# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
# INITIAL STUDY

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has completed the following document for this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [Pub. Resources Code, div. 13, § 21000 et seq] and accompanying Guidelines [Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq].

| PROJECT TITLE:<br>Aerojet Chino Hills Corrective Action | | CALSTARS CODING:<br>22120, Site Code 400307 |
|---|---|---|
| PROJECT ADDRESS:<br>End of Woodview Road | CITY:<br>Chino Hills | COUNTY:<br>San Bernardino |
| PROJECT SPONSOR:<br>Aerojet Rocketdyne | CONTACT:<br>Scott Goulart | PHONE:<br>(916) 355-5454 |

APPROVAL ACTION UNDER CONSIDERATION BY DTSC:

☐ Initial Permit Issuance ☐ Permit Renewal ☐ Permit Modification ☐ Closure Plan
☐ Removal Action Workplan ☒ Remedial Action Plan ☐ Interim Removal ☐ Regulations
☐ Other (specify):

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

☒ California H&SC, Chap. 6.5 ☐ California H&SC, Chap. 6.8 ☐ Other (specify):

| DTSC PROGRAM/ ADDRESS:<br>Cleanup / 5796 Corporate Ave, Cypress | CONTACT:<br>Robert Romero | PHONE:<br>(714) 484-5316 |
|---|---|---|

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The project proposes remedial actions at Aerojet Rocketdyne's former Chino Hills, California, facility (Facility) (Figure 1, Property Location Map, Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015). The Facility began operations in 1954 as a small ordnance-testing facility. Beginning around 1974, operations primarily involved research, development, assembly, and testing of high-explosive incendiary (HEI) projectiles, armor-piercing incendiary (API) projectiles composed in part of depleted uranium, and fuzes (devices designed to initiate detonation of ordnance). Aerojet Rocketdyne (AR) has been working to complete the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) and implementing Corrective Measures (CMs) at the Facility. This work has been conducted pursuant to the 1994 Corrective Action Administrative Agreement on Consent (Consent Agreement) between the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and Aerojet (DTSC, 1994) and January 5, 2001 modification. One of the primary objectives of the work has been to locate and remove unexploded ordnance (UXO) and ordnance and explosive (OE) components from the AR property and associated surrounding properties (Project Area). The UXO/OE is collectively referred to as munitions and explosives of concern (MEC).

Through the RFI/CM process, significant MEC locating and removal activities have been implemented pursuant to DTSC-approved scopes of work and related project plans. AR has been undertaking the RFI/CMs under the oversight of DTSC. A Geophysical Prove Out (GPO) Study and Report (Geomatrix, 2005) and updated Conceptual Site Model (CSM) (AMEC, 2012), identified constraints and limitations of the CM technologies which may not allow for locating and removing all MEC items from the Project Area. Thus, a low probability of encountering residual MEC, may remain in the Project Area, following completion of removal activities. Corrective Measures would be implemented to address residual MEC and to allow for appropriate reuse(s) of the Facility.

To facilitate development of goals and objectives for management of residual MEC, the Project Area was subdivided into four Management Areas (MAs) based on various factors that could influence the selection and evaluation of appropriate CMs for residual MEC (Figure 2, Property Plot Plan, Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015). In 2013, AMEC prepared the draft Corrective Measures Study for MEC (CMS) for MA 1 and MA 2, which were subsequently reviewed and approved by DTSC (Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015). MA 1 included AR property located outside the primary area of MEC impact (Administrative and controlled test areas) and MA 2 included surrounding adjacent properties located outside the primary area of MEC impact (Figure 3; Area and

Management Unit Designations, Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015). The primary objective of the CMS was to identify and evaluate appropriate CMs for known or suspected residual MEC. The proper implementation of CMs would allow for safe reuse while protecting human health and the environment on portions of the Facility and surrounding properties. The recommended CMs for MA 1 allowing for unrestricted use include additional surface or subsurface locating and removal activities, as well as excavation of potential MEC-containing soil. The Administration Area in MA 1 was subdivided into seven Subunits based on the likelihood of residual MEC. As noted on Figure 8 from the CMS for MA 1 (Figure 8, Administrative Area Subunit Designations, Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015), additional surface or subsurface MEC locating and removal activities would be conducted in Subunits 4 and 6, and excavation of potential MEC-containing soil would be conducted in the Ordnance Fuze Test Unit/Area West of HEI Pond and Area 10 (hereafter referred to as the project site). Construction support was recommended in Subunits 3, 5, and 7, while no further action was recommended for Subunits 1 and 2. No CMs are necessary for MA 2 because clean closure was recommended.

Surface and subsurface MEC locating activities would consist of using analog or digital geophysical detection equipment to evaluate portions of the project site with potential residual MEC. All detected anomalies would be investigated by qualified Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) staff who would subsequently remove MEC or MEC-like materials from the investigation area (see below). Excavation of potential MEC-containing soil (approximately 14,600 cubic yards) will utilize common earthmoving equipment (e.g. scraper, water truck, excavator, bulldozer, dump truck) to remove shallow alluvial materials (estimate 1 to 4 feet deep) exposing undisturbed native bedrock. Construction best management practice (BMP) controls would be placed in and around disturbed areas to minimize potential movement of eroded sediment. Excavated soil would remain at the Facility and be transported to a temporary holding area located in Test Range 1C. Construction support is likely to include use of EOD staff to observe disturbed areas for MEC and ensure that construction personnel follow appropriate safety precautions. Clean closure entails use of MEC removal and containment activities to ensure that the site is suitable for unrestricted use. Excavation of individual items could be as small as 1 cubic foot.

