not be significantly affected under the No Action Alternative.

In rare instances, unauthorized parking at this dirt lot may have resulted or may result in auto oil or other hydrocarbon leaks. However, the No Action Alternative would result in no new actions and would generally not result in any new local exposure to such substances and, thus, would not result in significant adverse impacts due to hazardous materials.

III.8.5.2 Preferred Alternative

No activities are proposed under the Preferred Alternative that would significantly increase the likelihood of levels of hazardous or toxic substances being released into the Basin. No additional significant adverse effects to humans are likely to result from implementing the Preferred Alternative.

The Preferred Alternative would not likely create hazardous conditions nor involve the use or transport of hazardous materials when implemented, pursuant to and in accordance with standard City and state safety procedures and practices. The Preferred Alternative would not interfere with emergency response plans. No new significant adverse effects on humans or the human environment would be likely to result from implementing the Preferred Alternative.

III.9 Aesthetic Resources

III.9.1 Existing Conditions

Sensitive viewsheds may be defined as those areas visible from densely populated areas of primarily residential use, which have unrestricted views into the Basin. Primary factors influencing views into the basin are structures, trees, and topography.

In areas including the project area, parkland use is predominant with some intermittent views of sparse residential or agricultural areas.

In the project area, wider views of the Prado Basin are partially obscured by structures, trees, and some relief in topography. The area's topography is relatively flat with views looking northwestward across the forested Santa Ana River floodplain.

III.9.2 Significance Threshold

A significant impact would occur to aesthetic resources if the proposed project:

- Created direct, permanent changes to important existing scenic characteristics of a landscape that is viewed by a large number of viewers.
- Impaired or obstructed views of major visual elements.

III.9.3 Potential Impacts

The installation of the proposed additional parking spaces would include the addition of a decorative fence and landscaping, which could alter the aesthetics of the surrounding area.

III.9.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

No additional mitigation or minimization measures would be required to minimize project impacts to insignificance.

III.9.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.9.5.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed additional parking spaces would not be developed. There would be no change to existing aesthetics or to the local viewshed under the No Action Alternative.

III.9.5.2 Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative includes a provision for parking, including installation of a decorative wrought iron fence, which is expected to improve the appearance of the property, currently a dirt lot which resembles a roadside shoulder.

With implementation of this measure, no long-term visual changes that affect humans would occur. The Preferred Alternative's aesthetic impacts would be insignificant, without additional mitigation. Although some of the existing view in the project area would be affected by an addition of up to 8 new parking spaces and a wrought iron

fence, no significant adverse effects to humans would result from implementing the Preferred Alternative.

III.10 Recreation Resources

III.10.1 Existing Conditions

A variety of recreation amenities are available in both the northern (San Bernardino County) and southern (Riverside County) parts of the Prado Basin and includes undeveloped land for open space uses, as well as a golf course, park land, a model airplane field, trails for hiking/jogging, bicycle trails, and a recreation lake. The Basin's undeveloped open-space lands contain considerable acreage of habitat that is largely dominated by non-native vegetation (ruderal). For more information, please see the draft *Prado Dam Basin Master Plan* (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2005).

The Academy parcel lies within Riverside County where the Federal flood control land, operated by the Corps, is largely leased to Riverside County Open Space District for outdoor recreation. This recreation lease consists of a great deal of undeveloped land, which provides open space for informal users such as hikers, equestrian enthusiasts, bird watchers, and picnickers. At River Road, a portion of Riverside County's lease, located on the opposite side of the Santa Ana River, is a recreation concession used for fairs, weddings, and other social or cultural events. The location proposed for the parking area is a small vacant lot, an undeveloped portion of the Riverside County recreation outgrant and not actively used by the County for recreation.

III.10.2 Significance Threshold

A significant impact would occur if the proposed project:

- Disrupted or limited access to recreation and/or open areas.
- Resulted in construction or operational activities that substantially conflicted with recreational uses.

III.10.3 Potential Impacts

No potential impacts would be anticipated from the proposed additional parking spaces to recreation activities in the area.

III.10.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

There would be no mitigation measures for recreation resources needed during construction of the proposed additional parking spaces.

III.10.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.10.5.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not affect existing open space or recreation areas.

III.10.5.2 Preferred Alternative

The project area is located adjacent to the Academy, in a residential neighborhood, and is not used for outdoor recreation with the exception of being an informal roadside area for equestrians to use while passing on the north side of Bluff Street.

