CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

Home of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

REVIEW PERIOD: December 6, 2009, through January 5, 2010

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Department of Environmental Services

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF THE INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE ARROYO SIMI GREENWAY SPECIFIC PLAN SP-S-0028, ZONE CHANGE Z-S-0677 ESTABLISHING A SPECIFIC PLAN OVERLAY WITHIN THE GREENWAY PROJECT AREA, AND MASTER CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT CUP-S-0723 FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A RECREATIONAL GREENWAY ALONG THE ARROYO SIMI

The attached Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study have been forwarded to you for possible comments relating to your specific area of interest. Comments should be directed to:

Monica Dionne
City of Simi Valley
2929 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, California 93063-2100
(805) 583-6342

Copies sent to:

City Council (5)
City Manager
City Attorney's Office
Planning Commission (5)
City Departments:
- City Manager's Office
  - Assistant City Clerk
- Environmental Services
  - Director
  - Deputy Director/City Planner
  - Case Planner, Tony Stewart
  - Environmental Planner, Monica Dionne
  - Recording Secretary
  - Counter Copy
- Community Services
  - Neighborhood Council Coordinator
  - Neighborhood Councils 1 - 4
- Public Works Department
  - Engineering (3)
  - Utilities
  - Maintenance

County of Ventura
- Resource Mgmt. Agency (4)
- Public Library -- Simi Branch (2)
- Watershed Protection District
- Fire Protection District

Other Government Agencies
- State Clearinghouse (15)
- California Department of Fish and Game
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

(NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT)

REVIEW PERIOD: December 6, 2009, through January 5, 2010

APPLICANT: City of Simi Valley

CASE PLANNER: Tony Stewart

ADDRESS: 2929 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA 93063

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER: Monica Dionne

PROJECT DESIGNATION: SP-S-0028 / CUP-S-0723 / Z-S-0677

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project proposal is for the development of an 11.96-mile long community greenway along the Arroyo Simi, consisting of park improvements, multi-purpose trails, enhanced landscaping, and pedestrian walkways and bridges

PROJECT LOCATION: Arroyo Simi, several tributaries, and adjacent Ventura County Watershed Protection District's right-of-way

On the basis of the Initial Study for the project, it has been determined that the project would not have a potential for a significant effect on the environment. This document constitutes a Mitigated Negative Declaration based upon the inclusion of the following measures into the project by the applicant:

1. All construction equipment will be required to be operated and maintained properly and to be fitted with factory-issued silencing or muffling features.
2. All diesel-fueled engines will be required to use reformulated diesel fuel that is 0.05 weight percent sulfur or less.
3. All diesel-powered equipment will be required to be turned off when not in use for more than 30 minutes; gasoline-powered equipment must be turned off when not in use for more than five minutes.
4. Prior to any new construction within areas subject to the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), surveys for sensitive plant and animal species and sensitive habitats that may directly or indirectly be affected by the project shall be conducted by a qualified biologist, in consultation with the CDFG. Species-specific surveys will be conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable. Pre-construction surveys will include a complete assessment of sensitive fish, wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species, as well as a thorough assessment of rare plants and

rare natural communities, using the CDFG's Guidelines for Assessing Impacts to Rare Plants and Rare Natural Communities.

5. Permanent impacts to the biological resources in the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) jurisdictional areas will be mitigated at a minimum 3:1 ratio, and temporary impacts will be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio. Potential impacts to vegetation within the shaded areas produced by proposed bridges will be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio. Mitigation will consist of a combination of creation and enhancement of habitat area along the Arroyo Simi, or as required and approved by CDFG and ACOE. The final size of the areas to be permanently and temporarily impacted will be identified and any required CDFG (1600) Agreements and ACOE (401 and 402) Permits will be obtained prior to issuance of a grading permit.

6. Proposed project activities, including disturbances to vegetation, shall take place outside of the February 1st to September 1st breeding/nesting season of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If project activities cannot avoid the breeding bird season, nest surveys shall be conducted and active nests shall be avoided and provided with a minimum buffer as determined by a biological monitor, or as recommended by CDFG.

7. Habitat restoration and enhancement planting shall conform to the Ventura County "Guide to Native and Invasive Streamside Plants," and shall include at least two native species forming each of the ground, shrub and tree layers as described in that Guide, or as required and approved by the CDFG.

8. Lighting directed toward the Arroyo Simi habitat areas is prohibited. All lighting must be equipped with recessed lenses and full cut off shields, and mounted to face away from the Arroyo Simi habitat areas.

9. To reduce the opportunity for non-native rat/mice and invasive bird species populations to expand due to an increase in human food remains and perching locations associated with the project, trash receptacles along the Arroyo Simi shall be emptied on a frequent basis.

10. No fencing or other physical barrier shall be installed along the proposed paved pedestrian trail located on the Arroyo Simi Greenway west of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

11. Trees over 3 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) or plants which would be affected by the project shall be replaced as follows: California Black Walnuts and Western Sycamores damaged/removed shall be replaced in kind at a 10:1 ratio; Elderberry, Cottonwood, and Willows damaged/removed shall be replaced at a 5:1 ratio; Oaks greater than 36 inches DBH to be removed shall be replanted at a 20:1 ratio; plants less than five inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 3:1 ratio; plants from 5 to 12 inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 5:1 ratio; trees from 12 to 24 inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 10:1 ratio; trees from 24 to 36 inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 15:1 ratio; damaged trees less than 12 inches DBH shall be replaced at a 2:1 ratio; and damaged trees greater than 12 inches shall be replaced at a 5:1 ratio.

12. Any previously ungraded areas west of Madera Road that will be subject to grading shall be walked by an archaeologist prior to the issuance of a grading permit. In addition, all grading that would affect previously ungraded areas west of Madera

Road shall be monitored by an archaeologist and a Chumash representative. If cultural resources are identified during the initial archaeological survey, State law requires that the City of Simi Valley and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District comply with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, and Public Resources Code Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1. If cultural resources are identified during grading, earthmoving will be temporarily diverted around the cultural deposits until the deposits have been evaluated, recorded, excavated and/or recovered as determined by the archaeologist and as required by Section 21082 of the Public Resources Code. Any resources recovered will be deposited at the proper institution, such as the Simi Valley Historical Society or California State Fullerton Archaeological Research Center.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES: Army Corps of Engineers
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Regional Water Quality Control Board

TRUSTEE AGENCIES: California Department of Fish and Game

Lauren Funaiole

Lauren Funaiole, Senior Planner

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY
PLANNING DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
INITIAL STUDY

1. Project Title: Arroyo Simi Greenway Specific Plan SP-S-0028, Zone Change Z-S-0677, and Conditional Use Permit CUP-S-0723

2. Lead Agency Name and Address: City of Simi Valley, 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, CA 93063

3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Monica Dionne (805) 583-6342

4. Project Location: Arroyo Simi, adjacent rights-of way, and tributaries

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: City of Simi Valley, 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, CA 93063

6. General Plan Designation: Open Space; Low-, Medium-, High- and Very High-Density Residential; Mobile Home; Public Services Center; Elementary School; Community Park; Community Park with Community Activity Facility Overlay; Neighborhood Park; Cemetery; Brandeis-Bardin Institute; Office Commercial; District Commercial; and Light Industrial.

7. Zoning: Open Space (OS) and Residential Estate (RE) [portions of which are in the Animal-Keeping (A) Overlay District]; Residential Low-, Medium-, High-, and Very High-Density (RL, RM, RH, and RVH) [portions in the RH zone have a conditional zoning (CZ) classification, requiring a maximum density of 15 units per acre]; Commercial Planned Development (CPD) [portions of which are also located within the Los Angeles Avenue Planning Area (LAAPO) Overlay District]; Commercial Office (CO); Light Industrial (LI); and General Industrial (GI).