Recovered MEC items would be managed and treated following methods and protocols previously implemented in the Project Area. MEC items determined safe by EOD staff for transport would be secured in permitted bunkers/magazines at the Facility pending disposition. Once CMs are complete or sufficient quantities of stored MEC are reached, MEC would be evaluated for proper offsite management or treated (destroyed) at the Facility using consolidated or contained detonations. During previous MEC removal activities, recovered items were destroyed in Area 16 by placing them in shallow pits surrounded by donor explosives, then covering the pits with soil and detonating the explosives (shot). Because each shot was limited to 10 pounds of net explosives, affected soil and dust generated from the shot was confined to the detonation area. Subsequently, EOD staff inspected the area before setting up a new shot. In addition, some MEC was transported offsite for thermal treatment. Sensitive MEC items located in the field and determined by EOD staff to be unsafe for transport would be blown in place (BIP). Because MEC removal activities have already been completed in the Project Area and the CMs described herein are to address concern of residual MEC, it is anticipated that only a limited number of MEC items, if any, would be located in the project site. Thus, detonation activities should be completed at the Facility in one day or alternatively MEC items removed from the AR property for offsite destruction in one truck. All shot areas will be inspected and cleared by EOD staff, and the topography of the areas will be restored to match surrounding natural areas. The selected MEC management option would depend on safety, scale of project, logistics, and cost-effectiveness. MEC removals may also include independent third-party Quality Assurance (QA) oversight to document and verify the quality of the MEC locating and removal activities, as specified within a DTSC-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan. This service would be provided by, or on behalf of, DTSC. The QA-related activities would be conducted in a planned and controlled manner. The third-party QA oversight would validate that any MEC removal response action was completed in accordance with the project goals, objectives and support property reuse plans.

Project remedial activities are expected to begin in fall 2016 and continue for one month.

After the project is complete, portions of the Project Area (MAs 1 and 2) would be cleared by DTSC and available for future reuse. This future reuse is currently unknown and is, therefore, not included in this evaluation. Any and all future uses will be permitted and approved by the City of Chino Hills at some time in the future as a separate action. Additional remediation activities are expected for the other areas of the former AR facility, as well as portions of the surrounding area.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS:

## 1. Aesthetics

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The Facility is located in an area with gently to moderately sloping, rolling terrain and steep canyon walls. The site is open grasslands and oak forest lands, interspersed with abandoned structures dating back to the World War II era. Portions of the Facility are visible from the residential area to the west and the farm to the east. The site is also visible to recreational users at the Chino Hills State Park (State Park) situated south of the site.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.

Impact Analysis:

Although portions of the Chino Hills State Park and City of Chino Hills are visible from higher ridge tops in the Facility, the project site is not located in close proximity to a scenic vista. The project site is located within the former Administration Area of the Facility and is out of view from neighboring developments and the public in the City of Chino Hills; therefore, construction is not expected to have any adverse effect on a scenic vista.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

The project site is not located in proximity to a state scenic highway that contains scenic resources.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

Impact Analysis:

MAs 1 and 2 consist of the northern and southern portions of the former AR facility and several adjacent properties (Figure 3; Area and Management Unit Designations, Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015). The majority of the AR property and other surrounding properties remain undeveloped and access to these areas is restricted at the Facility entrance. The undeveloped areas consist of open grasslands, sage scrub/mixed chaparral, and woodlands in rolling hills and canyons. Portions of the Administration Area in MA 1 were developed in the 1950s for use during facility operations; however, these buildings are currently vacant and have been for some time. Multiple unoccupied buildings and numerous roadways are present in the Administration Area. The adjacent Vellano development is located west and north of the Administration Area (Figure 1; Property Location Map, Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015). It consists of single-family residences, a golf course, and clubhouse. Some portions of the Facility are visible from the Vellano

development; however, the project site is not visible to residences at the Vellano development or City of Chino Hills. The Administration Area of the Facility, including areas adjacent to the Vellano development, is surrounded by cyclone-type security fencing to prohibit unauthorized access to the Facility.

The topography generally consists of gently to moderately sloping, rolling terrain and steep canyon slopes (i.e., hills and canyons) within the City of Chino Hills. In order to maintain the natural features of Chino Hills' ridgelines, the City of Chino Hills Municipal Code contains General Design Regulations intended to protect ridgelines in Chino Hills. The code designates Exceptionally Prominent and Prominent Ridgelines, both of which are present in the Project Area. An Exceptionally Prominent Ridgeline is located south and east of the AR facility, along and near the boundary to the State Park. Several Prominent Ridgelines are located within the AR facility, including one within MA 1 (Figure 8; Administrative Area Subunit Designations, Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015). However, implementation of proposed CMs would not disturb these ridgelines, including the ridgeline in MA 1.

The project site is located within the previously disturbed/developed portions of the Administration Area. The proposed CMs include excavating and removing the upper 1 to 4 feet of loose topsoil down to bedrock that could potentially contain MEC. This remedial action is not expected to adversely affect the visual quality of the site or surrounding area. The exposed undisturbed native bedrock would remain in place. BMP features will be installed around excavated areas to minimize potential movement of eroded sediment during storm events and, thus, avoid any unsightly change to the visual character.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Impact Analysis:

No full-time AR employees are currently present at the AR property and only three buildings have electrical power. The Facility is under surveillance 24 hours per day, 7 days a week (including holidays). The majority of the AR property and other surrounding properties remain undeveloped and are not a source of light or glare. Therefore, minimal sources of light exist at the Facility, including the project site. However, the adjacent Vellano development provides residential sources of light to the north and west of the project site. No activities are planned that would generate additional light.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

*Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2015 Corrective Measures Study for Munitions and Explosives of Concern, Management Area 1.*
*The City of Chino Hills Municipal Code Title 16, Chapter 16.08.*

## 2. Agricultural Resources

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The Facility site is not currently used for agriculture, nor has it been used for agriculture for over 70 years. The properties to the east are currently used for pasture and grasslands, as well as an avocado orchard.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use.

   Impact Analysis:

   The majority of the AR property, including the project site and the adjacent Vellano development, are zoned Rural Residential. The other surrounding properties and eastern portion of the AR property (formerly known as the McDermont property), are zoned Agriculture/Ranches and are not under Williamson Act contract. The adjacent Hozen property is currently used for pasture, avocado trees, and grassland. The owners of the adjacent property have an access easement across the AR property and the proposed action will be implemented so as not to interfere with access to the adjacent property or the owner's agricultural use of the property.

   Conclusion:
   ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
   ☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
   ☐ Less Than Significant Impact
   ☒ No Impact

b. Conflict with existing zoning or agriculture use, or Williamson Act contract.