Recreational use of the project area, by rare walkers and equestrian users, would be impacted for a short time during construction. Proposed additional parking spaces would be built, and once cars have begun parking, the current roadside open space area would no longer be available for casual passage as the current 'shoulder' would have become a paved parking area. Temporary construction impacts would be moderated by adequate detour and other safety provisions to be coordinated by City and/or construction staff.

This general location may be under consideration for a segment of the proposed Santa Ana River Trail, which is not yet fully designed or mapped.

The Preferred Alternative would likely not result in significant adverse effects to recreation in this area of Prado Basin.

III.11 Public Health and Safety

III.11.1 Existing Conditions

Safety

Public health and safety measures are intended to protect the public, to maintain public services, to ensure compliance with applicable Federal and state laws, to prevent waste contamination and to minimize hazards resulting from actions on Corps-managed lands and amenities.

The region is usually dry, but heavy rainfall has resulted and may result in flooding throughout the Basin. In the event of flooding, hazards could occur both within and downstream of the Basin. North of the proposed area, Pine Avenue and Chino–Corona Road are closed when there may be danger of flooding near Chino and Mill Creeks. These major roads are used daily by the public. On occasion, vehicles have been stranded due to flooding at both creeks, before roads were closed. Alternative access is available for all public services.

Available fire and other emergency services in the area include California Division of Forestry, Riverside County Fire Department, and other local fire departments such as City of Norco and City of Corona fire departments, and other local fire departments. Additional service is provided through a mutual aid agreement between the County of Riverside and City of Norco.

Wildfires

Wildland vegetated areas with large stands of dry vegetation are susceptible to local uncontrolled wildfire events. Even moderate burns can quickly eradicate vegetation and ground cover, leaving the area susceptible to greater erosion by rain storms and wind.

Mosquitoes

Several species of mosquitoes in California are known to transmit agents that cause mosquito-borne diseases including western equine encephalomyelitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, and West Nile virus. Within an urban environment, the lack of many of the natural predators can enable mosquitoes to reach nuisance levels and the potential for the spread of mosquito-borne diseases can increase without monitoring and abatement measures.

Mosquitoes breed in stagnant or standing water and most likely during the summer, following spring when local water treatment ponds are filled or standing water has persisted from earlier rains. If not managed properly, detention basins and wetlands can become breeding sites. Mosquito control methods generally include use of biological (mosquito fish) and chemical insecticides (spraying) and is the responsibility of San Bernardino County Vector Control.

Within the Prado Basin, law enforcement is provided by Riverside and San Bernardino county sheriff departments, as well as by City of Corona Police Department. City of Norco contracts with the Riverside County Sheriff for the City’s coverage.

Also, the CDFW and USFWS provide oversight regarding natural resource protections at the Basin.

III.11.2 Significance Threshold

A significant impact would occur if the proposed project:

- Increases exposure of people or structures to flooding hazards.
- Creates conditions that would present potential dangers to the public or attract the public to a potentially hazardous area (e.g., attractive nuisances).
- Does not use herbicides per recommended manufacturer's instructions and general standards of use. An example of such standards is restricted application before and after rainstorms.

- Creates mosquito breeding conditions in an amount that would require increased levels of mosquito abatement programs to maintain mosquito populations at pre-project levels.

III.11.3 Potential Impacts

There are no potential impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed action.

III.11.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

Appropriate traffic and parking signage would be installed to avoid traffic hazards.

III.11.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.11.5.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not affect general public health and safety.

III.11.5.2Preferred Alternative

Under the Preferred Alternative, public safety and service impacts relating to the proposed additional parking spaces would be less than significant. Besides safety signage installation, no additional services or safety measures would be anticipated following construction and during operation of the proposed additional parking spaces. No significant impacts are anticipated under the Preferred Alternative.

No additional direct adverse impact or cumulative demand for public safety and services would result from implementing the Preferred Alternative.

III.12 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

Each Federal agency is required, by Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations… ".

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) defines a minority population as any group of minorities that exceeds 50% of the existing population within the market area or where a minority group comprises a meaningfully greater percentage of the local population than in the general population. Additionally, the CEQ identifies low income using 2000 Census data for "individuals living below the poverty level."

Ensuring environmental justice means protecting existing local and market-area minority and low-income populations from disproportionate adverse human health or environmental effects related to Federal government action.