8. Description of Project:

   The project proposal will develop an 11.96-mile greenway along the Arroyo Simi, with park improvements, multi-purpose trails, enhanced landscaping, habitat restoration, and pedestrian walkways and bridges. According to the Arroyo Simi Greenway Specific Plan ("Specific Plan"), the Arroyo Simi Greenway ("Greenway") is a multi-phase, multi-year project that has been divided into sections for development. The Specific Plan is representational of how the Greenway is most likely to be developed, with the implementation of the Specific Plan occurring as funding is secured throughout the next 15-20 years. Development of the Greenway consists of improvements to the recreational opportunities currently provided by the Arroyo Simi and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District ("Watershed District") rights-of-way along the top of banks on each side of the Arroyo Simi. These improvements will include paving the VCWPD rights-of-way to provide multi-use (pedestrian/bicycle/equestrian) trails, installing overlooks, rest stops, trail heads, and pedestrian bridges over the Arroyo Simi, constructing under crossings or improving at-grade street crossings, expanding or creating parks, creating connections to adjacent residential areas, businesses, and nearby schools, and installing new gateways, signs, landscaping, and lighting along the Greenway.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The Specific Plan project boundaries encompass the Arroyo Simi within an established public right-of-way (with the exception of a few privately-owned parcels which have the potential for acquisition), extending from the western City limits to Corriganville Park near the eastern City boundary. Surrounding land uses include residential, open space, industrial, and commercial. Much of the Arroyo Simi has been channelized, while a few areas remain in a natural state. The Greenway itself will be located along the banks of the Arroyo Simi on primarily flat level ground. There are several undeveloped pieces of land adjacent to the Arroyo Simi that are proposed to contain park improvements, overlooks, parking areas, and recreational facilities. The most significant of these improvements are shown on Exhibits 1-4, attached to the Initial Study.

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

US Army Corps of Engineers
California Department of Fish & Game
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Regional Water Quality Control Board

11. Date Deemed Complete/Ready to Process: November 4, 2009

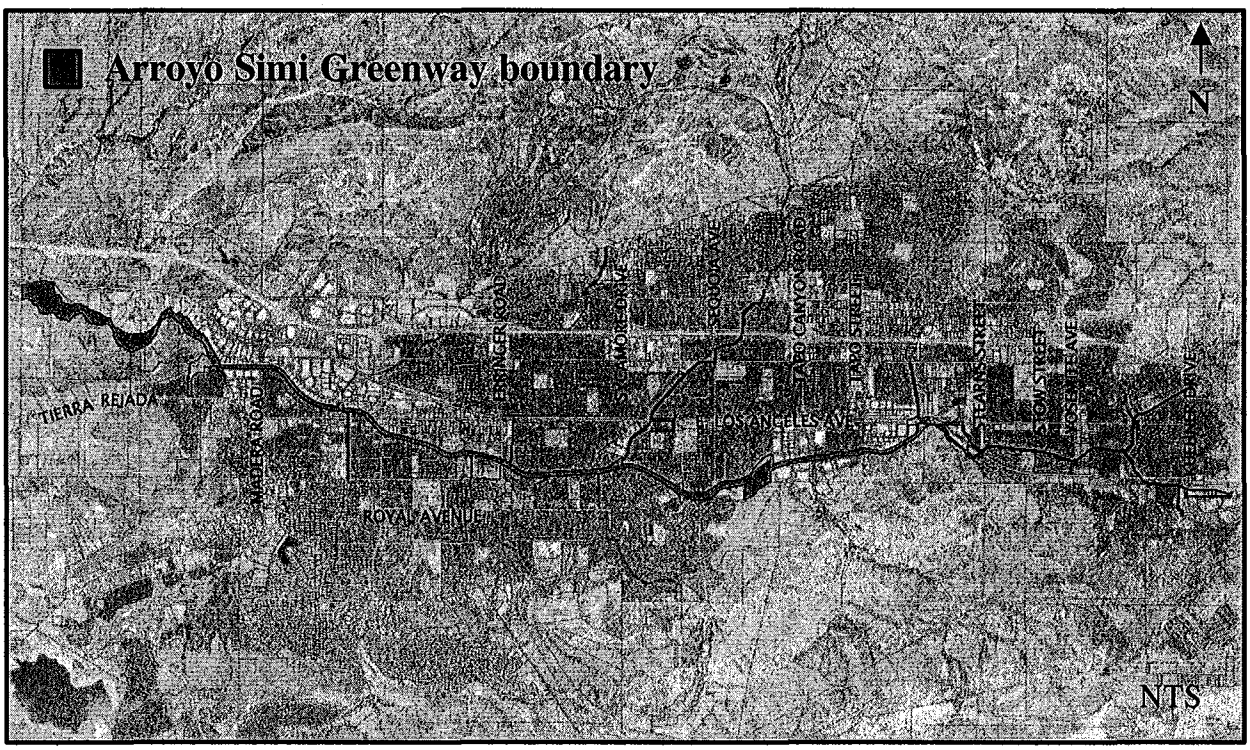
12. A site inspection was performed on:

Date: August 26, 2009 By: Associate Planner, Monica Dionne

13. Are any of the following studies required? ("Yes" or "No" response required)

No	Traffic Study
No	Noise Study
No	Geotechnical Study
No	Hydrology Study
No	Tree Study and Appraisal (pursuant to Section 9-38 et seq. SVMC)
No	Biological Study
No	Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Survey
No	Wetlands Delineation Study
No	Archaeological Study
No	Historical Study
No	Other (List) _____

14. Location Map



ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

Indicate either "Yes" or "No" in terms of which factors listed below would involve one or more "Potentially Significant Impact(s)":

No	Aesthetics	No	Mineral Resources
No	Air Quality	No	Noise
No	Biological Resources	No	Population/Housing
No	Cultural Resources	No	Public Services
No	Geology/Soils	No	Recreation
No	Hazards & Hazardous Materials	No	Transportation/Traffic
No	Hydrology/Water Quality	No	Utilities/Service Systems
No	Land Use/Planning	No	Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that, although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

12/2/09
Date

Mónica Dionne, Associate Planner
Department of Environmental Services

Approved:

12/2/09
Date

Lauren Funaiole, Senior Planner for Peter Lyons, Director
Department of Environmental Services

Issues and Supporting Sources:

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

I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees and rock outcroppings? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

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

The environmental planner conducted a site visit to evaluate the project impact on the site, surrounding land uses, scenic vistas, scenic resources, and the existing visual character. Much of the Arroyo Simi has been channelized in concrete or contained with riprap, while smaller portions remain in a natural state. There is already an existing trail along most of the Arroyo Simi. Several undeveloped pieces of land adjacent to the Arroyo are planned to contain improvements such as overlooks, parking areas, and recreational facilities. The development of those areas will not substantially obstruct the view from adjacent properties, as the improvements will remain at the same grade and generally consist of low-lying equipment, such as bike racks, picnic tables, benches, low fencing, interpretive exhibits, and enhanced landscaping. The few structures being proposed, including restroom buildings and shade structures, are single-story, and will not be placed where they can obstruct the view of surrounding vistas. Based on a site visit by the environmental planner, there are no rock outcroppings on the project site. Additional trees and landscaping will be added to the project site for park improvements and habitat creation, to include several species of drought-tolerant and native California trees and plants. The additional trees and landscaping will actually serve to enhance the aesthetics of the Arroyo Simi from adjacent properties. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact on the environment from an adverse impact to scenic resources or the visual character of the site and its surroundings.

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

The project would create new sources of light from fixtures in proposed parking lots, recreational areas, and at key points along the pedestrian pathways. According to the Specific Plan, lighting will be installed in strategic locations to provide security, but will be no taller than 20 feet, will be hooded and shielded so as to not cast glare, and directed downward to avoid spillover onto adjacent properties (Ref. #1: RRM Design Group, Arroyo Simi Greenway Specific Plan, Sec. 2.14-14). In addition, per the Simi Valley Municipal Code (SVMC) Sec. 9-30.040, all downcast light fixtures must be installed and permanently maintained in a horizontal position (Ref. #2: City of Simi Valley, Zoning Ordinance, Title 9 of the City of Simi Valley Municipal Code). The lighting plan must achieve the goals established in this subsection in order to eliminate illumination or glare from the project onto adjacent natural areas or streets. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from a new source of substantial light or glare.