   Impact Analysis:

   The majority of the AR property, including the project site and the adjacent Vellano development, are zoned Rural Residential. The other surrounding properties and eastern portion of the AR property (formerly known as the McDermont property), are zoned Agriculture/Ranches and are not under Williamson Act contract. The adjacent Hozen property is currently used for pasture, avocado trees, and grassland. The owners of the adjacent property have an access easement across the AR property and the proposed action will be implemented so as not to interfere with access to the adjacent property or the owner's agricultural use of the property.

   Conclusion:
   ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
   ☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
   ☐ Less Than Significant Impact
   ☒ No Impact

c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural uses.

   Impact Analysis:

   Implementation of the proposed project would not result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses and access to the adjacent agricultural property will be maintained.

   Conclusion:
   ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
   ☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
   ☐ Less Than Significant Impact
   ☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

*City of Chino Hills General Plan Land Use*
*Farm Land Mapping and Monitoring Program*
*Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2015 Corrective Measures Study for Munitions and Explosives of Concern, Management Area 1.*

## 3. Air Quality

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The project site is located in the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The part of the Basin within which Chino Hills is located is nonattainment for both federal and state standards for ozone, PM10, and PM2.5, as well as the state standard for nitrogen dioxide. Because the Facility is currently vacant and unused, air emissions associated with the site are minimal.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

Impact Analysis:

As detailed below, construction of the proposed project would generate less than significant air emissions for a short time and these activities are not expected to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan for the air district.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

The project includes excavation of approximately 14,600 cubic yards (yd3) of potential MEC-containing soil (13,000 yd3 from the Ordnance Fuze Test Unit/Area West of HEI Pond and 1,600 yd3 from Area 10) and transport to a temporary holding area (Area 1C) located in the central portion of the Facility. This would require the use of scrapers, water truck, excavator, and a crawler tractor (bulldozer) over a 16-day period as noted below:

- Project site Preparation - crawler tractor for 2 days;
- Excavation of Ordnance Fuze Test Unit/Area West of HEI Pond – 3 scrapers, crawler tractor, and water truck for 10 days;
- Excavation of Area 10 – 3 scrapers, crawler tractor, excavator, and water truck for 2 days.
- Equipment demobilization and project site restoration (BMP installation and restoration depending on City of Chino Hills grading permit requirements, as appropriate) for 2 day.

Alternatively, dump trucks loaded by excavator could be used to transport materials to Area 1C. Table 1 below shows the daily emissions as well as the SCAQMD significance thresholds for construction emissions:

Table 1 Project Emissions (lbs/day) and SCAQMD Standards

| | ROG | CO | NOx | SOx | PM10 | PM2.5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Project Emissions | 4.81 | 34.97 | 59.47 | 0.05 | 2.52 | 2.32 |
| Threshold | 75.00 | 550.00 | 100.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 55.00 |

Project emissions would not exceed the significance thresholds for any priority pollutants.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

c. Result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors).

Impact Analysis:

The part of the Basin within which Chino Hills is located is nonattainment for both federal and state standards for ozone, PM10, and PM2.5, as well as the state standard for nitrogen dioxide. As shown on Table 1 above, implementation of the proposed project would result in a minor, temporary increase in criteria pollutants for which the region is in non-attainment; however, this increase would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in air pollution.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Impact Analysis:

Table 1 provides a summary of applicable threshold air emission calculations. The emission factors, equipment horsepower (HP), and load values were taken from the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) Users Manual, Appendix D, Default data tables, Tables 3.3 and 3.4 (dated September 2013). As noted on Table 1, implementation of CMs would not result in exceedance of any of the applicable construction emission thresholds. The project is not expected to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The nearest receptors to the project site are residents in the adjacent Vellano development, the nearest of whom is located at least 340 feet from the AR property boundary, and there are no known sensitive receptors (such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes or day care facilities) within one-quarter mile of the Facility. Sensitive receptors will not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations from implementation of the proposed project.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

Impact Analysis:

In the event that MEC is found requiring onsite detonation, the items would be destroyed in Area 16 following procedures described in previous sections. Experience has shown that properly conducted MEC detonations do not generate objectionable odors. In addition, detonations in Area 16, if necessary, would be limited and completed in one day, and take place a considerable distance from the nearest residences.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

f. Result in human exposure to Naturally Occurring Asbestos.

Impact Analysis:

According to the California Geological Survey, the project site is not a source of Naturally Occurring Asbestos.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

*References Used*:

California Air Resources Board, Area Designations Maps/State and National, May 2012.
California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) Users Manual, Appendix D, Default data tables, Tables 3.3 and 3.4 (dated September 2013).
South Coast Air Quality Management District Air Quality Analysis Handbook.
California Geological Survey,
http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/hazardous_minerals/asbestos/Pages/index.aspx.

## 4. Biological Resources

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The majority of the AR property and other surrounding properties remain undeveloped, and human access to these areas is restricted at the Facility entrance. The undeveloped areas consist of open grasslands, sage scrub/mixed chaparral, and woodlands in rolling hills and canyons. Soquel Canyon Creek bisected by the drains the site and the surrounding area. These areas provide a large quantity of natural habitat opportunities for wildlife. The State Park located south of the site provides additional wildlife habitat.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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

   Impact Analysis:

   This project does not involve nor result in any significant change to any animal life or animal habitat. In 1995, Jones & Stokes Associates conducted a biological survey of the Project Area (including MAs 1 and 2). The California black walnut (Juglans californica var. californica) was the only special-status plant species observed during the survey, and the San Diego horned lizard was the only special-status wildlife species observed.

   A 2014 search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) of the project site did not identify any sensitive or special status species within the project footprint. However, the search identified the presence of the least Bell's vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus) within a 1 mile buffer of the project site. A search of the USFWS database identified the presence of California gnatcatcher (Polioptila california) to the east of the project site outside the project footprint but within the 1 mile project buffer. Given the limited scope of the project and limited duration, construction is expected to have a less than significant impact to wildlife or special status species.