III.12.1 Existing Conditions

The Prado Basin is in the westernmost corners of Riverside and San Bernardino counties, in jurisdictional boundaries of the cities of Norco, Chino, Chino Hills, and Corona. Much of the Basin included unincorporated areas of San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

The 2010 Census reported that the Chino area has a population of 77,983 and a population density of 2,629.9 people per square mile (1,015.4/km²). The racial makeup of the area was 43,981 (56.4%) White; 4,829 (6.2%) African American; 786 (1.0%) Native American; 8,159 (10.5%) Asian; 168 (0.2%) Pacific Islander; 16,503 (21.2%) from other races; and 3,557 (4.6%) from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 41,993 persons (53.8%).

The Census reported that 70,919 people (90.9% of the population) lived in households, 164 (0.2%) lived in non-institutionalized group quarters, and 6,900 (8.8%) were institutionalized.

There were 20,772 households. The average household size was 3.41. There were 16,936 families (81.5% of all households); the average family size was 3.72.

Household income suggests more affluent communities south of Prado Dam and northwest of the Basin.

During 2007–2011, the Median household income in the central Prado area was $73,400, while overall in California the figure was $61,632. Number of persons below the poverty level was 7.4% of the local population, while in California, as a whole, the figure was 14.4%. Household income levels suggest that more affluent communities are found south of Prado Dam or northwest of the Basin.

III.12.2 Significance Threshold

Impact on socioeconomics and environmental justice would be considered significant if the following were to occur:

- Impacts to a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, prices, or jobs; impacts on the welfare of minority or low-income populations.
- The impact of project-induced population changes on the availability of public services.

- A substantial long-term decrease in local employment due to direct loss of jobs or an adverse effect on the local economy that results in an indirect long-term loss of jobs.
- Disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minorities, low-income residents, or children.
- A substantial population growth in an area induced by the project.

III.12.3 Potential Impacts

The proposed additional parking spaces would have no expected impacts on community socioeconomics.

III.12.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

No additional mitigation would be needed.

III.12.5 Alternative Analysis

III.12.5.1 No Action Alternative

Without the implementation of the Proposed Action, there would be no effect on socioeconomics that would affect local economy, housing, demographics, or service needs.

III.12.5.2 Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative would have no direct effect on socioeconomics that would affect local economy, housing, demographics, or service needs, as there is no authorized public use of the area. There would be minimal additional non-Corps labor involved; therefore there would be no socioeconomic impacts to the area, nor any impacts to environmental justice, as there would be no impact to local demographics under the Preferred Alternative.

III.13 Traffic and Transportation

III.13.1 Existing Conditions

The Prado Basin is located in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Interstate 91 and SR-71. Both freeways are operated by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Access northward into the Prado Basin can be attained via main entrances along Auto Center Drive off of the 91 freeway. Access from the west and north are available from SR-71 and SR-83, mentioned earlier (Noise, Section III.4).

Much of the Basin's acreage is undeveloped and comprises either river lowlands or former or current dairy or other agriculturally based lands. The Basin's roadway

circulation features are under jurisdiction of the counties of Riverside or San Bernardino or the cities of Norco and Corona, with roads classified as 'divided' or 'undivided' (painted median/median island or double yellow centerline, respectively).

Bluff Street is a residential street, which overlooks the Santa Ana River at the edge of Norco city limits, a somewhat sparsely populated area. River Road, which intersects with Bluff Street at approximately the Academy site, is considered by the City of Corona to be a major arterial roadway. Traffic data for River Road in this general area, which includes both sides of the River Road bridge at the Santa Ana River, indicates Levels of Service (LOS) to range from C through A, which indicates a stable traffic flow with only some too few restrictions to speed and maneuverability (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2005).

III.13.2 Significance Threshold

A significant impact would occur to transportation and traffic if the proposed project:

- Caused closure of a major roadway (arterial or collector classification) to through traffic with no suitable alternative route available.
- Caused an increase in vehicle trips associated with additional commuter and truck trips resulting in an unacceptable reduction in level of service of local jurisdictions on roadways resulting in safety problems for vehicular traffic, transit operations, or trains.
- Created an increase in roadway wear in the vicinity of the work zone as a result of heavy truck or equipment movements, resulting in noticeable deterioration of roadway surfaces.

III.13.3 Potential Impacts

The proposed additional parking spaces may create some traffic slowing on Bluff Street near the Bluff Street/River Road intersection. However, any effect on circulation during construction would be minimized and be of a temporary nature. The proposed project would conform to emergency access requirements of the Fire Department, and thus adequate area for access by emergency vehicles would be provided as locally required.