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

II. AIR QUALITY:

The significance criteria established by the City or the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Ventura County Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP)? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

b) Result in emissions from the project at the estimated date of completion of the project, which would exceed 13.7 tons per year of either reactive organic compounds (ROC), or oxides of nitrogen (NOx)? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

c) Expose sensitive receptors, i.e., young children, the elderly, and hospital patients, to substantial pollutant concentrations? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

d) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

According to the Air Quality Assessment Guidelines of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (Ref. #3, Pg. 4-6, Sec. 4.2.3.1), consistency with the AQMP can be determined by comparing actual population in the City's Growth Area with the forecasted population in the AQMP. If the current estimated population of the City's growth area is below the forecasted populations for January 1st of the next year and the project conforms to the applicable General Plan designation, the project is determined to be consistent with the AQMP (Ref. #3, Pg. 4-6, Sec. 4.2.3.1). The AQMP forecasted population for the Simi Valley Growth Area is 131,207 for January 1, 2005. The current population for the Simi Valley Growth Area is 128,767, and, since the project will not result in the creation of residential units, the project will not increase population. Since the current population of the Simi Valley Growth Area is less than the January 1, 2005, AQMP population forecast, the proposed project is consistent with the AQMP.

The project will actually serve to decrease emissions due to the increased use of the Greenway as a safe means for bicycle or other means of non-motorized vehicle travel to places of employment, or to connect to alternative transportation such as bus stops, the Simi Valley train station, or Park & Ride locations. According to the Specific Plan: "The Greenway will also provide dedicated connections to nearby parks, schools, residential neighborhoods, and commercial and industrial areas, to encourage students, residents, employees, etc. to use the Greenway as their means of travel, rather than personal vehicles, thus reducing vehicle miles traveled." Recreational park and pedestrian pathways are not recognized as uses generating substantial pollutants, including greenhouse gases; in fact, the increased use of the bicycle trails/pathways may serve to reduce pollutant concentrations as it creates a more inviting means to use alternative transportation other than motor vehicles. The AQMP identifies uses that may require mitigation due to creation of substantial odors (Ref. #3, Pg. 2-20 & Table 6-3). The AQMP does not identify a public park as a use that creates objectionable odors. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from the creation

of objectionable odors or substantial pollutant concentrations affecting a substantial number of people, exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

e) Result in substantial emissions of greenhouse gases, including diesel engine exhaust? ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

On June 19, 2008, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) issued a Technical Advisory that provided a recommended approach for lead agencies to perform a CEQA climate change analysis for projects that generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The approach includes direction on identifying GHG emissions, determining significance, and mitigating impacts. Until a statewide significance threshold for GHG is established by OPR, the City has determined that consistency with the AQMP will result in a project that does not exceed significance for cumulative emissions of GHG. In addition, since this project involves the improvement of existing pedestrian/bike pathways, which most likely will contribute to a decrease in vehicular traffic, the project itself is not expected to result in substantial emission of greenhouse gases. However, it is also recognized that GHG and particulate matter emissions can be addressed to limit temporary construction-related air quality impacts that could be generated by the project as a result of developing the Greenway improvements (i.e., paving, bridges, etc.). These impacts could affect a large number of people and contribute to excessive particulate matter dispersal, contributing to the non-attainment levels of airborne particulate matter in Ventura County. Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been included as part of the project:

- All construction equipment will be required to be operated and maintained properly and to be fitted with factory-issued silencing or muffling features.
- All diesel-fueled engines will be required to use reformulated diesel fuel that is 0.05 weight percent sulfur or less.
- All diesel-powered equipment will be required to be turned off when not in use for more than 30 minutes; gasoline-powered equipment must be turned off when not in use for more than five minutes.

With incorporation of these mitigation measures, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from substantial emissions of greenhouse gases.

III. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

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

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

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

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

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

The proposed Greenway project improvements mostly lie within ruderal (or highly disturbed) habitat. The primary purpose of the Arroyo Simi has been and will continue to be for flood control. In developing this flood control protection, much of the Arroyo Simi's natural corridor has been channelized to increase efficiency, and riprap is used to control erosion in many locations. The two exceptions to this are the natural areas in the Tierra Rejada Park region (west of Madera Road) and in the area of Darrah Volunteer Park (south of Royal Avenue between Corto Street and Voyager Avenue). According to the Specific Plan, the existing riprap will remain to protect and stabilize the banks, but in appropriate locations, approved by the "Watershed Protection District", pockets of riprap will be removed and replaced with native plants for the purpose of habitat enhancement. In addition, invasive plant species, trash and debris, and weedy trees will be removed from the Arroyo to improve habitat. The Specific Plan also includes the requirement under Section 4.3-7 "Stewardship" to engage local conservation groups to help monitor bird species diversity before and after project completion to document ecological services and changes that may occur.

Bridges shall be located to minimize impacts to biologically significant locations, and to avoid native vegetation and placed in areas that have already been altered whenever possible. Most of the bridges will have a clear span design to avoid locating bridge improvements within the Arroyo itself However, the project could potentially permanently impact stream and riparian habitat that is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), as authorized by the Federal Clean Water Act (Section 404), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Federal Clean Water Act – Section 401), and stream and riparian habitat regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game (State Fish and Game Code 1602). Potential impacts to the jurisdictional areas include loss of vegetation and riparian habitat as a result of construction of pedestrian bridges and trails, including the disruption of vegetation growth within the shadow area of proposed bridges that cross the Arroyo Simi. These would be considered potentially significant impacts.

Therefore, to mitigate these potential impacts on sensitive biological resources, the applicant has incorporated the following mitigation measures into the project:

- Prior to any new construction within areas subject to the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), surveys for sensitive plant and animal species and sensitive habitats that may directly or indirectly be affected by the project shall be conducted by a qualified biologist, in consultation with the CDFG. Species-specific surveys will be conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable. Pre-construction surveys will include a complete assessment of sensitive fish, wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species, as well as a thorough assessment of rare plants and rare natural communities, using the CDFG's Guidelines for Assessing Impacts to Rare Plants and Rare Natural Communities.

- Permanent impacts to the biological resources in the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) jurisdictional areas will be mitigated at a minimum 3:1 ratio, and temporary impacts will be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio. Potential

impacts to vegetation within the shaded areas produced by proposed bridges will be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio. Mitigation will consist of a combination of creation and enhancement of habitat area along the Arroyo Simi, or as required and approved by CDFG and ACOE. The final size of the areas to be permanently and temporarily impacted will be identified and any required CDFG (1600) Agreements and ACOE (401 and 402) Permits will be obtained prior to issuance of a grading permit.

- Trees over 3 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) or plants which would be affected by the project shall be replaced as follows: California Black Walnuts and Western Sycamores damaged/removed shall be replaced in kind at a 10:1 ratio; Elderberry, Cottonwood, and Willows damaged/removed shall be replaced at a 5:1 ratio; Oaks greater than 36 inches DBH to be removed shall be replanted at a 20:1 ratio; plants less than five inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 3:1 ratio; plants from 5 to 12 inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 5:1 ratio; trees from 12 to 24 inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 10:1 ratio; trees from 24 to 36 inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 15:1 ratio; damaged trees less than 12 inches DBH shall be replaced at a 2:1 ratio; and damaged trees greater than 12 inches shall be replaced at a 5:1 ratio.

- Proposed project activities, including disturbances to vegetation, shall take place outside of the February 1st to September 1st breeding/nesting season of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If project activities cannot avoid the breeding bird season, nest surveys shall be conducted and active nests shall be avoided and provided with a minimum buffer as determined by a biological monitor, or as recommended by CDFG

- Habitat restoration and enhancement planting shall conform to the Ventura County "Guide to Native and Invasive Streamside Plants," and shall include at least two native species forming each of the ground, shrub and tree layers as described in that Guide, or as required and approved by the CDFG.