   Conclusion:
   ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
   ☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
   ☒ Less Than Significant Impact
   ☐ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

This project will not significantly affect or alter any surface water body (including Soquel Canyon Creek), riparian habitat, or groundwater. The bedrock underlying the Facility is sedimentary rock with low permeability characteristics. The strata comprising the bedrock are generally thin and discontinuous and arc approximately 0.5 to 20 feet thick. These bedrock characteristics cause the majority of the precipitation occurring at the Facility to drain away as surface water runoff rather than infiltrating into the bedrock. The project site contains three primary vegetation habitats: grasslands, sage scrub/mixed chaparral, and woodlands. Specifically, the vegetation communities of Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Woodlands (CLOW) and Walnut Woodlands (WW) were observed in MA 1.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ 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.

Impact Analysis:

A portion of Soquel Canyon Creek may extend into the southern end of the Administration Area (MA 1). It may contain wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, this portion of the Soquel Canyon Creek is located approximately 275 feet south of the nearest work area (Area 10 shown on Figure 8) and would not be disturbed during implementation of CMs in the project area. BMPs will be installed around work areas to minimize potential movement of eroded sediments and entering the creek.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

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.

Impact Analysis:

Portions of the Facility are located adjacent to the Chino Hills State Park. As shown on Figure 3, the State Park is located approximately 1,300 feet from the eastern facility boundary and the State Park abuts the southern facility property boundary. Species may use the AR property when crossing through barbed wire fences around the State Park. The cyclone-type security fencing surrounding the Administration Area, located approximately 4,400 feet from the nearest State Park boundary (Figure 3, Area and Management Unit Designations, Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015), may inhibit movement of some species through this portion of the property.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

e. Conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

Impact Analysis:

The City of Chino Hills has a Tree Preservation policy that is intended to preserve and protect certain species of trees and certain mature trees within the City of Chino Hills. The following specific native trees must be protected, if they are at least four inches in diameter or greater at breast height (DBH; defined as four feet six inches above the finish grade):

- California Sycamore;
- California Live Oak;
- California Black Walnut; and
- Coastal Scrub Oak.

This regulation also covers heritage trees. A heritage tree includes any species of tree (excluding invasive trees or trees susceptible to breaking or falling) having a cumulative diameter of forty-four inches or greater at DBH, and of significant age, health, and quality to be deemed valuable to the aesthetics of the community by a certified arborist.

Implementation of CMs are not anticipated to impact or disturb any trees in the project site, including heritage trees.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

No adopted conservation plans are present at the project site; implementation of the proposed remedial actions would not affect any approved habitat conservation plan.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

The City of Chino Hills Municipal Code Title 16, Chapter 16.90.
Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2015 Corrective Measures Study for Munitions and Explosives of Concern, Management Area 1.

## 5. Cultural Resources

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

A record search was conducted for the proposed project site and within a one-mile buffer. These results of this search found no known historical resources present at the project site, although historic resources were identified within the one-mile buffer. The majority of the identified historic areas were located west of the project site, although a few areas were identified south of the project site in the Chino Hills State Park. These historic resources consisted of a cattle watering station, steel waterline pipes, an electrical line right of way, a historic period road, and remnants of a large home to include an outhouse well, carved stone and wagon road. One area was identified east of the project site, the McDermont Ranch which was identified as a 1920s era ranch. It was destroyed during a brush fire in 2009.

Outreach to the Tribes identified by the Native American Historic Commission as potentially interested in the site did not yield any interest nor did it generate any additional cultural or historic information about the site.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5.

Impact Analysis:

Because of the limited scope of the proposed project and the absence of currently identified historic resources within the area to be excavated, implementation of the proposed project is not expected to result in any impact to any historic resource.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to 15064.5.

Impact Analysis:

A record search was conducted of the proposed project site and within a one-mile buffer. No archaeological resources were present within the project site. Prehistoric and historic archaeological resources were found within the one-mile buffer area. These areas were generally located to the south and west of the project site including the State Park. The archeological resource areas were shown to contain a variety of artifacts including mano fragments, metate fragments, pestles, and lithic scatter including flakes and cores. Because there exists a potential for an inadvertent discovery of an archaeological resource during construction activities, implementation of the proposed project may result in an impact to archaeological resources that is deemed less than significant.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

Impact Analysis:

Within the City of Chino Hills, two geological formations are present. The older of the two is the Monterey formation which is from the middle Miocene. The younger of the two, the Puente formation, is from the late Miocene. Pleistocene age alluvium is also present. Known unique paleontological resources may be present at the Facility or in close proximity to the project site. The resources consist of Miocene and Pleistocene fossils. Miocene fossils represent the time period when the area of Chino Hills was the ocean floor and may include many kinds of marine life and leaves from terrestrial plants that were washed into the ocean by streams and rivers. Given these types of formations, there is a potential for paleontological resources to be present at the project site.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Impact Analysis:

No human remains have been identified within or in close proximity to the project site. If human remains are inadvertently discovered during construction activities, the construction manager will implement standard protocols for

handling these remains in an appropriate manner. This protocol includes stopping work within 75 feet of the discovery and notifying the County Coroner and State Historic Preservation Officer. These officials would determine the proper deposition of the body, implement all necessary measures to notify the nearest likely decedents, and obtain any appropriate cultural data associated with the burial site.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

*References Used:*

City of Chino Hills General Plan, 1994.
Geological Survey Professional Paper 420-B, 1964.
Native American Heritage Commission Response Letter, September 2014.
Archaeological Information Center, September 2014.

## 6. Geology and Soils

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

Top soil at the site is shallow alluvium that extends to a depth of between 0.5 to 4 feet. This top soil is underlain by sedimentary bedrock with low permeability characteristics. The strata comprising the bedrock are generally thin and discontinuous and are approximately 0.5 to 20 feet thick. These bedrock characteristics cause the majority of the precipitation occurring at the Facility to drain away as surface water runoff rather than infiltrating into the bedrock.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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

❖ 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).

❖ Strong seismic ground shaking.

❖ Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

❖ Landslides.

Impact Analysis:

The project site is located in proximity to two known earthquake faults as delineated on the most recent Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map. One fault is located to the northeast of the project site, west of State Route 71. The second fault runs southwest of the project site and is located just south of the Chino Hills State Park. Because proposed CM activities are limited in scope and would not extend to a depth greater than four feet, these activities have no potential to rupture a fault or cause seismic disturbances.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

No known expansive soils were located in the project site during previous site assessment activities. The project site has already been disturbed and removal of shallow alluvium will expose native bedrock.