III.13.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

The Proponent would be required to provide right-of-way dedication (if not already existing) and street improvements along Bluff Street. Standard engineering practices coupled with the City's development standards would mitigate any increase of traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians.

III.13.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.13.5.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would result in no significant change to existing traffic flow or impacts. There would not be a significant adverse impact to traffic.

III.13.5.2 Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative would result in an anticipated slight increase in traffic for the immediate area (River Road/Bluff Street), but not to a degree expected to alter the LOS for the area. The Preferred Alternative would not create significant impacts to Basin and local area traffic, transportation routes, access, or parking. No significant adverse impact to traffic or its conditions is expected as a result of implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

III.14 Utilities

III.14.1 Existing Conditions

Utilities generally provided to the area include electricity, natural gas, telephone, water, and sewer and storm drain facilities.

III.14.2 Potential Impacts

The City of Norco Municipal Code requires that a project provide all utility services for the new development. No additional lighting for the proposed additional parking spaces is expected.

III.14.4 Mitigation / Minimization Measures

No mitigation or minimization measures would be required.

III.14.5 Alternatives Analysis

III.14.5.1 No Action Alternative

Utilities would remain as at present and there would be no significant adverse impact associated with the No Action Alternative.

III.14.5.2 Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative would not create significant impacts to utilities as a result of the proposed additional parking spaces. There would be no significant adverse impact associated with the Preferred Alternative.

IV. Cumulative Impacts

Pursuant to 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, cumulative impacts of a proposed action must be assessed. A cumulative impact is an "impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions" (40 CFR Part 1508.7).

The intent is to identify impacts of other past, present, and future projects that, when considered together with the Proposed Action, may significantly compound or increase environmental impacts. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Infrastructure, industrial, commercial, residential, and other projects located in close proximity to the proposed mitigation site are considered to have the potential for creating cumulative impacts in association with the proposed project activity. CEQ's guidance for considering cumulative effects states that NEPA documents "should compare the cumulative effects of multiple actions with appropriate national, regional, state, or community goals to determine whether the total effect is significant" (CEQ 1997).

IV.1 Past Impacts

The project area is surrounded by areas that have experienced an increase in growth. The cities of Corona, Norco, Ontario, Chino, and Chino Hills have increased in population, resulting in urbanization, increased traffic, and increased demands on water and land resources. As a result of the growth and to minimize the potential for downstream flooding, the Corps has upgraded Prado Dam and the downstream flood control facilities. Construction of the flood control facilities, surrounding developments, and improved transportation facilities has contributed to the cumulative environmental impacts to the area. In addition, operation and maintenance activities of transportation and flood control facilities contribute to additional environmental impacts to resources; however, with the improved flood control facilities and access on the Corps property, the project area currently provides more functionality when compared to the conditions of the site prior to implementation of the Corps' Santa Ana River Mainstem project.

Cumulative impacts from the related projects that have already been completed have affected water quality, water resources, air quality, noise, and the biological environment. Development within and around the project area has increased the introduction of invasive species, pollutants, and human disturbance within the natural areas.

IV.2 Present Impacts

The existing Corps' property and flood control facility will continue to be operational with implementation of the Preferred Alternative. Cumulatively, the biological and cultural resources within the project area may be most affected in the short term; however, effects of the proposed additional parking spaces would be negligible when compared to the large-scale projects occurring concurrently.

IV.3 Future Impacts

The Corps' property and flood control facility will continue to be operational in the future even with the implementation of the proposed action. With implementation of all of the related projects, the biological environment and cultural resources would be affected; however, each approved project would include mitigation measures, as needed, to maintain the integrity of the existing environment.

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would not have significant effects, nor is it likely to contribute heavily to the cumulative effects to resources within the project area.

V. Applicable Environmental Laws and Regulations

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 USC 4321 et seq.)

NEPA is the nation's primary charter for protection of the environment. It establishes national environmental policy which provides a framework for Federal agencies to minimize environmental damage and requires Federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. Under NEPA, a Federal agency prepares an EA describing the environmental effects of any proposed action and alternatives to that action to determine if there are significant impacts requiring development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or if a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate. The EA must identify measures necessary to avoid or minimize adverse impacts, and all impacts must be reduced to a level below significance in order to rely upon a FONSI.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661)

This act requires Federal agencies consult with the USFWS and the fish and wildlife agencies of states where the "waters of any stream or other body of water are proposed or authorized, permitted or licensed to be impounded, diverted . . . or otherwise controlled or modified" by any agency under a Federal permit or license. Consultation is to be undertaken for the purpose of "preventing loss of and damage to wildlife

resources." The intent is to give fish and wildlife conservation equal consideration with other purposes of water resources development projects.