- Lighting directed toward the Arroyo Simi habitat areas is prohibited. All lighting must be equipped with recessed lenses and full cut off shields, and mounted to face away from the Arroyo Simi habitat areas.

- To reduce the opportunity for non-native rat/mice and invasive bird species populations to expand due to an increase in human food remains and perching locations associated with the project, trash receptacles along the Arroyo Simi shall be emptied on a frequent basis.

With incorporation of these mitigation measures, there will be no potential for a significant impact from the project on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

The portion of the project site on the west end of Arroyo Simi in Tierra Rejada Park is identified on the wildlife corridor study as a critical wildlife passage area. Alamos Creek is recognized as a major wildlife corridor that could potentially connect the Santa Monica Mountains to the Los Padres National Forest (Ref. #4: South Coast Wildlands, South Coast Missing Linkages Project: A Linkage Design for the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Connection, 2006; Ref. #5: LSA, Final Wildlife Corridor

Assessment Report, May 27, 2004). The proposed improvements within this area include the creation of a paved pedestrian trail along the north side of the Arroyo Simi. A paved trail alone will not impede sufficient wildlife movement from north to south. However, the addition of fencing or any other barrier along this portion of the Arroyo west of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant may hinder wildlife movement along this crucial corridor. Therefore, in order to ensure unimpeded wildlife movement through this corridor, the following mitigation measure will apply:

- No fencing or other physical barrier shall be installed along the proposed paved pedestrian trail located on the Arroyo Simi Greenway west of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

With incorporation of this mitigation measure, there would be no potential for a significant impact by interference with wildlife movement on the site.

e) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The property is not a part of any habitat conservation plan, natural community plan, or any habitat conservation plan adopted by a local, regional, or state agency. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from a conflict with any adopted conservation plan.

f) Result in impacts to any mature trees subject to the Mature Tree Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 9-38 of the SVMC)?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

There are many mature trees along and adjacent to the project site. Although the removal of mature trees on property owned by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District is exempt from the Mature Tree Preservation Ordinance (SVMC Sec. 9-38.090.F.) pursuant to the terms of the Ordinance, the project itself proposes the planting of many trees in association with park improvements, habitat enhancement, and landscape screening. Further, Section 4.4-2 of the Specific Plan states that the Park District will be responsible for the replacement of landscaping, including mature trees, at all newly-planted landscape areas. In addition, the California Department of Fish and Game regulates the removal of trees and plants associated with riparian habitat. Therefore, the project incorporates the following mitigation measure to address potential impacts to trees and plants:

- Trees over 3 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) or plants which would be affected by the project shall be replaced as follows: California Black Walnuts and Western Sycamores damaged/removed shall be replaced in kind at a 10:1 ratio; Elderberry, Cottonwood, and Willows damaged/removed shall be replaced at a 5:1 ratio; Oaks greater than 36 inches DBH to be removed shall be replanted at a 20:1 ratio; plants less than five inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 3:1 ratio; plants from 5 to 12 inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 5:1 ratio; trees from 12 to 24 inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 10:1 ratio; trees from 24 to 36 inches DBH to be removed shall be replaced at a 15:1 ratio; damaged trees less than 12 inches DBH shall be replaced at a 2:1 ratio; and damaged trees greater than 12 inches shall be replaced at a 5:1 ratio.

With incorporation of this mitigation measure, there would be no potential for a significant impact from removals of trees or other vegetation.

IV. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as identified in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5? ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Most of the proposed improvement areas along the Arroyo Simi have been previously disturbed (i.e., graded, paved, etc.), and most of the Arroyo has been channelized and is surrounded by urban development. The exception to this occurs in the natural areas west of Madera Road where a pedestrian bridge and new paved trail are being proposed. Due to the proximity of several recorded archaeological sites to the project area in the west end of Simi Valley, including those important to the Chumash people, the following mitigation measure will be implemented:

- Any previously ungraded areas west of Madera Road that will be subject to grading shall be walked by an archaeologist prior to the issuance of a grading permit. In addition, all grading that would affect previously ungraded areas west of Madera Road shall be monitored by an archaeologist and a Chumash representative. If cultural resources are identified during the initial archaeological survey, the City of Simi Valley and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District will comply with procedures required by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, and Public Resources Code Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1. If cultural resources are identified during the grading, earthmoving will be temporarily diverted around the cultural deposits until the deposits have been evaluated, recorded, excavated and/or recovered as determined by the archaeologist and as required by Section 21082 of the Public Resources Code. Any resources recovered will be deposited at the proper institution, such as the Simi Valley Historical Society or California State Fullerton Archaeological Research Center.

With incorporation of this mitigation measure, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from a substantial adverse impact to historical resources, archaeological resources, paleontological resources, or human remains.

V. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

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

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Based on the State of California Earthquake Fault Zones Map, approximately a ½-mile portion of the project area west of Madera Road is located in an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone (Ref. #6: California Department of Conservation: Division of Mines and Geology, State of California Earthquake Fault Zones: Simi Valley East Quadrangle, May 1, 1999). The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting to structures for human occupancy. The Act's main purpose is to prevent the construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults. However, the project does not propose the construction of any building used for human occupancy within or outside of the Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone. The only structure being proposed within the Alquist Priolo Fault Zone is a pedestrian bridge that crosses the Arroyo Simi. This bridge will be designed and built in compliance with the seismic design provisions of the California Building Code (CBC) in effect at time of construction. The earthquake design procedures in the CBC are intended to safeguard against major structural damage and loss of life. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from direct impact of surface rupture from a known earthquake fault or substantial evidence of a known fault.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 117. ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The project area will be subject to strong seismic ground shaking, and most of the Arroyo Simi lies within an area subject to liquefaction as indicated on the State of California Seismic Hazard Zones Map (Ref. #7: California Department of Conservation: Division of Mines and Geology, State of California Seismic Hazard Zones: Simi Valley East Quadrangle, April 7, 1997). There are no habitable structures being proposed with this project, and all other proposed structures, such as restroom buildings, shade canopies, and pedestrian bridges, will be designed and built in compliance with the seismic design provisions of the California Building Code (CBC) in effect at time of construction. The earthquake design procedures in the CBC are intended to safeguard against major structural damage and loss of life. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from strong seismic ground shaking or seismic-related ground failure.

iv) Landslides? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 117. ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Portions of the project site are immediately adjacent to, but not included as, areas subject to landslides as indicated on the State of California Seismic Hazard Zones Map (Ref. #7). In addition, there are no habitable structures being proposed with this project that would be affected by landslides. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from seismic-related ground failure.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project proposes the paving of existing dirt trails along the Arroyo Simi, and the addition of landscaping and park improvements to adjacent areas that are currently vacant, graded, and mostly void of vegetation. Under current conditions, these areas are subject to soil erosion. The proposed greenway project will decrease the amount of exposed soil that could be eroded as compared to current conditions. In addition, the project is required to adhere to Section 9-63.030.c (Grading & Erosion Control) of the Simi Valley Municipal Code. The purpose of this code is to prevent siltation, protect off-site properties, and prevent soil loss during grading. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact on the environment from substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Based on the City of Simi Valley General Plan, the project area is located in an area of moderate expansion potential (Ref. #8: City of Simi Valley, General Plan, Figure #15a, Pg. J-2.41). However, there are no habitable structures being proposed with this project that would be affected by unstable and/or expansive soils. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from locating the project on an unstable geologic unit or soil or from expansive soil.

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

Any new restroom facilities for the proposed project will connect to the existing sewer system. The project will not use septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal system. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

VI. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:

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

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

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

The storage, handling, or use of any hazardous materials is regulated by State and local regulations. The California Building Code regulates the types and amounts of hazardous substances allowed in conventional structures (Ref. #9: 2007 California Building Code, California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 2, Volume 1, Table 3-D & 3-D.1, page 1-40.5 & 1-40.6). Storage of any amount of hazardous materials is subject to the Fire District and Ventura County regulations. These regulations limit the amount of hazardous materials that can be stored in these facilities so that public safety is protected. Operation of the proposed Greenway will not involve the use or handling of hazardous materials. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from the routine transport, use, disposal or release of hazardous materials.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

None of the project sites are listed on the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program Database (Ref. #10: California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program Database, March 1, 2006). Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from a hazardous material.