Impact Analysis:

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

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.

Impact Analysis:

No known expansive soils were located in the project site during previous site assessment activities. The project site has already been disturbed and removal of shallow alluvium will expose native bedrock.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

No known expansive soils were located in the project site during previous site assessment activities. The project site has already been disturbed and removal of shallow alluvium will expose native bedrock.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

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.

Impact Analysis:

The project does not require the disposal of wastewater and would not affect any septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

California Geological Survey, http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/WH/regulatorymaps.htm.
Geological Survey Professional Paper 420-B, 1964.
Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2015 Corrective Measures Study for Munitions and Explosives of Concern, Management Area 1.
AMEC Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2012 Updated Conceptual Site Model for Munitions and Explosives of Concern.

## 7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The project site is located in the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), which regulates emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHG). Because the Facility is currently vacant and unused, GHG emissions associated with the site are minimal.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.

Impact Analysis:

The project includes excavation of approximately 14,600 cubic yards (yd3) of potential MEC-containing soil (13,000 yd3 from the Ordnance Fuze Test Unit/Area West of HEI Pond and 1,600 yd3 from Area 10) and transport to a temporary holding area (Area 1C) located in the central portion of the Facility pending final determination (part of future MA 3 evaluation). MEC detonation operations, if any, would use a limited amount of explosive (anticipated to be less than 10 pounds) and thus is not considered a source of GHG. The proposed project would require the use of scrapers, water truck, excavator, and a crawler tractor (bulldozer) over a 16-day period as noted below:

- Project site preparation - crawler tractor for 2 days;
- Excavation of Ordnance Fuze Test Unit/Area west of HEI Pond – 3 scrapers, crawler tractor, and water truck for 10 days;
- Excavation of Area 10 – 3 scrapers, crawler tractor, excavator, and water truck for 2 days.

Alternatively, dump trucks loaded by excavator could be used to transport materials to Area 1C.

The current SCAQMD threshold standard for GHG emissions from industrial facilities is 10,000 metric tons per year (MT/yr) of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO2e). An analysis of GHG emissions using the CalEEMod model found that expected GHG emissions associated with implementation of CMs in MA 1 would be less than 40 tons of CO2e (CO2 and CH4). Implementation of the proposed CMs would generate a less than significant increase in GHG emissions.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Impact Analysis:

In 2014, the San Bernardino Association of Governments adopted the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. The City of Chino Hills is a member of this Association. The Reduction Plan summarizes the actions that each city has selected in order to reduce GHG emissions, state-mandated actions, GHG emissions avoided in 2020 associated with each local and state action, and each city's predicted progress towards its selected GHG reduction goal. This Reduction Plan is intended as a foundation on which the Partnership cities can develop individual city-specific Climate Action Plans (CAPs) to be adopted and enacted according to their own internal procedures. The City of Chino Hills is included in the overall Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. At this time, the City of Chino Hills has not adopted a specific CAP. Thus, the thresholds of significance for GHG are based on the 2014 CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. No specific mitigation measures have been identified in the adopted Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

*References Used:*

San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan 2014.
California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMOD) Users Manual, Appendix D, Default data tables, Tables 3.3 and 3.4 (dated September 2013).
South Coast Air Quality Management District Air Quality Significance Thresholds, 2015.
2014 CEQA Guidelines Appendix G.

## 8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The Aerojet Rocketdyne former Chino Hills facility began operations in 1954 as a small ordnance-testing facility. Beginning around 1974, operations primarily involved research, development, assembly, and testing of HEI projectiles and API projectiles composed in part of depleted uranium, and fuzes. AR is in the process of remediating the Facility under RCRA. One of the primary objectives of the work has been to locate and remove MEC. Through the RFI/CM process, significant MEC locating and removal activities have been implemented pursuant to DTSC-approved scopes of work and related project plans. Some items (residual MEC) potentially may remain in the Project Area following completion of removal activities and the currently proposed CMs are intended to address residual MEC.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment throughout the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials.

   Impact Analysis:

   The project proposes CMs for residual MEC at MA 1 of the closed AR facility. Suspect MEC-containing soil will be transported to a temporary holding area (Area 1C) located in the central portion of the Facility. Any residual MEC recovered and removed from the project site will either be destroyed at the Facility or will be moved to another offsite location for destruction if safe to transport.

   Conclusion:
   ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
   ☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
   ☒ Less Than Significant Impact
   ☐ No Impact

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.

Impact Analysis:

In 1999, DTSC prepared a CEQA Initial Study for implementing CMs at various Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and Areas of Concern (AOC) identified in the AR Project Area to address hazardous substance, including MEC, detected in soil above human health-based cleanup levels. DTSC determined that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment and prepared a CEQA Negative Declaration. The CMs were implemented without upset or accident conditions that involved the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Similar CMs will now be implemented in MA 1 where there is only a concern of residual MEC.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ 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.

Impact Analysis:

The CMs for residual MEC at MA 1 involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials. No schools, hospitals, nursing homes or day care facilities are within one-quarter mile of the project site. The Vellano golf course is located approximately 500 feet to the west of the project site; however, no residential houses are located within one-quarter mile of the Ordnance Fuze Test Unit/Area West of HEI Pond or Area 10 where excavation of potential MEC-containing soil would occur.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

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 public or the environment.