As the proposed action does not involve impoundment, diversion, or other modification to bodies of water within the Prado Basin, no Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report is required.

Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.)

The ESA protects threatened and endangered species, and their designated critical habitat, from unauthorized take. Section 9 of the Act prohibits such take, and defines take as to harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by them is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat. Consultation with the USFWS or National Marine Fisheries Service is required if the Federal action may affect a federally listed species or designated critical habitat.

Since the proposed action is limited to a small construction project in an urbanized area, the proposed action complies with the ESA and consultation is not required.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 USC 715-715s)

The MBTA prohibits the taking or harming of any migratory bird, its eggs, nests, or young without an appropriate Federal permit. Almost all native birds are covered by this act and any bird listed in wildlife treaties between the United States and several countries, including Great Britain, Mexican States, Japan, and countries once part of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. A “migratory bird” includes the living bird, any parts of the bird, its nest, or eggs. The take of all migratory birds is governed by the MBTA’s regulation of taking migratory birds for educational, scientific, and recreation purposes and requiring harvest to be limited to levels that prevent over-utilization.

The proposed action is to be minor construction an urban developed area. No anticipated effects to migratory birds would likely occur and the project complies with the Act.

Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 USC 1251 et seq.)

Section 401 of the CWA requires that every applicant for a Federal license or permit for any activity that may result in a discharge into navigable waters must obtain a State Water Quality Certification (Certification) or waiver that the proposed activity will comply with state water quality standards (i.e., beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and anti-degradation policy).

Section 402 prohibits the discharge of pollutants to "waters of the United States" from any point source unless the discharge is in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Section 402 requires a NPDES Permit for the discharge of storm water from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) serving urban areas with a population greater than 100,000; construction sites that disturb one acre or more; and industrial amenities. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) administers these permits with oversight provided by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and EPA Region IX.

Section 404 authorizes the Secretary of the Army acting through the Corps to issue permits for the discharge of dredged or fill materials into the waters of the United States, including wetlands, at specified disposal sites. The selection and use of disposal sites must be in accordance with guidelines developed by the Administrator of EPA in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army and published in 40 CFR Part 230 (known as the 404(b)(1) guidelines). Under the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, the Corps shall examine practicable alternatives to the proposed discharge and permit only the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA).

The proposed action is to be minor construction and would not affect waters and does not involve discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States. A Section 402 permit, Section 401 permit, or 404(b)(1) analysis is not required.

Clean Air Act of 1970 (42 USC 7401 et seq.)

Section 118 of the Act states that any Federal action that may result in discharge of air pollutants must comply with Federal, state, interstate and local requirements respecting control and abatement of air pollution. Section 176(c) of the Act requires that Federal actions conform to an implementation plan after it has been approved or promulgated under Section 110 of the act.

The proposed action is to be minor construction and minimal air emissions would occur. Air quality will continue to be regulated through Federal, state, and local ordinances. The proposed action complies with this act.

Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 USC 4901 et seq.)

Noise generated by any activity, which may affect human health or welfare on Federal, state, county, local, or private lands must comply with noise limits specified in the Noise Control Act.

The proposed action is to be minor construction in a zone where construction noise is regulated by the City of Norco and will not create exceptional noise impacts. Noise will continue to be regulated through Federal, state, and local ordinances. The proposed action complies with this act.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 USC 460b, 470l-470n)

Section 106 of the NHPA requires any Federal agency to take responsibility for the impact of the decisions on historic resources. Under Section106, Federal agencies are prohibited from approving any Federal "undertaking" (including the issuance of any license, permit, or approval), without (1) taking into account the effects of the undertaking on the historic properties, and (2) affording the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking. The NHPA forces an agency to stop and consider consequences of its undertakings on a historic property, and assures that the agency does so by requiring it to receive comment from the ACHP or from agencies acting in its stead and from the public, before proceeding with such an undertaking. To comply with the NHPA, a Federal agency considering an undertaking must go through the process outlined in the ACHP's regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.

The current proposed action is limited to minor construction work with limited ground disturbance within a previously graded and disturbed area. As such, the proposed action is in compliance with Section 106 of the act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR part 800). If any cultural resources are discovered during implementation, they would be evaluated for eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13(b).

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) (42 USC 9601 et seq.)