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

The project is a continuous recreational greenway located along the Arroyo Simi within the urban boundary of the City, and is adjacent to residential, commercial, and industrial land uses. There is existing access to the various project sites and pedestrian trails along the Arroyo Simi for emergency response organizations, and the properties are already included in the City's emergency response and evacuation plan. Development of the properties has been anticipated by these plans and there is no need to amend the existing procedures. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from interference with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan.

f) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas where residences are intermixed with wildlands? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

No portion of the proposed greenway is located within an area identified as a potential wildfire hazard area as shown on the Potential Wildfire Hazard Area Map in the City of Simi Valley General Plan (Ref. #8: City of Simi Valley, General Plan, Figure #19, Pg. J-2.62), and the project does not propose to add any habitable structures adjacent to wildland areas. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact from exposure of people or structures to wildland fires.

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

VII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The project would be connected to the existing sewer system and any wastewater would be collected and processed at the City's sanitation plant. The project is subject to City, County and State regulations regarding water quality and discharge. These requirements include implementing stormwater pollution prevention plans prior to start of construction, building stormwater detention and filtration systems per plans that must be approved prior to construction, and designing the sites to prevent uncontrolled runoff into natural watercourses. The project is required to adhere to the County's National Pollution Distribution Elimination System Permit and prevent polluted runoff from entering the public storm drain system. Based on these requirements, water discharged from the project sites would not violate any water quality standards. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from violating any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

c) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site as a result of substantial alteration of the existing drainage pattern of the site or area? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

d) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The project involves the enhancement of existing trails and the creation of pocket parks along the tops of the banks of the Arroyo Simi. According to the Specific Plan, permeable paving will be utilized whenever possible and park design will incorporate stormwater infiltration (Ref. #1: Sec. 2.8-3). There is no proposal to use a well or groundwater from any point along the project site. Groundwater will not be used or depleted by this project. The proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the area, as it involves the addition of landscaping and permeable paving to vacant areas adjacent to the Arroyo Simi. The developed project will produce less runoff than existing conditions, due to the addition of landscaping in several proposed pocket parks. Bridges will clear span the Arroyo Simi, and footings and piers shall be located out of the typical flow line. Proposed bridge under crossings shall not interfere with the flood channel's flood flow capacity. In addition, passive park uses are not recognized as a source of polluted runoff that would substantially degrade water quality. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from the substantial depletion groundwater supplies or recharge, substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site, a substantial increase in the rate or amount of

surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site, or from the creation/contribution of runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems.

f) Provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff or otherwise substantially degrade water quality? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

According to the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program Technical Guidance Manual, the project is required to adhere to the County's National Pollution Distribution Elimination System Permit and prevent polluted runoff from entering the public storm drain system through the preparation of a Storm Water Quality Urban Impact Mitigation Plan (Ref. #11: Larry Walker and Associates, Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program: Technical Guidance Manual for Stormwater Quality Control Measures, July 2002, pg. 2-1). The project is required to use filters in the catch basins to limit polluted runoff from entering the public storm drain system and degrade water quality. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from substantial additional sources of polluted runoff or substantial degradation of water quality.

g) Place any structure intended for human habitation within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary of Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Based on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (Ref. #12: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), Community Panel Numbers 060421 0001-9 B, September 3, 1997), the majority of the project site is located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Most of the park improvements will be located within the SFHA. The City's Engineer has reviewed the plans and has determined that the design is adequate to protect any park structures from inundation by flood, and will meet all requirements of the City's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. In addition, there are no structures intended for human habitation being proposed with this project. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact from placing a structure designed for human habitation within a "100-year" flood zone.

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Gates will be installed at access points along the entire length of the Greenway to close off public access to the Arroyo Simi Greenway during significant rainfall events, thus preventing a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding associated with heavy rainfall.

Based on the Las Llajas inundation map (Ref. #13: Ventura County Flood Control District, Inundation Map for Las Llajas Dam, November 1999), most of the project site is located within the Catastrophic Failure Inundation Area of the Las Llajas (Regional Stormwater Detention) Dam. As a flood control structure, the Las Llajas Dam is designed to contain water only during periods of heavy runoff. The dam is designed to intercept the peak inflow of 27,300 cubic feet per second (cfs) from a 100-year storm and to detain that water, releasing it downstream at the maximum rate of 500 cfs. The dam would detain all of the inflow greater than 500 cfs, and no 100-year storm flow would go over the spillway, with the dam functioning as designed (a 500 cfs rate of release

through the design outflow structure of the dam). The only time that water would flow over the design spillway would be in the event that the inflow exceeded the 100-year storm rate. Even with a storm flow over the spillway, the spillway is designed to safely release the excess flow, and to avoid failure or breaching of the dam. The risk of failure of the dam is predicated on storm inflows which would fill the reservoir up to or beyond the spillway level, coupled with an agent (i.e., an earthquake, significant overtopping, etc.) which would cause a catastrophic failure. The reservoir would be full, or nearly full, only a few days in any 100-year period. Furthermore, the dam is designed to accommodate the forces generated by earthquakes, further avoiding failure. Therefore, based on the findings discussed above, there would be no potential for a significant impact due to the failure of the Las Llajas Dam.

Based upon a review of the Bard Reservoir inundation map, the portion of the Greenway in the vicinity of Madera Road to the westernmost project boundary is located within an area that could be affected by a failure of the Bard Reservoir (Ref. #14: Calleguas Municipal Water District, Inundation Map for Bard Reservoir, July 1, 1973). A study was conducted to evaluate the hazard to development within the dam inundation (Ref. #15: VTN West, Inc., A Report on Bard Reservoir and the Risk of Inundation Hazard with Respect to the Proposed Royal/Madera Specific Plan Area). The study analyzed the five ways an earthen dam can fail and result in flooding, which are: overtopping, slumping, rapid draw down, erosion, and earthquakes. Overtopping results when the amount of water received by the watershed exceeds the capacity of the dam. An analysis by the California Division of Safety of Dams evaluated the hydrology of the watershed and determined that the Bard reservoir and spillway perform within satisfactory levels even if the maximum precipitation storm occurred at a time of maximum storage capacity of the reservoir. Therefore, based on the findings in the Bard Reservoir inundation report discussed above, there would be no potential for a significant impact due to dam failure resulting from overtopping (Ref. #15: Pg. 15).

Slumping is the collapse of the downstream soil in the embankment. This can result from the introduction of roots, weeds, and other vegetation, which can weaken the compaction of the soil. The California Division of Safety of Dams requires routine maintenance and performs inspections to ensure dams are not in danger of slumping. Based on the maintenance schedules and available records, there would be no potential for a significant impact due to slumping failure at Bard Reservoir (Ref. #15: Pg. 15).

Rapid draw down, which is the release of water from the reservoir at too high a rate, can also cause dam failure. The two drains that release water are designed to limit the outflow of water from the reservoir to an acceptable draw down rate. This design feature ensures that there would be no potential for accidental dam failure from an excessively rapid draw down (Ref. #15: Pg. 15).

Erosion from water seepage can also cause a dam to fail. The design and construction of the Bard Dam outlet works and foundation, and filter and drain system prevent seepage from occurring. During construction of the Dam, piezometers and settlement markers were installed to provide monitoring. The careful design and constant inspection during construction, as well as the current on-going maintenance, monitoring, and surveillance programs ensure the integrity of the outlet works and the foundations for the infinite life of the dam.

Earthquakes are another potential cause of dam failure. The Bard Reservoir was constructed to meet all of the State requirements regarding seismic hazards. An assessment of the performance of the Bard Reservoir during a Maximum Credible seismic event was conducted to determine the stability of the dam during an earthquake. In order to calculate the Maximum Credible event, the maximum earthquake is assumed to occur at the closest point of the fault to the site resulting in the

most severe level of shaking at the site. In determining the maximum earthquake history experience, trenching and distance from the fault to the site are all taken into account. The Santa Rosa-Simi fault system with an event at a magnitude of 7.0 resulting in a maximum peak acceleration of 0.7g was determined to be the critical event and the basis for subsequent studies at the Bard Reservoir. In all cases, the primary conclusion reached is that the dam is safe for continued use (Ref. #15: Pg. 16). Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact on the environment from exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.