Impact Analysis:

The Facility is not included on the Cortese list. It is undergoing corrective action pursuant to a Consent Agreement with DTSC, Site number 800001476; the Facility RCRA EPA ID number is CAD981457302.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

e. Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

Impact Analysis:

No adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan would be required during proposed project implementation. Pursuant to the Consent Agreement, AR is authorized to detonate MEC discovered during ordnance investigation activities performed as part of the corrective action and an emergency detonation permit is not needed. MEC management and destruction processes established with DTSC during implementation of previous MEC locating and removal activities would continue to be implemented for the proposed activities. AR will notify DTSC at least one

week in advance of any detonation (except for a BIP). If an ordnance item is to be BIP'd, AR will notify DTSC as soon as possible and shall provide an opportunity for a DTSC representative to be present to witness the detonation.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

*References Used:*

*Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2015 Corrective Measures Study for Munitions and Explosives of Concern, Management Area 1.*
*AMEC Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2012 Updated Conceptual Site Model for Munitions and Explosives of Concern.*

## 9. Hydrology and Water Quality

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

Soquel Canyon Creek is the main drainage feature within the project area and is mapped within the project site as an intermittent stream.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

Impact Analysis:

Because the project does not involve any groundwater or surface water investigation or remediation, there is no anticipated water quality standard associated with the project. However, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will need to be submitted to the State Water Board because the proposed area of excavation exceeds one acre. The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board would be responsible for project oversight involving water waste discharge. However, as noted above wastewater is not expected to be generated during implementation of CMs in MA 1.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

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).

Impact Analysis:

The Facility is not located over a known groundwater aquifer and the project does not require the extraction or recharge of groundwater.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site.

Impact Analysis:

Several drainage features within the Project Area, including Soquel Canyon Creek, are designated as blue line streams on the U.S. Geological Survey map (Soquel Canyon Creek near the project site is mapped as an intermittent stream). The CMs involve locating residual MEC within the project site and removing potential MEC-containing soil. The CMs would not involve the discharge of any water to these drainage features. The SWPPP would describe appropriate best management practices (BMPs) to be installed around disturbed area to minimize potential movement of eroded sediment from the project site into Soquel Canyon Creek drainage. Other measures may be implemented depending to grading permit requirements, as appropriate.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site.

Impact Analysis:

Several drainage features within the Project Area, including Soquel Canyon Creek, are designated as blue line streams on the U.S. Geological Survey map (Soquel Canyon Creek near the project site is mapped as an intermittent stream). The CMs involve locating residual MEC within the project site and removing potential MEC-containing soil. The CMs would not involve the discharge of any water to these drainage features. The SWPPP would describe appropriate BMPs to be installed around disturbed area to minimize potential movement of eroded sediment from the project site into Soquel Canyon Creek drainage. Other measures may be implemented depending to grading permit requirements, as appropriate.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

Impact Analysis:

Because the project does not involve addition of any impervious surface, the proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water that could exceed the capacity of any existing or planned stormwater drainage system. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will need to be submitted to the State Water Board because the proposed area of excavation exceeds one acre. The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board will also provide project oversight to ensure that wastewater discharge does not contribute polluted runoff.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality.

Impact Analysis:

Because the project does not involve any groundwater or surface water investigation or remediation, there is no anticipated water quality standard associated with the project. A SWPPP will, however, need to be submitted to the State Water Board because the proposed area of excavation exceeds one acre. The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board would be responsible for project oversight involving water waste discharge.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

g. Place within a 100-flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows.

Impact Analysis:

According to the FEMA FIRM map, the project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

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.

Impact Analysis:

According to the FEMA FIRM map, the project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area and there are no dams or levees in the area.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

i. Inundation by sieche, tsunami or mudflow.

Impact Analysis:

The project site is not located near an inland body of water and would not be subject to a sieche. The project is located approximately 50 miles from the Pacific Ocean and is not subject to inundation by a tsunami. The topography of the project site generally consists of gently to moderately sloping, rolling terrain and steep canyon slopes (i.e., hills and canyons) within Chino Hills. Mudflows could occur if enough rain were to create optimal conditions for a mudflow event.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2015 Corrective Measures Study for Munitions and Explosives of Concern, Management Area 1.
AMEC Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2012 Updated Conceptual Site Model for Munitions and Explosives of Concern.
FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel 9330H.

U.S. Geological Survey, Streamstats, 2014.

## 10. Land Use and Planning

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact: NONE

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

Although the site is zoned for Rural Residential uses, the site is currently unused. Implementation of the proposed project would not affect either land use or planning.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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

   Impact Analysis:

   The Project Area is located in the City of Chino Hills. According to the City's General Plan, the AR property and surrounding properties are currently zoned as Rural Residential or Agriculture/Ranch. Implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation regarding land use.

   The City of Chino Hills Municipal Code contains General Design Regulations intended to protect ridgelines in Chino Hills. Two types of ridgelines have been designated:

   - Exceptionally Prominent Ridgelines; and
   - Prominent Ridgelines.

   The Project Area includes both Exceptionally Prominent and Prominent Ridgelines; however, the proposed CMs are outside the ridgeline areas and implementation is not expected to disturb these ridgelines.

   Conclusion:
   ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
   ☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
   ☐ Less Than Significant Impact
   ☒ No Impact

b. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

   Impact Analysis:

   No applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan was identified for the AR facility. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would have jurisdiction over the project. The proposed CM involves minor excavation and regrading, and does not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

   Conclusion:
   ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
   ☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
   ☐ Less Than Significant Impact
   ☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

*The City of Chino Hills Municipal Code Title 16, Chapter 16.08.*
*Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2015 Corrective Measures Study for Munitions and Explosives of Concern, Management Area 1.*

## 11. Mineral Resources

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact: NONE

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The site and surrounding areas are not used for mineral extraction, although the property immediately east of the site is an active oil field.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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.

   Impact Analysis:

   The project includes shallow excavation of topsoil, but no mineral resources will be used. The potential for mineral exploitation in the region, if any, would not be affected by implementation of the proposed project.

   Conclusion:
   ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
   ☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
   ☐ Less Than Significant Impact
   ☒ No Impact

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.

   Impact Analysis:

   According to the California Division of Mines and Geology, no significant mineral deposits are known to exist in Chino Hills; however, the project site is located approximately 0.3 miles west of an active oil field operated by Padre Oil (Figure 8; Administrative Area Subunit Designations, Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015). No mineral resources are located on or in proximity to the project site that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.

   Conclusion:
   ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
   ☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
   ☐ Less Than Significant Impact
   ☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

*City of Chino Hills General Plan, 1994.*
*California Division of Mines and Geology, Mineral Resources and Mineral Hazards Mapping Program (MRMHMP).*

## 12. Noise

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The Facility is currently vacant and unused and does not generate noise. The surrounding areas are either rural/open space (including golf courses and parks) or single-family residences on large suburban lots. There are no industrial sources of noise or traffic noise from freeways.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would 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, or applicable standards of other agencies.