CERCLA regulates the release or substantial threat of release into the environment of any pollutant or contaminant which may present an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or welfare.

As there are no known sites within the Basin, this act is not applicable to the proposed action.

Executive Order 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality, amended by Executive Order11991, Relating to Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality

This EO mandates that the Federal government provide leadership in protecting and enhancing the quality of the nation's environment to sustain and enrich human life. Federal agencies must initiate measures needed to direct their policies, plans, and programs so as to meet national environmental goals. These regulations include procedures for early EIS preparation and require impact statements to be concise, clear, and supported by evidence that agencies have made the necessary analyses.

This Draft EA was prepared for this proposed development of additional parking spaces and, therefore, the proposed action is in compliance with the mandates of this EO.

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management

In accordance with this EO, the Corps shall take action to "…avoid to the extent possible the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative." This EO requires that Federal agencies take action to manage the risk and/or impacts of floods on human safety, health, and welfare, and restore and preserve natural and beneficial values served by the floodplains. Each agency also has the responsibility to evaluate potential effects of Federal actions that may be made within floodplains. Compliance with this EO requires proper implementation of ER 1165-2-26, which states that the policy of the Corps with respect to floodplain management is to formulate projects which, to the extent possible, avoid or minimize adverse impacts associated with use of the base (100-year) floodplain and avoid inducing development in the base floodplain unless there is no practicable alternative.

According to the Corps 2011 Master Plan, the project area is located outside the northernmost Basin's 100-year floodplain and, thus, the proposed action would not result in further inducing development in the base floodplain.

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands

Federal agencies shall take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out the agencies responsibilities. Each agency, to the extent permitted by law, shall avoid undertaking or providing assistance for new construction located in wetlands unless the head of the agency finds 1) that there is no practicable alternative to such construction and 2) that the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands which may result from such use. In making this finding, the head of the agency may take into account economic, environmental, and other pertinent factors. Each agency shall also provide opportunity for early public review of any plans or proposals for new construction in wetlands.

The proposed action would not impact any wetlands within the Basin and is thus in compliance with this EO.

Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards

Federal Agencies are responsible for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken for the prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution with respect to Federal

amenities and activities under control of the agency. The proposed action does not introduce environmental pollution upon the natural and beneficial values of the Basin; and the proposed project is in compliance with the EO.

Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

EO 12898 is intended to direct each Federal agency "to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing... disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low income populations in the [U.S.]..."

No minority or low income communities would be disproportionately affected by implementation of the proposed Action. The proposed action is in compliance with the EO.

Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the EO during the planning and implementation process.

Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species

Federal agencies are to expand and coordinate efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plant species and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species may cause.

Although the invasive species *Arundo donax* is mostly in waterways within the Basin, maintenance of the waterways is the responsibility of the local sponsor under the terms of the lease. Eradication/maintenance of invasive species and the future replacement of non-native ornamental trees and other plant material is recommended in the Master Plan. The proposed action does not involve planting or eradication of invasive plants.

Executive Order 13148, Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management

Environmental management considerations must be a fundamental and integral component of Federal Government policies, operations, planning, and management. The primary goal of this EO in the natural resources arena is for each agency to strive to promote the sustainable management of Federal facility lands through the implementation of cost-effective, environmentally sound landscaping practices and programs to reduce adverse impacts to the natural environment.

Executive Order 13195, Trails for America in the 21st Century

This EO states that Federal agencies will, to the extent permitted by law and where practicable and in cooperation with tribes, states, local governments, and interested citizen groups protect, connect, promote, and assist trails of all types throughout the United States. Trails of any kind are not related to the current proposed development of additional parking spaces and so this proposed action is in compliance with this order.

VI. Recommendations

If no outstanding significant adverse impacts or objections are further noted, with respect to the Proposed Action, the Corps will recommend the preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this proposed action.

Conclusion:

[ ] EIS [ ] FONSI

(to Be Determined following Public Review)

VII. Agency Coordination

A notice of preparation for this Environmental Assessment is to be issued on September 6–October 7 and be open for public comments until October 7, 2013. Corps and City staff provided information for this draft Environmental Assessment, which notice was listed at the Corps and Norco City websites.

VIII. References Cited

Soil Exploration Company
2009 Preliminary Soil Investigation Report, Proposed Pre-school Facility. 11 pp..

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
2005 Draft Prado Basin Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

IX. Response to Comments

To be determined following Public Notice period of September 6–October 7, 2013.

X. List of Preparers

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