VIII. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:

a) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of the City (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Based on a review of the current General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, it has been determined that the project is consistent with the goals, policies, and implementation measures of the City's General Plan and Municipal Code. The adoption of the Specific Plan amends the City's Zoning Maps to establish a Specific Plan Overlay zoning district for the entire Greenway project area, and will also establish development standards for park development that will be unique to the Greenway. Per SVMC Sections 9-24.030 and 9-26.030, parks and outdoor recreation facilities are allowed in all zones (with the exception of Commercial Office) with a Conditional Use Permit. The Specific Plan does not propose to change any General Plan land uses, as the project will consist mainly of right-of-way improvements, which are considered public services, and which are compatible with all zones per Table A-1 of the Simi Valley General Plan. Development of the project would also implement the following General Plan goals and policies:

Policy III-1.6: *Projects should be designed to provide a compatible relationship with adjoining uses.*

The landscaping and amenities installed within the project area will be located and situated to be compatible with surrounding uses. Park improvements will serve the surrounding neighborhoods, and landscape buffers will be installed where amenities such as overlooks and rest stops border residences.

Policy III-2.1: *The overall pattern of land use should promote efficient development, minimize the impact of traffic congestion, reduce transportation distances and air pollution, ensure compatibility between uses, and protect the natural hillsides, major watercourse, trees and tree rows.*

The Specific Plan provides standards that will protect and enhance the natural features of the Arroyo Simi and the vegetation within the project area. The Greenway will also provide a multi-modal trail along the entire length of the project area, with connections to nearby schools, parks, residential neighborhoods, and business areas. This, in turn, will provide for several means of transportation other than vehicular, which will reduce transportation distances, vehicle miles traveled and air pollution.

Policy IV-2.6.3: *Riparian habitat outside of the valley floor or adjacent to the western end of the Arroyo Simi should be preserved and protected to the fullest extent practical, consistent with the public health, safety or general welfare.*

The Specific Plan provides standards that will protect and enhance the natural features of the Arroyo Simi, including the riparian habitat adjacent to the western end.

Policy VI-1.6: *Flood control rights-of-way such as arroyos, maintenance roads, open reservoirs, spreading and retention basins, should be developed in such a way that they can also be used for recreational purposes where appropriate.*

Development of the Greenway consists of improvements to the recreational opportunities currently provided by the Arroyo Simi and the Watershed District rights-of-way along the top of the banks on either side of the Arroyo Simi.

Policy VI-1.13: *The City shall encourage and pursue the development of an interconnecting and safe system of paths and trails for pedestrians, joggers, bicyclists, and equestrians.*

According to the Specific Plan, a primary component of the Arroyo Simi Greenway will be the improvement of the existing bike/walkway along the Watershed District's rights-of-way along the top of the banks of the Arroyo Simi. Once constructed per the Specific Plan, the Watershed District's rights-of-way will be fully paved along the entire length of the Greenway project area on the north and/or south sides of the Arroyo Simi. The Greenway will also connect to nearby schools and parks, and to other trail systems, such as the trail that leads from Tierra Rejada Park to Mt. McCoy and beyond, and the equestrian trail that leads from the equestrian center near Sequoia Avenue south into the Simi Hills.

Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from a conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of the City (including, but not limited to the general plan or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

IX. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

According to the California Division of Mines and Geology, there are no known mineral resources of value to the region in alluvium aside from sand and gravel for concrete (Ref. #16: California Division of Mines and Geology, Geology and Mineral Resources Study of Southern Ventura County, California, 1973, Pg. 27 & 28).

The project is not located within the area delineated as the Simi Oil Field on the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas, District 2 Oil Fields Map (Ref. #17: California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas, District 2 Oil Fields Map, March 22, 2001). There are no active oil or gas wells located on the property according to the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas, Regional Wildcat Map, W2-1 (Ref. #18: California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas, Regional Wildcat Map, Map W2-1, June 12, 1986). There are several plugged and abandoned oil and dry wells located within or

near the project boundary west of Madera Road. Any oil or water well encountered during grading shall be properly capped and sealed per the requirements of SVMC Chapter 7, or as per the provisions of Division 3 of the Public Resources Code, whichever is applicable. Locally important mineral resources have been mapped by the State and included in the City's General Plan Land Use Element. The project is located outside the area identified as a natural resource area on the Land Use Map for the City's General Plan. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from the loss of availability of a regionally, statewide, or locally important mineral resource.

X. NOISE: Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

b) The creation of a permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity by 10 dB (A) Ldn above levels existing without the project? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

c) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels, from other than construction related noise, in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

According to the City of Simi Valley General Plan, "land uses in Simi Valley identified as noise sensitive include residences, hospitals, rest homes, convalescent hospitals, places of worship, libraries, and schools" (Ref. #8: Pg. 10.2). After reviewing the site plan and conducting a site inspection, the environmental planner determined that much of the project is located adjacent to residences. These residential units are potentially noise sensitive, and thus granted protection under the General Plan. Community parks and recreational uses are generally located within residential areas. There are existing pedestrian pathways along the Arroyo Simi currently being used, but are most likely underutilized. The proposed Greenway is considered a passive park use. Greenway improvements will not include any sports fields, and, due to the relatively small size of the turf areas associated with the proposed pocket parks, the Park District does not anticipate these areas being used for organized sports. Nevertheless, there will be intermittent noise generated from increased visitors to the proposed Greenway. However, based on the City's experience with approval and operation of passive community parks and recreational uses, the project would not result in any substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels.

In addition, Section 5-16.02 of the Simi Valley Municipal Code prohibits "any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise which disturbs the peace or quiet, or which causes discomfort or annoyance to a reasonable person of normal sensitiveness in an adjacent residence or business affected by the noise" as an unlawful noise. This portion of the SVMC is enforced by the Simi Valley Police Department based on complaints received. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact from the project from exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance.

XI. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the project:

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

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

The proposal is adjacent to previously developed residential, commercial, and industrial areas of the City. The project will not require the extension of existing roads, utilities, or other public infrastructure to serve the project site. The project will not result in the creation of residential units. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from substantial population growth in the area.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing dwelling units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Based on a review of the Greenway's site development plans by the environmental planner, there are no dwelling units located within the project boundaries. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from the displacement of any existing dwelling units.

XII. PUBLIC SERVICES:

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

Fire Protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Police Protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

There are currently existing access/service roads available for emergency personnel along the Arroyo Simi. No point on the project boundary is located further than a few miles from one of the five fire stations that serve Simi Valley. The improvements to the bike/walkway along the top of the Arroyo channel (paving, replacement of wood chicanes with movable bollards and Rhino gates, etc.) will improve access for emergency vehicles. Due to the existing access/service roads and relatively short distance from a fire station to any point along the project site, the Fire District can meet their standard response time of arriving in five minutes by traveling 30 miles per hour.

According to the Greenway Specific Plan, Greenway landscaping will be designed to meet "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" criteria, and lighting will be installed in key locations throughout the Greenway, both of which will facilitate police protection. In addition, the proposed improvements to the project area will encourage more users along the Greenway, providing more surveillance and fewer opportunities for crime to occur. The Police Department has established acceptable standards for Patrol Officer response times to calls for service in the City. There may be a slight increase in calls for emergency services due to the increase in visitors to the project site and the recreational nature of the project. The acceptable response times to emergency calls average 3.2 minutes, and non-emergency response times average 12 minutes. The Police Department tracks response times and is meeting these standards, based on the Department's latest statistics. To

maintain these response times to the public, the Police Chief may reconfigure police beat boundaries, adjust deployment schedules for patrol shifts, or request funding for the creation of special task forces to deal with any increase in calls for service due to the proposed project. In addition, Park Rangers, in accordance with the State of California Penal Code, Section 830.31(b), have the same authority and powers as local police relative to anything happening on Park District property, and will also respond to emergency calls for service as needed. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment associated with new facilities or personnel related to police services.