Impact Analysis:

MEC locating and removal, including any additional surface or subsurface locating and removal activities and/or excavation of potential MEC-containing soil, may generate noise at the project site. The nearest residence, however, is located approximately one-quarter mile from the project site and thus construction noise levels are not anticipated to impact nearby residence. The proposed project would require the use of scrapers, water truck, excavator, and a crawler tractor (bulldozer) over a 16 day period as noted below:

- Project site Preparation - crawler tractor for 2 days;
- Excavation of Ordnance Fuze Test Unit/Area West of HEI Pond – 3 scrapers and water truck for 12 days;
- Excavation of Area 10 – 3 scrapers, excavator, and water truck for 2 days.

The following are the standard A-weighted, Maximum, Sound Level (Lmax levels) 50 feet from the loudest side of the equipment for the proposed equipment to be used at the project site:

Scraper – 85 dBA
Water Truck – 85 dBA
Crawler tractor (bulldozer) – 85 dBA
Excavator – 85 dBA

The following are the noise standards established by the City of Chino Hills:

1. The noise standards contained in Table N-1 “Noise/Land Use Compatibility Matrix” in the Noise Element of the General Plan shall apply to land uses citywide and shall be used to define acceptable and unacceptable noise levels.
2. No person shall operate or cause to be operated any source of sound at any location or allow the creation of any noise on property owned, leased, occupied or otherwise controlled by such person, which causes the noise level, when measured on any other property, either incorporated or unincorporated, to exceed:
3. The “Zone C” noise standard for that receiving land use specified in Table N-1 of the General Plan Noise Element for a cumulative period of more than thirty (30) minutes in any hour; or
a. The noise standard plus 5 dBA for a cumulative period of more than five minutes in any hour; or
b. The noise standard plus 10 dBA for a cumulative period of more than five minutes in any hour; or
c. The noise standard plus 15 dBA for a cumulative period of more than one minute in any hour; or
d. The noise standard plus 20 dBA for any period of time.
4. If the measured ambient level exceeds any of the first four noise limit categories above, the allowable noise exposure standard shall be increased to reflect the ambient noise level. If the ambient noise level exceeds the fifth noise limit category, the maximum allowable noise level under this category shall be increased to reflect the maximum ambient noise level.
5. If the alleged offense consists entirely of impact noise or simple tone noise, each of the noise levels in subsection (B) (2) (a) of this section shall be reduced by 5 dBA.

Although the construction noise levels are not anticipated to impact nearby residences because of their distance from the subject site, construction activities will be limited to weekdays and daylight hours to minimize potential disturbance to surrounding neighbors in event noise travels further than anticipated.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundbourne vibration or groundbourne noise levels.

Impact Analysis:

The project should not generate noise excessive groundbourne vibration or groundbourne noise levels given the type of activity and distance to the closest potential receptor.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity above levels existing without the project.

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of the proposed CMs is a short-term activity that would not generate any permanent increase in ambient noise levels.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

Impact Analysis:

As stated above in response to question 12a, implementation of the CMs would generate a temporary increase in ambient noise, but the increase would not be substantial. Ambient noise at the project site is limited due to the rural nature of the area.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

*References Used:*

City of Chino Hills General Plan Noise Element, 1994.
Chino Hills Development Code Section 16.48.020B.
Federal Highways Administration Construction Noise Handbook.

## 13. Population and Housing

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact: NONE

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The Facility is currently vacant and does not provide any housing. The areas to the east and north of the Facility are used for single-family housing.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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

Impact Analysis:

The project proposes remediation activities at the former AR facility. It will not directly induce population growth in the area. However, the project may indirectly induce population growth in the area if future reuse includes residential

development of the AR property. All future uses would be done in compliance with local zoning codes and ordinances with approval from the City of Chino Hills.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Impact Analysis:

The project proposes remediation activities at the former AR facility and would not displace any existing housing because no housing exists on the project site.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Impact Analysis:

The project proposes remediation activities at the former AR facility and would not displace any residents. There are no full-time employees/workers or housing on the project site.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

City of Chino Hills General Plan, 1994.
City of Chino Hills Zoning Code, 2001.

## 14. Public Services

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact: NONE

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The Facility is currently served with electrical power and the Chino Valley Fire Station and the Chino Valley Police Department provide service to the Facility and surrounding areas. No other utilities or public services are currently provided or used at the site. No full time employees are currently present and the Facility is secured and AR provides 24/7 surveillance.

The AR property consists of the vacant former facility; therefore, the AR property currently generates no demand for school services to the project site or the facility. Chino Hills State Park (State Park) is located to the east and south of the project site. However, access across the project site to the State Park is currently not allowed due to safety concerns; therefore, the area of the State Park closest to the Facility is rarely used. Also, there are no hiking or bike trials present on the portion of the State Park located east of the AR property.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government 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 following public services:

- Fire protection
- Police protection
- Schools
- Parks
- Other public facilities

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of the CMs would result in a minor and temporary increase in the need for fire and police protection while workers are active on-site.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

*References Used:*

*Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Inc. 2015 Corrective Measures Study for Munitions and Explosives of Concern, Management Area 1.*
*AMEC Environment & Infrastructure Inc. 2012 Updated Conceptual Site Model for Munitions and Explosives of Concern.*
*Google Maps.*

## 15. Recreation

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact: NONE

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The AR site is closed to the public and undeveloped; therefore, the AR site does not provide any recreational opportunities, nor does it contribute to the demand for recreation. The surrounding areas provide recreational opportunities via the State Park, local public parks, and golf courses.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. 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.