The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District is one of the applicants for the Greenway project, which will serve to increase the amount of developed parkland in Simi Valley by several acres.

The need for public facilities is based on the demand generated by the population. Since the project would not result in additional housing or infrastructure for housing, there would not be a significant population increase. Since the project would not result in a significant population increase, there would be a less than significant impact on public services or facilities, including fire protection, police protection, schools, parks or recreational facilities. In fact, the Greenway project will increase the ratio of parkland to residents in the City.

Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services.

XIII. RECREATION:

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

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

The project itself is a proposal for a continuous recreational greenway with community parks. The development of the project would alleviate the demand on other recreational facilities in the area. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from an impact on recreation.

XIV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: Would the project:

a) Result in the level of service at any significantly impacted intersection falling below Level of Service (LOS) "C"?
yes☐ no☒

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

b) Result in the level of service, based on the volume/ capacity ratio, at any intersection deteriorating by 0.10 or greater?

yes☐ no☒

c) Result in any significant traffic impacts even though the level of service at local intersections would remain at Level of Service (LOS) "C" or better? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

This project involves the improvement and enhancement of the existing pedestrian/bike pathways along the Arroyo Simi, which will create a more inviting alternative transportation to motor vehicles. The project will actually serve to decrease vehicular traffic due to the increased use of the Greenway as a safe means for bicycle or other means of non-motorized vehicle travel to places of employment and schools, or to connect to alternative transportation such as bus stops, the Simi Valley train station, or Park & Ride locations. According to the Specific Plan, "The Greenway will also provide dedicated connections to nearby parks, schools, residential neighborhoods, and commercial and industrial areas, to encourage students, residents, employees, etc. to use the Greenway as their means of travel, rather than personal vehicles, thus reducing vehicle miles traveled."

In addition, the City's Principal Engineer/Traffic Division, Chic Dabbs, has reviewed the proposal and analyzed the potential number of trips generated by the project, the existing traffic volumes, and the intersections near the project sites. Based on this analysis, Mr. Dabbs has determined that the project would not result in any intersection falling below LOS "C", or the LOS deteriorating at any intersection by 0.10 or greater. In addition, he determined that no other significant traffic impacts would result from project traffic. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from any significant traffic impacts.

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections)? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The SVMC has specific design requirements for new access drives (Ref. #2: Chapter 9-34). This includes minimum standards for width, grade, angle, surface, and clearance. The City of Simi Valley Department of Public Works and Department of Environmental Services reviewed the project and determined that those standards would be satisfied. Compliance with those design standards protects against the possibility of creating a substantial hazard due to a design feature. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from a substantial increase in hazards due to a design feature.

e) Result in inadequate access? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The Principal Engineer/Traffic Division, in order to ensure adequate and safe access onto a public right-of-way, has reviewed the project and has determined the access design complies with SVMC Section 9-34.090. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from inadequate access.

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The SVMC does not provide a minimum number of required parking spaces for park uses. The Greenway enhancements and park improvements will not generate a substantial need for additional parking, as most users of the Greenway would be local pedestrians and bicyclists. However, additional parking will be constructed at several trailheads and expanded parks (i.e., at Rancho Simi Park). Thus, there will be sufficient parking available to serve the project from existing facilities and limited additional parking areas. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from inadequate parking capacity.

g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The project itself encourages and supports alternative transportation through the enhancement of existing access/pedestrian pathways, the creation of multi-modal trails along the Arroyo Simi, and bus stop improvements. Many of the Class 2 and 3 recommendations from the Arroyo Visioning Study were incorporated into the updated Bicycle Master Plan (Ref. #19: City of Simi Valley, City of Simi Valley Bicycle Master Plan, December 2008, Figure 5-5). In addition, the Specific Plan provides an opportunity to add Class 3 routes, bicycle boulevards, or shared lane markings along two streets, 5th Street and Heywood Drive, that are not indicated by the Bicycle Master Plan to raise driver awareness of cyclists and increase bike safety along routes to schools from the Greenway. The project would not conflict with the existing or planned bus system. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from a conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

XV. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:

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

Wastewater from the project would be collected by the existing sewer system. All the wastewater from the project would be treated at the City's wastewater treatment facility. This facility is operated in accordance with the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from exceeding the wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

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

Currently, the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant handles approximately 10 million gallons of sewage per day (mgd). The facility's capacity is 12.5 mgd. The wastewater collection system and the City's water delivery system have not reached capacity. The City's Department of Public Works has reviewed the proposal and determined that no additional water or wastewater treatment facilities are required. Based on this information, the project would not generate sewage that exceeds the limits of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from inadequate capacity of the wastewater treatment provider.

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

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

In 1990, the Master Plan of Drainage was developed to "present a planned program of drainage facilities required in the City to provide a reasonable degree of protection from flooding with respect to existing and anticipated land uses, including no structural damage during a 100-year frequency storm and street carrying capacity adequate for a 10-year frequency storm" (Ref. #20, Pg. 1). Anticipated land uses are based on the Simi Valley General Plan adopted on October 18, 1988. The Master Plan of Drainage indicates the existing facilities are sufficient to handle the 10-year undeveloped and developed runoff from the project areas (Ref. #20: Plate 4A). There will be no increase in run-off as a result of this project due to the increased landscaped areas and use of permeable pavement. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities.

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

The project will construct approximately seven acres of park improvements. The water demand per acre for this type of development, as provided in the Waterworks District Standards, is 1,584 gallons per day per acre. However, this level of demand may be reduced due to the use of native and drought-tolerant landscaping that will be required in most areas of the Greenway per the Specific Plan. The project improvements would have a total project water demand of approximately 11,088 gallons per day (12.42 acre-feet per year). Water is supplied to the portions of the project area in eastern and westernmost parts of Simi Valley Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8, while the central valley portion of the project is served by the Golden State Water Company. Both the Waterworks District and the Golden State Water Company receive their water supply from the Calleguas Municipal Water Agency (a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California). The water supply contract between the Waterworks District/Golden State and Calleguas provides for a current annual base demand (i.e., supply) of 22,089.3 acre-feet, the highest annual use during the preceding 10-year period. This amount is subject to increase on demand, ultimately to the contract limit of 132,535.8 acre-feet annually. Practically, however, the rate of this increase is limited with respect to residential growth by the annual 292-unit limit on building permits adopted by the City. The actual annual increase in total water delivery over the past 10-year period has averaged approximately three percent (525 acre-feet), with the demand for this project being less than three percent of that increase. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment due to insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources.

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

Currently the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant handles approximately 10 million gallons of sewage per day (mgd). The facility's capacity is 12.5 mgd. Based on this information, the project would not generate sewage that exceeds the limits of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from inadequate capacity of the wastewater treatment provider.

f) Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center (SVLRC) would serve the proposed project. The SVLRC has a capacity of 29.59 million tons of waste, and has currently used 10.56 million tons of this capacity. Based on the maximum permitted disposal rate of 3,000 tons per day (tpd), six (6) days per week, 312 days per year (i.e., 936,000 tons of waste per year), the site could operate until 2022 (Ref. #21: Science Applications International Corporation, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center, Ventura County, California. September 27, 2002. Pg. 2-2.). Waste Management accepts waste from a variety of sources, but they are restricted to the approval rate of 3,000 tons per day. Therefore, the SVLRC, at a minimum, has the ability to accept waste until 2022. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from an insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.

XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

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

Based on the answers to Section III (Biological Resources) and Section IV (Cultural Resources), there will be a number of potentially significant impacts to the habitat and potential cultural resources on the project site, and these impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels.