Impact Analysis:

Although the AR property is a large expanse of open space, access is limited because of safety concerns and the property owner does not allow recreation of any type at the Facility. Implementation of the proposed CMs would not increase the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

b. Include recreational facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Impact Analysis:

The Chino Hills State Park (State Park) is located both east and south of the AR property (Figure 1). However, these areas of the State Park are remote and rarely used. No hiking or bike trials are present on the portion of the State Park located east of the AR property. There is no access to the State Park from the AR property. The Vellano development located north and west of the AR property (Figure 1) includes the Vellano Country Club and golf course, and two local parks (Overlook Park and Vellano Park) with recreation centers and outdoor tennis and basketball courts. A small hiking trail is present at the Vellano Park. Implementation of the CMs would not require construction or expansion of any recreational facility.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

*Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2015 Corrective Measures Study for Munitions and Explosives of Concern for Management Area 1.*
*AMEC Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2012 Updated Conceptual Site Model for Munitions and Explosives of Concern.*

## 16. Transportation and Traffic

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact:

- Soil excavation and regrading.
- Site restoration

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

The Facility currently generates minimal traffic onto the local roadways from security personnel or AR staff entering and exiting the site. The Facility has no measurable effect on the level of service (LOS) or roadway conditions.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections).

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of CMs is expected to have short-term and minimal impact on the existing transportation system. All work in the project site would be conducted on private roads. Minimal car trips (up to 10 vehicles for equipment operators and oversight personnel) would occur before and after each work day as workers enter and leave the project site over the estimated 16 day project duration. Transportation of earth moving equipment to and from the site could temporarily but not substantially affect the existing transportation system at and in the vicinity of the project site, specifically between Peyton Drive and Medlar Lane where construction traffic turns east onto Woodview Road to access the AR facility (Figure 1).

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the country congestion management agency for designated roads or highway.

Impact Analysis:

Following are the City of Chino Hills' performance standards for traffic:

- Achieve and maintain Level of Service "D" on all roadway links and at all roadway intersections, with the exception of intersections within 1/2-mile of State Route 71, where Level of Service "E" shall be maintained.
- Increase of 0.01 or more in the volume to capacity (V/C) ratio at a location that is projected to operate at LOS E or F without the project is considered a significant impact.

Implementation of CMs is expected to have short-term and minimal impact on the existing transportation system. All work in the project site would be conducted on private roads and would not have a measurable effect on LOS or roadway conditions.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

No hazards due to design features or incompatible uses of roads or highways exist in the vicinity of the site. However, heavy truck traffic to and from the Facility along Woodview Road may require safety briefing or possibly lead vehicle escort because of the winding and narrow nature of the road.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

d. Result in inadequate emergency access.

Impact Analysis:

Access to the project site is at the end of Woodview Road. Truck traffic and emergency vehicles can access the site through Woodview Road. No other route to the project site exists.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

e. Result in inadequate parking capacity.

Impact Analysis:

There is currently unlimited parking capacity at the Facility and project site; implementation of the proposed CMs would not affect parking capacity.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

No residents or full-time AR employees are currently present at the Facility, so no alternative transportation facilities exist at or within the vicinity of the AR property. The 2014 adopted San Bernardino Association of Governments Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (2014) supports the use of alternative transportation. Implementation of the proposed CMs would not affect any alternative transportation facilities.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

City of Chino Hills General Plan Circulation Element, 1994.

## 17. Utilities and Service Systems

Project Activities Likely to Create an Impact: NONE

Description of Baseline Environmental Conditions:

Besides electrical service, the Facility is not currently served by any other utilities or service systems.

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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

Impact Analysis:

The project proposes remediation activities at MA 1 of the former AR Facility. The project does not require wastewater treatment because portable toilets will be brought in during construction and emptied to an approved wastewater system for treatment and disposal. Therefore, no wastewater treatment approvals are required from the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

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.

Impact Analysis:

The project proposes remediation activities at MA 1 of the former AR facility. The project would not require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated

☐ 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.

Impact Analysis:

The project proposes the remediation activities at MA 1 of the former AR facility. The project would not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. However, temporary BMPs will be installed around the excavation area to minimize potential for sediment to enter stream ways or stormwater drainage facilities.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

The project proposes remediation activities at MA 1 of the former AR facility. Water may be necessary for dust suppression and a fire hydrant located at the nearby Vellano development may be used to supply water for this purpose. A permit to tap into the fire hydrant would be obtained from the City prior to construction.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

e. Result in determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the projects projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments.

Impact Analysis:

The project proposes short-term remediation activities at MA 1 of the former AR facility. Wastewater treatment is not required for the proposed project. Temporary toilet facilities would be brought to the Facility for workers.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☒ Less Than Significant Impact
☐ No Impact

f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the projects solid waste disposal needs.

Impact Analysis:

The project proposes remediation activities at MA 1 of the former AR facility which would not require the disposal of materials at a landfill. Depending on number and types of MEC found, if any, these materials may be transported to an approved offsite disposal facility for thermal treatment and destruction.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

All activities will be conducted in accordance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Conclusion:
☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated
☐ Less Than Significant Impact
☒ No Impact

*References Used:*

*Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Inc., 2015 Corrective Measures Study for Munitions and Explosives of Concern, Management Area 1.*

Mandatory Findings of Significance

Based on evidence provided in this Initial Study, DTSC makes the following findings:

a. The project ☐ has ☒ does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b. The project ☐ has ☒ does not 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.

c. The project ☐ has ☒ does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Determination of Appropriate Environmental Document:

Based on evidence provided in this Initial Study, DTSC makes the following determination:

☒ The proposed project COULD NOT HAVE a significant effect on the environment. A **Negative Declaration** will be prepared.

☐ The proposed project COULD HAVE a significant effect on the environment. However, 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.

☐ The proposed project MAY HAVE a significant effect on the environment. An **Environmental Impact Report** is required.

☐ The proposed project MAY HAVE a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **Environmental Impact Report** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ The proposed project COULD HAVE a significant effect on the environment. However, all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project. Therefore, nothing further is required.

**Certification:**

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits, present the data and information required for this initial study evaluation to the best of my ability and that the facts, statements and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Robert Romero | | 2-17-16 |
| Preparer's Signature | | Date |
| Robert Romero | HSE | 714 484 5316 |
| Preparer's Name | Preparer's Title | Phone # |
| Daniel T. Wall | | 2/17-16 |
| Branch or Unit Chief Signature | | Date |
| Daniel T. Wall J.T. Lin | Sr HSE II Supervising HSE | 916-255-3676 |
| Branch or Unit Chief Name | Branch or Unit Chief Title | Phone # |