Therefore, with the incorporation of the mitigation measures found on pages 2 and 3 of this report, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from degradation of the quality of the environment, substantial reduction of habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects as defined in Section 15130 of the State CEQA Guidelines?) ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

According to the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), if the project is consistent with the AQMP, it would have a less than significant cumulative impact on air quality (Ref. #3, Pg. 4-2). According to the Air Quality Assessment Guidelines of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (Ref #3, Pg. 4-6, Sec. 4.2.3.1), consistency with the

AQMP can be determined by comparing actual population in the City's Growth Area with the forecasted population in the AQMP. If the current estimated population of the City's growth area is below the forecasted populations for January 1st of the next year and the project conforms to the applicable General Plan designation, the project is determined to be consistent with the AQMP (Ref. #3, Pg. 4-6, Sec. 4.2.3.1). The AQMP forecasted population for the Simi Valley Growth Area is 131,207 for January 1, 2005. The current population for the Simi Valley Growth Area is 128,767. Since the current population of the Simi Valley Growth Area is less than the January 1, 2005, AQMP population forecast, the proposed project is consistent with the AQMP. Further, the project will not increase population in the Simi Valley Growth Area and a major component of the project will be the improvements to the existing trails along the Arroyo Simi, which in turn, will encourage the use of modes of transportation other than automobiles, thus reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant cumulative impact on air quality.

In order to address cumulative traffic impacts, the Circulation Element of the General Plan adopted a Level of Service (LOS) "C" as the design objective for the arterial street system. To meet this design objective, individual projects are required to provide circulation analysis and traffic improvements to meet LOS "C" at all affected intersections. Since the last update of the General Plan in 1988, the Traffic Model used by the City to determine impacts on the circulation system has been updated each time a General Plan Amendment has been approved so that the model is kept up-to-date. This project does not propose a General Plan Amendment and the current Traffic Model accounts for potential buildout of the site. The City Traffic Engineer has reviewed the project application and, using the City's Traffic Model, has determined that all intersections in the project vicinity will operate at LOS "C" at buildout with this project. Further, as noted above, the project has the potential to reduce VMT, thus improving the LOS at buildout of the project. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant cumulative impact on traffic and transportation.

In 1990, the Master Plan of Drainage was developed to "present a planned program of drainage facilities required in the City to provide a reasonable degree of protection from flooding with respect to existing and anticipated land uses, including no structural damage in a 100-year frequency storm and street carrying capacity adequate for a 10-year frequency storm" (Ref. #20: Hawk and Associates, City of Simi Valley, Master Plan of Drainage, December 1990, Pg. 1). The Master Plan of Drainage identifies areas of infrastructure improvement needed to meet these drainage goals at build out of the General Plan. Projects that are located in these areas are required to contribute to these infrastructure improvements in order to ensure there is no cumulative impact on the environment from stormwater. The Master Plan of Drainage indicates that the existing drainage facilities utilized by this project do not require any additional improvement to handle runoff from a 10-year frequency storm at General Plan build out (Ref. #20: Plate 4A). Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant cumulative impact on the environment from flooding or the contribution of runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems on or off-site.

Every project, including this project, is required to comply with the countywide National Pollution Distribution Elimination System Permit (NPDES). Therefore, the project improvements will have storm water drainage designs that comply with the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Urban Impact Mitigation Plan (SQUIMP) and calculating the Stormwater Quality Design Flow and Stormwater Quality Design Volume to determine the total amount and flow volume of water the design is required to clean. Compliance with these requirements ensures that each project filters the required amount of storm water contributed to the pubic drainage system and countywide pollutant concentrations comply with the NPDES permit. Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant cumulative impact on the environment from water pollution.

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

Since the project is consistent with the Air Quality Management Plan, Master Plan of Drainage, and the National Pollution Distribution Elimination Permit, and the City's traffic model indicates that all intersections affected by the project will operate at Level of Service "C" at buildout of the current General Plan, and mitigation measures will apply to the project to render cumulative effects less than considerable, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

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

Significant impacts to air quality, hydrology and significant impacts from hazardous materials, geologic conditions and noise have the potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. Based on the answers to questions II. a), b), c), and d), the project would not have a significant impact due to pollution, consistency with the Air Quality Management Plan, exposure of sensitive receptors to significant pollution concentrations, or odors. Based on the answers to questions VII. a), b), d), e), and f), the project would not have a significant impact due to erosion, flooding, and polluted runoff. Based on the answers to questions VI. A), b), c), d), the project would not have a significant impact due to the use or transport of hazardous materials, accidental release of hazardous materials, release of hazardous materials within a quarter mile of a school, or development on a hazardous materials site. Based on the answers to questions V. a) i), ii), and iii), the project would not have a significant impact due to surface rupture, seismic ground failure, or landslides. Based on the answers to questions X. a), b), and c), the project would not have a significant impact on the environment due to the exposure of persons to noise levels in excess of standards established in the General Plan, the increase of ambient noise by 10 dB (A), or a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels.

Therefore, there would be no potential for a significant impact to the environment from effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

XVII. REFERENCES USED IN RESPONDING TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE INCLUDE:

1. RRM Design Group, Arroyo Simi Greenway Specific Plan Administrative Draft, October 23, 2009.
2. City of Simi Valley, Zoning Ordinance, Title 9 of the City of Simi Valley Municipal Code.
3. Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Ventura County Air Quality Assessment Guidelines, 2003.
4. South Coast Wildlands, South Coast Missing Linkages Project: A Linkage Design for the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Connection, 2006.
5. LSA, Final Wildlife Corridor Assessment Report, Ventura State Route 118, May 27, 2004.
6. California Department of Conservation: Division of Mines and Geology, State of California Earthquake Fault Zones: Simi Valley East Quadrangle, May 1, 1999.
7. California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Survey, State of California Seismic Hazard Zones, Simi Valley East Quadrangle, April 7, 1997.
8. City of Simi Valley, General Plan, Resolution No. 88-142, October 18, 1988.
9. 2007 California Building Code, California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 2, Volume 1.
10. California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program Database, March 1, 2006.
11. Larry Walker and Associates, Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program: Technical Guidance Manual for Stormwater Quality Control Measures, July 2002.
12. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Community Panel Number 060421 0001-9 B, September 3, 1997.
13. Ventura County Flood Control District, Inundation Map for Las Llajas Dam, November 1999.
14. Calleguas Municipal Water District, Inundation Map for Bard Reservoir, July 1, 1973.
15. VTN West, Inc., A Report on Bard Reservoir and the Risk of Inundation Hazard with Respect to the Proposed Royal/Madera Specific Plan Area, September 1992.
16. California Division of Mines and Geology, Geology and Mineral Resources Study of Southern Ventura County, California, 1973.
17. California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas, District 2 Oil Fields Map, March 22, 2001.
18. California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas, Regional Wildcat Map, Map W2-1, June 12, 2001.
19. City of Simi Valley, City of Simi Valley Bicycle Master Plan, December 2008.
20. Hawk and Associates, City of Simi Valley, Master Plan of Drainage, December 1990.
21. Science Applications International Corporation, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center, Ventura County, California, September 27, 2002.
22. Cotton/Beland/Associates, Inc., Paleontologic Resource Assessment Overview, Simi Valley, Ventura County, California, 1986.
23. Program: Technical Guidance Manual for Stormwater Quality Control Measures, July 2002.
24. Brown and Caldwell Environmental Engineers & Consultants, Southern California Water Company: Water Supply Assessment for Simi Valley System, July 23, 2003.

XVIII. LIST BELOW THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO PREPARED OR PARTICIPATED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY.

Case Planner:	Tony Stewart
Environmental Planner:	Monica Dionne
Project Engineer:	Dick Clark
Traffic Engineer:	Chic Dabbs
Police Officer/Crime Prevention:	Jean-Marie Maroshek
Fire Prevention Officer:	Michele Krieg
Senior Planner:	Lauren Funaiole

Tierra Rejada Trailhead
plan view

a. POCKET PARKS

Sycamore Community Center Pocket Park
plan view

EXHIBIT 2

Darrah Volunteer Park Expansion
plan view

S-Curve Pocket Park
plan view